

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
01/17	OFFICES CLOSED FOR MLK JR DAY			
01/18	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
01/18	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
01/18	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
01/18	Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee	7:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
01/19	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
01/20	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
01/20	Montpelier Housing Task Force	5:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>

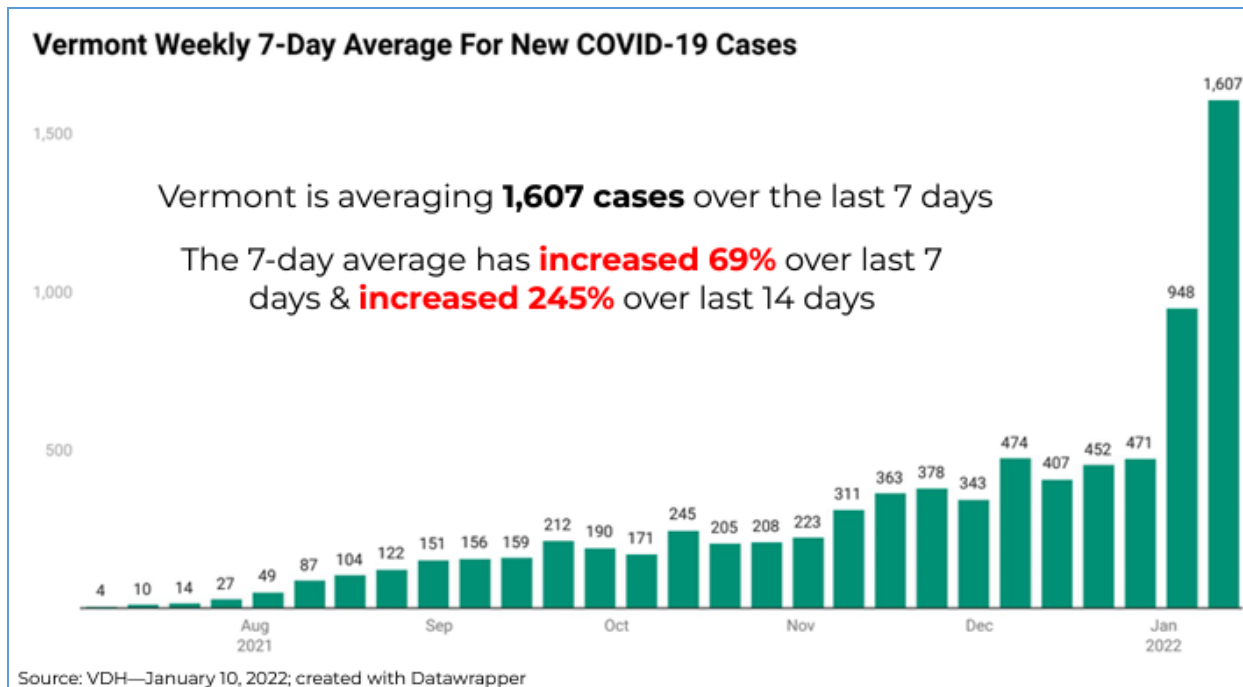


### Improve Public Health and Safety

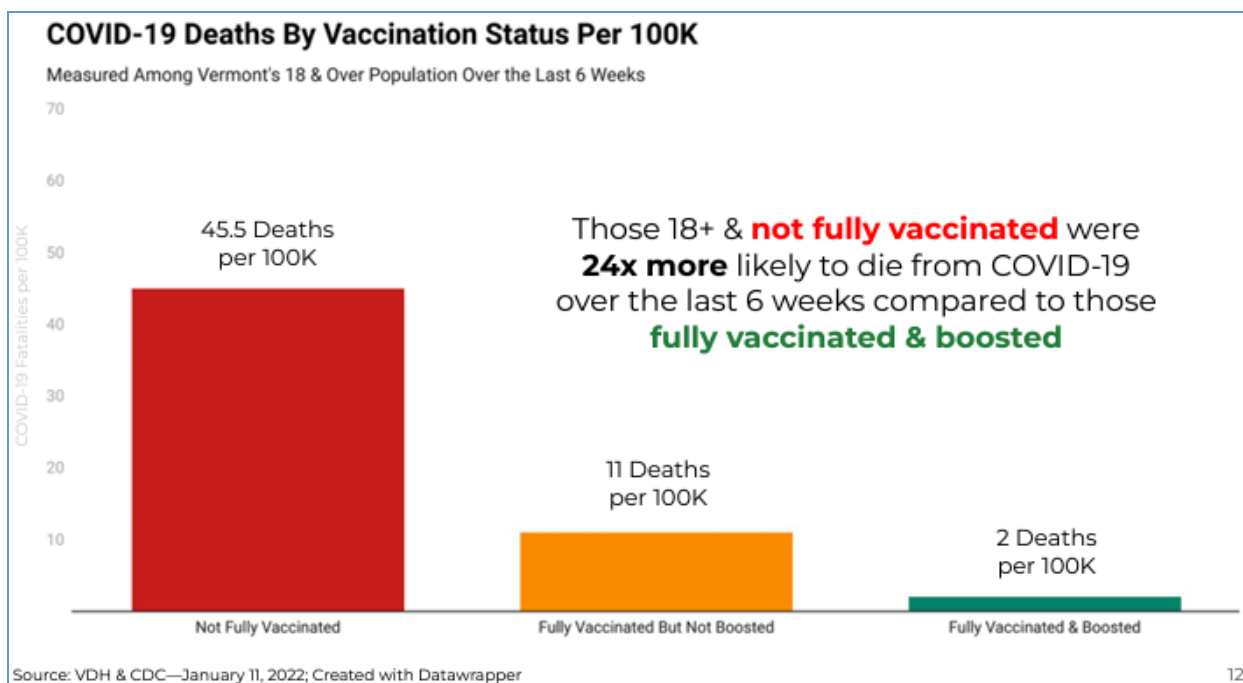
#### **COVID-19 Response- Updated**

**Update:** The State has released their [COVID-19 Modeling report, updated on January 11th, 2022.](#)

This most recent report shows how quickly cases have been rising in Vermont. The CDC now estimates Omicron is the dominate variant in New England, which is helping fuel a **245% increase in cases** over the last two weeks.



Vermont has continued seeing a rise in hospitalizations this week as with a 34% increase in the hospitalization average for COVID-19 cases- stressing our health-care system. Along with that statistic, the State again shared that those who are not fully vaccinated are 24x more likely to die from COVID-19 than those fully vaccinated and boosted.



It is very important that all who are eligible get vaccinated- it's never too late! [Find vaccination clinics](#)

[here](#), or call your preferred pharmacy.

### **New: “Say Yes” Rapid Test Program**

The first phase of the State’s [“Say Yes” rapid test pilot program](#) was both launched and ran out of at-home rapid test kits. The program is a partnership with National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Amazon, which allowed Vermonters to order 350,000 free rapid tests, which will be delivered to homes over the next one to two weeks.

“As expected, demand was very high and shows how much Vermonters understand the importance of testing as a way to protect their health and the people around them,” said Governor Scott. The State will continue to try to get supplies of more tests for Vermonters to order and will make them available as supply allows.



## **Practice Good Environmental Stewardship**



## **Responsible and Engaged Government**

### **March 1 Election**

The deadline for submitting ballot item petitions is Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submitting candidate petitions is Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Positions up for election include Mayor (2 years) Council Members Districts 1, 2, & 3 (2 years), Council Member District 3 (1 year), Green Mount Cemetery Commissioner (5 years), Green Mount Cemetery Commissioner (3 years), Green Mount Cemetery Commissioner (2 years), and Park Commissioner (5 years).

### **Budget**

The second and final public hearings on the budget, bonds, and annual meeting warning will be held this Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chambers and on zoom. This is the deadline for the City Council to determine what will go on the ballot for the March 1 election. An additional informational hearing for voters will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Strategic Plan**

The first quarterly report on the new Strategic Plan is scheduled for the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. We plan to have a full calendar for follow up items. This calendar will also be informed by the results of the March 1<sup>st</sup> voting.

