

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of March 22, 2013

Preamble: "Colchester, Vermont, located on Lake Champlain's Malletts Bay, is a diverse, civic-minded community endowed with a rich heritage of commercial, agricultural, recreational, and educational gifts. Proud of the quality of life already enjoyed here, the people of Colchester seek to build upon this foundation to ensure economic prosperity, recreational opportunity, and an entrepreneurial spirit for future generations" – Vision Statement, Heritage Project, 2012.

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

Burnham Memorial Library: Hannah Peacock, Assistant Director

Things are going smoothly at the library, as the calendar (if not the weather) transitions into Spring. We've had our full schedule of story times and music for kids of all ages. There are still openings for kids in our free one-on-one tutoring program, and for adults in the AARP Tax Assistance program - call for more information. The knitting group meets every Wednesday at 6 pm, and is open to all skill levels and abilities. Next Monday is our Intergenerational Dessert Book Discussion; in this monthly program, people grade six to adult come together to discuss a book and have some tasty treats. On Tuesday (at 1 pm), our afternoon book group will be discussing 101 Places Not to See Before You Die, by Catherine Price. And as a reminder, the Colchester Farmers' Market is accepting applications for vendors (<http://colchesterfarmersmarket.wordpress.com/>) - sign up by April 1 for the Early Bird rate.

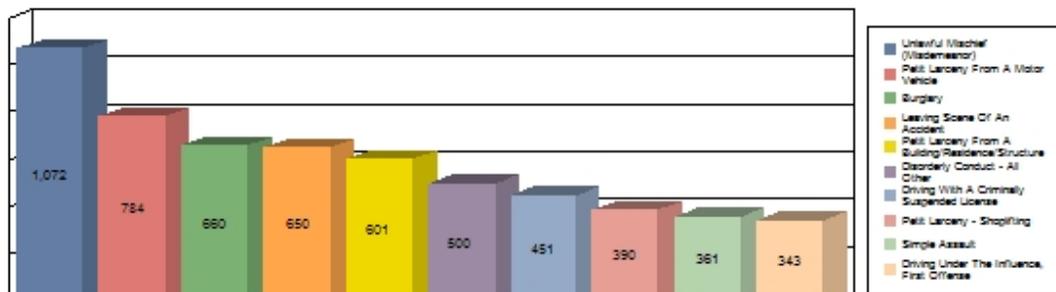
IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department

Nothing new to report.

Police Department –Chuck Kirker, Police Chief

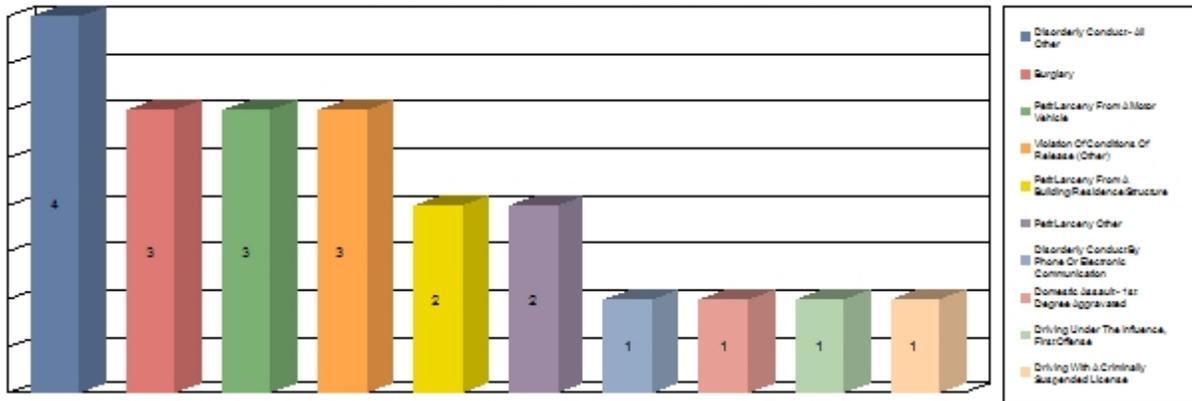
Police Department: This week I thought we would share with you some of the graphs available to us through the VALCOUR computer aided dispatch/records management system developed by Burlington Police working with various other agencies including Colchester. The first chart represents the top 10 criminal offences for all communities using system. The second chart shows the top 10 criminal offences in Colchester last week. The final graph shows the top 5 types of non-criminal complaints handled in the last week in Colchester.

