

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of
November 3, 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

The election is over and the results for the special Town Meeting vote on Charter changes are now history. Of the 11 articles up for consideration, two did not pass – Article 2 relating to an appointed versus an elected Town Clerk and Article 8 which pertains to the amount of a penalty for violations and allowing the Selectboard to acquire property outside of town boundaries. We appreciate the time and effort the Governance Committee spent on proposing these Charter changes and we will be taking them to the Legislature for their final approval.

Buy Local this Holiday Season! The Selectboard will be considering the adoption of a Small Business Saturday Proclamation at their next meeting. Small Business Saturday was created in response to small business owners' most pressing need: more customers. Falling between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Saturday, November 29, 2014 is designed to support local businesses that create jobs, boost the economy and preserve neighborhoods. Please support your local businesses by doing your shopping in Colchester. Within the next week, we will be posting a business directory on our website which was prepared by our Economic Development Director, Kathi Walker O'Reilly.

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

Police Department—Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

Colchester Police responded to 797 calls for service over the past month. Officers had contact with 328 drivers for motor vehicle infractions during that time.

As the winter approaches, CPD would like to urge motorists to be prepared for inclement weather. Stay up to date on changing weather forecasts and be sure to plan extra time for necessary travel when storms approach. It's a good time to have your vehicle checked to make sure that you're ready for winter weather and stock an emergency kit including a flashlight, blankets, a shovel and an ice scraper. For tips on winter driving visit www.nhtsa.gov/links/WinterDrivingTips/

Sergeant Charles Cole has announced his retirement from CPD after nearly 30 years of service to the Town of Colchester. Charlie has served with distinction in a variety of assignments including the DEA Drug Task Force, the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations, and the department's first Detective Sergeant. Charlie starts a new career in the private sector in December. We wish him all the best.

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

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

This past month has been a busy one! We received 121 EMS calls since Oct 9th. We transported 73 people to the hospital, and turned over 6 calls while already on a call.

In between EMS calls, our members stay busy with outreach events, training sessions, and the various day-to-day responsibilities of keeping an ambulance service running.

This month we've focused on making sure our members are fully prepared and protected in the event we encounter a patient who has been exposed to Ebola and potentially has the virus. For the most part, we already have the equipment needed because risk of exposure to infectious diseases is an everyday part of our jobs.

The Technical Rescue Team continues to receive calls to assist with injured or lost hikers on Mt. Mansfield. In addition to regular trainings, some members have been attending specialized training to help them become more knowledgeable and proficient in their skills.

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

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