

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 3/1/2019

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, March 4	Development Review Board, 7 PM, City Council Chambers, City Hall
Tuesday, March 5	Annual City Meeting, 7 AM-7 PM, City Hall Auditorium (Lost Nation Theater)
Wednesday, March 6	Complete Streets Group, 5:30 PM, City Manager's Conference Room

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path -- unchanged

Construction on this project remains on schedule. The Transit Center work is well underway, and the fourth floor walls are going up. Work continues on the abutments for the pedestrian bridge. The full schedule:

- Weather tight building – March 22, 2019
- Substantial Completion – Aug. 15, 2019
- Project Completion – Aug. 22, 2019

Public Parking Garage

We submitted our information responding to the Act 250 District Commission's recess memo questions. The other parties will have 15 days to offer any comments. The Commission will determine then whether another hearing is needed. Once all evidence is closed, the Commission has 15 days to issue a decision.

A status conference concerning the appeal of the DRB permit by the group of, now, 17 people was held on Tuesday the 19th. Filing deadlines were set for April 1st. The parties have scheduled a meeting next week to discuss the possibilities of resolution.

Cross Country Ski Trail

The Montpelier Parks Department has worked with regional landowners and volunteers to expand cross country trails from the State House to County Road in East Montpelier. The expansion uses existing trails in Hubbard Park, North Branch Park, and now includes logging and sugaring roads in East Montpelier thanks to agreements with landowners along that route and the Morse Family. **Parks Director Geoff Beyer said this will be a trial period to see how the new system works.** Parks Department staff currently groom the City trails. Geoff said volunteers from East Montpelier -- which has an active group of trail volunteers -- will now help create and maintain the network of trails. There is no charge for using the trails. The Parks Department is seeking grant assistance if the trial period is successful and the network system is continued next winter.

DPW Winter Operations: Given the extreme volume of snow, the street division has continued with snow bank removal operations throughout the week. They also began using the excavator and bucket loader to scrape off accumulated ice along the curb lines. Additional snow is predicted with cold temperatures over the next several days.

Legal -- unchanged

The Environmental Division Court has upheld the Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge permits issued by the Agency of Natural Resources, granting summary judgement to the State and municipalities. The appeal of the discharge permits by the Conservation Law Foundation has been denied.

Legal – unchanged

The City's petition to enter the proceedings concerning GMP's re-construction of the Marshfield Dam has been approved. We are now a party to the matter, for the purpose of monitoring the information in case there is anything relevant to the city.

Strategic Planning -- unchanged

We have scheduled our strategic planning work with Julia Novak for April 15, 16 & 17. Details to come.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Finance Department

Water/sewer bills are due on Friday March 15, 2019. Payments may be made via mail, in person in the City Clerk's office, online at www.montpelier-vt.org, or by using the drop box to the left of the rear entrance to City Hall. Please be sure to make your payment by the due date to avoid penalties.

You may also enroll in automatic payments by submitting a completed enrollment form located here: <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/document/view/4532>

Reasons to consider enrolling in automatic payments:

- Payments are automatically withdrawn from the account you designate on the actual due date, no need to pay days in advance or risk a payment being late or lost in the mail.
- Electronic payments are more secure. Checks contain your financial institution's routing number and your account number, information that is susceptible to fraudulent transactions and misuse.
- Electronic payments significantly reduce processing time. Checks and cash must be manually processed by staff and take a considerable amount of time to enter, especially during high volume payment periods.
- You may cancel anytime!

Vermont Homestead Declarations are due by April 15, 2019!! Even if you have, or are planning on extending your income tax return filing due date, you are still required to file your Vermont Homestead Declaration form. Not only are late returns assessed a late filing penalty, but a timely filing will allow the State of Vermont enough time to process your return and provide accurate State Tax Payment information to the city prior to the printing property tax bills in July.

Fire Department:

The city's Emergency Management Team will be meeting next week to begin preparation for possible spring flooding. We will be including experts from the USGS, National Weather Service, and Vermont Emergency Management so that we will have the most up to date and accurate information available about this spring season.

Also, we continue to encourage all residents and property owners to sign up for VT-Alerts. If we do have flooding, or the possibility of flooding, we will be using VT-Alerts to make notifications. On town meeting day Tuesday March 5th we will have information available at City Hall concerning VT-Alerts. The City has begun posting weekly advisories about flood preparation on its Facebook page.

If anyone has any questions or concerns please call Fire Chief Robert Gowans.

Department of Public Works

Water Leaks: A water leak on Bingham St. occurred on Friday 3/1 near the location of a repair completed a couple of weeks ago. This is a dead end water main, so the crew was able to abandon the upper section of main and relocate a house service. System pressure was maintained for the two affected homes so a boil order was felt to be unnecessary. We also had to perform an emergency sewer repair on Berlin Street. One home could not be occupied and the neighboring was also in danger of loss of service. A private contractor was hired to assist and was able to restore service temporarily. They will return next week to replace about 20' failed pipe.

Icy sidewalks: Typically this time of year we experience day time thaw and water flow, with overnight freezing leading to icing problems. This is usually a challenge to stay ahead of. We encourage people to report sidewalk ice problems whenever noticed so that we can address the issue as soon as possible.

Potholes: Staff has been undertaking pothole patching as weather allows. We encourage residents and visitors to report all pot holes of any significance so that we can add them to the repair list.

One Taylor & Shared Use Path Project: Placement of the 4th floor walls and construction of the shared use path retaining wall will continue. Also construction of the lower roof which covers the bus loading and vehicle circulation area will begin.

