

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 4/19/2019

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, April 22	Planning Commission, 5:30 PM, City Council Chambers
Tuesday, April 23	Americans with Disabilities Advisory Committee Special Meeting, 10 AM, Memorial Room, City Manager's Conference Room
Wednesday, April 24	City Council, 6:30 PM, City Council Chambers
Thursday, April 25	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee, 5:30 PM, Council Chambers

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path

Construction on this project remains on schedule. Electricians and plumbers are working in the building. The roof is on, and the building is weather tight. Windows are going in on the housing section. Work on the Mowatt Property (Montpelier Beverage) has begun.

Public Parking Garage

Representatives of the Capitol Plaza, Christ Church, City and Appellant group plan met for a third time on April 11th. We have offered to meet with the group anytime, as often as they would like, to go over options. We are awaiting a response from the appellants to our latest discussion. All information on the project has been submitted to the Act 250 District Commission, and we're awaiting word on whether another hearing is needed. The Commission rejected a motion to reconsider its previous denial of three Montpelier residents who were seeking party status in the Act 250 proceedings.

Strategic Planning

Thank you to City Council members, committee/commission chairs, and City staff who gave up their evenings this week to devote to setting goals for the coming year. This was hard work, and great input and ideas came from all fronts! There is much more work to be done to ensure the broad goals set by this group are achieved. City staff looks forward to collaborating with everyone going forward.

Potential Flooding

Enough weather, already! Fire Chief Bob Gowans and his team continue to monitor river levels as the National Weather Service has issued a flood watch from tonight through Sunday morning.

Ice Skating Rink

We began removing the rink this week, and expect it to be off the State House lawn and in storage by the end of the day Monday. This year we were cautious about pulling up stakes while the ground was frozen, concerned we would damage the sod.

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.

Language Interpreter Services

We excited to announce that we have set up an account with Telelanguage to provide language interpreter services for residents and visitors who come to City Hall for service or meetings. The Telelanguage service provides access to interpreters for over 200 languages. This allow us to communicate and provide access to more people, and meets our Title VI requirements. Signs will be posted in the Council Chambers and Memorial Room along with “Telelanguage Cards” which provide instructions on how to access an interpreter.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Public Works

DPW street & water / sewer divisions: Spring clean-up continues with hand & mechanical sweeping of streets and sidewalks. All bike racks, summer time garbage & recycling receptacles, and the benches downtown have been installed. In-street crosswalk signs are also being deployed but will need several replacements because of damage. All winter operations equipment has now been removed, repaired and stored away.

A paving crew has been out whenever weather conditions permit to address pot holes and other road defects. Completed last week: Hot mix patching on Barre Street, Granite Street, Stonecutters, Taylor Street and the North Branch parking lot in addition to random patching elsewhere.

Due to the prediction of 1”- 2” of rain over the weekend, the usual trouble areas have been inspected to ensure there are no debris obstructions and the detention basins are at full capacity. One basin had to be cleaned of silt accumulation.

Next week we'll have some people cleaning out a bunker used for storage at the wastewater plant to make way for the upcoming project. A base of pavement will be applied at the Elm and Spring Street water main excavation, pavement patching on Spring Street (Elm – Summer), finish restoration at the water break trenches on East State, and pour concrete sidewalks on Elm by Spring and on Memorial Drive by Taylor. They will also begin repairing the many catch basins that have been found to be failing around town.

The water / sewer division will be repairing a sewer main at 182 Berlin Street which is tentatively scheduled for the 24th & 25th of next week. The work will be taking place within the street so traffic will be managed with flaggers during one-lane work zone conditions. This crew completed exploratory excavations on Clarendon Ave for the planned reconstruction project and located a second sewer main that was not on any of our plans. Staff also assisted with the Barre St water main relocation. During this time of year, Dig Safe requests are particularly active and each site must be cleared and properly marked to protect the city's infrastructure. They also carried out routine maintenance work on the sewer pump stations.

The annual summer project staff meeting took place last week. Considering the volume of work involving both new construction and maintenance needs, staff is preparing a scheduling calendar which will be based on available resources to allocate equipment and labor corresponding with duration estimates and prioritization. Of Interest: The damaged ornamental fence located on Stone Cutters Way behind Sarduccis restaurant will be repaired and restored this spring. We're currently waiting for the vendor to inventory the materials needed and provide a quote but they're very busy and thus far slow to respond. The damage is primarily caused by the snow plow because of its close proximity to the sidewalk.

