

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 04/21/2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

Monday, April 24	Dog Leash Ordinance Committee, 3:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
	City Hall Plaza Memorial Committee, 4:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room
	Planning Commission, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
Wednesday, April 26	Regular City Council Meeting, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers

FOR YOUR CALENDARS ...

Friday, May 19	City Council Retreat, Capitol Plaza, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Monday, May 22	City Council Retreat Continued, 5:00 – 9:00 P.M.

ATTACHMENTS ...

 Front Porch Form Announcement: Downtown Tree Care

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

Council Retreat

Reminder that part one will be held on Friday, May 19, from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.; Part two on Monday, May 22, from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Assistant City Manager

The next round of interviews are scheduled to take place between April 24 and May 5. This round will consist of meetings with a selection committee and the leadership team and will include 3-5 final applicants. I will give you a briefing on the 26th.

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Nuisance Ordinance

The Public Nuisance Ordinance will be on the 26th agenda. The Article numbers in the draft, that is included with this week's agenda, need to be corrected but as this is only the 1st Public Hearing, a corrected version will be available for 2nd Reading.

Legal

Illuzzi vs City, et al: Status conference requested by Court was convened on Monday the 27th. It was concluded that this case will proceed to trial.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Montpelier Senior Activity Center

50th Anniversary Celebration

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center will celebrate our 50th Anniversary at a Gala event on Saturday, June 10 from 5:00 -10:30 PM at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. Join us for an evening of music, dancing, food, and fun, with a 60's theme to celebrate our founding in 1967. Join us at 5:00 PM for appetizers and dinner and a special program to celebrate our 50th Anniversary with special guest Senator Patrick Leahy. Tickets including dinner are \$50. Or, join us after dinner for a dessert buffet and dancing to music by DJ Fred Wilbur. Tickets for dessert and dancing only are \$20. All will enjoy a cash bar, fun photo booth, silent auction, and wonderful 60's themed decorations. This event is open to ALL. Buy tickets now in the MSAC Office at 58 Barre Street or online at www.msac50.brownpapertickets.com

Parks and Tree Report

Staff worked with Tree Board Members and Brian Tuttle and the DPW Street Crew to pull out tree grates and concrete slabs around two downtown trees. Cracks and frost heaves had created trip hazards. In fixing two problems at once, soil in some areas is also being replaced with "structural soil", a patented mix of aggregates and soil components which is supposed to work very well under sidewalks. It also has large stones that not only provide structural support, they also provide air space and water-holding capacity that better support from healthy growth of downtown trees.

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Planning stages are underway for Earth Day, Arbor Day and Green-Up Day activities ... all are coming up soon!

April 29th: Part of the Montpelier High School boys' soccer team will be helping with trail restoration work in Hubbard Park.

May 5th: Arbor Day ... the Montpelier High School boys' soccer team, some Tree Board Members, a NCCC group, and other community volunteers will help remove invasive plants; plant numerous trees in the North Branch River Park; and care for the Tree Nursery.

May 6th: Green-Up Day community volunteers will get a chance to work with the NCCC group and park staff removing invasives, planting native plants, picking up litter and sprucing up our parks.

Our Americorp member provided key assistance in writing and getting a \$8,700 grant from the State Department of Environmental Conservation. This grant will help in a major phase of our efforts to control invasives and improve the riparian buffer and watershed of the North Branch River Park. First, wood invasives will be pulled and money from the grant will purchase native stock to displace the removed invasives, helping assure invasives will not return and bringing back species that improve diversity, provide more benefits to people and wildlife. Secondly, native plant "buffers" (rows of dense evergreens) will be planted to reduce the chances of knotweed spreading further along the riverbanks in the North Branch River Park. After we control the spread, then we will refocus similar efforts to reduce this invasive plant that is destructive and destabilizing to our local riverbanks and habitat.

Parks and Trees also received a "grant" of a nine-person Americorp crew, NCCC, for the month of May. This crew's main focus will be to help with the project mentioned above, as well as helping with trail improvements. The crew is comprised of nine college-age Americorp members, mostly from the Maryland area.

Department of Public Works

DPW Timeout for Safety Training:

The DPW employees in the Streets and Water/Sewer Divisions will take a time out for two and a half days of operations and construction-related safety training from Wednesday the 26th through Friday the 28th.

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On the afternoon of the 26th, the crews will receive awareness and orientation training concerning work place hazards to include a course on “lock out/tag out” to prevent injuries related to exposure to active and stored energy; a course about “hazard communications” involving chemicals, etc.; and “confined space entry” requirements and procedures.

On the 27th and 28th, the crew will receive classroom and hands-on training and gain experience at a trench/excavation workshop which will be presented through the Vermont Local Roads Program. The crews will receive instruction about trenching hazards and VOSHA required safety procedures and methods which will consist of an actual excavation site, and provide information to enable employees to evaluate and identify stable and unstable soils, atmospheric hazards, fall prevention methods, sloping techniques, and confined space recognition. Due to the importance of proper work place safety practices, the DPW crews will only perform essential maintenance operations during this time unless there is an emergency.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

April 26	Zoning – Sections 1 & 2 Parking Strategy Public Nuisance Ordinance – 1 st Reading Appointment of Council Rep to East Central Vermont Telecommunications District Appointment of Rep to the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board of Directors Presentation re: Community Center Options Summer Project Update One Taylor Street Redevelopment Project Update
May 10	Zoning – Section 3 Public Nuisance Ordinance – 2 nd Reading Adopt Goals Parklet Ordinance (?) One Taylor Street Update Dog Ordinance
May 19 and 22	City Council Retreat

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May 24	Zoning – Section 3 Committee Assignments
June 14	Zoning – Sections 4-5
June 28 (Possibly 21 st ?)	Zoning – Sections 4-5

Office of the City Manager

Front Porch Forum

Announcement: Downtown Tree Care

April 18, 2017

Beginning this week, Public Works crews will be working on a project to improve conditions for downtown trees. We are working with the Tree Board and Tree Warden to supplement the soils for 6 tree-planting pits on Main Street. This work consists of removing existing soils around the pits and replacing the material with a structural soil designed by Cornell University for use in urban settings that promotes and enhances root growth while providing structural support for sidewalks and other paved surfaces. This soil was used for State Street trees several years ago, and tree health there has improved. This work has been coordinated with the planned sidewalk reconstruction project that will be taking place this summer. Sidewalk sections removed for the tree project will be replaced by the paving contractor.