

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

June 24, 2016

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VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal: Notice was received that Vermont College of Fine Arts has appealed the recent judgment from Vermont Superior Court, Washington Unit, to the Vermont Supreme Court. The Superior Court judgment upheld the City's determination that Schulmaier Hall is taxable due to its lease for "a general commercial purpose".

Represented by Robert Fletcher.

WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Finance Department

The Finance Department is experiencing many staff changes as we begin the new fiscal year. On July 1st, we will be saying good-bye to Bev Hill who is retiring from her part-time, Collector of Delinquent Accounts position. We will miss Bev's willingness to step in to help us all and her extensive, historical knowledge of people, places and events in our city. Todd Provencher will be promoted to our Accounting Manager position in early July. This will create a Payroll and Benefits Specialist vacancy which we hope to fill in July. With Loretta Bresette's recent retirement, we hired Jamie Granfield of Montpelier to be our new part-time Office Assistant. She works in the Clerk's Office and is enjoying greeting city residents and helping out in both City Clerk and accounting functions.

John Odum will be taking on collection of delinquent accounts responsibilities, in addition to his role as our elected City Clerk. Finance staff will be available to assist him with his new collection duties.

And, most importantly, the Recreation Department employees will be moving from the school system to the City on July 1st. The planning for this transition has been underway for a year now. We welcome Arne McMullen, Rick LaChapelle, Norma Maurice, Carl Nunn and Sheila Cleary to our City staff. We look forward to working with them as we consider establishing a new Community Services Department which could include the Parks, Recreation, Senior Center and Cemetery Departments.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center

Annual Meeting

At the 2016 Annual Meeting on June 21, three new Advisory Council members were welcomed: Wendy Freundlich of Middlesex, Paul Irons of Berlin, and John Hopkins of Montpelier. Three members were welcomed back for second terms: Bill Doelger, Jessica Sanderson and Sue Stuke, all of Montpelier. Together with continuing members

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Bob Barrett, Liz Dodd, Ron Merkin, Janet Ressler, and Susan Torchia, all of Montpelier, the new MSAC Advisory Council will meet on third Mondays at noon, starting on July 18, and all are welcome. The following officers were elected at the June 21 meeting: Bob Barrett as Chair, Liz Dodd as Vice Chair, and Jessica Sanderson as Secretary.

Summer Program Registration

Spaces are still available in many summer classes at MSAC that begin the week of July 5th and run through September, including Film at Savoy with Rick Winston, Voice, Guitar/Uke, Rughooking, Gentle Yoga in Worcester, Movement for Parkinson's, Very Gentle Yoga, Yoga for Joint Mobility, and Sound Meditation. New classes include Yoga in Hubbard Park with Lori Flower and Digital Photography with Linda Hogan. Registration can be done in person at 58 Barre Street 9-4, M-F, or online at <https://msacvt.ecwid.com/>, and five summer classes are open to the general public.

Welcoming Norma Maurice, Recreation Employee

In early July, MSAC welcomes Norma Maurice, longtime Recreation Department Administrative Assistant, to the office at 58 Barre Street. Norma's move marks the start of closer collaborations between MSAC and Recreation staffing, and now both departments' customer service and registrations will be managed out of one accessible location. Staff and Advisory members of both departments, along with colleagues from Parks and Cemetery Departments, are participating in a broader, multi-month strategic planning process to explore visions and options for how Community Services are offered and might be enhanced in Montpelier.

Department of Public Works

Bailey Avenue & Clarendon Avenue Projects (storm water culvert & sidewalk reconstruction):

The main line culvert on Bailey Avenue (about 450') has been completed, but the work took longer than anticipated primarily due to the many utilities encountered which had to be relocated. It was determined that the lateral (crossing the street) culverts are also badly deteriorated and need to be replaced as well. Considering the need to prepare for the arrival of our paving contractor, the Public Works crew demobilized from the storm drain and sidewalk project area and remobilized on Cedar Street. The crew will return to Bailey Avenue and complete the storm drain work, reconstruct the sidewalk on Bailey Avenue (Terrace Street – Clarendon Avenue) and then move over to Clarendon Avenue to begin that sidewalk reconstruction. A revised project schedule will be posted on the City's website as soon we have a little more clarity about our production estimates.

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Gaylord Drive Water Main Completed:

The Water & Sewer Division undertook and completed its second water main reconstruction project, and we look forward to more of these projects in the future. Evolving from a division primarily responsible for routine maintenance and complex repair projects to a crew with system reconstruction capabilities was anticipated to be a challenging transition. Although difficulties were encountered along the way, each challenge was successfully confronted and overcome. Over the last several years, the 50-year old galvanized water main on Gaylord Drive would develop leaks leaving the road pock-marked with patches but now a new high strength plastic (PVC) water main is in place which will reliably serve the neighborhood for many years to come. To prepare the street for full length resurfacing by our paving contractor, instead of a water main trench repair, the Water & Sewer Division removed the asphalt surface remnants, spread new gravel and graded the street. A job well done by our now experienced crew.

