

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 4/29/2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

Monday, May 2 nd	Design Review Committee, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
	Development Review Board, 7:00 P.M. in the City Chambers
Tuesday, May 3 rd	Bicycle Advisory Committee, 6:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room
Wednesday, May 4 th	Montpelier Business Association, 8:30 A.M. in the Memorial Room

You can also click on the following link for a listing of the Montpelier Senior Activity Center's upcoming events: <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/calendar.aspx?CID=30,36>

ATTACHMENTS ...

-  Police Department Press Release: Purse Snatching at Shaw's
-  Thank You Letter from Tom McKone for Community Arts Grant Funds to Support "Poem City"
-  Public Notice: Park Commission Vacancy
-  Press Release: A Community Conversation on Homelessness in Montpelier

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

Community Services Planning

The Steering Committee (made up of staff and volunteer advisors from Recreation, the Montpelier Senior Activity Center, Parks, Cemetery, the City Manager's Office, and the City Council) interviewed three facilitators this week to help guide the Committee and the City through a planning process for a future multi-generational Community Services Department. The Committee identified a finalist and we hope to have a contract for the City Council to consider at their May 11th meeting. This process will include public meetings, targeted meetings with the associated advisory groups and commissions, data collection, and discussion with staff. Our hope is to have a recommendation for the future to the City Council as part of the FY18 budget process.

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Legal

VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal. – Awaiting decision. Oral argument on cross motions for Summary Judgment was held at Washington Superior Court on Tuesday, January 12th. Represented by Robert Fletcher

NOTE - Legal Update re Illuzzi vs City: Motion for continued discovery filed by plaintiff. Awaiting ruling on Motions (2) for Summary Judgment. Represented by Constance Tryon Bell through VLCT

WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Montpelier Community Justice Center Response to State's Attorney's Presentation

It was a surprise to hear State's Attorney Scott Williams tell the Montpelier City Council this week that he was not referring Montpelier court-diverted cases to Montpelier's Community Justice Center (MCJC), despite the written protocol to do so. He expressed concern about the completion rate without citing data and without ever having spoken of this concern with the MCJC. This information about the MCJC is being provided to Council as a follow up.

The Montpelier Community Justice Center provides a local, community-based restorative justice process for cases diverted from court. It has the capacity for resolving misdemeanor offenses for all Montpelier-based offenses. It receives State funding that also provides the capacity for a local restorative justice, court-diverted response in Northfield and Waterbury. The Greater Barre CJC provides this program for its service area.

The restorative process attends to the needs of victims and offers victims the opportunity to participate directly or indirectly to voice those needs. In order for the person responsible for an offense to complete the program s/he must help generate and then complete activities that deepen understanding of the harm, make amends, creates a positive connection with the community and fosters improved behavior. Consistent with the principles of restorative justice, this program recognizes the impact on community, as well as its obligations to its citizens to support those harmed as well as those who must repair that harm.

The Restorative Justice Alternative program is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the MCJC; the police chiefs in Montpelier, Northfield, Waterbury and Barre; and the Washington County State's Attorney. After discussions with the CJs and local police chiefs, SA Williams signed this MOU in September, 2015. The following paragraph spells out the protocol agreed to regarding referrals.

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“Because restorative justice works best when it happens at the local level, unless there is a compelling interest to do otherwise, whenever the State’s Attorney refers a person to a restorative justice program and the offense occurred in a jurisdiction covered by a local police department that is included in this MOU, the referral will be to the RJAP at the CJC that operates the program in that jurisdiction.”

Referral and completion data for the MCJC’s Restorative Justice Alternative Program:

Cases in FY 16 (so far):

45 active cases in Waterbury and Montpelier

20 Montpelier Police (MPD) referrals, 25 State’s Attorney (SA) referrals

Cases still open: 10

Cases closed: 35 (18 from MPD and 17 from SA)

Of 18 MPD referrals closed, 16 completed successfully. One of the people referred was a homeless man who never responded. Thus, **94%** of those who engaged completed. The person who did not complete was a young girl who offended again and successfully completed when referred by the SA. Moreover, we hear that she has changed her attitude in a significant way and is doing very well.

