

Courthouse Building and Grounds, 175 Main Street, Burlington, VT.
Fiscal year February 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017

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

- New handrails were installed on west side and north side of the building. The existing rails had rotted where they met the granite steps.
- Lighting sensors were installed 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.
- Upgrades were made to 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 averted 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:

- A much-needed office was created for the State's Chittenden Civil Court Operations Manager, Carme Cote.
- New bird netting around the building was installed to replace the plastic spikey bird deterrents that were there before. This new netting is not only more effective, but is more aesthetically pleasing.
- The law clerks' office was painted and remodeled.
- One Assistant Judge was appointed 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.
- The 2nd floor courtroom was named 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.
- New plants were added 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.
- “Courthouse Chronicles” were continued to be written 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.
- Improvements were made to Matthew Katz Courtroom and its Chambers which included a partition/separator between the witness and judge, and two new locking doorknobs.
- New artwork and a microwave were purchased for the jury room.
- Tree that were dead, falling and overhanging the parking lot were removed.
- The lights in the parking lot were brightened for safety purposes.
- One-time, annual maintenance duties were performed. These include outside window washing, slate floor protective sealant application and jetting of water and sewer lines.

County Sheriff’s Building, 70 Ethan Allen Drive, South Burlington, VT.
This Fiscal year, ending January 31, 2017

- 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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Ramsey