

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 4/03/2015

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

- **Development Review Board Meeting:** Monday, April 6th, at 7:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
- **ADA Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, April 7th, at 10:00 A.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room.
- **Investment Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, April 8th, at 3:30 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room.
- **City Council Meeting:** Wednesday, April 8th, at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council

ATTACHMENTS ...

-  [Press Release: Mother Possessed Heroin with Children in the Vehicle](#)
-  [Parade Permits: Updated April 2, 2015](#)
-  [Press Release: U.S. Department of Justice re: Ross and Kuncz Heroin Conspiracy](#)
-  [Montpelier Senior Activity Center: Winter 2015 Class Feedback](#)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

1 Taylor Street

Cost Estimating: This week the team met on-site to discuss retaining wall options in the hopes of finding some areas for cost control. Boring is scheduled for the next month to make a determination about the foundation needed. Additionally, the team will meet next week with Efficiency Vermont to discuss the energy needs of the building.

Easements: The Assessor has identified an independent appraiser who will, hopefully, be able to assist the City with the needed appraisals. We hope to have a proposal for this work next week.

Development Agreement: The City, Redstone, and their respective lawyers are meeting on Monday to discuss the Development Agreement between the City and Redstone.

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Website Development

After some time spent with the two finalist vendors' "sandboxes" (dummy sites that allow us to explore the site and understand how easy it is to use) this week, it was determined that more information was needed by the team to make a final recommendation. To that end, additional demonstrations with the vendors are scheduled for today and early next week. The team will not make a recommendation to the Council on April 8th but will on April 29th. We believe that this delay will result in the best product for the City. Additionally, we believe that we can maintain the overall project schedule with this additional week of research.

Bike Path Extension

The Act 250 Hearing for the Bike Path Extension Project was held on Thursday, April 2nd. This included a two-hour site visit and several hours of public hearing. The Vermont College of Fine Arts and the Agency of National Resources were granted party status.

During the hearing, several issues arose that may lead to more costs for the project. Once a determination regarding the permit is made by the Commission, the City's team will put together and updated cost estimate.

Disaster LAN Training

Today the City of Montpelier hosted a Vermont Department of Public Safety DisasterLAN training at City Hall. DisasterLAN is the on-line technology the State uses in the event of a disaster in order to provide information, manage resource requests, and track status across the state. Thirteen City staff were trained in DisasterLAN including representatives from the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, IT, Cemetery, and City Manager's Office. This is part of our ongoing emergency preparedness efforts.

Goals

Staff is finalizing a draft goals statement which will include action steps, target completion dates, financial realities and recommended priority order. This should be included with the weekly packet but, if not, will be sent out over the weekend.

Mountaineers Lease

The Lease between the Vermont Mountaineers baseball team and the School Board for use of Recreation Field needs to be renewed next year. The Superintendent of Schools has invited me to sit in on the lease discussions along with the Mountaineers General Manager, the Recreation Director and him. Our first meeting was this past week.

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Collective Bargaining

Police Union discussions remain on hold as we continue to await a counter proposal from the Union. Initial talks with the Fire Union begin next week.

Legal

Hallsmith vs. City, Fraser, Baker – Appealed to Supreme Court. Represented by Bernie Lambek. Oral arguments were held on December 18, 2014. Awaiting decision

VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal. – Status conference held on Wednesday. Deadlines have been set for filings so that case is ready for hearing by June 15. Represented by Robert Fletcher.

Steuernwald vs. Fraser, Cleveland, City – Case was dismissed but possibility of refileing some portions of it exists. Represented by Nancy Sheahan through VLCT.

Bettis/Powers vs. Bean – Motions being filed. Represented by Nancy Sheahan through VLCT.

Illuzzi vs. City, Law, Motyka, Renaud Bros. – Motions have been filed. Represented by Constance Tryon Bell through VLCT.

WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Senior Center

Winter 2015 Class Feedback: The Montpelier Senior Activity Center serves more than 800 seniors from Montpelier and surrounding towns. We offer more than 40 weekly classes in humanities, arts, movement, and technology. This winter, 395 seniors participated in 61 class series. Each quarter, we solicit feedback from our members to gauge their satisfaction with the classes. We received 96 feedback forms for winter classes. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. 99% of respondents rated their class very good or excellent overall (76% rated excellent overall). 99% of respondents rated their instructor very good or excellent overall (93.5% excellent). 92% said they are very likely to take their course if it is offered again in the future. Please see the attached pdf for the full report which includes a sample of the seniors' comments.