One Taylor & Shared Use Path Project: Fireproofing throughout the building has been completed. The window placement will continue next week along with insulation installation on the fourth floor. Stormwater infrastructure is being installed on the Main Street side of the project. Also the existing petroleum tanks on the former M&M Beverage property are being pumped, cleaned, and removed. The delivery and installation date for the pedestrian bridge spanning the North Branch is May 1st. Most of the parking in the 60 State Parking Lot will

be prohibited while this is taking place to provide room for the oversized trucks that will be bringing in the pre-fabricated bridge in three section. Some traffic impacts are expected along State Street and Route 2 from the interstate to the site while this is occurring. The delivery of the bridge is being scheduled around peak hour traffic times and flaggers will be used to manage the impacts.

Shared Use Path Project (Granite St – Gallison Hill Road): The contractor now has three crews working on storm water, retaining walls and the road widening on Gallison Hill Road. The Barre Street water main relocation was completed last week and the new main has been flushed. Disinfection and testing will be done next week with a tentative schedule of putting it into service on Thursday or Friday of next week. The old main will be cut & capped at that time which will require shutting down the section of water main between Granite Street and Pioneer Street. The road widening on Gallison Hill Road was begun this week with good progress made on one side. This work will continue over the next couple of weeks. The road surface reconstruction for the full width is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 3rd and approval to undertake this work at night will be on the May 8th City Council agenda.

The contractor also expects to begin work soon on the storm water bio-retention structures (2) located on the side of Barre Street.

Traffic advisory notice continues: Multiple & concurrent work zones will be active on Barre Street & Gallison Hill Road over the next several weeks. Motorists are being advised to expect construction delays and to seek alternate routes if possible or allow additional time if passing through the work zone.

Water Resource Recovery Facility Upgrade: All permit applications have been submitted except for an Act 250 administrative amendment to our land use permit. Construction is planned to start in mid to late May. Plans are being made for public outreach as an informational effort and a ceremonial ground breaking soon with key stake holders and dignitaries to be invited.

The crew has been very busy the last several days after a load of cheese processing waste was improperly dumped into the septate receiving facility by one the haulers. The material plugged critical systems causing the temporary shutdown of the receiving facility which has not yet been fully resolved. The hauler has taken responsibility for the mistake and is actively assisting with the clean-up.

The facility has been extremely busy over the last couple weeks with flows reaching 4 million gallons over normal daily volumes due to rain and snow melt entering the combined sewers. The disinfection system was overburdened for a short period of time as a result of the extreme flows.

Cummings Street Bridge Project Resumes: The contractor, Austin Construction has resumed the project following the planned winter shutdown. Over the course of the next several weeks, crews will be working on installing the temporary waterline and temporary bridge approaches. Traffic will continue to be maintained over the existing bridge. At times during construction hours traffic may be reduced to alternating one way traffic with flaggers. Minor delays should be anticipated. The current schedule indicates that traffic will be shifted to the temporary bridge in early May and demolition of the existing bridge will begin at that time. Specific dates for the shift to the temporary bridge will be publicized as soon as they can be confirmed.

Community Justice Center

On April 29, 2019 a powerful documentary, *Downstream: The Effects of Parental Incarceration* is being shown at the U-32 high school auditorium at 6:30 pm. The film includes the voices of a number of Vermont leaders and advocates whose perspectives help give larger context to the children's and family's stories. Those appearing in the film include: elected and state officials, educators, a law school professor, and a pediatrician.

“*DOWNSTREAM*’ paints a vivid picture of the generational impact of incarceration on Vermont’s children and families. Thanks to the subjects who have agreed to share their most personal stories so that others may better understand the plight that they and others face.” U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy. A discussion will follow the screening. As there have been a large number of attendees at the showings so far, it is advisable to reserve your free seat. Go to <http://www.lrcvt.org/> for the details on this. You can watch a minute-and-a-half trailer at www.downstreamfilm.com.

