COVID-19 Updates:
Omicron-specific COVID-19 boosters are now available in Vermont! The updated booster is for people 12+ who received their last booster or additional dose at least two months ago. Look for Pfizer Bivalent Booster 12+ and Moderna Bivalent Booster 18+ in the list of walk-in clinics. Learn more about these boosters!
**Surveillance Report:** The State is using the COVID-19 Surveillance Report as their key public facing COVID data document. Here is the most recent [Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report from October 5th, 2022](#).

In their report State of Vermont says that statewide community levels are **Low**. The rate of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Vermonters is below 200. New COVID-19 admissions are below 10 per 100,000 Vermonters per day, and the percent of staffed hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 is below 10%.

- New COVID-19 cases, last 7 days: 102.25 per 100k
  - Weekly case count: 638 (increase from last week)
- New hospital admissions of patients with COVID-19, last 7 days: 7.21 per 100K
  - 45 total new admissions with COVID-19 (decrease from previous week)

The [CDC’s COVID-19 County-level report also has Washington County Vermont](#) as a ‘low’ community spread level area.

Vermont Department of Health recommendations: [Protect Yourself & Others](#)

CDC recommendations: [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)

**COVID-19 Reminders:**

- It is now recommended that all children, ages 6 months through 5 years, get the COVID-19 Vaccination. Find vaccination clinics [here](#), or call your preferred pharmacy.
- **Keep up to date with CDC Recommendations!** You can find the CDC’s updates regarding COVID-19 on their website [here](#). They have released an updated chart regarding their quarantine and isolation guidelines [here](#).

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**Practice Good Environmental Stewardship**

**Sustainability/Facilities Coordinator**

With our new Building Inspector coming on board Monday, Chris Lumbra will begin transitioning his work to this new position. We expect him to remain engaged with helping the new BI for two weeks before really taking on the new position full time.

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**Provide Responsible and Engaged Government**

**Polco (National Citizen Survey) Community Survey**

We received the first information from this survey this week. It can be viewed on the city’s website and the direct link is [here](#). We are still waiting for the final report and analyses. We plan to review this at the October 12 Council meeting.

**General Business 9/28**

- **Restroom Committee:** Council Member Casey is arranging a meeting.
- **Beth Burgess Report on homelessness:** has been sent to the City Council.
- **Parker Associates Contract**: Has been signed and executed.
- **Sustainable Montpelier Coalition**: The City is aware of their staff changes, and we have great concerns about the impact on CAN. We are arranging a meeting with Board Members (but have been delayed due to individual schedules) to discuss this issue.
- **Website**: Upgrade work is in progress, will take a year to complete. In the meantime, we have staff going through attempting to clean up items.

### Pending Legal

- **Appeal of Zoning Permit**: Neighbors have appealed DRB approval of a permit to move a barn structure. City is represented by Attorney David Rugh. We are monitoring the case. Recent filings by appellants have challenged the validity of sections of the city’s zoning ordinance.

- **Abdo Banfield v. City of Montpelier**: Appeal of DRB determination upholding decision of the Zoning Administrator. City is represented by Attorney David Rugh.

- **Ferry et al v. City of Montpelier**: The Superior Court dismissed the suit challenging the legality of the city’s non-citizen voting provision but upheld the plaintiff’s standing to raise the issue. The plaintiffs have now appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. The City is likely to file a cross appeal challenging the standing decision.

### Create More Housing

**203 Country Club Road**
We will have an updated report on the public process at the October 12th meeting. However, the following three events have been scheduled, with more information to come:

1**st** - **On-site**  
Where: 203 Country Club Rd  
When: Saturday, October 15th from 12pm - 1:30pm

2**nd** - **Hybrid**  
Where: City Hall & Virtual  
When: Wednesday, October 19th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm

3**rd** - **Virtual**  
Where: Zoom  
When: Thursday, October 27th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm

### Improve Community Prosperity

**The Community Services Department weekly newsletter can be found at the end of this report, beginning after strategic plan items.**
**Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure**

**The Department of Public Works weekly newsletter can be found at the end of this report, beginning after strategic plan items.**

**Employment and Personnel Announcements**

**Assistant City Manager**
I announced last week that Kelly Murphy, formerly Finance Director, has been appointed as Assistant City Manager.

