

For the Week Ending November 4, 2016

Upcoming Town meetings:

- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, November 8, 6:30 PM at the Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd floor
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 AM, Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Champlain Room, 2nd floor
- **Conservation Commission:** Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the meeting has been moved up to Monday, November 14, 6:00 PM at the Bayside Activity Center
- **Development Review Board:** There will be no meeting of the DRB this month

Upcoming events:

- **Annual Leaf Drop:** Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Airport Park. Plastic bags will need to be emptied onto the pile; Biodegradable leaf bags are OK. A change this year: no pumpkins, please, and as always, no woody yard debris.
- **The Colchester Youth Basketball League (CYBL) 2016/2017 Season** will begin the week of November 15. Registration is still open for players in Grades 1 – 8. Learn more at: <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation/CYBL>

Notices:

- Munson Road will be permanently **closed** to through traffic as of November 14, 2016.
- The Town Clerk's office will be **closed** on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8th, so that all staff can assist at the polling location. Remember that all voters in Colchester will vote at the Colchester High School Gymnasium, with the gym divided into districts. (The rest of the Town offices will be open as usual.)
- The Development Review Board has **cancelled** their November meeting.
- The Town Offices and Burnham Library will be **closed** on Friday, November 11 in honor of Veteran's Day
- Taxes are due Tuesday, November 15th!

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

Message of the Week:

**Colchester Continues to Improve Infrastructure
Through Grants & Capital Plans**

Grant Money Awarded

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

The Town of Colchester has recently been awarded an additional \$179,500 from a federal grant through the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program for a new sidewalk on Water Tower Hill. This brings the total grant funding for this project to \$337,139. With an estimated total project cost of \$477,086, approximately 71% of this project will be funded with grants. This sidewalk along Mountain View Drive on Water Tower Hill, is the second phase of a multi-phase plan to construct an inter-connected pedestrian network in and around the Exit 16 area. The sidewalk will:

- improve access and safety for pedestrians
- provide connecting points within the pedestrian network
- ultimately will provide direct access to the Town's designated growth center
- facilitate alternative transportation opportunities for businesses, residences and schools.

This project is ready to proceed and enjoys strong and widespread support.

Capital Plans

The Town of Colchester owns ten primary buildings that house important services to residents including police, rescue, vehicle maintenance, recreation, the library, and combined functions in Town Hall. Some of the buildings are quite old and without any dedicated funds for maintenance they began to deteriorate. Recognizing the need for a targeted budget for Town building upkeep, voters authorized the first Capital Facilities Plan in 2014. The Town saves in advance for most of our capital needs and avoids debt and interest payments. The Plan created no additional costs to taxpayers; funding came from restructuring the Capital Equipment Program. To date, approximately \$500,000 has been invested in maintaining Town facilities.

The Town also has Capital Plans for:

- Transportation
- Equipment
- Park Capital
- Public Safety, including specialized equipment for Police, Rescue and Technical Rescue
- Radio Communications for Police, Public Works, Parks, Rescue, and Volunteer Fire Departments
- Information Technology (Town-department wide including telecom)

The plans allow us to leverage grant funds and contribute to the Town's low 4.2% debt service ratio. (A 10% debt service is considered acceptable.) The Five Year Capital Budget Program is updated annually. This is being done now and it will be presented to the Selectboard at their November 8 meeting. A public hearing on this budget and program will be held on December 13. All Selectboard meetings are held

in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the third floor of the Town Offices on Blakely Road.

For more information about the capital plan or the Public Works Department visit <http://colchestervt.gov/publicworks> or contact our Facility Manager, Robin Parry, at rparry@colchestervt.gov or 264-5620.

Police Department
Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

The past month has been a very busy one for criminal investigations. Have you ever wondered what goes into preparing a criminal case for prosecution? It most certainly is not how it's portrayed on TV! All cases are not created equal – some are straight forward, such as Driving While License Criminally Suspended or misdemeanor Trespass; those may require 4-6 hours of officer time to put together. Other cases are far more complex and require dozens or even hundreds of hours to complete.

Over the past month we arrested 31 people for a total of 49 crimes. We charged suspects with disorderly conduct, DUI, drug possession, domestic assault, and trespass. We also had a series of complex, time consuming cases. For instance, following a lengthy investigation, 43 year-old Tanya Snyder was arrested and charged with numerous crimes including Lewd & Lascivious Conduct, 2nd degree Aggravated Domestic Assault, Furnishing Alcohol to Minors, Simple Assault, and Violation of Conditions of Release. In an unrelated matter, we arrested 33 year old Shelley Sanders for Assault & Robbery, 1st Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault, and Operating a Vehicle without the Owner's Consent. Again unrelated, we arrested five people (4 St. Michael's students and one local man) following an exhaustive investigation that resulted in the students being charged with 1st Degree Unlawful Restraint, Simple Assault, and providing False Information to the Police. The local man was charged with violating his court ordered conditions of release.

These cases involved numerous interviews with suspects, witnesses, and victims and many follow up interviews to be sure we had obtained all relevant information. Cases may include review of video footage, electronic media communications, and phone records. There are crime scene processing considerations and the inevitable mountain of paperwork and data entry that is required prior to submitting a court case to the State's Attorney's Office. These are just a few of the steps that go into completing criminal investigations and they take place against a backdrop of 24/7 response to emergency calls for service, proactive neighborhood patrols, traffic safety efforts, and other essential policing activities. There is never a shortage of things to do in today's policing environment!

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

Colchester Rescue just took delivery of a new 2016 Braun ambulance to replace our 9-year-old 2007 Rescue 2 Road Rescue ambulance. This purchase was made without incurring costly debt due to our capital planning.

Since Oct 5th, we have taken 107 requests for service. We turned over 7 calls and took 30 mutual aid calls.

Rescue works in two 12-hour shifts, from 6AM to 6PM and 6PM to 6AM. It’s a long day—or night—and we are fortunate to have dedicated staff and volunteers. The following is a breakdown of October’s calls.

Breakdown of Number of Calls by Days of Week and Shifts:		
Day of Week	No. of Day Calls (for the month of October)	No. of Night Calls (for the month of October)
Monday	9	2
Tuesday	5	9
Wednesday	12	4
Thursday	7	4
Friday	14	9
Saturday	7	7
Sunday	9	2

As you can see, Tuesday and Saturday tied for most nightshift calls with 9 each. Friday was our busiest dayshift with 14 calls this month, and it was also our busiest day of the week with 23 calls total.

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

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



Colchester – What do you want to do today?

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