

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 04/20/2018**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS...**

Monday, April 23	Cemetery Commission, 12:00 P.M., City Manager's Conference Room
Monday, April 23	Planning Commission, 5:00 P.M., Memorial Room
<b>Wednesday, April 25</b>	<b>City Council, 7:00 P.M., Council Chambers</b>

**ATTACHMENTS...**

- ✚ Inventory and Assessment of Roof Drains in the Combined Sewer Service Area Press Release
- ✚ Construction Update for the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ✚ Arbor Day Foundation Press Release – 2017 Tree City USA

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...**

**Capitol Plaza Project**

This project will appear before the Development Review Board again on May 7<sup>th</sup> to address an issue involving two retaining walls.

**TIF**

A proposed TIF map and plan will be presented to the Council and the public at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. No action is required at this meeting; this is a briefing, discussion, time for questions and suggestions. Stephanie Hainley from White and Burke will do a 15 minute presentation to go over the basics, but allow plenty of time for questions. She is asking for Council feedback and questions by the following Tuesday (May 1). The Council could be asked to approve the plan at an upcoming meeting, most likely on May 9.

**One Taylor/Mowatt**

Great news on the housing front! Downstreet and Housing Vermont this week received approval of a federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit through the State, which was essentially the final outstanding funding earmark needed to make this project a reality.

Real estate closing is expected by May 15. That will allow certification of all right of way for the entire One Taylor project. Construction is expected to begin this summer.

**French Block**

We wanted to make sure you saw the nice piece in the Times Argus on progress on the French Block housing project on Main Street, over Aubuchon. It's great to see lights on upstairs in that building after nearly 80 years of sitting empty! [Click here to read the article.](#)

**Charter Changes**

Charter changes were approved by the Ways and Means Committee, but a final floor vote is likely not too far in the future.

### **Barre Street Playground**

Work is completed and the playground is re-opened to the public.

### **WRRF Tour**

The tour of the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) – the artist formerly known as the Wastewater Plant – is on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM at the plant on Dog River Road

### **Next Two Meetings**

The April 25 meeting will likely be an extremely substantive (that's administrative speak for could be long). The DPW and Capital Presentations are scheduled. They are our largest department so usually takes the longest time to review. The TIF update will be very important since you will be voting on the plan at the following meeting. There is a tax stabilization application which looks straight forward but these often generate questions and discussion. The Scribner Street situation will be on the agenda; the recommended action should be straight forward but the topic may involve some discussion. The matter of timing of committee/board appointments was referred to this meeting, and is being put through on the consent agenda. A few downtown business owners may voice concerns about the Farmers Market summer plan. Finally the investment policy is still awaiting some action.

The May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting could be a worthy follow up. Votes on TIF and, possibly, the WRRF are both very consequential. Additionally, the Planning & Development Department will be presenting, which will include a recommendation for proceeding with the Master Plan. You may also be receiving a recommendation for a complete streets plan.

### **Council Facility Tours**

Four council members toured the DPW garage and Water Treatment Plant this week. The same tour will be repeated this Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30. We hope that the remaining three council members can participate.

### **Strategic Planning**

All set for May 21 and May 22. Both council sessions will be set for 5 PM start time, food will be provided.

### **Tree City**

Montpelier was named a 2017 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of our commitment to effective urban forest management. Thank you to the Parks Department and Tree Board for all of your hard work and care.

### **Legal**

Motions for Summary Judgement together with statements of undisputed material facts were submitted by appellant Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and by the Attorney General's office on behalf of the VT Agency of Natural Resources relative to the appeal of the renewal of nine waste water treatment plant discharge permits including Montpelier's Water Resource Recovery Facility. The City's attorney filed a motion for summary judgement in support of the AG's filing. City represented by Joseph McLean, Esq., 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 ...**

### **Police**

Corporal Chad Bean will be graduating from the First Line Supervisor Course at Roger Williams University (Bristol, RI) on Friday April 20th. CPL Bean's graduation from this New England Chiefs of Police program at RWU completes one of the department's goals which is to have all sergeants and corporals receive this leadership training.

Corporal Michael Philbrick has been formally cleared this week by both Attorney General TJ Donovan and Washington County State's Attorney Rory Thibault in the shooting of bank robbery suspect Nathan Giffin on January 16th, 2018.

### **Public Works**

The department have access to hot mix asphalt from Williston beginning on Tuesday. This will allow us to begin some utility repair work such as permanent patching where we had winter water main breaks and fixing catch basins. We were also able to obtain some top soil so that we can begin repairing roadside turf damaged by snow plowing. The weather conditions look favorable next week allowing all of this to begin. In the near future, we'll hope to begin bringing out benches, bike racks and trash cans.