Planning Department

The Department of Planning and Community Development will be submitting two Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) grant applications. These funds will allow the City to demonstrate Low Impact Development (LID) on Taylor Street as proposed in the Greening America's Capitals Draft Report. The grant will provide for the addition of sustainable street trees, rain gardens, permeable pavement, and permeable sidewalks as part of a full depth reconstruction of Taylor Street. This project will coincide with the Taylor Street Transit project and provide a missing critical bike and pedestrian link between the downtown core,

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State complex and the new transit center, while demonstrating the City's commitment to sustainable and responsible development. In addition, the Department of Planning and Community Development is seeking funding for the installation of LID technologies on the One Taylor Street Transit site as proposed by the project architects and engineers. The purpose of the grant program is to reduce the introduction of sediment and phosphorus through bio-retention and infiltration of stormwater runoff, and these projects will help the City contribute to the statewide goal of reducing TMDL's and protecting our state water resources. Each project is seeking maximum funding up to \$250,000.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

April 8

Appointments: Design Review Committee
Development Review Board
Tree Board
Adopt Goals – continued

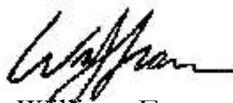
April 29

Montpelier in Motion (?)
Greening America's Capitals
Hazard Mitigation Plan
Zoning Update
Appointment: Pedestrian Advisory Committee
One Taylor Development Agreement
Website Contract
Parklet?

May 13:

Winter Parking Ban Review

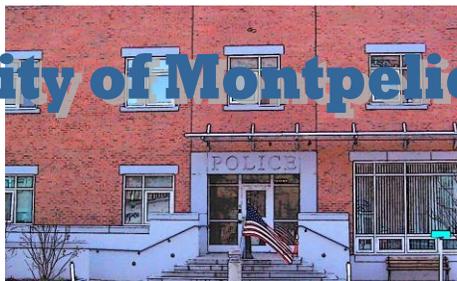
May 27:



William Fraser
City Manager



City of Montpelier Police Department



Anthony J. Facos
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Chief Anthony J. Facos or
Cpl. Kevin Moulton
(802) 223-3445

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2015

MOTHER POSSESSED HEROIN WITH CHILDREN IN THE VEHICLE

On March 26, 2015 at approximately 11:05 p.m., the Montpelier Police Department responded to the report of drug activity occurring at the commuter parking lot located on Dog River Road in Montpelier, Vermont. A complaint was made of a male and female, allegedly using drugs while parked in the lot. Montpelier Police arrived at the scene and located the suspect vehicle. While approaching the vehicle there was evidence of heroin use as there were multiple torn wax paper folds on the ground and on the vehicle. Contact was made with Jaimie Pace (22) of Barre, Vermont. Pace was seated in the operator's seat. Also in the vehicle were Pace's 4 year old and 7 year old children. Pace claimed the male party had left prior to Police arrival.

Pace denied any drug activity. Officers' observed other paraphernalia within the vehicle which included wax paper folds and syringes. The Montpelier Police Department's K9 alerted to the presence of narcotics within the vehicle. A search warrant was sought and granted. During the execution of the search warrant, Montpelier Police located eleven bags of heroin, ten stimulant prescription pills as well as multiple items of paraphernalia. Pace was arrested and issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court Washington Criminal Division on May 21, 2015 to answer to the charges of Possession of Heroin and Possession of a Stimulant (2 Counts).

The Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF) was contacted regarding the alleged use and possession of narcotics with the children present in the vehicle. An intake was submitted for DCF investigation.

2015 PARADE PERMITS

Updated April 02, 2015

Date	Parade Theme/Title	Organization	Start	Contact	Added Info
04-11-15	Fight Back Rally	VSEA	Assembly at noon at State Hse lawn approx 300 walkers. Disassembly at 1:30 at State Hse lawn	Ray Stout – VSEA cell phone during event 802-917-3800. Chairperson- Kristin Warner 793-4536	One Lane Only. All Marshalls must wear class 2 yellow vests. No stops along the route of State, Elm, Langdon, Main Streets. Patrol to assist at intersections as available.
05-03-15	Walk for Babies	March of Dimes	0800 at MHS ending at noon approx. 100 entries	Kathy Morse 479-7706 work 560-4822	Cruiser at rear to follow traffic. Control at major intersections
05-14-15	Corp Cup 5K Road Race	Vt Governor's Council	Assembly at 0530 at State Hse. Approx. 3000 entries	Jeff Bourdeau 318-5555	Law enforcement to direct traffic at all affected intersections
05-16-15	2015 Walk MS	National Multiple Sclerosis	Assembly 0800 at MHS using sidewalks. Approx 100 entries	Emily Christian 1-781-693-5154	No Parade Permit Required Sidewalks Only
06-06-15	Capital City Stampede	Central VT Runners/Onion River Sports	Assembly 0800 at Onion River Sports. Approx 100 entries	John Valentine 485-3777	Sheriff to manage Bailey/State St. crossings Patrol to assist as needed
07-11-15	Ride for Life	Vt Right to Life Committee	Approx 25+ motorcycles and classic cars at State Hse lawn from 9am to 3pm.	Mary Hahn Beernorth 229-4885	NO Special Provisions for Patrol. 12 to 14 Parking Meters to be bagged on right side of street in front of Capital for motorcycles and cars



