

Municipal Corner – April

Rt. 100 Paving Project: There has been a great deal of chatter around Stowe about the condition of Rt. 100. According to the VTrans Project Manager, “This project is currently sitting in an unfinished state. Last year, the Contractor was able to remove all of the underlying concrete slabs in the roadway subgrade and replace them with new gravel material. Further, drainage work under the proposed pavement was completed, along with most of the shoulder drainage. Finally, the first two lifts of pavement were placed before the winter shut down. Work will be starting up in the coming weeks to complete the project, which will include two more lifts of payment (one thin lift used to level the surface and a thicker lift known as the wearing course). Clean up activities will also be taking place, as well as the completion of the traffic signal work

It was recognized at the beginning of the project that allowing the road to weather a winter season before placing the final lifts of pavement would give us the opportunity to monitor the roadway for any problem areas and complete any corrective work before the top layer of pavement is placed. As VTrans monitored the road over the course of the winter and into the spring, we identified areas where frost heaves formed, and have been working with the Contractor this spring to determine an appropriate remedial plan. The work to aid in countering the frost heaving will be complete prior to the top courses of pavement, allowing for a consistent surface for the full length of the project.”

The VTrans Project Manager will be at the Selectboard’s April 22nd meeting to further discuss. The general public is welcome to attend.

Helen Day Art Center: The Stowe Free Library and Helen Day Art Center will be opening on May 1st. The Stowe Free Library will be closing its temporary location in the Akeley Memorial Building on April 17st. The Friends of the Library are accepting donations to rebuild the adult collection. They can be mailed to Friends of the Stowe Free Library, PO Box 1029, Stowe, VT.

The Helen Day Art Center will be closing its temporary office space and moving back into the Helen Day Memorial Building April 12th. The HDAC continues to accept donations to help with the loss from the flood. Donations can be mailed to HDAC, PO Box 411, Stowe, VT.

Thank you to the community for their support, the Library Trustees, Friends of the Library, Cindy Weber and the entire Library staff, Rachel Moore and the entire HDAC staff, Harry and Chris in Public Works, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Property & Casualty Insurance Fund, and J.A. Morrisey for all of your efforts to bring these beloved institutions home.

Most of all, thank you to the Stowe Fire and Police Departments that responded to the sprinkler busting and Assistant Fire Chief Kyle Walker for responding to the recent fire. Their responsiveness prevented what could have been much worse damage to this historic structure.

Recreational Programs – Last year 1,523 unique users participated in Stowe Recreation Programs and overall there were 5,421 program participants. This does not include visitors to Stowe Arena (60 rental groups, 6,500+ annual visits for public skating and stick time), parks or special events (3,000+ annual visits). Stowe Parks & Recreation has a number of program opportunities open online, including summer day camp and many other programs for all ages. It also has financial assistance scholarship opportunities for those that qualify. Please visit the Stowe Parks & Recreation website at www.stowerec.org, call

(802) 253-6138 or stop by the Gale Center if you would like to know more about their programs or have any other questions.

Grease: Please do not put grease down your drain. It can clog up the service line to your home or business or contribute to clogging up sewer mains. It is also difficult to treat at the waste water treatment plant. If you clog your service line it is at your expense to unclog it. If you're a business where grease plugs a service line or main, it can lead to an unexpected disruption. Any restaurant should have a grease trap, and have it cleaned regularly. Homeowners can compost their grease or bring it to the Stowe Transfer Station.

Highway Public Right-of-Way: Sometimes people ask what gives the town the right to do something on their property. While it may be true that you own the property, the Town has a right-of-way for its roads that allows public passage and permits the Town to install infrastructure that benefits the public good. A private property owner is not permitted to obstruct the public right-of-way by installing structures or planting vegetation in it without the government's (State or Town, depending on the road) permission. According to Vermont law "A roadway width of one-and-one half rods on each side of the center of the traveled way can be assumed and controlled (by the Town) for highway purposes." Unless there is specific legal evidence to establish the road's boundaries, the government assumes and has authority to use for the public good and the property owner must keep clear twenty five feet from the center line of the road.