Improve Public Health and Safety

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!


For this seven-day reporting period, the rate of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Vermonters is below 200.
- New COVID-19 cases, last 7 days: 95.35 per 100k o Weekly case count: 595 (decrease from previous week)
- New hospital admissions of patients with COVID-19, last 7 days: 12.18 per 100K o 76 total new admissions with COVID-19 (increase from previous week)
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with COVID-19 (7-day average): 5.86% (increase 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.
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](#).

Mutual Aid Issues **new**:
Berlin and Middlesex are continuing to address their staffing needs with some small success, both departments have appointed new fire chiefs. Berlin has recently added a new deputy chief who has been responding to calls. Berlin this week took delivery of a new tower truck and advised us it would be available if needed for a fire in Montpelier.

Both departments are trying to improve, but we continue to be relied upon for any significant fire.

Practice Good Environmental Stewardship

River Clean Up **update**
This work was completed on Monday the 24th.

Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

General Business 10/26
- None to report on

Pending Legal **update**
- **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. Filings by appellants challenging the validity of sections of the city’s zoning ordinance have been dropped.

- **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.** This case, concerning non-citizen voting, was argued in the Vermont Supreme Court on Wednesday October 27th.

Create More Housing

Improve Community Prosperity

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

**Finance Director update**
The application period for Finance Director closes on November 1st. We have received 7 applications to date.

**DPW Director update**
The application period for Finance Director closes on November 1st. We have received 7 applications to date.

### Municipal Job Openings

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

**FT Police Department- Patrol Officers** For applications and more information, click [here](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Police/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](https://vhcb.org/our-programs/vhcb-americorps/positions)

**DPW Staffing**
The Department of Public Works currently has 7 vacancies within the department. They are currently looking for a Director, Equipment Supervisor, Mechanic 1, two water/sewer division truck drivers, and two street division maintenance worker/truck drivers. 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)](https://montpelier-vt.org/Staffing)
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

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

Council Meeting Agenda Schedule and Strategic Planning Items on following pages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>11/9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- TIF/Tax Stabilization update</td>
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<td>- FEAST Update</td>
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<td>- Outdoor Recreation and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
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<td>- Emerald Ash Borer Update</td>
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<td>- Homelessness Task Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>recommendation for</td>
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<td>temporary shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11/16</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Legislative Agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Possible Charter Changes</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ADA Update</td>
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<td>- Energy Update – buildings,</td>
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<td>fleet, other</td>
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<td><strong>12/14</strong></td>
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<td>- Meet with Legislative</td>
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<td>Delegation</td>
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<td>- Budget</td>
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<td>- Possible Charter Change</td>
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<td>- Audit Report</td>
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<td>- Country Club Road Site</td>
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<td><strong>12/21</strong></td>
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<td>- Budget</td>
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<td>- Charter Change discussion</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Pending Items:

- Potential nuisance violation hearing
- City Plan – summer 2023
- Outside Agencies/Community Fund Policy – spring 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>November</td>
<td>ADA Transition Projects/ Net Zero Projects Update/ <strong>BUDGET</strong>/, Future Plans for Outdoor Recreation and Economic, Development Parks Commission Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td><strong>BUDGET</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- City Master Plan (Summer 2023)
- Homelessness Plan (January)
- Barriers to Housing (in City Plan)

Note: items in the recently approved plan update have not yet been scheduled
Office Notice for Community Services Department

Office Hours:
- **Monday – Thursday** 8:30am – 3pm
- **Fridays** Closed for customer service

*Phone calls have been hard to answer and return due to a shortage of staff. Please try emailing Norma ([nmaurice@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:nmaurice@montpelier-vt.org)) for quicker response.*

Community Services Department News

- **Montpelier PLACE – History of the Land: Hubbard Park**
  - This Saturday, October 29th, from 10 am-1 pm, field naturalist Erica Hample will host a guided group exploration of the most special places in Hubbard Park. Erica’s work creating a new ecological assessment of the park has uncovered a complicated land use history, a strong conservation ethic, and exciting geological formations. Come learn about ecological resilience and the future of this forest!

- **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 – November 19th. The remaining schedule of events include:
  - **10/29: Ecology of Hubbard Park** (10 AM – 1 PM @ Hubbard Park)
- 11/9: Montpelier’s Built Environment (6:30 – 8 PM @ North Branch Nature Center)
- 11/18 & 11/19: Montpelier Underfoot (7 – 8:30 PM on 11/18 | 9 AM – 12 PM on 11/19 @ North Branch Nature Center)

**Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) News**

- **Fundraising For FEAST:**
  - The FEAST Senior Meals program is run by the support of our community. Please consider donating this holiday season and help give healthy meals to older adults in our community: [https://www.montpelier-vt.org/746/Donate](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/746/Donate). 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.