**Finance Director**
With Kelly Murphy moving to Assistant Manager, we are beginning the search process for a new Finance Director.

**Public Works Director**
As noted earlier, I have appointed Kurt Motyka as Acting Director. We have begun the search process for a permanent director.

**Municipal Job Openings**

Visit the City website for more information: https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx

**FT Police Department- Patrol Officers** For applications and more information, click [here](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx) or email recruiting@montpelier-vt.org. We have one four open officer positions.

**FT Emergency Services Dispatcher/Clerk:** The Montpelier Police Department is seeking applications for the position of Emergency Dispatcher/Clerk. This full-time career position involves the appropriate call handling of both emergency and non-emergency requests for police, fire, and emergency medical services, and determining the nature and urgency of those calls.

**FT Streets Maintenance Worker Truck Driver, Level 1:** The person filling this position will work with a streets crew performing skilled work in winter operations, construction, maintenance and repair of streets, drainage culverts, sidewalks, signage, and other appurtenances in the City Right of Way.

**FT Water/Sewer Truck Driver Level 1:** The person filling this position will work with a water and sewer crew performing skilled work in the construction, maintenance and repair of water distribution, raw water distribution, wastewater collection and wastewater transmission systems.

**MSAC Seeks AmeriCorps member for September 2022:** Calling all gap year students, recent college grads, and young professionals! MSAC is looking for a new Aging in Place Coordinator to serve MSAC’s mission of being a gathering place of healthy aging, lifelong learning and delicious meals for older adults. This is a dynamic role where the member will be working to create a vibrant intergenerational community that offers a little help to
the older adults who need and deserve it. Prospective candidates can apply through the AmeriCorps portal: https://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-americorps/positions

**DPW Staffing**
The Department of Public Works currently has 5 vacancies within the department. There are 2 open positions within the streets division, 2 within the water/sewer division, and 1 split position between the streets and mechanic divisions. DPW is actively seeking new employees for the open positions. For more information visit the City’s website at: Jobs • Montpelier, VT • CivicEngage (montpelier-vt.org)

**Parks Seeks a Community Conservation Steward**
The Montpelier Parks Department seeks an environmental leader who will serve alongside their team in continuing their efforts to plan conservation projects and perform physical service activities for the City’s natural areas. **Our VHCB AmeriCorps position begins on a rolling basis and ends August 11th, 2023.** Prospective candidates can apply through the AmeriCorps portal: https://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-americorps/positions

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**Reminders**

**ORCA MEDIA**
ORCA Media supports the City of Montpelier by live streaming videos to local TV and on YouTube. Recently, Comcast changed the government channel to 1085.

- Click here to see City Council Meetings: https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council
- Click here for Live Stream: https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events

Thank you,

William Fraser, City Manager

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*Council Meeting Agenda Schedule and Strategic Planning Items on following pages:*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Upcoming Agenda Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>• See Agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>• Winter Schedule</td>
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<td>• Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development</td>
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<td>• Stormwater Utility update</td>
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<td>• WRRF Update</td>
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<td>• Communications update – strategy, website, CAN</td>
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<td>• Preliminary Budget Discussion</td>
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<td>11/9</td>
<td>• ADA Update</td>
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<td>• TIF/Tax Stabilization</td>
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<td>• City Building Energy Policy?</td>
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<td>• Community Energy Fund?</td>
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<td>• Barriers to Housing?</td>
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<td>• FEAST Update</td>
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<td>• Fireworks?</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>• Legislative Agenda</td>
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<td>• Homelessness Plan?</td>
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<td>• Charter Changes</td>
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<td>• Potential Ordinance re: building violations and zoning permits?</td>
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<td>12/14</td>
<td>• Budget/Charter Changes</td>
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<td>• PRC – Progress Update</td>
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<td>• Budget Workshop</td>
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<td>• Adopt Charter Language</td>
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<td>• First PH Bonds</td>
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<td>2/22</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>• City Meeting Election</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