Shared Use Path Project (Granite St – Gallison Hill Road): Work on the culvert extensions and new headwalls on Gallison Hill Rd. was nearly completed this week. The contractor plans to continue drainage & path work between Gallison Hill Road and Country Club Road where the path has an off-road alignment and minimal impacts to traffic flow will be required. Utility pole work will also be taking place along Barre Street where relocations are required to accommodate the path and retaining wall. GMP will set the new poles and each of the utility companies occupying the poles will then begin their transfer work.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO): Long Term Control Plan (LTCP): The public hearing was conducted on Thursday, February 28th as scheduled. Attendance was low but some very good questions were asked and an informative dialogue took place. The hearing was recorded by Orca and we'll be adding the power point presentation to the web site.

Community Services

New: Drop-in Writers Group, Mondays 6 – 8 pm, MSAC Resource Room

A long-time Central Vermont group has found a new home at MSAC, and all ages are welcome at no cost (donations to MSAC gratefully accepted)! The intention of this group is to support anyone who wants to write. One participant facilitates, and there is time for those who want to share a piece of their writing. The group then chooses a prompt, and writes from it for 15 minutes or so. For more information, contact Cynthia at 565-0064 or Hugo at 565-0059.

2019 Spring Classes – Registration Form available now, program guide to come soon

The Community Services Department is excited to offer over 70 classes to help usher in the new season. Eleven of these classes have never been offered before, and there are classes for both children and adults of all ages. Class registration to take place on Monday, March 11 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at 58 Barre Street. For more information, please visit the Community Services Department from office at 58 Barre Street.

Montpelier Recreation Now Accepting Applications for 2019 Summer Positions

Montpelier Recreation is now accepting applications for summer employment. Positions include: pool staff, life guards, day camp counselors and seasonal maintenance staff. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/869/Employment>. All applications must be received by Friday, March 29, 2019.

Michelle Acciavatti Presents on Green Burial

Friday, March 8, 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Many people are choosing to live a more environmentally conscious lifestyle and those same values can be applied to decisions that are made about what happens after their death. Come learn why “green” and “burial” can go together, what is involved in a green burial and the science behind it, and how to plan one for yourself or a loved one. Presented by Michelle Acciavatti, founder of Ending Well, a business to help people “plan, prepare, and experience their own good death,” and co-founder of Green Burial Vermont, a non-profit dedicated to making green burial an accessible option for all Vermonters.

Girls on the Run Registration Open

The Montpelier Recreation Department's 2019 Girls on the Run season starts on March 18th! Any girls in grades 3rd- 8th in any school program in Montpelier are welcome to join us for a season of fun, friendship, and growth as both people and runners! There are two teams available for girls in grades 3rd-5th, and one team available for girls in grades 6th-8th. Right now, there are still many spaces available on our Monday and Wednesday team for 3rd-5th grades, and many spaces available on the team for middle schoolers.

If you know of a student who is interested in joining this great program, please sign up as soon as possible on the Girls on the Run VT website: <https://www.gotrvt.org/Register-Now>

Repair Café

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, Onion River Exchange, and Hunger Mountain Co-Op is excited to bring a brand new Repair Café to the Montpelier Senior Activity Center on March 30th. We're getting ready for the event by reaching out for volunteers both before, and on the day of, the event. Before the café, we are seeking volunteers who are passionate home bakers or chefs to prepare either stews or baked goods for our 'fixer' volunteers on the day of the café. For the day of, we need people to help share the pre-made food for volunteers. We need volunteers from 8:00am-5:00pm to help set up the café, sell the food, and then help close the café. To sign up to volunteer, please see the following site:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVfltWL8gnzp_GHjhdYEMVnTVZNLA4G8m_DC9Ethxui9fwQ/viewform

Savoy Archive

Are you passionate about movies? Are you looking for a way to get involved with your community but don't have a lot of time? Consider volunteering once or twice a month at the Savoy Archive. This is a free DVD lending library that serves the members of the Savoy Theater and the Montpelier Senior Activity Center. Home to over one hundred classic and/or hard-to-find unique films, this is a great resource for any movie lover to take advantage of!

We are looking for volunteers to help check movies in and out of our database, to maintain our DVD display, and to help update our database records. This is a position that requires a small bit of movement, the ability to sit for two hours, and the willingness to engage with members of the public.

If you're interested in learning more about this position, please let us know! Contact Becky at rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org, or by calling 802-225-8694.

FEAST Senior Meals

On Tuesdays and Fridays, over 50 members of the community come to the Montpelier Senior Activity Center to receive a delicious, nutritious meal through the FEAST program, a program that helps so many people in Montpelier and Berlin, and it is almost exclusively run by volunteers. Please consider giving an hour of your time either weekly or monthly to help feed your neighbors in need of a delicious and warm meal. Volunteers are

needed to serve in the kitchen by helping to prepare food; they are needed to help deliver meals in a “meals on wheels” system, and we need volunteers to help serve meals during our community meals on Tuesdays and Fridays. If you want to help your neighbors this spring, this might be a great way to do so! Please call or email Becky at (802) 225-8694 or rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org for more information.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)...

Mar 5	Annual City Meeting	Mar 13	Organizational Meeting -Ethics -Rules of Procedure -Officers -Strategic Planning -Committee Reps Open Meeting Law/Public Records VLCT Zoning PH?
Mar 27	Personnel Plan? CM Voluntary rental inspection program P&D Ordinance review -? ATCM Scooters- ACM/ATCM	Apr 10	Tax Stabilization



William Fraser
 City Manager