

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**


City Manager's Weekly Report – 07/20/2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, July 23 Planning Commission, 5:30 PM, Memorial Room

Wednesday, July 25 City Council, 6:30 PM, Council Chambers

ATTACHMENTS...

 Construction Update for the Week of July 22nd

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

Capitol Plaza Project

We are continuing parking garage discussions. I have a column in current issue of The Bridge outlining the facts.

TIF

We continue to prepare additional information for the VEPC Board in advance of our next meeting scheduled on July 26th.

1 Taylor Street

You will notice asbestos/environmental abatement work in the Montpelier Beverage and Association for the Blind buildings underway very shortly, with demolition to follow. We will keep the Council updated.

Warming Shelter

Brooke Jenkins, Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Haven, informed us that the State appropriated \$332,000 this year to continue operation of the Montpelier warming shelter for another winter season. Like last year, the members of Bethany United Church on Main Street offered to host the shelter. Brooke held an informal meeting this week with the Church, the City and others to begin discussing some of the issues from last year that need to be addressed, and opportunities going forward. There are still details to be worked out including permitting and options for meals -- but if approved, the shelter would be open from Nov. 1 – April 15. Last year, about 15 people used the shelter each night. Brooke will continue to meet with the City and others as we prepare for the upcoming winter season.

Strategic Plan

Now that the plan has been approved, deadline dates are being finalized and the information is being loaded into the Envisio tracking software. We will soon be providing you a calendar of expected activity deadlines as well as rolling out the public dashboard.

Ice Rink

The Capitol Complex Commission approved for five years a redesigned ice skating rink for the State House lawn. Council will be briefed on the proposal at Wednesday's meeting, and asked to approve a letter of support for a grant application to help pay for a new rink.

Legal

In the appeal by Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) of the City's WWTF discharge permit, the matter has

now been fully briefed by all parties, including motions for summary judgment, responses thereto and reply filings. In its submissions to the Court, the City supported the legal briefs filed by the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and also filed a separate reply memo addressing the issue of whether the discharge permit authorized an increase in phosphorous, as CLF has claimed. CLF has requested that the Court schedule oral argument on the motions. The Court has granted CLF's request for oral argument on the pending motions and has scheduled that oral argument for July 30, 2018 at Costello Courthouse in Burlington. The State of Vermont, ANR is being represented by the Attorney General's office. The City is being represented by Joseph McLean, Esq., of Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

City of Montpelier Help Wanted

View the latest job opportunities at <https://vt-montpelier.civicplus.com/Jobs.aspx>

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Finance

Property tax bills were sent to residents last week. Due to a backlog at the Vermont Tax Department, about 4,000 to 5,000 Vermonters in 80 towns (including Montpelier) have received incorrect property tax bills. Those people may have received a bill with the nonresidential rate instead of the homestead rate, or not had their income-based adjustment applied yet. This was caused by a backlog within the Vermont Department of Taxes in processing key tax forms tied to the state's income sensitivity program. The State has conducted a public education effort to inform taxpayers of the problem, with stories appearing on television, radio and in newspapers across the state.

We expect to receive a correct, updated list from the State next Friday, and send out corrected tax bills as early as the following Monday, well before the Aug. 15 due date. It is not clear how many Montpelier property owners were impacted. The Finance Department is willing to work with any property taxpayer who is concerned or has a special issue.

Water bills will be going out by July 31st. Payment is due on September 15th.

Clerk

The second community meeting on potential non-citizen voting (in city elections only - not state, federal, schools, or the Public Safety Authority) is set for this coming Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. All community members with any and all views on the topic are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts. This second meeting will resume the conversation and will include sample potential ballot language as crafted by the working group and run by an attorney.

As before, Attorney Dan Richardson will be on hand for questions, as well as Doug Chapin, Director of the Program for Excellence in Election Administration at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs (via webcam).

Police

Chief Facos will be attending the FBI National Academy Associates national conference in Quebec City (July 21-July 24). This training conference will focus on 21st Century Policing, with presentations by Commissioner James O'Neil NYPD, Commissioner Charles Ramsey, Philadelphia PD (Ret.) and Chair of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and discussions with senior leadership of the FBI. There will also be presentations by key chiefs and legal experts on body worn camera implementation and other contemporary policing topics. Chief Facos (Vice President of the FBI NAA New England chapter) will be representing the New England Chapter of the FBI NAA due to the President's absence—Chief Richard Grimes, Weymouth

PD. One of Chief Grimes' officers, SGT Michael Chesna, was shot and killed in the line of duty Sunday morning. SGT Chesna will be laid to rest tomorrow in Hanover, MA.