- **Osher Lectures at MSAC:** The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) lectures at MSAC begin this fall from September to November with an incredible line-up of presentations. We will host Curt Lindberg, Co-founder of VT Alliance of Half-Earth, for a lecture on biodiversity. Our Better Nature: Hopeful Excursions in Saving Biodiversity will explore biodiversity in our region and share lessons learned and ways we can participate.

  Join us at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 for the next OLLI Series lecture. Register online: [https://learn.uvm.edu/program/olli-statewide/central-vermont/](https://learn.uvm.edu/program/olli-statewide/central-vermont/)

- **Montpelier Recreation News**

  - **Registration:** 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](mailto:tleahey@montpelier-vt.org) to get set up with online payments through the city website.

  - **2022 Ski & Skate Sale**
    - The Montpelier Ski & Skate Sale will return after being hiatus during the pandemic. Join us on Saturday, December 3rd at the Barre Auditorium from 9am – 2pm. Vendors will be able to drop off merchandise on Friday, December 2nd from 9am – 3pm. Merchandise drop-off will be open to the public from 3 – 7pm on that Friday.
    - Visit our website to learn more about the 2022 Ski & Skate Sale: [https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1309/Events](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1309/Events). Email or call our Recreation Sean Beckett shares different bird calls used to identify common birds of Vermont for upcoming bird counts in December and February.
• **2022-23 Pickleball Open Gym**
  - The Montpelier Recreation Center offers two indoor courts. We encourage 6 players per court with a 12 player max. Open gym is for adults (18+). Please bring your own paddles. The Recreation Department will supply balls to play on open gym days. All levels are welcomed. See below for days and times.
  - Find us on playerlineup.com. Search: “Montpelier Rec Center PB”
  - Open Gym Schedule (based on skill level)
    - Beginner: Mondays - 1:30 – 3:00 pm | Wednesdays - 9 – 10:30 am
    - Intermediate: Mondays & Thursdays - 9 – 10:30 am
    - Advanced: Wednesdays - 1:30 – 3:00 pm | Fridays - 9 – 10:30 am
  - Open Gym Fees:
    - Montpelier Residents: $4
    - Non-Montpelier Residents: $6

• **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 for programs 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

• **Capital Kids Afterschool Program (Winter Semester)**
  - The Capital Kids Afterschool Program is now beginning to register for the Winter semester starting on Monday, November 28th, 2022 through March 24th, 2023. Learn more: [https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1186/After-School-Childcare](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1186/After-School-Childcare)

• **Youth Basketball (Winter 2022-23)**
Drop it off to the side entrance lock box at the Senior Activity Center (58 Barre Street, Montpelier).

- **Sugarbush Youth Ski Program Winter 2022-23**
  - Sugarbush Resort is hosting our Youth Ski Program this winter. Join the Mt. Ellen Snow Blazers, and develop your foundational skills for skiing for years to come. Sign up on our registration forms page: [https://www.montpelier-vt.org/939/Registration-Forms](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/939/Registration-Forms). Contact our Programs Manager for more information: harias@montpelier-vt.org | (802) 225-8691.

- **Montpelier Parks**
  - **The Universally Accessible Interpretive Trail was featured!**
    - The Parks Department recently completed the first part of the Universally Accessible Interpretive Trail, and they were featured in the local news. WCAX aired a segment about the trail and interviewed walkers in the park, as well as our Parks Director Alec Ellsworth. Check it out on their website: [https://www.wcax.com/2022/10/23/hubbard-park-set-undergo-major-upgrades/](https://www.wcax.com/2022/10/23/hubbard-park-set-undergo-major-upgrades/)
Road Work

Main Street Repaving

Crews painted half of the road markings this week. Lines and markings are still needed in the middle of the construction zone. DPW has completed all other components of this project and the road now awaits line painting from the State’s contractor.

Many thanks to the community for your patience and accommodations during this project.

Paving Projects

All paving projects have been completed except for some final restoration and clean-up in some areas. DPW crews will be working on final improvements to Phelps Street in the coming days.

The following streets have been repaved:
- Roberts Street
- Pleasant View Street
- Wheelock Street
- Valerie Avenue
- Blodgett Avenue
- Phelps Street

East State Street

Crews will begin camera line work and jetting of the sewer main beginning the week of October 24th.