? = Date is tentative, may shift to a different date

Pending Items:

- Potential nuisance violation hearing
- Emerald Ash Borer update
- City Plan – summer 2023
## CURRENT PENDING STRATEGIC PLAN ITEMS

Topics from the FY22-23 City Council Strategic Plan for Future Council Agendas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Tentative Topic(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Strat Planning, (Fall/Winter 2022)/Mutual Aid Issues with Middlesex and Berlin, Homelessness Plan, Barriers to Housing, Parks Commission Survey/Review Community Survey results, Accomplishments and Future Plans for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>ADA Transition Projects/ Net Zero Projects Update/ FEAST Program Updates/ <strong>BUDGET</strong>/ PFAS Updates</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td><strong>BUDGET</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- City Master Plan (Summer 2023)
Main Street Repaving
Paving on Main Street will begin Friday, October 7th. DPW will be assigning detour routes with “No Parking” signs along the street. The project is on schedule to be completed on Monday, October 10th.

Travelers in this area should plan to expect some traffic delays and allow for extra travel time.

DPW Engineer Zach Blodgett is the primary contact for this project at the Department of Public Works and can be reached by email at zblodgett@montpelier-vt.org. We thank you for your patience while we complete this necessary paving project.

Paving Projects
DPW has several paving projects planned to start in early October with final paving slated for mid-October. All streets listed below have been milled in preparation for paving next week. DPW has been doing structure adjustments all week and will be finishing next week.

Next week, crews will be digging out on Phelps Street from Roberts to River Street to blend the final surface elevation. During this time, the road will be closed to thru traffic. Detours will be in place throughout construction.

The following streets are to be repaved:
- Roberts Street
- Pleasant View Street – DPW connected two drainage pipes to the City’s storm system which will prevent icing
- Wheelock Street
- Valerie Avenue
- Blodgett Avenue
- Phelps Street

East State Street
Contract #1 of the East Street project includes the disconnection of the existing storm sewer system from the existing sanitary sewer system, also known as a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) connection. The design includes a new outfall constructed through the Rialto bridge abutment.
This concept and other construction details are currently being reviewed by the State of Vermont, Water Investment Division. The City has received confirmation from the State that the project will be funded using Clean Water State ARPA dollars. This project is anticipated to begin spring of 2023.

Route 2 Montpelier NH 6400 (45)
Paving has been completed on the approaches to the new railroad crossing. Next week they will be finishing up line striping and installing the asphaltic joints on each side of the crossing. They will also be working outside the roadway along the tracks throughout the week performing miscellaneous tasks. This work could result in some alternating one-way traffic using flaggers.

Route 2 Montpelier-Berlin NH Deck (48)
The new bridge is open to traffic. Next week the contractor will continue to remove the temporary roadway and temporary bridge. This work will result in alternating one-way traffic using flaggers.

Other DPW Projects

Storm Water Utility
The kickoff meeting with the committee and project team is happening today, Friday, October 7th. DPW is actively performing infrastructure assessments, overviews, and data analysis as this project gets into full swing.

A stormwater utility is a dedicated funding mechanism to pay for a community’s stormwater management program. The revenue generated for the utility’s fee supports stormwater-related services and improvements. City Council identified this in the FY23 strategic plan. The City Council approved awarding the contract to Brown and Caldwell who will develop the Montpelier Storm Water Utility.

The City’s goal is to complete the project by July 1 of 2023. There will be opportunities for staff to report back to the City Council on the status as well as for the public to be involved.

State Street Combined Sewer Overflow
Bids for this project opened on October 6th. The verified low bidder for this project was Hebert Excavation. City Council will approve awarding the project to a contractor who will have the option to start construction this fall. DPW anticipates this project will be completed by July 1, 2023.
Main/Towne Hill Water Main Replacement

Hebert Excavation will be starting this project the week of October 10th. As construction gets underway, there will be alternating 1-way traffic along this route. Travelers should expect some minor delays in this area. During the week of October 17th, Towne Hill Road will be closed for a portion of construction. The road closure is tentatively scheduled to start at 9:00am on 10/18 to after school drop off. Crews will work to have the road reopened to alternating 1-way traffic by 3:00pm to minimize the disruption to school pick-up traffic.

