

For the Week of September 6, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Colchester Historical Society

Colchester Historical Society's Annual Meeting & Ice Cream Social

Please join us for this event on **September 12, at 7 p.m.** It will be held **at the Meeting House on Main Street in Colchester Village.** All are welcome. If you'd like a tour of our building -- a former church parsonage built in 1899 and located right next door to the Meeting House -- please arrive at 6:15 p.m. Parking and admission are free.



Department Updates

Last Wednesday, Colchester Technical Rescue (CTR) Chief, Mike Cannon, trained Colchester Rescue members on a new navigation app recently added to their rescue call toolbox: GAIA Maps/GPS. CTR shared their knowledge and experience using this app with Colchester Rescue



members, as it can aid in search and rescue efforts, specifically remote access calls. Members can utilize the app to locate patients using latitude and longitude coordinates received from dispatch, review trails and access points ahead of time, and record their off-trail paths if needed.

Colchester Technical Rescue (CTR) is a team of volunteers who provide search and rescue services for the Town of Colchester and other communities in the county and State. These services include water, dive, rope, trench, confined space and structural collapse rescue and recovery. CTR performs 30-40 activations per year. For more information: <https://colchestervt.gov/306/Technical-Rescue>.

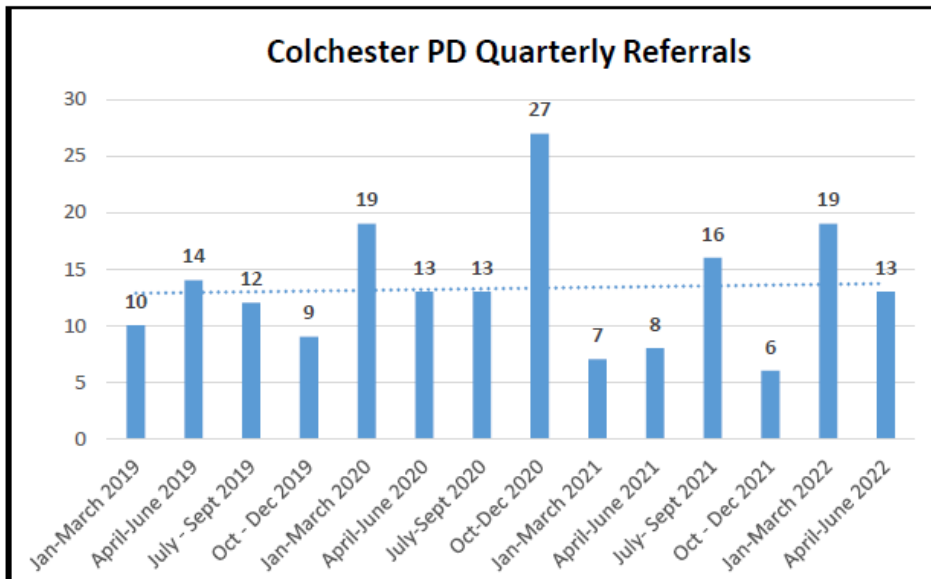
Community Justice Update

One part of the Town of Colchester's community justice efforts includes funding the Essex Community Justice Center (ECJC) in partnership with the Town of Essex and the State Department of Corrections. ECJC provides restorative justice programming with a focus on crime prevention, conflict resolution, and meeting the needs of those affected by crime. Different programs include Community Restorative Justice Panels, Community Dialogue Education, and the Circle of



Support and Accountability Program (COSA), which helps those recently released from incarceration to successfully re-enter society.

