

For the Week of February 12, 2018

Manager's Message of the Week

Aaron Frank, Deputy Town Manager/CFO

Regional Dispatch on the March Ballot

I have been working with eight other Chittenden County communities on regional dispatch. Presently Selectboards / Councils in five communities have authorized a public vote for regional dispatch: Burlington, Colchester, Milton, South Burlington and Winooski. This is important because there are economies of scale in a regional dispatch service.

What Makes a Regional Approach Better?

- A regional dispatch center, especially when combined with a regional public safety answering point (911 call center) can reduce response time for many 911 calls by avoiding a transfer to local dispatch, saving an average of 70 seconds of transfer time per call. Other benefits include:
 - Improvement of mutual aid and dispatch times among towns by using computer-aided dispatch and improved technology
 - Increased number of dispatchers on duty in a single location, allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community
 - Additional resources to contribute to supervision, quality assurance, training, and career advancement opportunities for our professional dispatchers
 - Dedicated oversight to more fire and emergency medical services, increasing responder safety

This issue will be on the Colchester ballot as:

Article 15: Formation of a Union Municipal District for Regional Public Safety Dispatch Service

“Shall the Town of Colchester enter into an agreement for the formation of a union municipal district to be known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority, for the purpose of providing regional emergency dispatch?”

Please note that this is a vote **only** to enter into the agreement to form the Safety Authority. No further action will be taken until further planning is undertaken.

You may read further about Regional Dispatch at the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's (CCRPC) website at:

<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/>

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

Police Department
Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

January Report By Lt. Doug Allen

- Since January 1st, CPD has responded to 967 calls for service. We stopped 450 drivers for various violations during this time and made 29 arrests for criminal charges ranging from felony Aggravated Domestic Assault to Armed Robbery, DUI, and Larceny among others.
- Since December, CPD has welcomed three new employees to our ranks. Upon the retirement of long-time records employee Gail Parish, Sheila Kaiser has joined us as our second full time records clerk. Sheila brings to us a wealth of experience as a legal assistant for a Burlington law firm and as a docket clerk for Chittenden Superior Court.
- Meghan Duell began her first week at the Vermont Police Academy this past Monday as our newest officer. Megan is a 2017 graduate from Norwich University and was raised just outside of Buffalo, New York. Megan will attend the Academy for the next 19 weeks, followed by 500 hours of field training with our own certified field training officers.
- We also welcomed our newest Communications Specialist this week. Megan Severance is a 2015 Colchester High School graduate. She has attended classes at Saint Michael's College and is a volunteer member of Colchester Rescue.

Please help us keep Colchester safe. **Report unusual or suspicious activity to our dispatch center at 264-5555.** If you see something, say something!

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

Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads
Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Rescue finished 2017 with a total of 1,495 calls for service! This was 196 more calls than received in 2016!

Here is a breakdown of our monthly calls for 2016 and 2017. Also note that in the first month of 2018 we are already 18 calls ahead of the 2017 January total:

Number of Calls for Service by Month

	2016	2017	2018
January	78	115	133
February	92	105	
March	96	124	
April	88	143	
May	106	119	
June	116	128	
July	125	114	
August	111	161	
September	130	112	
October	124	133	
November	112	105	
December	121	136	
Total	1299	1495	

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

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Conservation Commission:** Monday, February 19, 6:30 PM, Bayside Activity Center. (Meeting will take place despite holiday.)
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 PM.
- **Selectboard:** The February 27 meeting may be canceled. Stay tuned!
- **Cemetery Advisory Committee:** Wednesday, February 28, 8:00 AM at the Town Offices in the Champlain Room, 2nd floor

(All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3rd floor unless otherwise noted.)

Notices: The Colchester Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day.



Colchester Town News
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Colchester – What do you want to do today?

 **Remember to follow us on Facebook** (@TownColchesterVT) to get the latest about what's happening in your community!

 **Share your photos of Colchester with us on Instagram** (@colchestervt)

Notify Me: Subscribe to Town news that matters to you most. Visit www.colchestervt.gov and click on the Notify Me icon to sign up.

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