

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 06/15/2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, June 18	Design Review Committee, 5:30 PM, Council Chambers
Monday, June 18	Development Review Board, 7 PM, Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 19	Parks Commission, 6 PM, Police Dept. Community Room
Tuesday, June 19	Energy Advisory Committee, 7 PM, Memorial Room
Wednesday, June 20	Complete Streets Committee, 5:30 PM, City Manager's Conference Room
Thursday, June 21	Housing Task Force, 5:15 PM, Council Chambers

ATTACHMENTS...

-  Construction Update for the Week of June 18th
-  WCAX story on Central VT New Directions' Smoke-Free Montpelier advocacy

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

Capitol Plaza Project

We are continuing parking garage discussions. I hope to brief you with an outline soon.

TIF

The Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) is scheduled to attend a public hearing at City Hall on June 28th at 1:30 PM as part of their review of our TIF application. The Council is invited to attend and speak in support of the application. An ad (a piece of it appears below) will appear in the Times Argus on June 16 and 23. We will also post it on all social media platforms, and ask the MDC to help us get the word out.

VEPC invites the public to comment on the consideration of this application by the Vermont Economic Progress Council. Comments can be made:

1) In person: On June 28, 2018, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, City Hall, 39 Main Street, Montpelier. Please arrive between 1:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to sign up to speak. Comments are limited to 7 minutes per person. Please bring a written copy of your comments.

2) In writing: By July 25, 2018, email comments to abbie.sherman@vermont.gov.

Strategic Planning

This item, including draft work plans, will be on the June 27th agenda.

Scribner Street

We will continue to work with the Council regarding a deliberative session.

Tax Stabilization

The second hearing for Timber Homes, LLC will be held at the June 27th meeting.

Upcoming Department Reports and Tours

Fire Department site tour at 6 PM on June 27th. Chief Gowans will not present again during a meeting unless you would like to discuss issues with him in more depth.

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, but the Court has not yet determined whether to grant that request. 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.

Attorney Brian Monaghan has filed a motion to dismiss in Smith v. Town of East Montpelier and the City of Montpelier regarding provision of ambulance service.

City of Montpelier Help Wanted

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

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Public Works

See the Montpelier Transportation Projects construction update for the week of June 18th attached to this report.

City crews will continue Sherwood Drive preparation for the reclaiming process. This includes replacing aging drainage systems and lowering utility hardware out of the way. It was also decided to expand the scope of the project to include preparation for a future sidewalk to be constructed along the northerly side of the street (see Montpelier in Motion Plan). Catch basins are being relocated and the new curbing will be placed on a new alignment to allow room for future sidewalk. Crews will also begin working on the numerous utility structure adjustments for the College & Liberty Streets paving projects to prepare for the final lift of pavement. The finish paving will take place after the sidewalk is reconstructed between Loomis Street & Main Street. The rest of the activities next week will be routine maintenance and repairs.

Finance

Water/sewer bills were due today (June 15th).

Community Services

PARKAPALOOZA Free Music Series Kicks Off Sunday, June 17 at Hubbard Park!

Once a month June-September, we're inviting the community to spend an afternoon in the park. In addition to great music, we'll be running our giant slip 'n slide and have a community BBQ trailer fired up for you to grill your own picnic!

Here's the schedule:

- Sunday, June 17: Steady Betty (3-6pm)
- Sat/Sun, July 21/22: in conjunction with Montpelier BioBlitz 2018 --our wild weekend festival! Music performances include Sabouyouma, Funk Shui, Modern Times Theater, and more! (2pm Sat. - 2pm Sun.).
- Sunday, August 19: Band TBD (3-6pm)
- Sunday, September 16: Patti Casey and the Wicked Fine Players

2018 City Pool opens June 16th

The pool opens for the summer on Saturday June 16th. Weekend hours are 1—5:30pm. During the first week, June 18—22, we will be open 2pm—6pm daily. Morning Lap swim will be held Mondays - Fridays each week 8—9am beginning June 25.

Information on prices, hours, rules, special events and swimming lessons can be found here:

<http://www.montpelierrec.org/844/Montpelier-Pool>

Pass holders will receive a key fob to swipe upon entry for each visit to the pool. This will help us to generate better usage numbers. This is a new system and we understand it will be an adjustment.

Thank you for your cooperation.

MSAC Silent Auction goes live June 15-June 29!

Starting Friday, June 15, at 7:30pm, the Silent Auction goes live for the **Annual Senior Prom for All Ages Fundraising event** scheduled for Friday, June 29, 7:30-10pm at Capitol Plaza. This year's theme is Disco Fever! The link for auction online bidding is here

<https://www.32auctions.com/msacseniorprom> and you'll find treasures to bid on, ranging from art to a gift certificate for a day at a spa to local berry preserves to many other goods and services. Bidding moves to the event on June 29. Tickets are also available online for the event itself,

<https://montpeliersenioractivitycenter.brownpapertickets.com>, and at 58 Barre Street. \$25 gets you an evening of dancing to DJ Fred Wilbur, appetizers, a cash bar, and a fun photo booth. The dress code recommends 70s disco attire, but anything goes, and all ages are welcome! Thank you to our sponsors: Armistead Senior Care, Washington Electric Coop, AARP, Maple Capital Management, People's United Bank. 223-2518 for more info.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...