Of 17 SA referrals closed, 13 completed successfully. Of the unsuccessful referrals, one had severe mental illness that compromised the ability to engage in the process; one went back to jail before he could be seen; and 2 never contacted the MCJC. Thus, **100%** of the people who engaged in the program completed.

Cases Closed in FY 15:

Of 2 MPD referrals closed, 2 completed successfully – **100%**.

Of 13 SA referrals closed, 8 completed successfully. Of the 5 unsuccessful, 3 were inappropriate referrals (one attacked her daughter’s rapist; one did not take responsibility; and one involved intimate partner abuse) and one was unreachable. One did not complete. Thus, 8 of 9 who engaged in the program, or **88%**, completed successfully.

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Public Works Department

New Water Main Valve Installed:

The Public Works Department is pleased to announce the successful installation of a strategically important gate valve on one of our downtown water lines. This innovative and technologically advanced gate valve was installed at the intersection of Main and School Streets to replace a failed valve on a lateral water main. Gate valves serve a critical function allowing a water system operator to isolate a section of water main for maintenance and repairs while minimizing the extent of a service disruption. The innovation of this new valve installation process comes from its ability to be inserted under live operating pressure without the need to sever a section of pipe requiring the shutdown of a vitally important water main. Through the use of a live insertion valve, the advantages are numerous including: reduced risk to the water system and personnel; fire hydrants and building sprinkler systems remain active; and water service to businesses and residents is not interrupted with a significant reduction or elimination of staff overtime. Typically to minimize service disruptions, costly nighttime work is planned which was unnecessary in this case. Furthermore, the overall time from excavation to completion is approximately one-third less. Although several staff members were involved in this operation, the Public Works Director credits Kurt Motyka, P.E., City Engineer for his research and design efforts and Brian Tuttle, Superintendent and Jeremy Lewis, Foreman for project planning and operations. Future live insertion valves are planned in strategically important areas of the downtown where existing valves are inoperable or isolation capabilities are insufficient.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center:

Start the Conversation

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center will host a presentation titled " Start the Conversation — A Community Discussion About Family, Aging & End-of-Life Choices" on Thursday, May 5th, from 1:00 – 2:00 P.M. Emily McKenna from Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice will show a 26-minute video, Nine to Ninety, that explores the challenges of aging and planning for end-of-life care in today's world and lead a discussion. Free and open to the public.

Summer Trips

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center is offering more than 25 great affordable day trips this summer. Join us as we journey to destinations near and far. We'll be leading walking, biking, and kayaking trips, plus trips to museums, historic sites, theater, and more. Stop by the Senior Center or call us at 223-2518 to learn more.

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Senior Center Receives Grant

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center is grateful for the support of the Amy E. Tarrant Foundation, which recently donated \$10,000 to support the installation of new audio-visual equipment at the Senior Center.

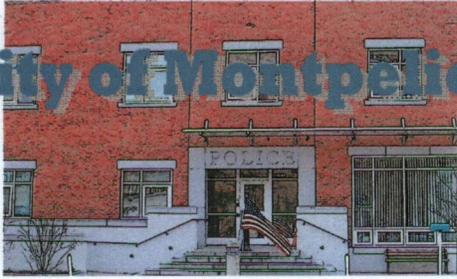
TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

May 11	Zoning – Part 1 Dog Ordinance Update Taxi/Uber Update Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee Update
May 25	Zoning – Part 2 Parking Advisory Committee Appointments?
June 8	Zoning – Part 2 (continued) or Part 3
Future	EDSP – Final Plan?



William J. Fraser
City Manager

City of Montpelier Police Department



Chief of Police
Anthony J. Facos

PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Captain Neil Martel or Sergeant William Jennings
1 Pitkin Court
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
802-223-3445

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On April 25, 2016 at approximately 5:00 PM the victim was shopping in the Shaw's grocery store located at 4 Main Street, Montpelier, Vermont when a male (shown below) grabbed the victims purse from her shopping cart leaving the store and running North on Main Street. The subject was last seen in the area of Main Street and Langdon Street.

