

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of
December 1, 2014

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following information highlights some activities which occurred:

Town Manager's Office—Dawn Francis, Town Manager

Per the Town of Colchester's Code of Ethics: "Public Service is public trust. The affairs of government must be conducted openly, honestly and impartially, so that the public's confidence in the integrity of its municipal affairs shall be maintained."

Restoring the public trust and ensuring accountability is essential at this time for our community. Given the recent events and ongoing criminal investigation of Tyler Kinney, I have directed that an external review of the Colchester Police Department's operations and all policies/procedures that relate to this matter be completed. This review will augment the external audit of our evidence room and related policies and procedures that is already underway. Chief Morrison and I are confident that this additional external scrutiny and subsequent recommendations will help CPD be an even stronger organization and ensure that best practices are in place going forward.

For more information about the Town Manager's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Manager/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5509.

Burnham Memorial Library—Kelly Tomaseski, Director

December greetings from Burnham Library! We'd like to let people know about our upcoming holiday events (especially this Sunday's Tree Lighting):

- Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling (Sunday, Dec. 7, starting at 4 pm) – It's that time of year again! Gather for crafts, songs, cocoa, cookies, and lights on the tree. At 4 pm, children can make a holiday craft in the library. Around 4:30 pm, we'll all sing with the Colchester Community Chorus at the Meeting House. The annual tree lighting follows outside around 5 pm. No sign-up required.
- Annual Gingerbread House Contest – Drop off your entry starting Dec. 1; voting starts Dec. 8, but you can still drop off your entry until Dec. 19. Build a tasty gingerbread structure, and bring it to the library for our annual contest. We'll display your creations and every entrant will be entered for a raffled basket of goodies. Gingerbread kits are welcome, and family entries are very much encouraged. Guidelines and entry forms are available at the library or on our web site.
- Cider & Cookie Week – Dec. 8-12. Stop in for homemade cookies and spiced cider, compliments of library staff!
- Holiday Storytime – Tuesdays Dec. 9, 16, and 23 at 10:30 a.m. will feature a selection of holiday stories, traditional and new, as well as music, rhymes, and a snack! For kids of all ages.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.

Please be aware, the library will be closed on Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, December 26 for Christmas. We will close at 5 pm on New Year's Eve (Wednesday, Dec. 31), and be closed on New Year's Day (Thursday, January 1).

For more information about Burnham Memorial Library's events and services, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Library/> or call (802) 264-5660.

Police Department—Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

November was a busy month for CPD. We responded to approximately 700 calls for service and made contact with over 200 operators during traffic stops. We arrested a total of 34 people for 40 crimes including trespass, DUI, aggravated domestic assault, larceny and unlawful restraint. A double fatal traffic crash on Route 15 early in the month also added to the heavy workload.

We have had our first snow/ice road conditions of the year and we were busy with vehicles off the road and crashes. Please remember to leave extra time for travel in inclement weather, to fully clear your windows before heading out on the road and to leave extra space between vehicles to allow for longer stopping distances on slippery road surfaces.

CPD is currently hiring police officers and public safety dispatchers to replace personnel that have moved onto other endeavors. If you know someone who might be interested please refer them to Lt. Jeff Barton 264-5542 for more information.

For more information about Colchester Police Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Police/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5556 (non-emergency).

Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads—Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

From November 6th through December 3rd Rescue received 88 EMS calls and 56 people were transported to the hospital. We provided 14 mutual aid requests and turned over 7 calls to other agencies while we were already on a call.

The first morning of deer season, we received a call at 5:30 am, for a male who had fallen 30 feet out of his tree stand. The patient was approximately 1 ½ miles into the woods and not able to move on his own. This type of call is one of the more difficult situations we deal with. We cannot bring the ambulance to the patient, so we have to decide what supplies we need to bring in, how to treat the patient and keep him warm. With the help of the Technical Rescue Team and fire departments we were able to transport the patient from the woods. From the time we received the call, it took approximately two hours to get the patient into the hospital. Fortunately the patient did not have any life threatening injuries.

For more information about Colchester Rescue, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Rescue/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5990.

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