### **Planning**

The Planning and Community Development Department would like to welcome Meredith Strobridge Crandall to the City staff. Meredith will be the new Planning & Zoning Administrator, replacing Sarah McShane who left for a similar position in Stowe. Meredith is a graduate of the Vermont Law School with a Juris Doctorate in Environmental law and comes to the city with years of experience working for law firms including work with commercial real estate transactions and permitting. She grew up in the Montpelier area and moved back a few years ago to raise her family. Meredith will be an excellent addition to the team and we look forward to having her start on May 7th.

### **Community Services**

E-Letters and Newsletters: To subscribe to any or all of our various e-lists which announce information about programs, events and meetings of the three CS divisions of Parks & Trees, Recreation, and Senior Activity Center go to [www.montpelier-vt.org/msac](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/msac), scroll down on the right side, and submit your email address and selection, or call 223-2518 to subscribe. The most recent monthly newsletter of the CS Department can be read online at <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/4518>

### **Hiking in Prepared: Happiness on the Trail!**

Starting April 29: New spring class series for youth and adults at and co-sponsored by North Branch Nature Center! What is it about stepping lightly through the forest with sure-footed, confident ease that triggers something deep and wonderful in us? Having a sense of our own rhythm, fine tuning our sense of balance, conditioning our whole body, mind and spirit; that's when our on-trail happiness factor sky-rockets! Here is a truly unique class for people who want their summer hiking to feel more magical. Louisa Nufield grew up in Vermont woods, (loves to hike, ski, run & dance) and in her professional life, has deeply explored the structure and energetics of being agile, relaxed and resilient on the trail. Her trail name is "mountain goat!" This class meets five Sunday afternoons starting April 29 and skipping May 21, from 2-5pm (1-5pm on the final day, May 28). \$50 for Senior Activity Center members, \$75 for the general public, age 10+.

Montpelier Recreation Spring Youth Programs welcoming more enrollments:

Free UVM Soccer Clinic – Ages 6-14 | Monday, April 23, 4- 6pm | Montpelier High School | FREE!  
 Join the Vermont Futbol Academy at Montpelier High School for this free clinic! This is a sample of the excitement and skill building that will be offered this July in a week long camp! Register at [www.vermontfutbolacademy.org](http://www.vermontfutbolacademy.org)

Learn to Unicycle - Ages 6+ | 5 Wednesdays, April 25- May 23, 4-5:30pm | Recreational Center Gym | Geoff Beyer | \$60 resident/\$85 non-resident Participants should bring their own unicycle or call by April 20 if you need help with a loaner unicycle. Children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration Deadline: April 23

Babysitting Training - Ages 11+ | Sunday, May 6, 9am-4pm | Central Vermont Medical Center Conference Room 1 | Sheila Cleary | \$50 resident/\$50 non-resident Babysitting training class is a unique leaders training for boys and girls 11 and up. This full day class covers all aspects of the business of babysitting babies through school age. Great training for future coaches, counselors and educator. First Aid and CPR are introduced in the course. Digital certification email will be sent once the course is completed. Registration Deadline: May 3

Shadow Puppet Theater – Ages 7-15 | 5 Thursdays, 3-4:45pm, May 17-June 14 | Recreational Center 2nd Floor | \$65 resident/ \$80 non-resident Come create a shadow puppet play. We will create simple shadow Montpelier Community Services | 18 puppets, write a story, practice, and perform our very own shadow puppet theater. We will perform our show for friends and family on June 14 at 4:30pm. Registration Deadline: May 11.

**TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...**

<b>April 25</b>	Public Works Presentation Capital Improvement Plan Energy Advisory Committee Update Scribner Street TIF Tax Stabilization	<b>May 3</b>	Site Visit 6:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Water Resource Recovery Facility</li></ul>
<b>May 9</b>	Complete Streets Plan TIF vote Planning & Community Development Department Presentation Planning Commission Update Water Resource Recovery Facility Environmental, Social, Governance Investment Policy	<b>May 21-22</b>	Strategic Planning Retreat
<b>May 23</b>	Community Services Presentation Tree Board Update Conservation Commission Update Downsizers	<b>June 13</b>	Department Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fire</li><li>Cemetery</li><li>Community Justice Center?</li></ul>
<b>June 27</b>		<b>July 11</b>	

### WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE FUTURE...

<b>April</b>	Goals	<b>May</b>	Green Up Day Montpelier Mayfest Art Walk
<b>June</b>		<b>July</b>	Setting tax and water/sewer rates Board of Civil Authority meets July 3 <sup>rd</sup> Celebration
<b>August</b>		<b>September</b>	Mid-year City Manager check-in Art Walk
<b>November</b>	Set budget guidelines	<b>December</b>	Budget Art Walk
<b>January</b>	Budget Ballot	<b>February</b>	City Manager review Welcome Legislators Reception



