

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week Ending April 25, 2014

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following information highlights some activities which occurred:

Town Manager's Office—Dawn Francis, Town Manager

Coffee with Town Officials—All are invited to stop by the Bayside Activity Center on Thursday, May 1 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Don't miss this opportunity to bring your questions about the Town budget (remember: the vote is on Tuesday, May 6 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) or other concerns and chat with your selectboard and Town officials in an informal and friendly setting.

CCTA Service—A three-year trial for public transit service with CCTA will begin on Route 7 in Colchester on June 16. Collaboration between CCTA and the selectboard has resulted in an affordable option for a three-year pilot project without significantly impacting taxpayers. The project will bolster the general public transit service and elderly and disabled service already established in Colchester. Significant changes in recent years have necessitated the exploration of the trial service, and highlights are as follows:

- The contract will provide for transit service along Route 7 in Colchester with stops at Creek Farm, Severance Corners, and Water Tower Hill, with six round trips each weekday.
- There will be no impact to the tax rate, as the Town will use existing capital funds and lease proceeds.
- Public transit service options are now available to Colchester at a 50 percent lower cost than in prior years—less than \$45,000 annually—as a result of refinements in service and renewed discussions between CCTA, the Town of Milton, and the Town of Colchester.
- Contracting for service is approximately \$6,621 less annually than becoming a member of CCTA.
- In addition to requests from employers and employees in the areas of Exit 16, Colchester Village, and Severance Corners for such service, three separate CCTA ridership surveys conducted over the last four years identified Colchester as a community in which the majority of respondents desire additional service offerings.
- The three-year pilot project will allow the Town to measure the effectiveness and desirability of transit service in Colchester starting with Fiscal Year 2015.
- The three-year trial period meets state requirements for alternative transportation modes to support the Severance Corners Growth Center.
- The towns of Colchester and Milton will share the cost of this service, improving the assurance of the availability, cost effectiveness, and viability of Route 7 fixed route service.

This three-year service contract will allow Colchester to test the waters of advancing public transit service without obligating the Town to become a member of CCTA or tie us to future service if the pilot project is unsuccessful. If it does prove to be a success, we will ask the voters for their support in a few years to become a member of CCTA and would look at expanding bus service to other areas of town at that time. We are very excited to engage in this cooperative venture with CCTA and the Town of Milton for the benefit of Colchester residents, employees, employers, and visitors.

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

Colchester Police Department—Jennifer Morrison, Chief of Police

Since we last provided an update:

- In the past month, CPD handled over 1,300 calls for service. During this time, we arrested twenty people, charging them with a total of twenty-nine crimes. Arrest charges included DUI, drug possession, burglary, domestic assault, reckless endangerment, felony unlawful trespass, and more.
- Department members participated in numerous public outreach activities, such as child passenger safety seat inspections, assisting Girl Scout troops with badge requirements, hosting a Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) class, and speaking at Driver's Ed class.
- Officer Jesse Treier and Officer Jack Lehneman completed the certification process to become nationally recognized Drug Recognition Experts (DREs). The process is rigorous and includes extensive classroom training, practical exercises, and supervised examinations. Officers Treier and Lehneman now join a prestigious group of approximately thirty officers across the state that are trained to detect impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol.
- As the weather continues to improve, CPD would like to remind folks to keep their valuables locked up. Be sure that garages, sheds, and houses are locked, and take steps to avoid being a victim of theft by keeping valuables out of sight in vehicles and locking up. Do not hesitate to report suspicious persons or activities by calling us at (802) 264-5555.

For more information about the Colchester Police Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Police/index.shtml>, or call (802) 264-5640.

Colchester Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads—Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

- Since March 20, we have responded to eighty-six calls, including four paramedic intercepts. We transported seventy people to the hospital and turned over two calls while already on a call.
- May 18–24 is National EMS Week! Join us on **Wednesday, May 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** for our annual Family Fun & Safety Night! We will have demonstrations, information tables, bike safety gear, and free hot dogs and refreshments. Come out and meet the EMTs, advanced EMTs, and paramedics who make Colchester Rescue the great organization that it is!

For more information about Colchester Rescue, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Rescue/index.shtml>, or call (802) 264-5590.