Through a Pre-Charge program, the Colchester Police Department can refer cases to Restorative Justice Panels instead of court. The panels are facilitated by trained community volunteers and serve as a proven and cost-effective means to addressing low level offenses. Through a series of conversations, the panel process holds those responsible for crime accountable for their actions and provides an important opportunity for those affected by crime to share their stories and identify needs for repair. Some of Colchester’s reports are displayed below:



Community Impact of FY22 Referrals

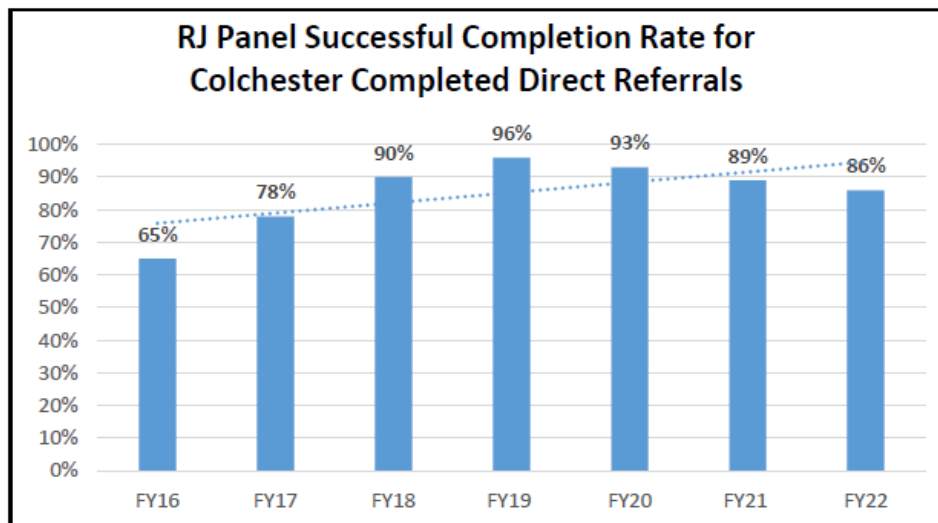
47 community members affected by the referred crimes were contacted by CJC staff to discuss the referral and how they can be involved.

7 affected parties participated in the restorative justice panels involving their situation.

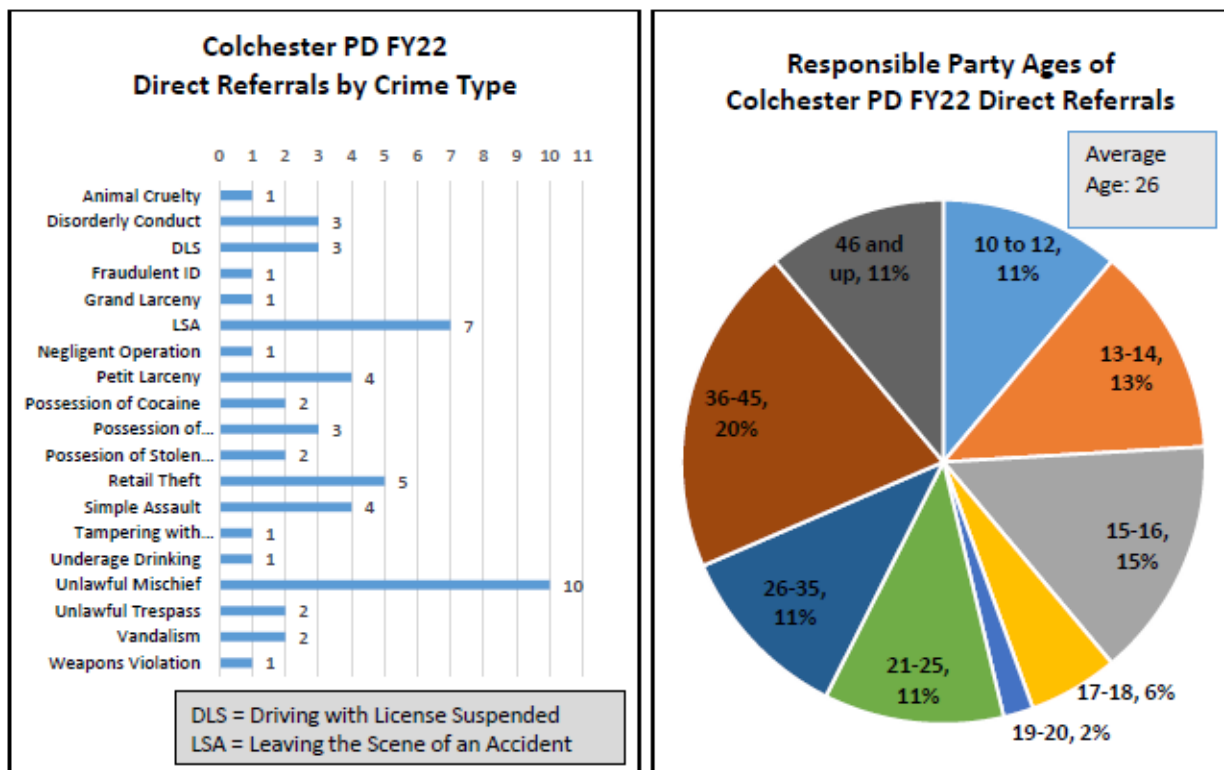
Colchester residents provided **252 hours of service** through the facilitation of panels in the community.

