



For the Week Ending April 1, 2016

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

This past week we embarked upon a comprehensive look at our recreation needs in our community. Over 115 people participated in stakeholder meetings and a public forum designed to provide us with ideas for the future use of Bayside Park and a potential new Community Center. Some of the ideas put forward for Bayside Park were:

- a fishing pier
- a concert band-shell or amphitheater
- a venue for weddings and other events
- a sprayground/spraypad for children
- better access to the lake and seating to take in the lake views.

Ideas for activities and amenities for a Community Center included:

- a swimming pool/therapy pool
- a run/walk track
- multi-sport courts
- indoor meeting/fitness/multipurpose spaces
- turf fields

GreenPlay, a Denver-based recreation consulting company, has assembled a team of planners, architects, and financial experts to assist us in developing priorities, determining appropriate sites, concept plans and cost estimates for both the initial capital investment and operating costs of such facilities. We are seeking ideas that are affordable, achievable and sustainable. Funding possibilities include public and/or private partnerships, capital fundraising, user fees, property taxes, and the local option tax (subject to voter approval).

Look for a public survey, coming in early May on our website or by mail, which will give you the opportunity to offer your ideas for Colchester's recreation future.

The public forum was taped by LCATV Channel 17 and will be available for viewing online by mid-April at <http://lcatv.org/towns/colchester>,

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

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



Colchester Police Department hosted two well-attended open houses in March. These informal events were a great way for citizens to meet the CPD staff, ask questions, tour the building and learn more about the services we provide.

Through March 1st - 29th we handled 1,027 calls for service. We arrested 29 people for 41 crimes ranging from Burglary, 1st degree Unlawful Restraint, Attempted Homicide, Domestic Assault, DUI, Negligent Operation, Grand Larceny, and more.

Distracted driving is extremely dangerous and something we take very seriously. In the first 29 days of March we stopped 25 people (10 males and 15 females) for using portable electronic devices while driving. The men ranged in age from 33 - 60 years old; the average age was 46. The women ranged from 21 - 70; the average age was 36. This demonstrates that our young drivers, contrary to popular belief, are getting the message about Vermont's hands free law. **Instead, it is older drivers** - including parents and grandparents - who are violating the law when they should be setting the example for our youth. Folks, **HANG UP AND DRIVE!!!!** Distracted driving will not be tolerated in Colchester. April is Distracted Driving Awareness month - check out the National Safety Council's website for more information at www.nsc.org.

As spring arrives, please remember to watch for motorcycles, bicyclists, pedestrians and all roadway users. **Safe highways are everyone's responsibility!**

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

Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads
Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

We have an opening for a full-time Career Captain/Training Coordinator, as our current captain is moving out of state. Information about the position can be found at our website: <http://colchestervt.gov/rescue>

From February 24th - March 29th we had 108 requests for service and transported 67 people to the hospital. We had a variety of reasons for calls, but the most frequent reason (14.42%) was "**sick person/other**". This just means that those calls **didn't** exactly fit any of the categories in our documentation program. Difficulty breathing and motor vehicle crashes tied at second place, each accounting for 10.81% of calls. Also during this time period we transported more males (45.05%) than females (36.04%).

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