William Fraser  
City Manager

**City of Montpelier  
Inventory and Assessment of Roof Drains in the Combined Sewer Service Area  
Press Release**

The City of Montpelier was recently awarded a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to update the inventory of building roofs located within the City's combined sewer service area that are connected to the sanitary sewer system. This project includes: public education and outreach, update of the status of rooftop connection or disconnections, developing alternatives and cost estimates to complete disconnections, and creation of draft ordinance language to support future implementation of a disconnection program.

Disconnecting roof drains from the sewer system has the benefit of reducing the occurrence of combined sewer overflows to the Winooski River and its tributaries, improving overall water quality. Roof drains are generally considered clean water and therefore ideal candidates for separation from the sewer collection system.



The City of Montpelier hired Aldrich + Elliott PC and Stone Environmental to execute the work. The firms have worked together on numerous stormwater projects throughout the State.

The project study area focuses on Montpelier's combined sewer service area, including the area north of the Winooski River and bounded roughly by Bailey Avenue to the west, downtown Montpelier, and College Street to the east. The project is focused on existing buildings with flat roofs or mansard roofs, whether large or small, where roof drains may still be connected to the wastewater collection system.

Property and business owners in this area may see field crews conducting roof drain surveys in the area, smoke testing, investigation of existing infrastructure, as well as evaluating options for disconnection of roof drains.

Anyone interested in the project or with specific questions should contact Kurt Motyka, PE, City Engineer at (802) 223-9508.

**Construction Update**  
**Montpelier Transportation Projects**

**Project Location:** State Street, Main Street, and VT 12 – Elm Street - Work to include milling, paving, manhole and drainage structure adjustments and extensive sidewalk improvements. VT 12-Northfield Street - new water, sewer, storm water improvements, sidewalks and a stabilized road base.

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**Friday (4/20) – Crews may be making the temporary water interconnection to Freedom Drive and there *may* be water interruptions. Notices will be delivered to affected residents.**

**Week of April 23, 2018**

**Northfield Street – Construction Area: Derby Drive to Freedom Drive**

**TRAFFIC DETOUR: Effective Monday, April 23rd the detour route below will be in effect from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, M-F, for Northfield Street traffic between Derby Drive and Freedom Drive.**

- All southbound (towards Northfield) thru traffic will use Memorial Drive to Dog River Road to Northfield Street
- Northbound (towards downtown) passenger vehicles will be allowed to travel through the construction zone
- Northbound (towards downtown) truck thru traffic will be directed to use Dog River Road to Memorial Drive. Local delivery trucks will be allowed through the project.
- A detour map can be found at <https://firpenterprises.com/montpelier-08-10-17.html>
- Message boards and detour signs will be in place to direct traffic.
- Sidewalks will remain open for pedestrians and bicyclists will follow the same traffic pattern as passenger vehicles.
- **Both Colonial Drives, Independence Green and Freedom Drive will only be accessible from northbound direction when the detour is in effect.**

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

**There are several construction activities scheduled for this week as follows:**

Roadway pavement and concrete removal is expected to start Monday (4/23) at Colonial Drive working south towards Freedom Drive. Crews may also start setting up the sewer bypass pumping on Monday which could take a few days to complete.

Temporary water connections will start Tuesday (4/24) and continue throughout the week. Notices will be delivered to affected residents in advance.

Sewer main installation is scheduled to start mid- week at Colonial Drive and progress south.

Crews may conduct a water connection for Independence Green. The exact date of this work was undetermined at the time of this report.

**\*Driveway Access:** Construction activities may block driveway entrances for short periods of time as the operation moves 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.

**Downtown/Elm Street - 2018**

Pike will resume work on the downtown/Elm Street project in early May.

Updates will be posted on [www.roadworkupdates.com](http://www.roadworkupdates.com), Montpelier's Front Porch Forum, the City of Montpelier's website, Facebook page and Twitter Feed, Montpelier Alive's Facebook page and Makeover Montpelier's Facebook page. Information will also be included in the VT Agency of Transportation's "On the Road" report in the Times Argus.

Contact Francine Perkins, project outreach coordinator, at (802) 479-6994 with questions or comments.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Arbor Day Foundation Names Montpelier Tree City USA**

Montpelier, VT, was named a 2017 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Montpelier achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand," said Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

More information on the program is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

**About the Arbor Day Foundation:** The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information is available at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).