The male was described as approximately 5'10 in height, moderately heavy set, wearing a black windbreaker style jacket with a white stripe running along the sleeve, White t-shirt with a dark colored collar and sunglasses.

If you have information that would assist in this investigation, please call our business telephone line (non-emergency) at 802-223-3445.



1 Pitkin Court, Montpelier, VT 05602 ♦ 802-223-3445 ♦ FAX 802-223-9518



April 7, 2016

William Fraser
City of Montpelier
39 Main ST
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Mr. Fraser,

On behalf of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, please accept our grateful appreciation for the Montpelier Community Arts Fund's support of PoemCity, our annual celebration of poetry. PoemCity is in its seventh year and has become a community celebration anticipated by many people around Montpelier and Vermont. In addition to a huge following among city residents, PoemCity brings many people to the city for events. The \$1,000 grant from the Montpelier Community Arts Fund was a big helping towards the cost of printing the program booklet.

Vermont Poet Laureate Chard deNiord, who read at the kick-off celebration, loves what we are doing. Over the weekend he wrote us: "You have helped put into reality exactly what one of my main goals as poet laureate is, namely, to demystify poetry, bring it to the street level, celebrate the voices of the otherwise unheard."

I thoroughly appreciate the many ways that the city and the library work together. Thank you for your continuing support of what we do.

Sincerely,

Tom McKone
Executive Director

**Commissioners**

Carolyn Grodinsky
Bill Johnson
Bryan Pfeiffer, Chairman
Sarah Swenson

Staff

Geoff Beyer, Parks Director
Alec Ellsworth, Parks Caretaker

PUBLIC NOTICE

April 26, 2016

Candidates Sought for Vacancy on the Montpelier Parks Commission

The Montpelier Parks Commission seeks candidates for a vacant seat on the Commission until March of 2017. Anyone interested can send an application letter to the Commission's chairman, Bryan Pfeiffer, no later than May 10, 2016. In your letter, state your interests and qualifications.

The full Commission will review the application letters and make an appointment at its next regular meeting on May 17, 2016 at 7PM. The term of this appointment runs until Town Meeting Day in 2017, at which point this particular seat on the Commission opens up to any interested candidates for a five-year term. This appointment fills a vacancy created when Parks Commissioner Kip Roberts resigned his seat effective April 19, 2016.

Application letters can be sent by regular mail or email to:

Bryan Pfeiffer
138 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
bpfeiffer@montpelier-vt.org

Contact: Laura Biren
AmeriCorps VISTA – City of
Montpelier Planning Department
Email: Lbiren@montpelier-vt.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2016

A Community Conversation on Homelessness in Montpelier

What's happening now? What's happening next? How can we help?

Montpelier, VT – The City of Montpelier, through its Housing Task Force, in partnership with Good Samaritan Haven is hosting a Community Conversation on Homelessness. The public is invited and encouraged to participate in a dialogue that will include representatives from the City, Downstreet Housing and Community Development, the Montpelier Police Department, Montpelier Community Justice Center, Another Way, Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, Montpelier businesses and individuals who have experienced homelessness.

You will have the chance to talk about your experience, observations, and concerns regarding homelessness; become informed about efforts underway; and contribute ideas regarding ways to end homelessness.

The Community Conversation on Homelessness is at the Christ Church on Monday, May 16, 2016. A free dinner for all participants starts at 5:00 pm and the dialogue will happen between 6:00 and 8:00 pm.

This will be the third event specific to homelessness put on in the Montpelier and Barre communities within the past six weeks. There will be an update from the VT Interfaith Action group on what conclusions came from their homelessness panel as well as updates from the Good Samaritan Haven and the Washington County Continuum of Care network.

Questions? Please contact: **Laura Biren**, AmeriCorps VISTA at Lbiren@montpelier-vt.org



For Release [Time, AM/PM Time Zone, Date]