DPW will be replacing a 450 ft. section of water main beginning at the intersection of Towne Hill Road and Main Street and ending at the intersection of Towne Hill Road and Easy Street. The water main will be upsized from the current 6-in diameter pipe to the required 12-in diameter pipe. Water main pipes and appurtenances for this project have been ordered, resolving previous supply chain concerns. An existing failing culvert crossing Towne Hill Road, adjacent to Easy Street will also be replaced. Upon completion of the project, a permanent trench patch will be installed. DPW is evaluating the possibility to extend the paving limits up to the crest of the hill to address the poor pavement condition on Towne Hill Road between Main Street and Dover Road.

Grout Road Bridge

Permits for this project were submitted to the state and a project easement has been signed.

The timeline for this project has been pushed back slightly. DPW is hoping to bid the project out by November of this year and is anticipating starting construction by the spring of 2023. This project is being funded through ARPA grants and a Class 2 Highway Structure grant.

FAQs

Heard on the Street

**District Heat**
District Heat provide heating for businesses located in the downtown. The system has now been turned on, and customers are being provided with heat.

**Confluence Park Clean-up**
Due to staffing shortages, this project has been postponed until October 7th. In tandem with other City staff, DPW will work on clean-up in Confluence Park. Clean-up will focus on the area near the Winooski River.
Join Our Team!

Full job descriptions and requirements are posted on the City’s website: Montpelier-vt.org/jobs
The City of Montpelier, Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Applications from women, individuals with disabilities, and people from diverse cultural backgrounds are encouraged.

- (1) Mechanic I
- (2) Streets Maintenance Worker Truck Driver, Level 1
- (2) Water/Sewer Truck Driver, Level 1

How to Apply:
Pick up a job application:
- In-person at 783 Dog River Road Montpelier VT 05602
- By email Jasmine Benson at jbenson@montpelier-vt.org
- Online: https://www.montpelier-vt.org/.../DPW-Application-Revised...

Submit a letter of interest along with a completed job application and resume to Jasmine Benson at jbenson@montpelier-vt.org.

Contact Information

Got Questions or Comments?

Contact the Montpelier Department of Public Works:

Phone: (802) 262-6276
Email: jbenson@montpelier-vt.org
Website: https://www.montpelier-vt.org/167/Public-Works
Facebook: Department of Public Works – City of Montpelier
Emergency Dispatch: (802) 223-3445
Office Notice for Community Services Department

Phone calls have been hard to answer and return due to a shortage of staff. Please try emailing Tom (tleahey@montpelier-vt.org) in Recreation or Sarah (slipton@montpelier-vt.org) at MSAC for quicker response; Norma is out this coming week on a much-deserved vacation.

- **Recreation**
  - NO REGISTRATIONS OVER THE PHONE! Registrations can be done by mailing or dropping of forms and payment to 58 Barre Street. Registration forms and a locked drop box are located in the side entrance of 58 Barre Street (The MSAC Building).
  - At this time, we’re not able to take credit card payments in the office. Please email tleahey@montpelier-vt.org to get set up with online payments through the city website.

- **Office Hours:**
  - **CLOSED Monday October 10th for Indigenous People’s Day**
  - **Tuesdays & Wednesdays** 9am – 3pm
  - **Thursdays** 9am – 3pm
  - **Fridays** Closed for customer service

**Community Services Department News**

- **Montpelier PLACE**
  - On Wednesday, October 5th, the Montpelier Community Services team hosted a harvest meal at the FEAST Farm as a part of the Montpelier PLACE event series. The evening included a tour of the city’s FEAST Farm, a farm-to-table meal from the grill, a thank you celebration to our FEAST volunteers, and a planning discussion aimed at increasing local food access and sourcing produce for our community. The presentation was emceed by Hans Estrin of UVM Extension.
Here’s what one of our attendees had to say about the harvest meal:

“Just a quick note of congratulations on organizing such a wonderful program at Feast Farm yesterday. I really enjoyed the place, the farm tour, the delicious meal, and the engaging conversation with Montpelier residents. Well done! You’ve added a fine new dimension to the PLACE model, one that we’ll try to emulate in future towns. Really looking forward to the next programs in your series.”

