

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 6/10/2016**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS ...**

Monday, June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Community Fund Board and City Council, 4:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers  Transportation Advisory Committee, 6:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room
Wednesday, June 15 <sup>th</sup>	City Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
Thursday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Montpelier Senior Activity Center Advisory Council, 1:00 – 2:00 P.M., MSAC Resource Room  Housing Task Force, 5:15 P.M. in the Memorial Room  “Friends of the Winooski”, 6:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference 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 ...**

 *None*

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...**

**Economic Development Strategic Plan**

As discussed at the meeting this week, staff will present an EDSP implementation plan at the July 13 meeting.

**PILOT and LOT Revenue**

Use of these funds will be on the July 13 agenda.

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### **Econo Lodge**

The deadline for violation corrections is June 12<sup>th</sup>. We continue to look for alternate approaches to this issue.

### **Council/Staff Retreat**

July may be difficult for this. I will get back to you with different dates.

### **Finance Director**

With Sandy Gallup's retirement scheduled for September 1, I will begin the recruitment process next week.

### **Personnel Hearing re: Police Matter**

The hearing scheduled for Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> has been delayed at the request of the employee. Administrative leave will end next week. I will update you after July 12 as to whether or when a hearing will be held.

### **Legal**

*Illuzzi vs City*: Response issued on April 28th to Plaintiff's opposition to Defendant's motion for summary judgement and to disputed material facts. Awaiting Court ruling on motions. Represented by Constance Tyron Bell through VLCT.

## **WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...**

### **Montpelier Parks and Trees Report**

We have had a busy spring. With support from the State Urban and Forest Program, we purchased Tree Inventory Software and with further support of their staff and Tree Board members, we have started doing a street tree inventory to assess the health of trees located in the public right-of-way. As part of this inventory, we are identifying potential risks; for example, risks from dead branches that might fall in a traveled area or from a tree whose health is failing so that we can better prioritize the tree work we do. If you see some of us in orange vests walking around trees and occasionally looking up, that is what we are likely doing. By the way, any time you know of a tree hazard in the right-of-way, please let the staff at Montpelier Parks and Trees know so that we can evaluate it and address it accordingly.

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Last week, we were also blessed to have the help of both the entire second grade and a third of the senior class. The second graders helped with a variety of work around Hubbard Park. We so much appreciated their energy and enthusiasm in spreading wood chips on trails, cleaning out ditches along the road to help protect our roads and streams, as well as their help picking up litter!

Later in the week, 25 members of the senior class from the high school, along with 4 school staff members, were a huge help removing a number of invasives along the bike path, and then planting fruit and nut trees (over 40 of them) along the bike path from the high school toward the peace park, including apple, pear, plum, hazelnut, blueberries and more. They also helped water, mulch and fence them (to protect from beavers). Their help was instrumental in making this project possible, along with a mini-community grant of \$1000 from the Vermont State Urban Forestry Program, which enables us to buy the plant materials for the project and the Conservation Commission who provided money for the fencing to protect the plants!

A True North group helped us and the Nature Center put up tents by the Bird Fest and then work on removing invasive plants in the North Branch Park. A group also came and helped us do some follow-up on the Bike Path fruit and nut tree planting project, fencing, mulching and removing more invasives along the trail.

On Friday, a couple classes led by Ehren Miller-Novega from Twinfield High School came for the afternoon and were a big help planting the final 30 fruit and nut plants.

This week, a large Little Leaf Linden Tree fell on East State Street. Our crew removed the tree out of the road fairly quickly, along with the generous help of Officers Truhan and Nordenson. We were lucky that only a street sign was damaged. The quick work of the officers notifying vehicle owners protected both the vehicles and the owners. The tree looked very healthy above ground, giving landowners or others virtually no notice. My assessment is that the tree was a victim of a common mistake landowners make of mulching trees too high and right against the trunk of the tree. Mulching around trees is great; it not only helps the tree by reducing competition for water and air from a thick matt of grass but when done against the bark, it holds moisture in a place not designed to be wet. This can result in rot and eventual tree failure, often when the tree should be in its prime.

This Friday, a couple heroic Tree Board Members helped plant staff plants, six trees, and shrubs in a location near the end of Langdon Street.

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**TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...**

July 6 5:00 PM	Special Meeting to Set Tax Rate & Water/Sewer Rates
July 13	Possible Eminent Domain Hearing re: Overlake Park Goal: Healthy Community Zoning Part 3 Taxi Ordinance – Second Reading Dog Ordinance – First Reading Parking Ordinance – Second Reading Junkyard Ordinance – First Reading Use of LOT and PILOT Revenue EDSP Implementation Plan  French Block Update Taylor Street Update Street Closure Policy and Fees
August 10	Zoning Part 3 (continued) Personnel Policy Revisions Goal: Safe Community Junkyard Ordinance – Second Reading Dog Ordinance – Second Reading Non Profit Board Policy
September 14	Zoning Parts 4 & 5 Goal: Housing/Economic Development Tax Stabilization Policy Shared Use Path Easements
September 28	Zoning – Wrap-up and Decisions Goal: Clean Environment Storm Water Master Plan Water Source Protection Plan Water Source Control Plans



William J. Fraser  
City Manager