\$7,137 in restitution was resolved through the panel agreement process by those responsible for the crime.

Quote from Responsible Party:
 “When I arrived to my very first meeting, I walked in expecting to be judged and unheard. About halfway through, I began to settle down and realized I was in a judge free zone. By my second meeting, I was completely comfortable and walked into my meeting with a very warm welcome. Through the whole process never once did I feel singled out or unheard. Which is greatly appreciated.”



* Of the cases that closed in FY22, 26 of the 30 responsible parties successfully completed a Restorative Justice Panel. Additionally, 23 cases were returned due to an inability to contact the responsible party or the person referred did not take responsibility for the crime.



FY22 Restorative Justice Panel Survey Data Background:

During FY22 (July 2021 - June 2022) the Essex Community Justice Center received 154 Restorative Justice Panel referrals (143 in FY21) for the service area. These cases were staffed along with 30 cases that were rolled over from the previous fiscal year. Of the new referrals;

- 92% came directly from law enforcement (89% in FY21)
- 5% came from Probation and Parole/Youthful Offender (3% in FY21)
- The remaining 3% came from a variety of sources including schools, community organizations, the courts, and the State Attorney’s Office

Of the cases that entered into a restorative process and completed during the fiscal year, 85% successfully completed (90% in FY21) meaning the responsible party took accountability for their actions, had a discussion on the impact of the incident, and completed a plan for repair and skill building. To review the complete Panel Survey Data, click [here](#).



Are you interested in alternatives to the criminal legal system? The Essex Community Justice Center is excited to offer an **Informational Night on Tuesday, September 20th** to connect with community members about the work we do and the opportunities for community involvement. **Join us from 5:30pm-7:30pm** to meet current staff and volunteers and learn more about restorative justice initiatives in the towns we serve: Essex, Milton,

Colchester, Underhill, Jericho and Westford. Please see [this flyer](#) for additional information and how to register

The Essex CJC is committed to creating a volunteer pool that includes people from diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, differently abled, and socio-economic backgrounds that better reflect our community and the clients we work with. We are also seeking more people under the age of 25 to diversify the age range of our volunteers and help us work with youth that are referred. The Essex CJC is funded by a State grant and the Towns of Colchester and Essex.

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, September 13th, 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and their name and address in the body of the email. 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).

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Development Review Board: Wednesday, September 14th, 7:00 pm 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.

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, September 14th, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices.

Library board of Trustees: Thursday, September 15th, 4:00 pm in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, September 20th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road for a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering amendments to the Colchester Development Regulations.

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

Note: Agendas are posted at least 48 hours before the meeting, so you may find past agendas when clicking the link. Revisiting the link closer to the date of the meeting should provide you with the current agenda.

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

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