- Walter Poleman, PhD., Director at UVM Field Naturalist Program

The Harvest Meal at the FEAST Farm was a fundraising event for FEAST Senior Meals and the farm. Please consider donating: [https://donorbox.org/supportfeastfarm](https://donorbox.org/supportfeastfarm). We are continuing our fundraising campaign through the end of the year. If you enjoy local food access and want to support food security in Montpelier, donate now.

About Montpelier PLACE: This fall, the University of Vermont Extension, North Branch Nature Center, and the Montpelier Community Services Department will be presenting the Montpelier PLACE (or Place-based Landscape Analysis & Community Engagement) Event Series. This is a series of community events celebrating the sites and stories in Montpelier’s unique heritage and ecology. Join us this fall on a citywide exploration to discover what makes our Capital City so special! These events will be held from September 17th – December 2nd. The remaining schedule of events include:

- **10/22: History on the Land: Hubbard Park** (9 – 11 AM @ Hubbard Park)
- **10/29: Ecology of Hubbard Park** (10 AM – 1 PM @ Hubbard Park)
- **11/9: Montpelier’s Built Environment** (6:30 – 8 PM @ Kellogg-Hubbard Library)
- **11/18 & 11/19: Montpelier Underfoot** (7 – 8:30 PM on 11/18 | 9 AM – 12 PM on 11/19 @ North Branch Nature Center)
- **12/2: River Art Walk** (4 – 8 PM @ TBD)
Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) News

- **Fall 2022 Class Registration is still open for some classes.** Please see the list below of available spots in classes.
  - Continuing Pastels with Joyce Kahn
  - Spanish from Scratch with Carlos Reyes
  - Somatic movement: Move it or Lose it with Amy LePage
  - English Country Dancing with Val Medve & musical friends
  - How to Conduct a Simple Cleanse with Lisa Masé
  - Healthy Gluten-Free Cooking with Lisa Masé

- **MSAC is awarded Unmet Needs Grant from MOW America:** The Montpelier Senior Activity Center is proud to announce that we’ve been awarded $15,000 through the Unmet Needs Grant from Meals on Wheels America. This grant is designed to meet the nutrition needs of underserved or unserved older adults in the community and to expand access to meal options for older adults with medically and/or culturally tailored meal offerings.
  - This grant will support MSAC’s FEAST Kitchen and help us provide newer meal options for our Meals on Wheels recipients. We’ll be attending the onboarding meeting for this grant soon.

- **FEAST hires a new Kitchen Assistant:** A hearty welcome to Robbie Plunkett who will soon be joining the team as our second part-time temporary kitchen assistant. He will be a great help in the kitchen this fall! MSAC is working hard to secure permanent funding for the two part-time kitchen assistant positions, as without them, the FEAST kitchen is unable to accomplish everything in a timely fashion.

- **FEAST Meals on Wheels waitlist:** FEAST Meals on Wheels serve vital nutrition and wellness checks to older adults in Montpelier and Berlin who need regular access to nutrition and other resources. We have recently had to place incoming recipients on a waitlist for a combination of reasons including being short-staffed in FEAST, securing the funding to be able to produce more meals (CVCOA is working hard to continue to be an excellent partner with FEAST on this). While it pains us to have to place someone on a temporary waitlist instead of serving their needs immediately, it not only buys us the time we need to be prepared to serve them, but also showcases the overwhelming need in our community for this vital program.
o **FEAST will offer Congregate Meals again:** After much deliberation, community conversation and strategic work on the part of staff, FEAST is now planning a way to bring back congregate meals. Plans are still shaping up, but will soon be revealed, and all will be welcome back indoors for meals again. Stay tuned for the details!

o **A Full House for Osher Lectures at MSAC:** Osher is offering their Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) lectures at MSAC this fall from September to November with an incredible line-up of presentations. See highlights from this past week’s lecture with photographer Jeb Wallace-Brodeur:

The third OLLI presentation garnered lots of interest. Jeb Wallace-Brodeur went through a small selection of the many photos he’s taken over the years. His stories from the road as a professional photographer were funny and enlightening as a native Montpelier resident.

o Join us (after a one-week break) on Wednesday, October 19th in the MSAC Community Room for a discussion on homelessness and how we need to revision the root causes of it (*Homelessness is Everyone’s Problem*) with co-executive director of the Good Samaritan Haven, Rick DeAngelis. Register online: [https://learn.uvm.edu/program/osopher-lifelong-learning/olli-statewide/central-vermont/](https://learn.uvm.edu/program/osopher-lifelong-learning/olli-statewide/central-vermont/)

Montpelier Recreation News

- **2022 Fall/Winter Noontime Basketball**
  - Are you ready to shoot some hoops? Register now for 2022 Fall/Winter Noontime Basketball in the Recreation Department gym at 55 Barre Street. Basketball is held on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 11:45am – 1:15pm starting September 1st and continuing through the end of the year.
  - Program fee is $90 for residents and $135 for non-residents. The walk-in fee is $4 for residents and $6 for non-residents. Register at the Recreation office.

- **2022 Open Gym at the Recreation Gym**
  - Join us at the Rec Gym this fall and winter for open gym hours six days a week! Hours are posted on our website at [https://www.montpelier-vt.org/915/Rec-Center](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/915/Rec-Center)
- The Recreation Department gym is located at 55 Barre Street. Please register online or at the Recreation office.

- **Walk In Fees:**
  - *Pickleball:* Resident $2 / Non Resident $3
  - *Noontime Basketball:* Resident $4 / Non-Resident $6

- **Open Gym:**
  - K-8 Resident $1.50 / Non Resident $3
  - 9-12 Resident $2 / Non Resident $4
  - Adult Resident $3 / Non Resident $6
  - Family Resident $6 / Non Resident $12

- **General Announcements:**

  - The Capital Kids Afterschool Program still has openings in the program and details can be found on our website: [https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1186/After-School-Childcare](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1186/After-School-Childcare)

  - Afternoon and evening Open Gym for basketball will begin at the Recreation Department gym in early October. The schedule will be announced soon and will include time scheduled specifically for players in middle school and younger grades, as well as time for high school players. Admission fees will be collected at the door.

  - There are still spots open in our Tae Kwon Do program in both sessions, Ages 6-8 and Ages 9 and Older. Classes meet on Monday and Thursday evenings.

  - Registration details for our Youth Basketball program will be announced soon.

  - Information on the Ski & Skate Sale will be announced later this month.

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**Montpelier Parks**

- **Thank You To All Who Attended the Harvest Meal at the FEAST Farm**

  - The Montpelier Parks Department and Montpelier PLACE want to thank Hans Estrin, Erica Hample, Ghazi Jendoubi, and all of our Community Services Department and FEAST volunteers who helped make our harvest meal happen this past Wednesday. We had a great evening touring the farm, enjoying a delicious meal, and talking through the impact that local food systems factor into our diets. We learned the importance of advocating for more local food calories and becoming aware of the miles our food takes to get to our plates.
Join us for the next PLACE event on Saturday, October 22nd from 9-11 am for History on the Land: Hubbard Park. We’ll explore Hubbard Park and learn the history of the land with landscape historian Samantha Ford. Meet at the New Shelter.

- **Enchanted Forest on October 14th and 15th, 2022**
  - Enchanted Forest is returning this October, and tickets will be on sale soon. Check our Facebook page @MontpelierParks or go to alltogethernowvt.org to buy the tickets online when they go on sale. We cannot wait to see you in Hubbard Park this October!