

September 20th Town Newsletter

Town Manager's Message

Tree Giveaway: On September 11, members of the Conservation Commission assisted with a free tree giveaway. The event was held in collaboration with the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program and Community Canopy, an Arbor Day Foundation program.

A total of 155 trees from 4-6 feet tall, were available for distribution, with residents eligible to request one or two trees for planting in backyards. Choices included northern red oak, red maple, common hackberry, river birch, shadblow serviceberry. Seventy-four advance orders were placed for trees.

Commission members Theresa Carroll, Lisa Halvorsen, Tim Moran and Patrick Volz helped with unloading and distribution of trees. Gwen Kozlowski, Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, and Colchester residents Alyx Belisle, Pam Loranger and Nadine Moran also volunteered for the event.

Saint Michael's College Tree Planting: About thirty students from Saint Michael's college planted 63 trees from the Arbor Day program.



Town Staffing: We remain short by about 14% of year-round staff as follows: Library, 1; Town Manager's Office, 2; Planning and Zoning, 3; Public Works, 2; and Police, 7. We have at least three police officer recruits who will begin training at the end of the month, bringing the Police number down to 4. It has been challenging to fill positions during Covid in our super-heated real estate market, increased opportunities to work from home in the private sector, and with six percent fewer people in the local employment market than pre-Covid.

Colchester Police Body Worn Cameras: At the August 24th Selectboard Meeting, Police Chief Allen updated the community on the creation of a policy for the purchase and future use of body worn cameras by uniformed officers: The story was also featured on

WCAX: www.wcax.com/2021/08/25/colchester-police-implementing-body-camera-program-this-fall/

Signs on Bike Path near Windemere: At the request of the neighborhood, your town staff purchased and placed signs on the raised bike path from Windemere Way to the Winooski River. These signs and frames were repeatedly vandalized and at a cost of \$45 per sign and \$95 per frame plus installation, we cannot continue their replacement. We have removed the signs and frames. *Please report vandalism of private or town owned property directly to the police via phone at 264-5556.*

Illegal dumping at Heineburg Road Fishing Access: We have had seven illegal dumping activities at this location this year, from mounds of garbage and junk to a truck full of duck entrails. The cost for pick up and disposal of these items has not been budgeted. Removing these items causes already planned park and road/path maintenance activities to be deferred. *Please report dumping on town owned property to the police immediately via phone.*

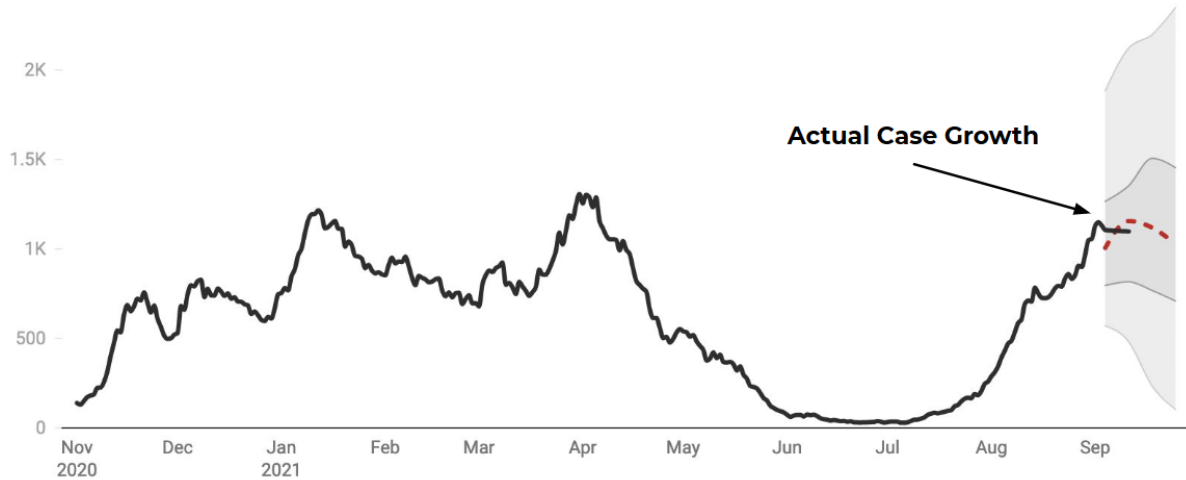
COVID-19 Update:

In the last 14 days, there have been 564 cases of Coronavirus in Chittenden County. For further information, please visit the Vermont Department of Health's Dashboard: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/vermont-dashboard>

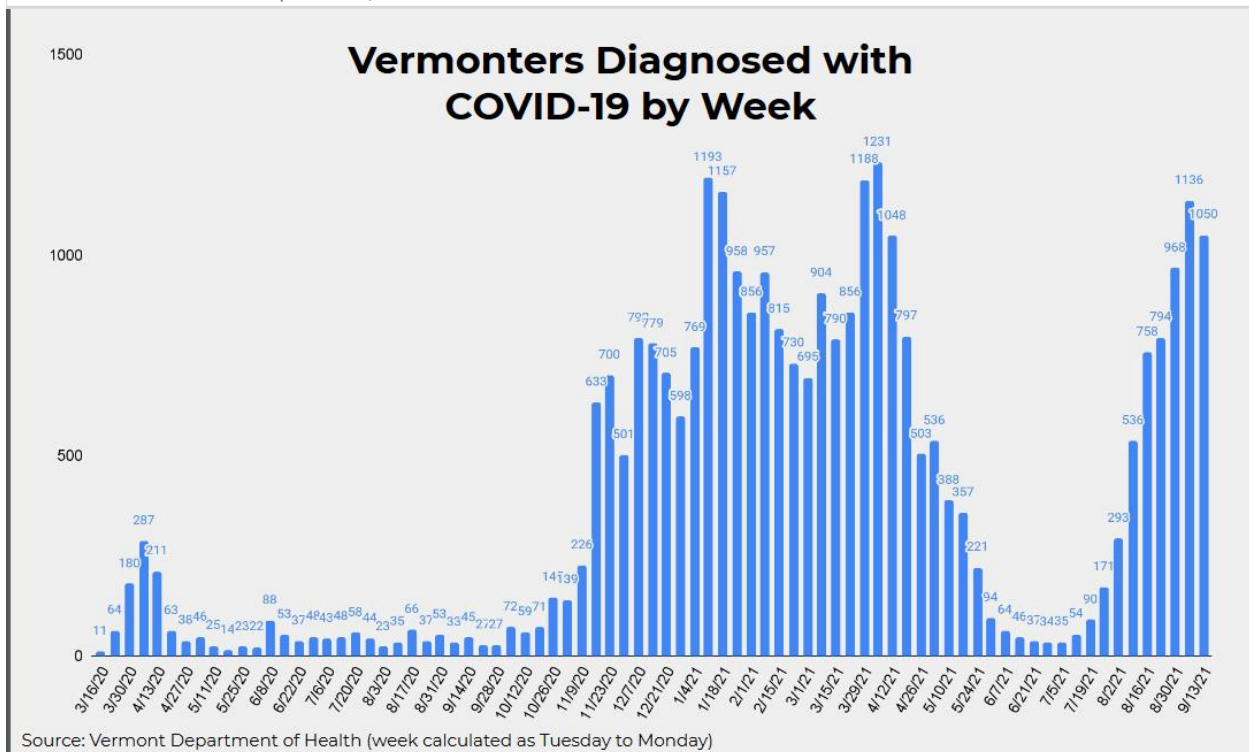
Forecast: The Vermont Department of Financial Regulation is projecting a leveling off of cases: https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-091421.pdf

VT Weekly COVID-19 Infections Forecast

Calculated as a 7-day sum. Gray bands represent 50% and 95% confidence intervals. Since projections are only released once a week, the actual number may appear to over or undershoot the forecast.



