

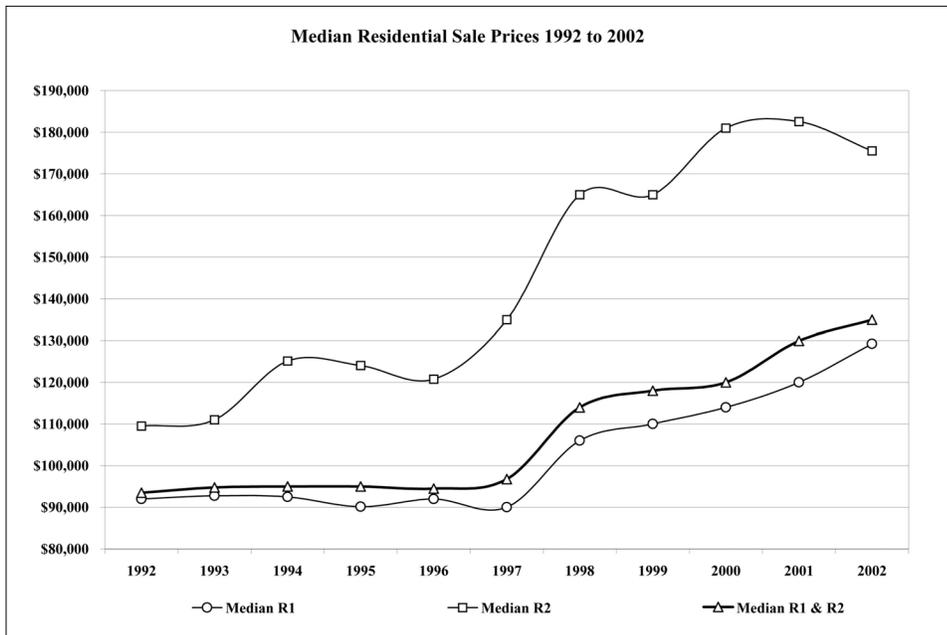


2002 Housing Sales in the Addison Region

The median priced home on less than six acres (R1) in the Addison Region sold for just over \$129,000 in 2002, an increase from \$120,000 in 2001. The median priced home on more than six acres (R2) sold for \$175,500, a slight decline from over \$182,000 in 2001.

There were approximately 400 residential sales in 2002. Two years ago the number of sales reached a high of over 460.

Prices for an R1 in the region's municipalities ranged from a high of \$175,000 in Ferrisburgh to \$60,500 in Orwell. For R2s, median prices ranged from \$84,000 in Whiting to over \$360,000 in Cornwall.



January

Calendar

February

- 8 7:30 p.m. Full Commission Mtg. Kirk Alumni Center Middlebury College.
- 13 6:30 p.m. Natural Resources Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 15 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 20 7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities and Services Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 21 3:00 p.m. Economic Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 29 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

- 12 7:30 p.m. Full Commission Mtg. Location TBA.
- 17 7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities and Services Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 18 3:00 p.m. Economic Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 19 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 26 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

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Addison County Regional
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ACRPC Staff Update

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission recently hired Nell Fraser to replace Hilary Spitz as our Watershed Planner. Nell will be working to ensure that all voices in the Addison Region have the opportunity to participate in the Otter Creek Basin planning process.

The Vermont legislature, in response to water quality concerns throughout the state, enacted legislation requiring basin planning. The Basin Planning Program calls for each of the state's 17 basins to create a basin plan addressing water quality concerns.

Shortly, Ethan Swift, Watershed Coordinator for ANR, will begin the basin planning process in the Otter Creek Basin. Hilary and now Nell have already begun work to ensure that the process is a collaborative, inclusive effort with input from interested people living and working in the basin.

Nell has worked in the water resources field for six years and has a Masters of Science in Watershed Science and Planning. If you would like to become involved in watershed issues in the Addison Region, please feel free to contact Nell at nfraser@sover.net or 388-3141.

ACTR Transit Plan

There will be a meeting on January 17 to review and discuss Addison County Transit Resources' (ACTR) Short Range Public Transit Plan (SRPTP). The meeting will be at 10 a.m. in the ACTR offices at 282 Boardman Street, Middlebury.

Copies of the report will be available ten days prior to the meeting and can be requested by contacting Garrett Dague at gdague@sover.net or 388-3141.

ACRPC Emergency Bulletin

ACRPC's efforts to develop a hazard mitigation plan for every municipality in our region have made it one step closer to success. FEMA in Boston has received word from the consultants who reviewed the draft Addison Region plan that with minor revisions, our plan is ready for adoption by local municipalities.

Tim has already received requests from other regional planners in New England requesting copies of the Addison Regional hazard mitigation plan based on FEMA's recommendation.

Our next step will be to send a draft copy of the proposed municipal haz-mit plan to each selectboard for their review and proposed changes. Once reviewed, Tim and Ross Nagy will visit each municipality with a final draft incorporating any changes for final adoption. The process should be started by the first of the year.

The VT Department of Public Safety has announced a new round of Federal Department of Justice (DOJ) Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grants. These grants are made available to local front line response organizations for the purchase of equipment to enable them to be better prepared for potential terrorist activities.

Though many feel the likelihood of terrorist activity in the Addison Region is small, much of the equipment available for purchase could also be used in the course of normal operations for most fire, police and rescue departments. Some items of particular interest to the region may be: multiband radios, haz-mat decontamination equipment, heavy rescue equipment, chemical detection equipment, and many others.

Funding is expected to be granted based on regional priorities and applications are encouraged for equipment that will benefit a wide area and multiple departments.

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) has also announced that as part of the president's USA Freedom Corps initiative, money has been set aside for the development of volunteer teams to assist municipalities in disaster management. Currently the SERC is requesting proposals from Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) for the development of these teams.

LEPC #8 from the Addison Region is expecting to submit a proposal for this program to provide training for a group of local volunteers who could assist the regions towns in damage assessment, shelter operations, and other post-disaster activities.

Project Impact continues to move forward in its efforts to mitigate future disasters in the region. Current activity includes an assessment of the Middlebury River and potential problem areas. At this stage the assessment has identified three areas along the river where additional studies are warranted.

The Town of Goshen has received final approval to go ahead with their culvert replacement on South Hill Road. The area washes out with every heavy rain and spring runoff and is slated to receive an additional culvert and stone lining of ditches to prevent future damage.

Lastly, the Mobile Command Post which will provide service to every municipality in the region is continuing to receive donations from local organizations and businesses on its way to a \$120,000 goal. The project is well past half way and organizers have been assured that the radio needs of the unit can be provided through the DOJ grants that have just been announced. More information on this project or donations can be addressed to Tom Hanley Police Chief in Middlebury, or Tim Bouton at ACRPC.