June 27	6:00 Fire Department site visit Set tax rate Conservation Commission appt. Development Review Board appt. New Directions, smoke-free Social equity Committee Dogs/Parks Commission? Tax Stabilization – 2nd hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TimberHomes Vermont Strategic Planning update First Time Homebuyer Program Heaton Woods loan restructure	July 11	No Meeting
July 25	Zoning Fixes Open Meeting Law presentation? Parklet Ordinance? Emerald Ash Borer Community Justice Center? Park Avenue Closure for Playground	August 8	No Meeting
Aug 22	Parking Garage Environmental, Social, Governance Investment Policy Adopt community indicators WRRF Update Main/Barre Corridor Study	Sept 12	Possible Bond votes for November Possible charter changes for November
Sept 26	Bond Public Hearing	Oct 10	

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE FUTURE...

June	Setting tax and water/sewer rates Review/adopt goals	July	Board of Civil Authority meets July 3 rd Celebration Zoning Fixes Mayor at HKS program
August	Parking	September	Mid-year City Manager check-in Art Walk 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 6/18/18

Project Location: State Street, Main Street and VT 12-Elm Street: work to be performed includes milling, paving, manhole and drainage structure adjustments and extensive sidewalk improvements.
VT 12-Northfield Street: work to be performed includes new water, sewer, and storm water improvements, new sidewalks and stabilization of the road base.

Northfield Street, Phase 2 Construction Area: Derby Drive to Freedom Drive

DETOUR ROUTE: The detour route below will be in effect from 7:00 AM-7:00 PM Monday through Friday for Northfield Street traffic between Derby Drive and Freedom Drive.

~All southbound (towards Northfield) through-traffic will use Memorial Dr. to Dog River Rd. to Northfield St.

~Northbound (toward downtown) *passenger vehicle* through-traffic will be permitted to travel through the construction zone.

~Northbound (toward downtown) *truck through-traffic* will be directed to use Dog River Rd. to Memorial Drive. Local delivery trucks will be allowed through the project.

~A detour map can be found at <https://frpenterprises.com/montpelier-08-10-17.html> Click on "map"

~Sidewalks will remain open for pedestrians. *Bicyclists may ride with traffic in the northbound direction or walk their bikes along the sidewalk in either direction until they reach the end of the construction zone.*

Please Note: Northfield Street between Memorial Drive and Derby Drive will be open to two-way traffic.

Northfield Street Project Update:

Water main work will continue next week. The contractor will begin filling, testing and chlorinating the section of line between the two Colonial Drives over the next week. Once completed, they will begin connecting services. This work will likely occur the following week.

Other miscellaneous work items will occur throughout the week.

Crews will be working on storm water improvements near the Econo Lodge.

***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 communicate your needs to an available crew member.

ELM STREET UPDATE:

Pike will be paving for the City of Montpelier on US 2 between Pioneer Street and the Roundabout tonight (Thursday 6/14).

Pike will pave the leveling course on the project on Friday night, 06/15/18 with a 9:00 PM start time due to anticipated heavy traffic at the US 2/Main Street/Northfield Street intersection. Night work hours for this portion of the project end by 7:00 AM on Saturday morning.

Sunday night, 6/18 sub-contractor Lafayette Highway Specialties will begin work on the installation of new traffic signs. Work will begin on Memorial Drive, excavating and erecting foundations for the larger signs. Concrete for these signs will be poured at the end of each overnight shift, beginning at approximately 6:30 AM. This work is planned for the entire week of 6/18.

Work on sidewalk replacement areas and adjustment of roadway structures may potentially occur during the week of 6/18. Please be aware that crews may be out at some point during the week working on these operations.

Traffic Information: Alternating one-way traffic patterns will be in effect around construction activities. Traffic control personnel will be on site to assist with the flow of traffic.

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.

Group pushes for smoke-free Montpelier

By Connor Cyrus | Posted: Fri 7:39 AM, Jun 15, 2018 | Updated: Fri 9:32 AM, Jun 15, 2018

MONTPELIER, Vt. (WCAX) A group in Montpelier is pushing to make the downtown smoke-free.

By Connor Cyrus |
Posted: Fri 7:39 AM, Jun 15, 2018 |
Updated: Fri 9:32 AM, Jun 15, 2018

The Central Vermont New Directions Coalition says the numbers in teen smoking have gone down in Vermont. Now they want to see a similar trend in adults. This group doesn't want to see or smell cigarettes in their downtown area.

"We are trying to build a healthy community here and this is one of the big steps in doing that," said the coalition's Ann Gilbert. "We are really worried about the community members who are elderly, families coming to the downtown area."

Gilbert and other volunteers have been canvassing the streets of Montpelier collecting signatures to support the push. This is not the first time the issue has been brought to the city council.

Ron Merkin started the petition hoping it will help his cause, while presenting it to the Montpelier City Council. "They always found a reason not to enact an ordinance, so I thought that if we got enough signatures on a petition maybe that would be more persuasive than just coming to them and requesting it," Merkin said.

The petition says, "We the undersigned support a smoke free downtown Montpelier. Smoke-free includes tobacco substitutes like e-cigarettes and vaping."

So far they have collected 1,517 signatures which Merkin hopes will impress the city council. However, of those signatures only 400 of them were from Montpelier residents, the rest were people who work or travel to the city.

The proposed smoke-free zone is about a half a mile long. It would be sections of Main, State and Langdon Streets, as well as Park Avenue.

"I purposely walked the entire distance to see how long it would take me. It took exactly 15 minutes each way. Most people would not do a roundtrip," Merkin said.

Not everyone supports the idea of smoke-free zones. "I might be more bothered by exhaust smoke too, so are we going to ban every truck to pass through the city," said Faical Yachfine, a smoker from East Calais. "I don't think it's a big deal to have someone in the street open air smoking a cigarette."

The presentation of the petition will be on a June 26 meeting in Montpelier. This will be the first time the City Council has been presented with a petition for this proposal.

Montpelier isn't the only major city in Vermont that has pushed for smoking bans. Burlington has a smoking ban at the Church Street Market Place.