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)
Next week there could be some intermittent work taking place on the project. This work could result in some alternating one-way traffic using flaggers.

Route 2 Montpelier-Berlin NH Deck (48)
Next week the contractor will finish installing asphaltic joints, and line striping. This work will result in alternating one-way traffic using flaggers.

Other DPW Projects

**Stormwater Utility**
Creating a website in upcoming weeks for residents to get direct info
DPW presented their first report on this project to the City Council on Wednesday, October 26th, and is in the process of creating a dedicated page on the City’s website for this project. Information about this project was included on the Winter Parking Regulations information flyer that was sent out in the water/sewer bills this week.

The City Council approved awarding the contract to Brown and Caldwell who will develop the Montpelier Stormwater Utility and will help coordinate a robust public engagement process for this project.

DPW is actively performing infrastructure assessments, overviews, and data analysis as this project gets into full swing.
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.

What is a Stormwater Utility?
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.

**State Street Combined Sewer Overflow**
The City Council awarded the contract for this project to Hebert Excavation at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, October 26th. DPW will be working with Hebert Excavation to develop a project timeline and schedule, and crews may have the option to start construction this winter. DPW anticipates this project will be completed by July 1, 2023.
Main/Towne Hill Water Main Replacement

This project is nearly 75% complete. Crews have completed the storm work and water main crossing beneath the river. The remaining work includes connecting the new water main to the existing water main at the intersection of Main Street and Towne Hill Road. Travelers should expect minor delays while work is being completed at this intersection.

Residents should also expect another water shutdown in the coming weeks. DPW will provide as much notice as possible for this planned shutdown and will utilize VT-Alerts in addition to delivering notices directly to addresses affected. Register to receive VT-Alert here: https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert

Hebert Excavation began construction at the river crossing on October 11th at the intersection of Towne Hill Road and Main St. The culvert replacement has been completed, and crews are now working on replacing the water main, however, the large amount of ledge in this project area is causing a lot of difficulties.

Throughout the duration of construction, the street will remain available for access to homes, but travelers should expect occasional delays.

Background Info

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, and 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 this year and is anticipating starting construction by spring 2023. This project is being funded through ARPA grants and a Class 2 Highway Structure grant.
FAQs

“I read it in the DPWNews”

Shout-Outs
DPW would like to give a special shout-out to the volunteers of GRIT (Graffiti Removal Infrastructure Team) for their work removing graffiti from public and private structures around Montpelier. These before & after photos of the School Street bridge demonstrate a recent example of their phenomenal work. Thank you for helping to keep our community clean and welcoming! Go GRIT!

Before  

After

Confluence Park Clean-Up
On Monday, October 24, DPW cleaned up the river area at Confluence Park in tandem with other City staff. Crews removed an abundance of debris and trash from the river’s edge and embankment. Many thanks to the City staff who showed up to help with this project.

Leaf Pickup
Throughout October, DPW will be picking up bagged leaves left at the curbside. Bags should contain leaves only: No brush, garden debris, or flower stalks will be accepted. Leaves raked into the street MUST be bagged for removal, and all bags must be securely tied.

The leaf pick-up schedule is as follows:
Mondays: Barre Street to East State Street areas.
Tuesdays: East State Street to Main Street areas.
Wednesdays: Towne Hill, North Street, Elm Street, Cliff Street, Court Street, Meadow areas.

Thursdays: Terrace Street and Lower State Street area.

Fridays: Berlin Hill, River Street, Colonial Drive, and National Life Drive areas.

Street Sweepers Under Repair
Both DPW street sweepers are down and awaiting maintenance. DPW anticipates one of the machines will be ready for operation during the week of October 31st. DPW was notified that the new sweeper will be ready for pick-up in the upcoming weeks.

Staffing Shortages

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**Careers**

*Join Our Team!*

*Full job descriptions and requirements are posted on the City’s website: [Montpelier-vt.org/jobs](http://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
- (1) Equipment Division Supervisor
- (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...](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?

Montpelier Department of Public Works:

Phone: (802) 262-6276

Kurt Motyka, Interim Director  
**kmotyka@montpelier-vt.org**

Jasmine Benson, Project Assistant  
**jbenson@montpelier-vt.org**

Website: [https://www.montpelier-vt.org/167/Public-Works](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/167/Public-Works)

Facebook: Department of Public Works – City of Montpelier

**Emergency Dispatch:** (802) 223-3445