Emergency Training for Senior Town Officials

Senior town and city officials and other municipal personnel play an important part of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in most communities. Town Managers, Select board members, Mayors, and other executives who make decisions for town taxpayers are often a necessary part of the disaster response and recovery process.

Understanding the process of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery is critical for those decisionmakers in communities. Time can be lost if responders need to explain emergency procedures and processes during a disaster.

Vermont Emergency Management urges those executives, town officials, school officials, and others to take part in a three-hour training that gives an overview of emergency response. Incident Command System 402: ICS for Executives and Senior Officials explains how responders handle emergencies.

Newly elected or appointed town or city officials, or those who have served for years but have never taken this training, are encouraged to attend one of the many offerings of ICS 402 throughout the month of April. You need only attend one three-hour session.

To register please visit: https://vermont.csod.com.

ICS 402 – ICS Summary for Executives Sessions

- April 3, NVDA, St Johnsbury, VT, 9:00AM-12:00PM
- April 4, Bennington, VT, 5:30-8:00PM
- April 9, Windham Regional Planning Commission, 2:00-5:00PM
- April 10, Ascutney Fire Station, 2:00-5:00PM
- April 12, Thetford Fire Department, 5:30-8:30PM
- April 16, Lamoille County Planning Commission, 5:30-8:30PM
- April 19, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, 5:30-8:30PM
- April 24, Poultney Fire Department, 5:30-8:30PM
- April 25, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, 9:00AM-12:00PM
- April 26, Addison County Regional Planning Commission, 5:30-8:30PM

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.
Funding Opportunities

2018 AARP Community Challenge Grant Program
Now Accepting Applications

The 2018 AARP Community Challenge is now accepting applications through May 16, 2018 to fund “quick-action” projects in communities across the country. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to several thousand for larger projects. The program is now in its second year and is part of AARP’s nationwide work on Livable Communities, helping neighborhoods, towns and cities to become great places for all ages.

Who Can Apply? The AARP Community Challenge is open to 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits and government entities. Other types of organizations may be considered on a case-by-case basis. AARP will prioritize projects with permanent or temporary solutions that aim to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, and/or access to public and private transit.
- Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.
- Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.
- Other community improvements. In addition to the three areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about communities’ needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. ET, May 16, 2018, and all projects must be completed by November 5, 2018. Applications must be submitted through AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.

Last year, the AARP Community Challenge awarded 88 grants to communities representing every state and the District of Columbia; Montpelier and Hyde Park were selected in Vermont. Visit http://bit.ly/2017GrantWinners to see some of the 2017 winners in action as they work to improve public spaces and community amenities, and increase housing and transportation options that benefit residents of all ages.

Please reach out to directly to Kelly Stoddard Poor with any questions: 802-951-313 or kstoddardpoor@aarp.org.

Ecosystem Restoration Grant Review ~ Deadline April 23rd ~

The Clean Water Initiative Program is accepting Ecosystem Restoration Grant applications on a rolling basis. Applications received by Monday, April 23rd at 4:30 pm will be included in the next review. Minor changes to eligibility and application scoring criteria in the application manual will be made by March 31st. Please visit the Clean Water Initiative Program Grants webpage for more details and application materials here: http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/grants. For questions, contact Allison Compagna at allison.compagna@vermont.gov.

Summer Employment Opportunities Grant Proposal

The Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) has announced the availability of funds to award grants to organizations to deliver Summer Employment Opportunities (SEO) that link academic learning, occupational skill development with a career pathway. Approximately $175,00 is available for the 2018 summer program. The deadline for grant applications is Friday, April 13, 2018 by 4:00 pm.

The intent of this funding is to provide at-risk youth, between the ages of 14 to 24, with entry-level employment experiences, work-readiness training, and the opportunity to develop skills that prepare them for the workforce. Youth participate in a short-term, paid work placement during the summer at public, private, or nonprofit worksites. Youth receive training in soft skills in order to practice professional behaviors and learn how to relate to supervisors and co-workers at their worksites. The summer program is designed to assist young people to learn and practice skills that matter at work, school and in life.
Vermont Airport System Plan

VTrans has developed a webpage for its Aviation System Plan Update. The page contains information on the plan update, the plan development process, project timeline and schedule, and outreach activities.

Over the coming months, VTrans will be populating the page with various analysis documents for stakeholder review as well as a schedule of public meetings. All information will be available at http://vtrans.vermont.gov/aviation/vermont-airport-system-plan.

Vermont Arbor Day Conference

- Thursday, May 3rd, 8:30am-3:45pm
- VT College of Fine Arts, Montpelier
- Cost: $40, lunch provided

Registration is now open for the 2018 Vermont Arbor Day Conference. Learn, celebrate, and network with the citizen tree stewards, municipal leaders, and professionals of Vermont’s urban and community forests.

Diane Cook and Len Jenshel, photographers and authors of Wise Trees, are this year’s keynote speakers. There will be four simultaneous tracks geared toward separate audiences, with 16 workshops.