Source: CDC Ensemble Model—September 14, 2021



Source: Vermont Department of Health (week calculated as Tuesday to Monday)

Weekly Data Summary: About 441,570 people have been fully vaccinated in Vermont. The breakthrough cases represent a small portion, about 0.4%, of the fully vaccinated population. To date there have been 51 hospitalizations and 18 deaths among the 1,906 cases of vaccine breakthrough.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Weekly-Data-Summary-9-10-2021.pdf>

Vaccination Progress: 87.9% of Chittenden County residents 12+ have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine as of September 16, 2021: www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard

Appointments for Free Vaccine: <https://vermont.force.com/events/s/selfregistration> You can walk in for vaccines at CVS, Hannaford Food and Drug, Walmart, Walgreens, Price Chopper/Market 32, Rite Aid, Shaw's Supermarket, or Costco or get an appointment with [Kinney Drugs](#), [CVS](#), [Walgreens](#), [Northfield Pharmacy](#), or [UVMHC Outpatient Pharmacies](#).

Colchester's Burnham Memorial Library

Hours:

Mondays, 12 – 6 pm
Tuesdays, 10 am – 4 pm
Wednesdays, 10 am – 4 pm
Thursday, 12 – 6 pm
Friday, 10 am – 1 pm
Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm

We will continue outdoor programming for patrons. In the event of inclement weather, programs will be moved inside to the Library Meeting House unless specified. If a program cannot be moved indoors and has to be postponed, we will post to our website and the Burnham Library Youth Services Facebook page.

September Programs:

Young Writers & Storytellers: Wednesday, September 22 at 3:30 pm. Join us for our writing club for children from kindergarten to 5th grade. Let's create stories! Call 264-5660 for more information.

Outdoor Storytime: Friday, September 24 and Tuesday, September 21 & 28 at 10:30 am. Join us on the library lawn for stories, songs, and lots of giggles. Please bring a towel or blanket for your family to sit on.

Adult Book Discussion: Tuesday, September 21 at 1 pm in the Meeting House. Join our afternoon book group! We read a wide range of books, and the discussion is led by a Library staff member. This month, we'll be reading *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Copies of the book are available for checkout.

Virtual Cooking the Books: Tuesday, September 28 at 1:00 pm over Zoom. Cooking the Books is going virtual! Each season we pick a cookbook, participants sign up to make a recipe, which staff will copy for you. You can make the recipe the day of the program and show it during the Zoom, or make it ahead of time and show off a photo while we all discuss our cooking adventures.

This month, we'll be choosing recipes from Around my French Table by Dorie Greenspan.

Book Review: "Into Oblivion" by Arnaldur Indridason –Adult Fiction, 2019, by Susan Gamberg, Youth Services

It's 1979 and the beginning career of Inspector Erlendur of the Reykjavik, Iceland police force. When the inspector begins to investigate he finds that the victim, Kristvin, was an airline mechanic who worked at the U.S. airbase and seems to have been dabbling in illicit market items from there. One hangar in particular is off limits to all but a few of the U.S. airmen and interest in the case brings in the CIA and FBI. Erlendur also is investigating a cold case, a hobby of his, that of an 18 year-old woman who disappeared 25 years ago on her way to school. The missing woman's aunt wanted closure because the parents died and soon no one in the family will be left to know what happened

Upcoming Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, September 28th, 5:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Masks are required. Alternatively, send a note to townmanager@colchestervt.gov with "Citizens to be Heard" in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Development Review Board: Wednesday, October 13th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. The Development Review Board will likely be participating remotely. Members of the public will have the option to choose either remote or in-person attendance. Masks are required for in-person attendance. Public comments can be submitted prior to the hearing by email to zmaia@colchestervt.gov or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Alternatively, participate in the public comment periods during the hybrid meeting.

- Participate via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83271430077>
- Participate by Phone: 1-929-436-2866
- Meeting ID: 832 7143 0077
- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAgenda&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAgenda%2C

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, October 20th, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Masks are required.

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, October 21st, 4:30 pm at the Burnham Memorial Library, Burnham Room, 898 Main Street. Masks are required. Remote info will be provided at a future time.

Colchester Parks and Recreation Fall Activities: ACE Before and After School Program, 13 Youth Programs for ages 3 months to 14 years, Youth Basketball, plus 9 adult programs: colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6804/2021FallBrochure

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For more information or to comment, call 264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov