



Town Newsletter

What Do You Want to Do Today, Colchester?

August 8, 2021

Town Manager's Message

The Town of Colchester, along with five other municipalities (Essex, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston, and Winooski), has expanded the Community Outreach Program, operated under contract by the Howard Center to include Richmond, Hinesburg, and Milton. The Community Outreach Program staff collaborates with and assists the Colchester Police Department to achieve better results with individuals with mental health or other social service needs. Their interventions can help de-escalate a crisis and refer people to human service resources from housing to mental health to health and substance abuse. We have made a longer-term and increased financial commitment to the program. We have entered a five-year agreement providing 50% more staffing for all communities and 66% more annual funding from the Town of Colchester.

*Aaron
Frank*



Here is [a recent report](#) on the services provided.

A Reminder from the Town Clerk's Office

The first installment of the FY 2022 Property Tax Bill is due no later than Monday, August 16th at 4:30 pm. The final deadline to file Homestead Declaration and a Property Tax Credit Claim is Friday, October 15th. Visit tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration for further information on filing via paper return or online. Review other ways to pay your taxes at colchestervt.gov/330/Payment-Options.

If you have any questions, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 264-5520 or townclerk@colchestervt.gov or visit us during office hours, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Helicopter Crash on the Colchester Causeway

On Friday, June 30th, the Causeway was the emergency landing site for a small helicopter. Although the aircraft burned, its pilot escaped with limited

injuries.

Thanks to the Town's dedicated professional public safety volunteers and staff for their quick and effective dispatch and response including Colchester Police, Colchester Public Safety Dispatch, Colchester Fire, Colchester Rescue, and Colchester Technical Rescue. The Parks and Recreation Department and Town Management also assisted with the site's clean-up, making it safe for walkers and cyclists, and coordinated the release of public information. Selectboard Chair Pam Loranger and Deputy Police Chief Jeff Barton remained on the scene until the path reopened Friday evening.

Covid-19 Update

In the last 14 days, there have been 266 recent cases of Coronavirus in Chittenden County. For further information, please visit the [Vermont Department of Health's Dashboard](#).

Walk-in clinics and appointments for the Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, or Pfizer vaccines are available today. To find a site near you, make an appointment, or for further information about before- and after-care, please visit the Vermont Department of Health's webpage, [Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine](#), or call 855-722-7878.



85.9% of Chittenden County residents 12+ have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine as of August 6, 2021.



Free Classes

The Vermont State Colleges System offers free in-person and online courses, trainings, and workshops through Castleton University, Community College of Vermont, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Tech to eligible Vermonters whose jobs were impacted by the pandemic! If your hours have been reduced, your job has been cut, or you were furloughed/laid off, then you can enroll in up to two classes to enhance your skills or gain new ones. For more information, please visit vtworkers.vsc.edu/index.html.

- [vermontbiz.com/news/2021/july/31/state-funding-provides-free-classes-vermonters-impacted-pandemic?ct=t\(SUNDAY_ENEWS_8_1_2021\)](https://vermontbiz.com/news/2021/july/31/state-funding-provides-free-classes-vermonters-impacted-pandemic?ct=t(SUNDAY_ENEWS_8_1_2021))

Unemployment

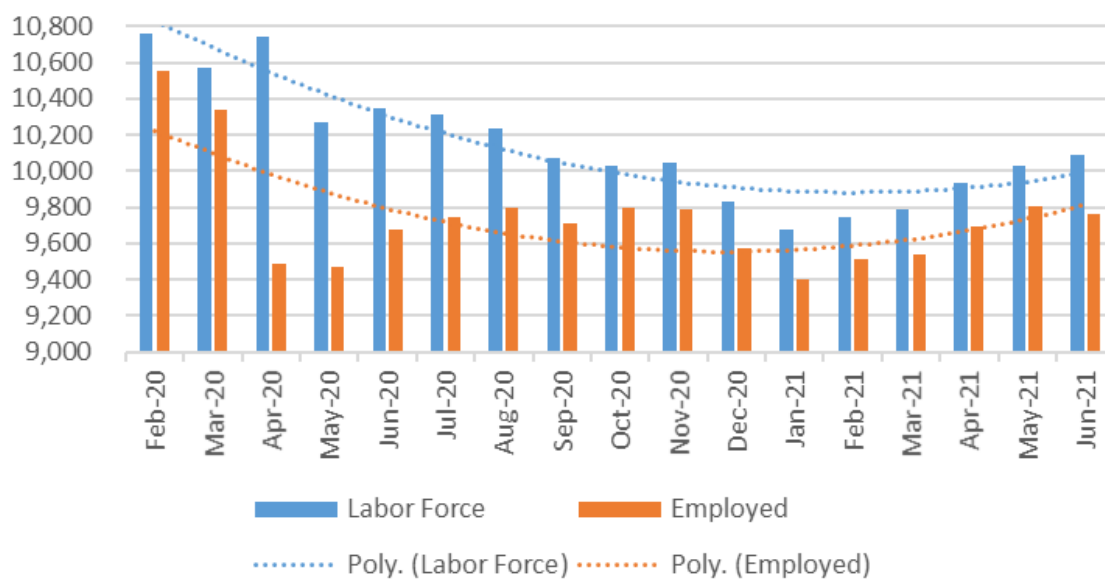
Unemployment Rates (%) in Current Economic Downturn

The State of Vermont continues to substantially outperform the nation in unemployment. Chittenden County and the Town of Colchester outperform the State.

Month	Colchester	Chittenden County	Vermont	US
Feb-20	1.9	1.8	2.6	3.8
Mar-20	2.6	2.5	2.9	4.5
Apr-20	13.3	14.2	15	14.4
May-20	10.6	11.7	9.4	13
Jun-20	7.7	8.7	7.9	11.2
Jul-20	6.8	7.6	6.6	10.5
Aug-20	3.8	4.3	5	8.5
Sep-20	3.3	3.7	4.5	7.7
Oct-20	1.9	2.1	2.9	6.6
Nov-20	2.2	2.4	3.2	6.4
Dec-20	2.3	2.5	3.3	6.5
Jan-21	2.9	3.1	3.7	6.8
Feb-21	2.4	2.6	3.1	6.6
Mar-21	2.5	2.7	3.2	6.2
Apr-21	2.4	2.4	3.0	5.7
May-21	2.2	2.1	2.6	5.5
Jun-21	3.2	3.0	3.5	6.1

