

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**



City Manager's Weekly Report – 12/23/2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

Monday, December 26 Since Christmas falls on Sunday this year, City Hall offices will be closed.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR ...

Thursday, February 9, 2017 “Welcome Legislators” Reception, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M. in the Capitol Plaza’s Ballroom

ATTACHMENTS ...



Recreation Department’s January Newsletter: <http://www.montpelierrec.org/>

Press Release: [Ice Skating Rink Coming to Montpelier This Winter](#)

Press Release: [Montpelier Installs Smart Parking Meters](#)

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT ...

Ice Rink

We executed the agreements with BGS and Montpelier Alive for the Rink at the State House Lawn this week and issued the press release attached. It’s an exciting step! The current plan is to install the Rink next Wednesday and Thursday.

Public Works Winter Operations

In response to recent complaints on Front Porch Forum about Public Works Winter Operations Director Tom McArdle issued the following this week. The full text is available at this webpage: <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/909/Winter-Operations>

The extreme weather conditions which descended on Vermont during the weekend of December 17- 18 were considered to be some of the most challenging circumstances for those in the highway maintenance profession. The storm was set up with a modest amount of snow piled in windrows along the roads and sidewalks and a period of very cold air with ground temperatures in the 20°s. As I understand it, the storm came in with a warmer upper atmosphere air trough arriving from the gulf coast with lots of moisture colliding with an arctic cold front from the North West. Precipitation in the form of rain became heavy at times with air temperature at ground level hovering around the lower 30°s. With a ground temperature below freezing, the rain froze on contact. Given the intensity of the rain fall, the ice thickened at the surface, and pre-application of anti-icing materials on the paved surfaces would only be marginally effective because much of the material would wash away and could not be relied on as an effective anti-icing technique.

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As the rain increased in intensity, the air temperature rose to above freezing, causing the snow banks to begin to melt which added to the overall free water (liquid) content of the snow pack. As nighttime approached, temperatures quickly dropped to below freezing with snow banks along the streets and sidewalks solidifying and forming dams to obstruct water flow. By this time, the de-icing material had melted through to the pavement which was overly diluted and re-froze negating the previous efforts.

In these circumstances, it becomes necessary for maintenance operations to be an on-going and persistent effort. With icing on every exposed surface, even a full deployment of all available tools and resources to achieve and maintain hazard free sidewalks and roads during or immediately following the storm is, at times, an unrealistic expectation. While the snow pack helped to absorb much of the rain waters, the drop in temperature to single digits on Sunday night / Monday morning presented an additional challenge to winter maintenance crews. There is no disagreement that DPW had trouble keeping up with the changing conditions.

I've posted a detailed response on the City's website (Public Works Page) to the comments recently expressed here on FPF and welcome your questions and comments.

Water Resource Recovery Facility - Recognition of Excellence

The January 2017 issue of *Treatment Plant Operator* magazine recognizes Water Resource Recovery Facility Chief Operator, Chris Cox, and his team for their accomplishments. Way to go, Chris!

http://www.tpomag.com/editorial/2017/01/young_treatment_plant_staff_winning_awards

FY18 Budget

As a reminder, all public documents related to the FY18 Budget process are, and will be posted, here: <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/179/Annual-Budget>.

Legal

Illuzzi vs City, et al: No further action to report since the July 12, 2016 VT Superior Court of Washington County issued its "Opinion and Order on Defendant's Motions to Compel, Enlarge, and Amend".

VCFA vs. City, Supreme Court Appeal: The Vermont Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Wednesday, October 26th at 2:30 P.M. We now await their decision. Represented by Robert Fletcher.

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WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Senior Center

Holiday Closure

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center will be closed for the holidays beginning on Monday, December 26 and reopening on Tuesday, January 3. We look forward to celebrating a healthy new year with you!

Winter Classes

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center is offering more than 60 affordable weekly classes this winter - everything from foreign language to yoga to pastels. Winter class registration is now open, and several classes still have space available. Sign up by January 6! Many classes are open to people of all ages, regardless of MSAC membership. Learn more online at www.montpelier-vt.org/msac or visit us at 58 Barre Street in Montpelier.

Blood Drive

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, January 4 from 12-5:00 PM. Due to holiday blood shortages, donors are needed now to meet patient needs nationwide. All presenting donors will receive a free long-sleeve Red Cross T-shirt and a \$5 Dunkin' Donuts gift card. Sign up for an appointment at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

January 11

Budget

Conservation Commission Appointment

The Bridge

Indoor Rec/Aquatic Facility Update

Summit School Request – Waiver of Fee
for Rental of City Hall Auditorium

Berlin Pond - Stitzel

FOG Briefing

Berlin Pond - Stitzel

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January 18

Budget – 1st Public Hearing
Warning – 1st Public Hearing
Bond Public Hearing

January 26 (Thursday)

Budget – 2nd Public Hearing
Warning – 2nd Public Hearing
Petitions
Kellogg-Hubbard Library Presentation
Paving Ordinance Changes

February 8

Zoning



William J. Fraser
City Manager

*Wishing You All a
Happy, Healthy and
Peaceful Holiday Season ...*

