

**For the Week of September 21**

Manager’s Message  
Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**Essential Workers:** To all essential workers--from those who live or work in Colchester to people across the world who help us locally--**Thank You!** Essential workers include many fields such as health care, food and agriculture, retail/grocery, energy and utilities, education, child care, emergency services, transportation, public works infrastructure, communications, technology, manufacturing, and financial services.

Most Town employees were deemed essential and worked in person through the height of COVID. These employees range from Rescue, to Police whose jobs put them in contact with others all day long, to Public Works maintaining your roads, paths, stormwater, buildings and equipment to Planning and Zoning keeping up with a record number of permits on projects from porches to new residential developments.

**Unemployment:** During the current economic crisis caused by COVID-19, the unemployment rate rose extremely fast—but is now declining quickly, at least in Vermont and Colchester. Initially, the Colchester unemployment rate rose from 1.9% to 13.3% in two months. We are now at 3.8% unemployment. This is well below the 6.3% peak of the 2007-2009 recession. Info on past downturns: <https://colchestervt.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/693>

The 3.8% unemployment rate only represents people who are actively looking for a job. The unemployment rate would not include people who cannot work due to lack of childcare or a variety of other reasons. In August 2020, 9.1% or 803 fewer Colchester residents were working than in August 2019. Unemployment definitions: [https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps\\_htgm.htm](https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_htgm.htm). National, State, County and Colchester Unemployment: <http://www.vtlni.info/laus.pdf>

**Unemployment Rates (%) in Current Economic Downtown**

Month	Colchester	Chitt. County	Vermont	US
Feb 2020 (for perspective)	1.9	1.8	2.6	3.8
Mar 2020	2.6	2.5	3.4	4.5
April 2020	13.3	14.2	16.8	14.4
May 2020	10.6	11.7	12.7	13.0
Jun 2020	7.7	8.7	9.5	11.2
July 2020	6.8	7.6	8.2	10.5
August 2020	3.8	4.3	4.8	8.5

**Dr. Anthony Fauci, congratulated Vermonters for their success in slowing the spread of the coronavirus.** The nation’s top infectious disease expert said Vermont should be the model

for the rest of the country, saying he'd like to bottle what's happening here and take it with him. <https://vtdigger.org/2020/09/15/fauci-says-vermont-is-national-model-but-tells-vermonters-to-remain-vigilant/>

**Coronavirus vaccines won't be widely available till the middle of next year**, says CDC director. It will take months after approval for a vaccine to help control the pandemic. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/cdc-director-says-coronavirus-vaccines-wont-be-widely-available-till-the-middle-of-next-year/2020/09/16/209fecf6-f827-11ea-be57-d00bb9bc632d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/cdc-director-says-coronavirus-vaccines-wont-be-widely-available-till-the-middle-of-next-year/2020/09/16/209fecf6-f827-11ea-be57-d00bb9bc632d_story.html)

**Get your flu shot now**, health officials say; you don't want both flu and Covid-19 <https://vtdigger.org/2020/09/15/get-your-flu-shot-now-health-officials-say-you-dont-want-both-flu-and-covid-19/>

**Flu vs. COVID:** Ways to identify symptoms and differences. Flu and other seasonal ailments share symptoms with COVID. But there are some ways to help determine what's wrong. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/flu-vs-covid-ways-to-identify-symptoms-and-differences-11600088401>

**Past Pandemic Info:** 1918, 1957, 1968, and 2009: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/basics/past-pandemics.html>

**COVID Modeling:** Vermont educational report on K-12 and college/university testing and cases; and, national, regional and Vermont case info: [https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreq/files/doc\\_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-091820-revised.pdf](https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreq/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-091820-revised.pdf)

**Cases in Colchester: 65 as of 9/16/2020.** This did not change since last week. This is total known cases, not current cases. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/current-activity-vermont#town>

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## Parks and Recreation Glen Cuttitta, Director

- Park and path users are still encouraged to physically distance or wear a mask when unable to distance.
- Colchester park playgrounds are open with appropriate signage indicating that they are not cleaned or disinfected. Users are encouraged to keep physical distancing and wash or sanitize hands before and after use.
- With the fall issue, we have started digital only program brochures and foresee using them exclusively moving forward.. Fall Programs are listed in an electronic brochure available at <https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6276/2020FallBrochure>
- Bayside and Airport Park bathrooms will close the week of October 26<sup>th</sup> which is typical for past years.

- Park staff is continuing maintenance such as mowing, trimming, and basic repairs at a slower rate due to reduced staffing.

Visit <https://colchestervt.gov/333/Parks-Recreation> or call 802-264-5640.

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Colchester Police Department  
Chief Doug Allen

We were fortunate to be able to quickly fill a vacancy in our Communications (public safety dispatch) Staff. Mariah Griffin is a 2018 graduate of Champlain College with a degree in Criminal Justice. Mariah interned with us her senior year. After training, she will join our five other Communications Specialists (public safety dispatchers for police, fire, rescue and technical rescue) who are an integral part of our ability to provide public safety service to Colchester 24/7/365.

Corporal Gutierrez has concluded his seasonal assignment to our Marine Unit. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Steve performed 48 boat inspections, stopped 45 boat operators for various violations and investigated two boat related crashes. He also assisted 28 boaters with various issues. The CPD boat will remain at the dock and ready for emergency service until late in the fall.

Since August 20th, CPD has responded to 931 calls for service. These calls resulted in 24 arrests for criminal violations including Criminal Threatening, Possession of Cocaine, and Leaving the Scene of an Accident, among others.

For more about Colchester Police Department visit <http://colchestervt.gov/police> or call (802) 264-5555.

Visit <https://colchestervt.gov/3245/Fire-Department> or call 802-862-4415.

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## Upcoming Town Meetings

Agendas available at: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

- **Planning Commission:** Next meeting: October 6 at 7:00 PM via Zoom; details will be included in upcoming newsletters.
- **Development Review Board: Development Review Board:** Next meeting: October 14 at 7:00 PM via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Webinar ID: 9359846003

- **Live stream:** <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Mail or email public comments prior to the hearing (Iridle@colchestervt.gov or Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446) or participate at public comment periods during the zoom meeting.
  
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Next meeting: TBA
  
- **Conservation Commission:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Next meeting: September 21, 5:30 PM. The plan is to walk the Wolcott Family Natural Area off East Road in Colchester. Map: <https://www.wvvpd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/WVPD-Parks-2015-Final.pdf>
  
- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM. Next meeting October 15 via Zoom. Details upcoming.
  
- **Selectboard:** Next meeting: Tuesday, September 22 at 5:30 PM. Third Floor Outer Bay Room, 781 Blakely Road
  - Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and their 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 (as the information packet for the current meeting is sent out along with the agenda).
  - Live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
  - Selectboard Agenda: [bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:** <https://www.colchestervt.gov/list.aspx>

For more information or comment: 802.264.5509 or townmanager@colchestervt.gov