

For the Week of November 25th, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Happy Thanksgiving! **Colchester Town Offices and the Burnham Memorial Library are closed on Thursday, November 28th & Friday, November 29th** in observance of Thanksgiving. Emergency services and other emergency work will be provided as usual.

Vermont Urban Search and Rescue Chief Receives National Award

The leader of the Vermont Urban Search and Rescue team has been honored by the National State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance for his service to his and other states. Mike Cannon was honored with the Jim Riley Leadership Award at the organization's annual conference in Florida last week.

Cannon leads Vermont Task Force 1, which has conducted hundreds of evacuations and rescues in Vermont during storms and other incidents over the past two years. Cannon and his team have also deployed to several other states, such as Florida and North Carolina to provide mutual aid for rescue crews there following recent hurricanes.

Message from the Essex Community Justice Center: Volunteers Wanted!

The Essex Community Justice Center (which serves Essex, Colchester, Milton, Jericho, Underhill and Westford) is seeking volunteers for our Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA) Program!



Would you like to be part of an incredible opportunity to make an impact in our community? The CoSA program is seeking volunteers who represent the dynamic and diverse community of Chittenden County. A CoSA team provides weekly support to people who are re-entering our community after a period of incarceration. Through this opportunity, you can help effect meaningful change towards public safety in our community and make a positive impact on someone's future.

What does this Involve?

Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA) team members work with formerly incarcerated people who are transitioning back into our community from incarceration. A team of volunteers and a staff member meet with one CoSA participant for an hour a week for a year to help

provide support to not reoffend, integrate into the community, build community connections and ensure that there are no new victims.

Who is a Good Fit?

We are looking for a diverse group of volunteers. No experience necessary and training is provided. Skills and qualities that are helpful are: a desire to listen and get to know others, empathy and compassion, enjoying working with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, believing in second chances and that no one is the worst mistake they have made in their life. Anyone age 18 and up is encouraged to contact us to learn more.

Why Volunteer with the CoSA program? By being a volunteer, you:

1. PROVIDE A VOICE as impacted parties for crimes committed in your community.
2. CREATE CAPACITY necessary to provide CoSA circles for people reentering their community from incarceration.
3. FOSTER A RESTORATIVE ENVIRONMENT for formerly incarcerated people by showing that fellow community members care about their outcomes and want to support them as they move forward.
4. OFFER DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES on how crime impacts the community and how to be connected to one's community.
5. STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS through their commitment to better understanding their community's needs, supporting others to move forward, and becoming leaders in Restorative Justice initiatives.
6. CONTRIBUTE to public safety in your community

This is a quote from a CoSA Volunteer: *"...Having done this for the past few years, I have had the unique opportunity to see healing in action. I have seen people mend relationships with their families as well as with the community. This system provides the opportunity for healing to occur for all parties concerned...we can sometimes make a difference. It brings me joy and makes me grateful that I can serve my community in this way."*

If you're interested in learning more about the CoSA program and this volunteer opportunity, please contact Stacy Jones at sjones@essex.org or by phone at 802-876-6793.

Colchester Police Department partners with and funds Essex Community Justice Center (ECJC) to provide restorative justice to the community. Restorative justice is a way to help repair some of the damage caused by crime and conflict, and programming focuses on crime prevention, conflict resolution and meeting the needs of those affected by crime. Through this collaboration,

ECJC provides an alternate route for cases other than prosecution through the criminal justice system. For more information: <https://colchestervt.gov/3309/Essex-Community-Justice-Center>

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, December 10th, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, 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: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Selectboard Budget Work Sessions: Tuesday, November 26th, 8:00 a.m. and Tuesday, December 3rd, 8:00 a.m. at Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, December 17th, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=PLANAGENDA>

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, December 11th, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd floor, Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=RecAdv&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2C>

Development Review Board: Wednesday, December 11th, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or 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. Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=DRBAGENDA&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, December 19th, 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=LibBoard&path=BOARDS%2CLibBoard%2C>

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For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov