

**For the Week of:
September 4, 2017**

**Manager's Message of the Week
Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

Four Colchester Technical Rescue Members Deploy to Houston, Texas

Governor Phil Scott, Vermont Emergency Management representatives, and other officials gathered at Colchester Technical Rescue on Thursday, August 31, at 11:30 AM for a send-off event for the Vermont Task Force 1 Swift Water Rescue Team which has deployed to Texas for twelve days to assist in the response to Hurricane Harvey by conducting evacuations and rescues in flooded areas. The trip is being made in response to a request from Texas officials for 100 swift water rescue teams via a nationwide Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which is a mutual aid agreement between states that streamlines deployment of special teams and other personnel.

Four members of Colchester Technical Rescue are part of the fifteen member team travelling to Texas: Mike Cannon, Dave Auriemma, Emily Fitzpatrick, and Chuck Dishino. On behalf of the Town Manager and Selectboard, Aaron Frank, Colchester Deputy Town Manager, offered thanks and wished the team members a safe and successful mission. The state team will be self-provisioned, bringing not only rescue gear, but also food, camping equipment, and other necessary gear to avoid putting further strain on an area already overwhelmed with need. They left for College Station, Texas at 1:00 PM Thursday, a staging area from which they will receive deployment orders.

Governor Phil Scott said, "In the days and months after Tropical Storm Irene our friends from around the country eagerly came to our aid. In times of need there are no borders; we're all united as Americans to help those in danger. We're proud to have a highly-trained team of responders like Vermont Task Force-1 to offer Texas during this trying time."

Task Force Chief Mike Cannon made Governor Scott an honorary member of Task Force 1.

Guidance for Individuals Looking to Help

Vermont Emergency Management has guidance online for individuals who want to help; visit <http://vem.vermont.gov/news/tips-donating-and-volunteering-hurricane-relief>. Vermonters are urged to follow this guidance, which urges persons interested in volunteering to do so with a reputable organization, not self-deploy to the disaster.

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

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

Police Department
Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

The History of the Colchester Police Department
Part 3 – The rest of the story

In 1976 in response to a rash of burglaries in the Bay area, the Town formed a “Police Study Committee” that was appointed by the Selectboard. The result of the study showed that the police had insufficient resources to cover the whole Town and three more full time positions were added to the police department.

In 1978 a two story building was constructed at 835 Blakely Rd to house the Colchester Police Department and the Town Offices; this is where the police department can be found today.

In 1979 Chuck Kirker became the 2nd Chief of the police department, which had grown to 15 full-time officers. At the time, dispatching services were shared by the Colchester, Winooski, and South Burlington Police, with each PD covering different shifts. Colchester Rescue was dispatched by the Burlington Fire Department and the Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company was dispatched by Essex. Chief Kirker's first major project was to get full time dispatching for all Colchester departments under our own roof. In 1980 CPD became a full time dispatch center.

Chief Kirker's first hires were Jeff Bean on June 6, 1980 and Jeff Fontaine on August 11, 1980; Jeff Bean still serves with the department and Jeff Fontaine retired in July of this year, after 37 years.

The department grew steadily under Chief Kirker's leadership. In 1987 CPD got its first K9 officer: a German shepherd named Sampson. His handler was Jeff Barton who is still with the department. In 1989 CPD started the Marine Program; the first Harbor Master was Corporal Michael Cannon, who held the position until his retirement in May 2014. Over the years we added motorcycles and bicycles to our fleet, as well as unmarked police cars and a truck to haul the police boat.

In 2008 the Town Office moved next door, to 781 Blakely Road, turning 835 Blakely over to the Police Department. In March 2012 Colchester Police temporarily relocated to Hercules Drive while the headquarters were renovated; they returned to the freshly remodeled space in September 2012.



Colchester – What do you want to do today?

In July 2013 Chief Jennifer Morrison was sworn in as the 3rd Chief of the Colchester Police Department. Today CPD employs 28 sworn officers, 8 dispatchers, 2 records clerks and 3 seasonal service officers.

Over the first fifty years many things have changed – our patches, cars, uniforms, and equipment. Despite the rapid rate of change to our external trappings, some things have never wavered since day one – our commitment and service to the community, our integrity, and our pride in serving the residents of Colchester.

Please join us on Sunday September 10th as we celebrate this milestone. We will have a community event with food, activities, displays and demonstrations at 835 Blakely Road from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM.

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

In 2007 we were excited to hit the 1000 calls for service mark for the calendar year. Since 2007 we've hovered around 1000-1150 calls, until last year when we were just shy of 1300 calls. At just 8 months into 2017 we have already reached 1000 calls for service, putting us on track to possibly finish the year around 1500!!

Obviously we wouldn't be able to respond to these calls without our dedicated members, whether staff or volunteer. Currently we have 6 full-time staff, a handful of Per Diem staff, and 37 active volunteers.

Each 12 hour shift (6 AM – 6 PM / 6 PM – 6 AM) is staffed with a full crew. We do this so that our response time is as short as possible. Our goal is to be out of the building within two minutes of receiving a call. During the day, when crews are awake, we readily respond to an emergency in less than two minutes. However, imagine waking up in the middle of the night to provide emergency medical care! It can be challenging, especially when it's not the first call of the night. Despite awakening from sleep, the night crews are ready to respond to a call within three minutes. We are committed to providing the best and fastest care for our patients, no matter what time they call.

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

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

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, September 12, 6:30 PM
- **Development Review Board:** Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 PM
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 AM in the Champlain Room, 2nd floor
- **Colchester Conservation Commission:** Monday, September 18, 5:00 PM. Meet with the Milton Conservation Commission at the Milton Town Forest off Hardscrabble Road
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 PM

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

Upcoming events:

- **Colchester Police Department 50th Anniversary Celebration:** Sunday, September 10, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM at 835 Blakely Road. You are invited to enjoy food, displays, demonstrations, and activities for the whole family!

Notices:

- The Colchester Selectboard will be discussing the snow/ice removal operations of 14 of 41 miles of private roads in the Town of Colchester at a meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 6:30 PM, to be held in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Town Offices at 781 Blakely Road. **You are invited** to attend this meeting and offer your input. If you aren't able to attend you may submit comments to Dawn Francis, Town Manager, via email at dfrancis@colchestervt.gov or call 264-5509 prior to the meeting.

Complete information about the issue is available on the Town's website at www.colchestervt.gov. Scroll down to "Popular Links" and click on "Private Roads Issue."

Traffic Notices:

- **Routes 7/2, 2A & 127 Intersection Project: Week of September 4, 2017**
There will be daily single-lane closures and alternating one-way travel. Please plan your travel to anticipate delays, especially during the peak AM and PM hours. Rough road surface conditions in the construction area are expected. Motorists will get a break from construction on Labor Day weekend. The work site will close at noon on Friday and not re-open until Tuesday morning. Access to businesses will remain OPEN at all times.

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