Top 10 Overall for selected ORI(s)

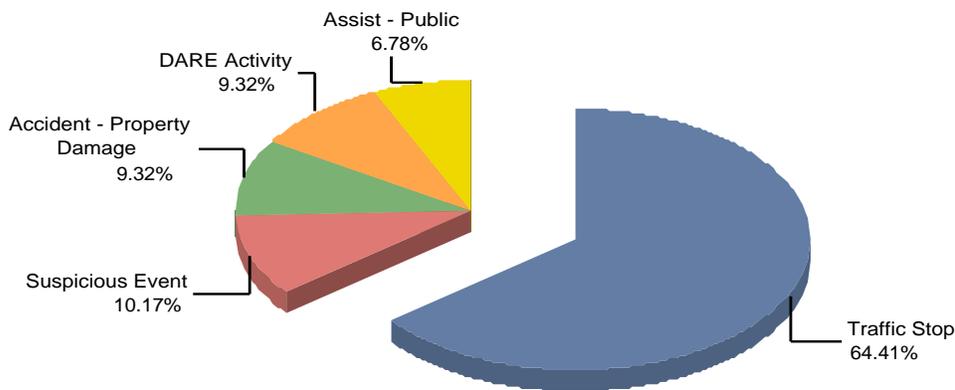


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Top 10 Offenses for this Report



Top 5 Call Types



Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Nothing to report.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

In the Recreation Division, registrations for summer camps and programs continue to arrive daily which keeps the front desk quite busy. Space in those programs are filling quickly so do not delay. Thursday evening is the lacrosse league scheduling meeting. At this meeting, all the game schedules and jamborees are coordinated. Practices for Youth Lacrosse starts next week. Registrations for the 2013-2014 School Year ACE Program start on Monday, March 25th. The office opens at 8 am to accept the applications. Typically there are not many openings from year to year so if you are interested be at the office early. The last two weeks our Program Coordinators have been hiring summer staff and we have a fantastic crew ready to get started in June.

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

In the Parks Division, as we were preparing the fields for maybe an early start to the spring sport season, the snow has put a sudden stop to that. Seasonal park staff will be starting the first week of April. We are currently looking to fill one seasonal laborer position. If you are interested please visit the Town of Colchester website at www.colchestervt.gov and under opportunities you will find the job description.

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

In a previous weekly report, we had provided information regarding our Snow and Ice Removal Program. On the first full day of spring, we would like to update this information.

The Department's snow and ice removal program works toward the broad community goals of public safety and economic sustainability. While many people often associate the cost of snow removal with total accumulations, a better indicator is actually the total number of storm events. For example, a 4" snow storm that lasts for 14 hours will cost more money in fuel, overtime, and salt, than a 10" storm that lasts 8 hours. The data below contains both. From this data, the relationship between program costs and number of events is evident.

Winter season	93% complete
Snow accumulation	96% of annual average
Number of events	69% of annual average
Salt usage	75%
Fuel usage	73% (YTD including July-October)
Overtime	65%

The Town's Snow and Ice Removal Plan can be viewed on the Public Works web site. Select services, highway, and then snow removal.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

The Planning and Zoning Department issued a building permit for the site work for a 19-unit townhouse project at the end of Fox Run last week. A three lot residential subdivision off of Moonlight Ridge is on the April 10th Development Review Board Agenda. The Planning Commission held its first informational meeting on proposed rezonings in the Heineberg / Prim Road neighborhood and received feedback that they will continue to process at their next meeting. The Commission also reorganized and elected Pam Loranger as chair.

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

Thank you for your recent tax payments. We are finishing the processing of the March tax installment and moving on to registering/renewing dog licenses. In an effort to improve communication and save a few tax dollars, we are gathering email addresses for our dog owners. If you would like us to email you dog notices as a cost saving measure for the future, please give us a call or email us.

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

Nothing to report.

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

Finance – Joan Boehm (Asst. Town Manager/CFO)

FY 12 Audited Financial Statements

In January, our outside auditors presented to the Select Board the financial statements for the Town. We received an unqualified opinion which means that they did not find any problems during their audit. The Statements are available at the Town Hall for any citizen who would like to review them. The financial statements are divided into several parts. The first several statements present total governmental operations for all funds and business-like funds which include the Wastewater Fund and the Recreation Program Fund. These statements are followed by a summary of operations by fund. There are 25 pages of footnotes that give the reader additional information. I'd be happy to go over our financial statements with any citizen who would like to learn more about the overall finances of the Town. You may contact me at jboehm@colchestervt.gov.

Town Manager's Office – Al Voegele, Town Manager

To reiterate, at the last Selectboard meeting, the Board elected Nadine Scibek as its Chair, Marc Landry as Vice Chair and Herb Downing as Clerk. This (new) Board also changed the meeting times of the Selectboard by moving the starting time one hour ahead to 6:30 PM on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The new Town Manager, Dawn Francis, will begin work on April 29th. With her knowledge and agreement, while waiting her start date, the Town has established the interview processes to replace the Director of the Burnham Memorial Library and the Chief of the Colchester Police Department. Selection for appointment to each of these positions will await the new Town Manager.