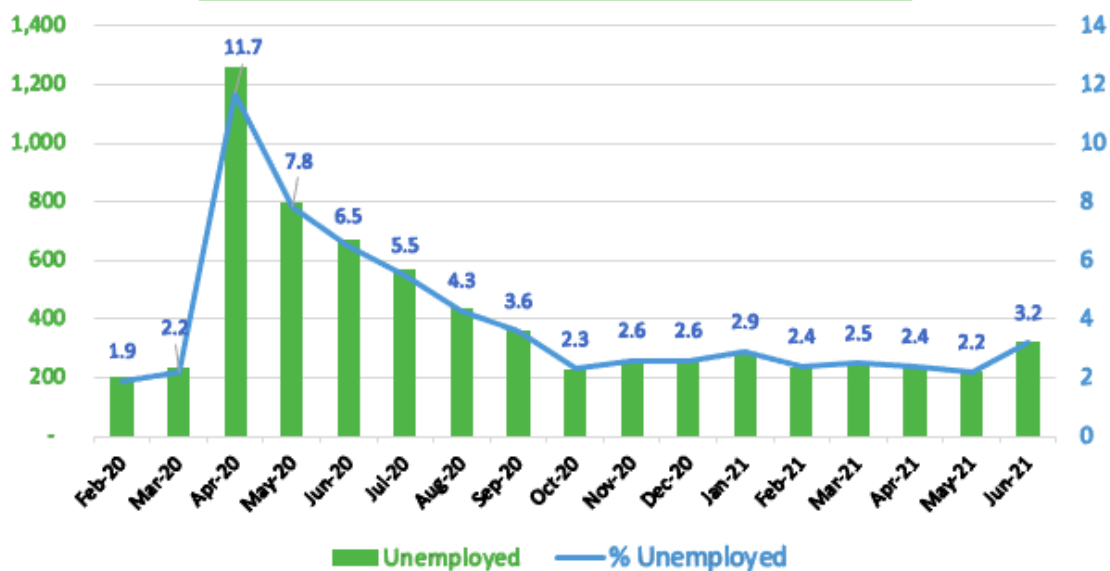
Employment

Colchester Employment



The Colchester labor force, those working or actively seeking work, dropped from 10,758 in February 2020, pre-COVID, to 9,677 in January 2021. The labor force is trending back up and is now at 10,093 but is 655 (6%) below pre-COVID levels. The number of employed people dropped from 10,556 pre-COVID to a low of 9,339 in January 2021 and is now trending back up to 9,766 or 790 (7%) below pre-COVID levels. The labor force does not include people who cannot work due to lack of childcare or a variety of other reasons.

Colchester Unemployment and Percent Unemployed



This chart shows unemployed people in Colchester (those looking for jobs) on the left scale and bar graph in green, and the percentage of unemployed people in Colchester on the right scale and line graph in blue. While the number of unemployed people went up in June by 102 people vs. May, the labor force grew by 67 people. Without the gain in the labor force, the number of unemployed people would have only grown by 35 people. While we fared far better than the nation and somewhat better than the State as a whole, our economy is still recovering from an enormous shock.

“Unlike the decline, which was sharp and abrupt, the economic recovery continues to slowly gain back what was lost.

The size of the labor force and the number of filled positions in the Vermont economy continue to grow. Vermont businesses are reporting high levels of open positions. No matter the job market, finding work can be a full-time job. Even in a good hiring market, job seekers may face challenges that make it difficult to find and accept work.” – Michael Harrington, State of Vermont Labor Commissioner

The Vermont Department of Labor has services to assist unemployed Vermonters back into the workforce with meaningful employment. For more information: labor.vermont.gov/jobs. For the latest unemployment press release: vtlmi.info/index.cfm

Information on past downturns:

colchestervt.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/693

Service Spotlight

Colchester Rescue Squad (CRS), a Town of Colchester Department, began as the Mallets Bay Rescue Squad in 1961. It was established by local firefighters as an ambulance service. Today the professional staff of volunteers and career members provide accident, medical, and transportation response 24/7/365. The town upgraded the service to the paramedic level and provides Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians or Paramedics to support the volunteers who represent the majority of CRS staffing.

CRS, consisting of Vermont Emergency Medical Services (EMS) trainees, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT), and Paramedics, has responded to 1,710 calls last fiscal year, up from 1,575 calls two years ago.



Volunteer Spotlight

Libby wanted to give back to the community that raised her, so she joined Colchester's Rescue Squad in 2016. Libby is also involved in public safety full-time serving as an assistant to the South Burlington Police Chief.

At Rescue

Libby works the overnight shift on Sundays and is always ready to help with emergencies locally and in surrounding communities. Her favorite part of volunteering with the CRS is the sense of teamwork on-scene, with crew members, firefighters, police, and residents working together.

Meet Libby Connors, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) + Ambulance Driver



Outside of the Squad

Libby enjoys boxing, running, and the great outdoors! And as a cat-lover, she always makes time for her cat, Atticus, whom she adores way too much!

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, August 11th and 25th
Development Review Board 7:00 pm

- Location: Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room

Sunday, August 15th

- Conservation Commission 10:00 am
- Location: The Nature Trail at Saint Michael's College
- Note that the rain date for this meeting will be Monday, August 16th at 5:30 pm

Tuesday, August 24th

- Selectboard 6:30 pm
- Location: Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room
- Note that this meeting is in person. Masking is based on vaccination status. If you are unable to attend but would like something addressed, send an email to townmanager@colchestervt.gov with 'Citizens to be Heard,' your name, and address — the email will be shared with the entire Selectboard before the meeting.
- Selectboard Meeting Agenda: bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas
- Livestream: lcatv.org/live-stream-2

Upcoming Events

Burnham Memorial Library

Tuesday, August 10th

- Outdoor Storytime
- 10:30 – 11:00 am

Wednesday, August 11th

- Outdoor Young Writers & Storytellers
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Thursday, August 12th

- Henna
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Friday, August 13th

- Outdoor Storytime
- 10:30 – 11:00 am
- VINS Presents a Live Animal Program: Super-Powered Critters
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm



802-264-5500

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