Session topics include:
- Preparing your Community for emerald ash borer
- Managing Urban & Community Forests
- Planning for Forests & Wildlife
- Trees for Managed Landscapes
- Tree Identification
- Technical Tree Climbing & Rigging
- And much more!

To register and learn more about the conference, visit here: https://vtcommunityforestry.org/programs-0/arbor-day/vermont-arbor-day-conference.

Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has been hearing from a lot of towns about the MRGP Notice of Intent (NOI) form and related fees as the July 31, 2018 deadline approaches. DEC will be sending out a mailing to all towns that fall under the MRGP later this spring. The mailing will include a link to a fillable NOI form and information about fees and dates.

Regarding the MRGP fees, DEC is awaiting final decisions from the Legislature regarding potential changes in the MRGP annual fees. There is a bill under consideration (H922) that would lower the MRGP annual fee for all towns and be prorated based on population and road mileage.

2018 Addison County Legislative Breakfast Schedule

- Apr. 9th – Ag Lunch, Grange Hall, Bridport
- Apr. 16th – Congregational Church, Weybridge
- Apr. 23rd – Congregational Church, New Haven
- Apr. 30th – Town Hall, Whiting
- June 4th – Grange hall, Bridport

All breakfasts begin at 7:00am, with program running from 7:30 - 8:45am. Luncheons begin at 12:00pm and end at 1:45pm.

Purchase of breakfast not required to attend but helps our hosts to defray the cost of opening their hall. Sponsored by Bridport Grange #303 and Addison County Farm Bureau; Supported by Addison County Chamber of Commerce and ACRPC.
2018 Tiny Grant Program

The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) is seeking applications for its 2018 Tiny Grant program. The objective of the grants is to provide seed money and/or matching funds for specific conservation projects at the local level.

“Throughout the years, AVCC’s Tiny Grant Program has supported small projects that have had big impacts for local communities,” said Nancy Jones, AVCC Board Secretary. “Conservation commissions and other volunteer groups spend countless hours working to safeguard our natural resources each year and we’re thrilled to be able to support these efforts each year through the Tiny Grants Program.”

Last year, AVCC awarded grants to groups in Bethel, Bolton, Burke, Johnson, Putney, and Warren. Projects included developing a forest management plan, constructing bat houses, a community climate change presentation, printing trail maps, and marking wildlife corridors.

Individual grants are available in the range of $250-$600. Applications are due April 13, 2018 and awards will be announced May 4, 2018. Projects must be completed and a final report submitted by May 4, 2019. Extensions may be considered.

Conservation Commissions and groups working to become conservation commissions are eligible. Groups must also be members of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. To become an AVCC member, read more and apply online at http://vtconservation.com/join-us/. For more information about the grants and an application visit http://vtconservation.com/tiny-grants/ or email vtconservation@gmail.com.

2018 Vermont Walk/Bike Summit Quickly Approaching

In partnership with Vermont Agency of Transportation, and a number of other participating organizations and sponsors, the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee and Southern Windsor Regional Planning Commissions will host the 2018 statewide Vermont Walk/Bike Summit on May 4th in White River Junction.

The Vermont Walk/Bike Summit is an excellent opportunity to connect with community members, employers, planners and researchers from throughout the state for in-depth sharing on current efforts, new ideas, and networking to advance more livable communities.

This year’s Summit will include interactive mobile workshops, peer exchanges, a highly-acclaimed keynote, and a variety of dynamic presentations and topics including advocacy and education, public safety, economic development, and the built environment. For further information about the event visit here: https://vtwalkbikesummit.com/.

2018 National Outdoor Recreation Conference

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP), along with our co-host, Vermont State Parks, is pleased to announce the 2018 National Outdoor Recreation Conference that will be held in Burlington, Vermont, on April 23 through 26, 2018. This four day event brings together 250+ Outdoor Recreation Professionals for: Learning, Networking, Celebrating and Mentoring. This year’s conference theme, “Building Resilient Communities, Environments, and Economies” focuses on demonstrating the tangible ways that connecting people with the outdoors improves public health, reinvigorates local economies, and instills a life-long commitment to the environment.

The best way to stay informed is to visit the 2018 National Outdoor Recreation Conference website, where you can also sign up for the mailing list: https://www.2018norc.org/. You can also connect via Facebook here: https://www.facebook.com/events/1481366641928732/. AICP Credits will be offered.
2018 Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife
Cooperator Training (free)

Do you love woodlands? Enjoy seeing birds and other wildlife and want to learn how a healthy forest can enhance wildlife habitat, provide recreational and timber benefits? Are you interested in reaching out to others in your community? If you answered yes to any of these, then sign up for the Coverts 3-day Cooperator Training and join Coverts peer-to-peer network. The program will allow you to connect with resource professionals and others concerned about their woodlands, just like you. The training program is offered in the spring and fall. The spring dates are May 11-13 and will take place at the Common Ground Center in Starksboro, VT. The fall dates are September 7-9 and will be held at Kehoe Conservation Camp in Hydeville, VT. Space is limited so register now! To learn more, see a sample agenda or download an application visit www.vtcoverts.org. You can also contact Lisa Sausville at 802-877-2777 or lisa@vtcoverts.org.