U.S. Department of Justice

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District of Vermont*

*United States Courthouse and Federal Building
Post Office Box 570
Burlington, Vermont, 05401-0570*

*(802) 951-6725
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PRESS RELEASE
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
APRIL 2, 2015

**MONTPELIER WOMAN AND NEW YORK CITY MAN
INDICTED FOR HEROIN CONSPIRACY**

The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont stated that Chris Ross, 51, of New York City, and Kimberly Kuncz, 45, of Montpelier were arraigned today before United States Magistrate Judge John M. Conroy in connection with an Indictment returned by the Federal Grand Jury charging Ross and Kuncz with conspiracy to distribute heroin.

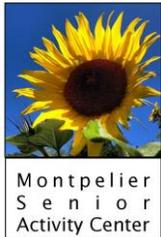
According to Court papers, Ross and Kuncz were arrested during the evening of March 19, 2015, after members of the Vermont Drug Task Force, working in cooperation with the Montpelier Police Department and Vermont State Police, observed Kuncz meet Ross as he arrived in Montpelier by train. Court papers indicate that law enforcement was aware that Kuncz was involved in heroin distribution and that she expected to be resupplied that evening. During a search of Ross, Vermont State Police discovered within his pants approximately 1700 individual dosage unit bags of a substance that tested positive for heroin. Ross denied knowledge of the items found within his pants.

At their arraignment, both Kuncz and Ross entered pleas of not guilty. The Indictment is an accusation only, and Kuncz and Ross are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. If convicted, Kuncz and Ross face a maximum possible penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine up to \$1,000,000.

Following the arraignment, Kuncz was ordered released but remains subject to supervision by the United States Probation Office. Ross remains in the custody of the United States Marshals Service.

This matter is being investigated by the Vermont Drug Task force, working in cooperation with the Montpelier Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by

Assistant United States Attorney Michael Drescher. Ross is represented by Steven Barth, Esq. Kuncz is represented by Doug Kallen, Esq.



Montpelier Senior Activity Center

58 Barre Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

A Place for Healthy Aging, Lifelong Learning, and Delicious Meals

802-223-2518 • msac@montpelier-vt.org • www.montpelier-vt.org/msac



Winter 2015 Class Feedback

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center serves more than 800 seniors from Montpelier and surrounding towns. We offer more than 40 weekly classes in humanities, arts, movement, and technology. This winter, 395 seniors participated in 621 class series. Each quarter, we solicit feedback from our members to gauge their satisfaction with the classes. We received 96 feedback forms for winter classes. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive and clearly demonstrates the value of our work.

99% of respondents rated their class very good or excellent overall (76% rated excellent overall). 99% of respondents rated their instructor very good or excellent overall (93.5% excellent). 92% said they are very likely to take their course if it is offered again in the future. Some comments from students on classes:

- “Transformative, poems bring out the deepest experience and we can all be respectful of whatever people write.”
- “After the first year, I could tell my balance, strength and flexibility were all greatly improved & I've maintained these levels.”
- “Physicality has improved. Need more aerobic exercise which class fulfills. Good for brain - memorizing & doing variety of dance steps.”
- “I am more limber & stronger, able to hold poses longer. Learning self-care thru aryaeda. Improved posture, less back & hip pain, new methods of using breath.”
- “Having taken both of her classes since fall '14 I have gained strength, flexibility and confidence.”
- “I have had compliments on how I looked, the surgeon who performed my hip replacement told my children my bones were not brittle, exercise has been the trick for me!!”
- “I have learned to stick with it and push myself I find myself doing stretches and breathing exercises at home and work then smile knowing I learned them here I feel infinitely better because of this class”
- “I wasn't able to get to all the classes, but when I went, it definitely improved my overall feeling of health”
- “This class just opened up a different vista for me”
- “I am both mightier physically, more well-informed because of this class.”
- “Reinvigorated my love of dancing.”

We also received a number of positive comments about the senior center in these feedback forms, including:

- “The Senior Center does a wonderful job for its members in many areas.”
- “I'm impressed with the variety of classes offered.”
- “This is a wonderful community”
- “I think your center is terrific; you have a very active schedule; you provide so much for your members”
- “Thank you for what you bring to our community.”
- “The MSAC is doing a splendid job, and I appreciate its presence in the community.”
- “The senior center offers many rewarding classes and activities, and is well organized and welcoming.”