



For the Week Ending October 2, 2015

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following highlights some Departments' activities:

Town Manager's Office Dawn Francis, Town Manager

Fall has officially arrived and we're seeing a hint of fall color this week (as well as a few tour buses). It's a preview of what many folks consider Vermont's most beautiful time of year. Colchester is attractive in every season, partly due to being blessed by Mother Nature, but also thanks to the efforts of the Colchester Conservation Commission.

This group of resident volunteers is dedicated to the support, preservation and improvement of the environment and local natural resources along with beautification of the Town.

This year the Commission's activities have included:

- Organizing the fourth annual Do-It-Yourself Rain Barrel Workshop at Bibbens ACE Hardware
- Coordinating Green Up Day on May 2, an event that attracted 394 volunteers who picked up 5.1 tons, 275 tires and 2 cubic yards of scrap metal
- Helping to beautify Colchester through Colchester Blooms, an all-volunteer committee that raises money for the planting and maintenance of flowerbeds at Bayside Park, Bayside Activity Center and other public areas
- Working with the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program and University of Vermont Extension to develop a town tree ordinance
- Participating in the Care of the Urban Forest Project that assists communities in the review or creation of master tree plans and tree inventories, as well as provides training for volunteers in tree maintenance and care. Colchester was one of 20 Vermont communities selected for this project.
- Initiating action for the removal of invasive plant species
- Conducting a twice-yearly clean-up of the rain garden on Holy Cross Road
- Making site visits to several of Colchester's natural areas to assess the natural resources and gather information for future Commission projects



Colchester Town News

Colchester-What do you want to do today?

Coming up: the annual Leaf Drop weekend at Airport Park on Nov. 7th and 8th from 8 AM to 4 PM. Look for more information this month on Facebook, Front Porch Forum, in the Colchester Sun, and at the Town Offices.

We hope you will take advantage of the Leaf Drop, where residents may drop off leaves and Halloween pumpkins to be turned into compost by Green Mountain Compost in Williston. Also, do consider participating in one or more of the Commission's annual activities. We thank the members of the Conservation Commission for their time and efforts in making Colchester a more beautiful place to live, work and play.

For more information on the Conservation Commission, or any of Colchester's fine volunteer commissions and boards, visit www.colchestervt.gov or contact the Town Manager's Office at (802) 264-5509.

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

Police Department

Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

In the past month Colchester Police Department has responded to 812 calls for service and made contact with 259 vehicle operators during traffic stops. From those encounters we arrested 26 people for crimes ranging from DUI to domestic assault, drug offenses, child abuse and more. Our call volume for the calendar year to date is almost identical to last year's. Our arrests are up 13% this year compared to the same time period in 2014.

On September 20th CPD was asked to perform a "welfare check" on a distraught male. This incident escalated rapidly to a barricaded subject on Hawthorne Lane. We requested the assistance of other local departments to supplement our on-duty and summoned officers. During this incident, 20-year old James Hemingway was shot by officers. He is currently out of the hospital and facing charges of disorderly conduct and aggravated assault. This incident illustrates how quickly "routine" calls for service can become dangerous for responders and citizens alike.

During the weekend of October 1-4 CPD assisted Essex Police and the Veterans of Foreign Wars by participating in the traveling Vietnam Veteran's Memorial "Wall That Heals." The wall honors the 58,202 lives that were lost and was on display at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds. CPD was pleased to assist with traffic control as well as a wreath laying and reading of the names of those who gave all.

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

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509



Colchester Town News

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Colchester-What do you want to do today?

Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads

Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

This continues to be a very busy year for Colchester Rescue! Since our last newsletter we have received 139 requests for service, putting us 120 calls ahead of last year at this time. Of these 139 requests, 101 required transporting people to the hospital. We turned over 9 calls, but also took 29 calls outside our primary area, while other agencies were already committed to calls.

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