This week, MPD investigated two pedestrian in crosswalk accidents and one bicycle versus car accident. The pedestrian/car accidents occurred the intersections of Liberty and Loomis Streets, and Main and Langdon Streets. The accident involving bicyclist occurred at the intersection of Main and Barre Streets. Each of these collisions caused injury to the pedestrians and to the bicyclist.

Planning & Community Development

The planning and community development department prepared and submitted a \$250k grant application to study the Washington County rail line for possible use in a rail bus system. The grant will examine the costs and barriers to establishing such a use, including a look at how a rail bus line could spur housing and economic development along the corridor, similar to the proposals in the Net Zero Montpelier competition from 2016. This application is supported by the State of Vermont, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, the City of Barre, Town of Berlin, and Green Mountain Transit. Thanks to Kevin Casey for putting together the application in a very small window of time. Anyone with questions can contact Kevin at KCasey@montpelier-vt.org

Public Works

The water, sewer & street divisions will continue work on Liberty & College Streets in preparation for paving. Sherwood Dr. preparations are now complete and is ready for the reclaiming process which is tentatively scheduled for August 1st & 2nd, with the base course of pavement now applied on August 3rd. Final structure adjustments and new curbing will follow immediately after.

The contractor reconstructing sidewalks on College Street is now nearly finished. Next week they will begin work on Liberty Street starting with some spot repairs between Marvin & Loomis Streets. They will then begin reconstruction of the sidewalk on the southerly side of the street between Loomis & Main Streets which includes installing granite curb. Liberty Street sidewalk work is being coordinated with the Main Street water main project because Loomis & Liberty Streets are being used as the detour route while Main Street is closed. The detour may be switched over to Jay Street depending on progress of the water main project and overlapping schedules. Tentatively, the curbing on College St will be installed the either the week of July 30th or August 6th and paving of both College & Liberty Streets will be either the week of August 13th or the 20th.

We are attempting to accomplish additional sidewalk reconstruction work this summer but our current contractor will not have time. Proposals have been requested from other contractors with responses due next week and we have included the contract award on the July 25th City Council meeting.

Although Montpelier has few dirt roads, the extremely dry conditions has resulted in chronic dust problems which we've struggled keeping under control. The long-standing practice of calling on a neighboring town to apply water & chloride has not been reliable as they contend with their own demands. We recently purchased & fitted a small tank of our own so we can address our own dust management needs.

Over the last couple of years, we have not been successful in securing roadside mowing services after the contractor we used for many years retired. To address our needs, we've been using hand powered equipment, but this is not appropriate for the lengthy rural road segments. The crew is completing work on fitting our flail mower to one of our sidewalk plow tractors which we expect to be operational next week.

Finish work will resume on the Rt. 12 / Rt. 2 paving project next week. The sub-contractor will be installing new signs, working on roadside shoulders and addressing the punch list which includes either defective or incomplete work in various locations throughout the project limits. On Sunday &/or Monday night, sub-contractor Nicom Coatings Corp will install asphaltic plug bridge joints on the freshly paved Main Street bridge.

The Main Street water main project is proceeding well but the street closure will likely be necessary for 2-3 days longer than originally anticipated. Also, staff is negotiating with the contractor to extend the replacement contract to address the water main between Liberty & Jay Streets which was determined to be in very poor condition and as bad as the water main currently being replaced.

The Northfield St. phase 2 project is progressing very well and the last water service is being connected today, which completes the utility portion of the project. The road reconstruction is now more the 50% complete and the contract expects to be ready for base paving by August 3rd.

Staff is meeting today with the UVM Agriculture Extension Service's grazing specialist and a goat / sheep shepherd to look at using the animals for managing the overwhelming amount of poison ivy along the Winooski West shared use path. Other non-chemical treatments have not been successful or long lasting and the ivy is now out of control and threatening path users between Bailey Ave & the Liquor control building. If this is the method to be used, we expect the need for annual grazing for the next few years.

Community Services

Join us at BioBlitz!