Street Paving Contract:

The selected paving contractor, ECI, has presented their proposed project schedule and will begin their work shortly after the July 4th holiday. Once reviewed and approved, the schedule will be posted on the City's website and notices will be mailed to the residents and owners of properties along the involved streets. Cedar Street is one the projects planned for this construction season, and the DPW crew has begun the preparatory work. This street will undergo a more extensive reconstruction project with storm drain replacement including a CSO elimination component, complete removal of the asphalt surface, installation of roadway stabilization textile, and the asphalt sidewalk will be replaced with concrete, bordered with granite curbing.

Spring Street Bridge Project:

Bids were opened on June 23rd for a project consisting of relatively minor deck and sidewalk repairs, installation of a water proof deck membrane and resurfacing. The work is being done in advance of the Rte. 12 paving project planned for next summer when the final bridge resurfacing will be completed and expansion joints installed. The low bid came in over budget but with supplemental funding from a VTrans Structures Grant, the contract will be recommended for award and the work will be completed before the end of August.

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Taylor Street Reconstruction Project (State Street – Bridge):

Per the City Council's Goals Calendar for June, the Council was scheduled to "receive preliminary plans and cost estimates for the reconstruction of Taylor Street". The project design is approximately at the 90% completion level and we are now working out some of the final details as we rush toward final plans, specifications and estimate (PS&E) for an early fall bid letting. A presentation quality rendering of the street design isn't quite ready but can be available in a couple of weeks.

It is noteworthy to mention that the majority of the design decisions are being driven by the Ecosystem Restoration Program, ROW constraints, contaminated soils, railroad requirements, and budgetary limitations. Items likely to be of interest where support and endorsement is hoped for concerns the lighting fixtures (sample approved by MEAC and DRC), landscaping, and acceptance that the aerial utilities will be buried except for the power lines whereby two of the five existing utility poles will remain post construction.

Relocation of the power lines was determined to be cost prohibitive with preliminary cost estimates coming in at close to one million dollars primarily because Taylor Street serves as a transfer location for primary service systems extending throughout the area and to the Rte. 12 north corridor. However, with the burial of the telecommunication systems belonging to six different entities, the aerial clutter will be noticeably reduced with no lines crossing the street. Other noteworthy topics of interest for the project is an agreement reached with VTTrans that they will pave part of the street concurrently with the State Street Paving Project, as well as coordination with the railroad crossing reconstruction also being done and funded as part of the State Street Project.

Unfortunately, the project wasn't ready for an early June presentation to the City Council but now that these final details are falling into place, a presentation will be available soon. However, the project is on such a fast track that any delay of significance at this point could affect the schedule. As it stands, some aspects of the project will probably carry over until the spring, 2017 such as final landscaping and maybe the new street lights.

Recreation Department

Accessible Path to Pool

Bowen Excavating will be starting the reconstruction of the accessible path that leads from Elm Street down to the pool. Work will start on Monday, June 27th, 2016 and is expected to last 1-2 weeks. The sidewalk will be closed for the duration of the project. A pedestrian detour will be provided along Elm Street and will terminate at Poolside Drive. Access to pool will be maintained at all times.

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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
July 13 or 27	Goal: Healthy Community Water/Sewer Long Term Plan Pedestrian Committee Presentation Taxi Ordinance - Second Reading Dog Ordinance - First Reading Parking Ordinance - Second Reading Use of LOT and PILOT Revenue EDSP Implementation Plan French Block Update Taylor Street Update Street Closure Policy and Fees Development Review Board Appointments
August 10	Zoning Part 3 Personnel Policy Revisions Goal: Safe Community Dog Ordinance - Second Reading Non Profit Board Policy Tax Stabilization (?) LDC Incorporation (?) Junkyard Ordinance -First Reading
September 14	Zoning Part 3 Goal: Housing/Economic Development Tax Stabilization Policy Shared Use Path Easements

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Zoning Parts 4 & 5

Goal: Clean Environment

Storm Water Master Plan

Water Source Protection Plan

October 12

Zoning Wrap Up

Housing Strategies Plan

Office of the City Manager

Your Input Wanted!
**Creating a Multi-Generational
Community Services Department**

**Community Visioning
Workshop**

Wednesday, June 29, 6:30-8:30pm
City Hall Auditorium, 39 Main St.

**Community Listening
Workshop**

Tuesday, October 11, 6:30-8:30pm
Montpelier Sr. Activity Ctr., 58 Barre St.

**Farmers Market
Sharing Wall**

Saturday, July 9, 9am-1pm
Capital City Farmers Market, 60 State St.

**Project Updates &
Online Survey**

<http://bit.ly/mplrcommservices>
(responses accepted through July 22)

City of
Montpelier
vermont

We want to hear from you!