On Tuesday, April 23 from 5pm-7pm, **Attorney General T.J. Donovan** and **Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform** will be at the **Three Penny Taproom** for an evening of casual conversation and networking around criminal justice reform in Vermont. Three Penny Taproom has generously offered to donate a percentage of proceeds from the day to Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform (thanks Three Penny!). That makes this a great opportunity to enjoy their amazing food and beverages and support criminal justice reform.

Community Services:

Attention Dog Owners and Walkers!

The annual Rec Egg Hunt will be taking place in Hubbard Park this Saturday, April 20th. Meaning there will be chocolate eggs hidden throughout the park – please be aware and take extra precaution when walking your dog(s) through the park.

Savoy Archive Film Screening

Friday, April 26 | 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Join us for a funny and surreal fantasy film from Monty Python alum Terry Gilliam that reminds us that being brave and kind creates its own kind of magic. We'll be showing the film and offering popcorn and snacks, and creating a small craft for kids to take home with them! This series is a fundraiser for the Montpelier Senior Activity Center's Savoy DVD Archive collection. Admission donations are appreciated and are offered on a sliding scale: \$1.00 for individuals; \$2.00 for guardian and child pairs; \$5.00 for families. All money raised will go towards supporting the Savoy DVD Archive program.

American Sign Language Song Signing Workshop

Saturday, April 27 | 10:00 - 11:30 am | \$5 per person | Ages 16 +

Join Nancy Schulz, Theresa Lever and Diana Parker for a morning of signing to popular songs. In this one time workshop, students will be taught American Sign Language (ASL) signs to accompany the lyrics to popular songs. ASL instructor Diane Parker will partner with her student, Nancy Schulz, to teach the signs while Theresa Lever sings. All are invited to come with an open mind, ready to make mistakes, have fun and enjoy the ride! If interest is strong, this one-time session may be expanded into a term length class. If you'd be interested in a class but can't make this workshop, please let Nancy know by emailing SaddleShoes2@gmail.com.

New Event at the Senior Center: Traveler's Circle

Saturday, April 27 | 5:30—8:30 pm | MSAC Activity Room

Max Laxer has hosted travel storytelling gatherings in Washington DC and Cambridge VT, since 1996. The idea is for people to gather at leisure to share stories, culture and an optional potluck. The format of a TC is largely informal, and all ages and backgrounds are welcome. The idea is that everyone has a story. A TC isn't about hearing just one or two people, or a small number of experts. No one applies or pays, and it isn't competitive or a series of lectures. People who attend don't have to tell a story, but doing so is gently encouraged. There is typically a suggested theme or two, to start things off. Travel stories are the backbone of the gathering. People hear a story, and it may spark ideas for the next story. Attendees are encouraged to listen and to develop their own voices. Suggested themes for April 27 include “**getting lost**” and “**seriously scary car, tax or train rides.**” But stories can be about any travel experience! This event is open to the public. *Optional Potluck: Bring your own plate, cutlery and a dish to share. Please make sure to label the dish's name and provide a list of ingredients.*

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UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS (TENTATIVE)...

<p>Apr 24</p>	<p>5 Home Farm Way – Nuisance CM FY18 energy usage update MEAC TIF Validation Resolution ACM Green Up Day update MontP Alive Positive Pie Parklet ATCM Ch. 1 Ordinance Amendments, 1st PH ATCM Committee Appts.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Review Board • Energy Advisory Committee • Historic Preservation Commission • Transportation Infrastructure Committee 	<p>May 8</p>	<p>Ch. 1 Ordinance Amendments, 2nd PH ATCM Ch. 2 Ordinance Amendments, 1st PH ATCM Tax Stabilization CM Appts: Complete Streets ATCM</p>
<p>May 22</p>	<p>ADA Report DPW Parking Ban debrief DPW Ch. 2 Ordinance Amendments, 2nd PH ATCM Ch. 3 Ordinance Amendments, 1st PH ATCM</p>	<p>June 5</p>	<p>Ch. 3 Ordinance Amendments, 2nd PH ATCM Ch. 4 Ordinance Amendments, 1st PH ATCM</p>
<p>June 19</p>	<p>Ch. 4 Ordinance Amendments, 2nd PH ATCM Ch. 5 Ordinance Amendments, 1st PH ATCM</p>	<p>July 10</p>	

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Fraser', written in a cursive style.

William Fraser
City Manager