

Courthouse Building

This Fiscal year, ending January 31, 2016

We continued to follow the 20 year engineer's report to accomplish level funding of expenses for building upkeep and maintenance.

- We installed new hand rails on west side and north side of the building. The existing rails had rotted where they met the granite steps.
- We installed lighting sensors for the interior of the building in the stair wells, bathrooms and clerks' area. These sensors automatically turn lights on when someone enters the room, and automatically turn them off after a period of inactivity. This project has already saved the county money on electricity.
- We upgraded the Heating Ventilating Air Conditioning, or HVAC system from dial-up to DSL computerization. Now if there is a power failure a message is sent immediately to Building Supervisor Christopher Danaher's phone, and allows him to make program changes, such as turning power back on, from anywhere and at any time. Previously Christopher did not know that there was a failure in the HVAC system until after he arrived to open the courthouse in the morning. This project has derided many and minor problems such as someone feeling cold, and possibly major problems such as frozen pipes.
- Our maintenance budget is down because of upgrades we did in 2014 to the gas pipe that leads to the boiler. The upgrades on the pipe eliminated boiler breakdowns, and as a result we continue to save money on repair.

Other Courthouse Building Projects:

- We created a much needed office for the State's Chittenden Civil Court Operations Manager, Carme Cote.
- We installed new bird netting around the building to replace the plastic spikey bird deterrents that were there before. This new netting is not only more effective, but is more aesthetically pleasing.
- We painted and remodeled the law clerks' office.
- We appointed one Assistant Judge to act as Senior Assistant Judge who then gathered feedback from employees of the Costello and Civil Courthouses about improvements they would like to see in security. She then took the information, and put a report together to be used by the Supreme Court's office in presenting to the Vermont Legislature ideas on how to improve security, while cutting its cost by 3%.

- The county continues to provide passport services. We have had good response to the new Passport Office which is now child-friendly with toys and books for the families to use. The Passport Office is open Monday through Thursday, 8:00am – 4:00 pm.
- In conjunction with the Vermont Bar Association, we added portraits of retired judges to the collection that is already in place in the 3rd floor courtroom. These portraits are of newly retired Vermont Superior Court Judges Linda Levitt and Mathew Katz. We hosted an unveiling ceremony that was very well attended.
- We named the 2nd floor courtroom after retired Superior Court Judge Mathew Katz, for his years of valuable service to the people of Chittenden County. We also held a naming ceremony that was very well attended.
- We have added new plants to our perennial gardens on the west and north sides of courthouse. These gardens continue to beautify the grounds while saving money to the county on planting annuals.
- We continued to write “Courthouse Chronicles” for Burlington Free Press. There are two chronicles left to frame and add to the in lobby of the courthouse. Our hope is that they entertain and educate the visitors to the courthouse and warm up the feel of the lobby.
- We made improvements to Matthew Katz Courtroom and it’s Chambers which included a partition/separator between the witness and judge, and two new locking doorknobs.
- We purchased new artwork and a microwave for the jury room.
- We removed trees that were dead, falling and overhanging the parking lot.
- We brightened the lights in the parking lot for safety purposes.
- We performed one-time, annual maintenance duties. These include outside window washing, slate floor protective sealant application and jetting of water and sewer lines.

County Sheriff’s Building

This Fiscal year, ending January 31, 2016

- Sealed the tar and painted lines on the parking lot we paved last year.
- Decommissioned and replaced the condenser unit.

- Replaced the unit heater.
- Added a recycling dumpster to comply with the new recycling law.
- Performed window maintenance.

All of these projects have been overseen and directed by County Clerk Anne Williams, and implemented by independent contractor Christopher Danaher. All work done was reviewed and approved by Assistant Judge Delaney and me. All checks written, are written by Anne, approved by signature by Assistant Judge Delaney and me, and lastly signed by County Treasurer John Leddy. It is the best way to handle monies that I have seen.

Anne and Chris' good work and responsible work ethic, allows Judge Delaney and me to spend more time in court serving the people of Chittenden County in Family Court trials as well as civil court trials.

Their competence and drive makes this beautiful, historical courthouse, not only serve as a courthouse, but also as an aesthetically pleasing gateway to the shire town of Chittenden County ~ Burlington. The flowers, cleanliness and upkeep of the exterior of the building benefit all people that pass by. The well-maintained, clean interior serves the community well for trials, notaries, and passports.

The Sheriff's building is also something we can all be proud of.

All in all things are going well at Chittenden County Courthouse and Sheriff's Department.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Ramsey