Tomorrow, July 21st from 2:00pm until Sunday July 22nd at 2:00pm, Hubbard Park and North Branch Nature Center will be hosting the Montpelier BioBlitz. At North Branch Nature Center, BioBlitz will feature biologists from across the country leading survey groups trying to identify every living species in Montpelier. Meanwhile, at Hubbard Park we'll be hosting games, animal exhibits, discussions, and more! Overnight, we're hosting campsites at Hubbard Park and North Branch Nature Center with spaces available. To find out more about camping, events, or to see who will be playing the BioBlitz main stage concerts, check out our website: <https://bioblitzmontpelier.org/>.

Montpelier K-6 Youth Soccer Now Accepting Registrations

Montpelier Recreation is now accepting registrations for the fall K-6 youth soccer programs. **Registration ends August 10th**. It is important to register before the deadline so we can properly schedule for the correct number of teams. Having the correct number of players per team ensures playing time for all players.

Registrations after the deadline will only be accepted if there is room on the team, and will be charged a \$20 late fee if accepted. Coaches meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 4th at 5:00pm in the Montpelier Senior Activity Center's Resource Room. For more information and to register, please visit:

<http://www.montpelierrec.org/DocumentCenter/View/5404/2018-Soccer-Registration-Form>

“Navigating the Roadways of Senior Care” | Thursday, July 26th, 12-1pm

As we age, we are faced with an ever changing landscape. Join us for a chat with Samantha Wendel and Heather Barss from Armistead Senior Care to learn the ins-and-outs of planning for Long Term Care. Bring your questions! Free and open to the public!

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...

July 25	Parklet Ordinance? Emerald Ash Borer UES Playground Development Review Board appts. EC Fiber Resolution Business License Ordinance Change – 2 nd Ice Rink	August 8	No Meeting
Aug 22	Parking Garage Update Environmental, Social, Governance Investment Policy Adopt indicators WRRF Update Main/Barre Corridor Study Stormwater Update Zoning Fixes Committee Appointments: - Social & Economic Justice Advisory - Investment Committee - Housing Authority - Community Fund Board	Sept 12	Possible Bond votes for November Possible charter changes for November Warn Special Election? Committee Appointments: - Complete Streets Committee - Historic Preservation Commission
Sept 26	Bond Public Hearing Committee Appointments: - Planning Commission - Design Review Committee	Oct 10	Housing Authority appointments

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE FUTURE...

July	Board of Civil Authority meets July 3 rd Celebration Zoning Fixes Mayor at HKS program Appointment of all DRB members	August	Parking
September	Mid-year City Manager check-in Art Walk Advertising for and appointment of all Planning Commission members Possible warning for special November voting for bonds ICMA Conference for Manager	November	Set budget guidelines State general election, possible bond votes
December	Budget Art Walk	January	Budget Ballot
February	City Manager review Welcome Legislators Reception	March	Orientation



William Fraser
 City Manager

Construction Update: Montpelier Transportation Projects, Proposed Schedule

Week of 7/22/18

Update:

Remaining water services will be connected today (Friday, 7/20).

Monday crews will be removing temporary water main.

Crews will be working on miscellaneous construction items between Memorial and Freedom next week.

The roadwork should be complete by August 3rd. Paving will follow shortly after. Actual date TBD.

For residents of the Freedom Drive and Independence Green neighborhood who would like a detour pass for the remainder of the project please email gmackey@montpelier-vt.org with following information: **

- 1) "detour pass" in the subject line
- 2) house address
- 3) license plate number for each vehicle needing a pass

***Driveway Access:** Construction activities may block driveway entrances for short periods of time as the operations move through the construction area. If crews are working across your driveway entrance and you need to enter or exit, please ask that your needs be communicated to a project supervisor.

VTRANS PROJECT UPDATE:

Sub-contractor Nicom will be working on bridge plug joints Sunday and Monday nights, 7/22-7/23 weather permitting. Plug joint operations cannot not be completed in inclement weather conditions. Alternating one-way traffic will be in place at the location of this operation.

Day work next week will include sign installation along Route 2 and Northfield Street on Monday and Tuesday. Crews will work on finishing up miscellaneous work along the project throughout the week in the downtown area and on Elm Street.

It is possible that crews will work on the section of guardrail located on Route 2. This work will include placing material along the shoulder in order to back it up to the pavement. Crews will seed and mulch the areas of dirt in this location as well. If this work is performed this week, it will be done during non-peak hours.

Please focus on safety when driving through the construction work zone and remember, it is against the law to use a hand held cell phone while driving in Vermont.

Contact Natalie Boyle, Project Outreach Coordinator, EIV Technical Services, with any questions or concerns in regard to this project at 802-855-3893 or nboyle@eivtech.com