### **Afghan Residents**

City officials have communicated with the Central Vermont Refugee Action Network (CVRAN) who is coordinating this relocation. They have provided information about needs and our team is working to provide resources accordingly. Potential projects being discussed include the following, and we encourage our community to reach out to CVRAN to find out more!

- Plan a City Hall event for the families to meet City Leadership, potentially in February
  - o Getting a translator in Pashto (all Afghani families in Montpelier speak Pashto as their primary language) to assist with the event.

- Create a welcome packet for each family containing the following:
  - o A welcome letter from City Manager (with Pashto translation).
  - o A care package with fruits, nuts and spices for cooking (cumin, coriander, turmeric, ginger, fennel, chilis).
  - o Welcome materials showcasing what Montpelier has to offer; including introductions to the culture and community events and activities in English but also Pashto translation.
- Library tour with Pashto translation
- Possible State House visit
- Giving residents resources to learn about Afghan culture and norms. The City is considering ways to assist with this community learning process.
- Helping find food assistance: the City will ask whether Hunger Mountain Coop could offer memberships to the families so that they could receive the member discounts on purchasing.
- The City is connecting with contacts at Downstreet, Montpelier Housing Authority, and some other rental agencies in town to assist with housing needs

**CVRAN Identified Resources Needed:**

- Housing: the families tend to be large and they need 2-3 bedroom places to live. Please connect with CVRAN if you would be able to accommodate these housing needs.
- Driver’s License Support: all the men of the families are going to need to obtain drivers licenses and so CVRAN is looking for people who would be willing to be drivers along with the learners. These need to be drivers who are patient, skilled at teaching, and available for many practice driving lessons.
- Sewing Teachers: a number of the women have access to sewing machines, but don’t know how to use them, so we’re looking for some patient teachers who could help with this. It would be wonderful to start having “sewing buddies” for these mothers who are otherwise very busy and isolated with so many children to look after.

More information on CVRAN can be found at their website: <https://cvran.org/> and they can be contacted at [cvran910@gmail.com](mailto:cvran910@gmail.com) or (802) 522-3011.

**Pending Legal**

- *Ferry, et al v. City of Montpelier.* Filing of multiple parties seeking to invalidate the City’s non-citizen voting charter amendment. The City is represented by Attorneys Michael Tarrant, Stephen Coteus, and Kimberly Devine. City’s motion to dismiss has been filed.
- *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.
- *IUOE Local 98 v. City of Montpelier.* DPW filing to Labor Board objection to the re-classification of one employee. City is represented by Attorney John Klesch.

**General Business Follow Up:**

1/12

- *Greyhound.* The City is reaching out to Greyhound to have them use the Transit Center instead of the current Main Street location
- *Body Camera records.* No records have been destroyed or hidden. No written proposal was provided to the City.



## Create More Housing



## Improve Community Prosperity

### Community Services Department Shared Info Updates/Events/Collaborations

**Montpelier Community Services Divisions (Parks & Trees, Recreation & Senior Activity Center):** To find information about our facilities, services and programs, visit the following linked websites/pages:

Parks & Trees, Recreation, Senior Activity Center (MSAC), News and Announcements, Special Events, Hubbard Park Expansion Project, Capital Kids Afterschool Childcare Program, Facility Rentals, FEAST Senior Meals on Wheels and Curbside Meals, FEAST Farm, MSAC at Home services, Adult/Teen Winter Classes. To subscribe to the MSAC e-letter/newsletter, email a request to [msac@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:msac@montpelier-vt.org). To subscribe to the Parks/Farm Volunteer e-list, email a request to [jhuettenmoser@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:jhuettenmoser@montpelier-vt.org). Facebook pages for the divisions are: Parks & Trees, Recreation, MSAC, (and FEAST Senior Meals).

### Montpelier Parks & Trees Division updates/events

#### Animal Tracking Intro Walk

**Sat. Jan. 22** | 10am (rain/snow date, 1/23) | Free | all ages | Join Naturalist Gail Johnson at the New Shelter at Hubbard Park for an easy walk. This is a first of a series about animal tracking. We'll learn the basics of how animals move which determines their track patterns. Every set of tracks reveals a story about the animal. Handouts and props will illustrate track patterns and shapes. Share on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/421648829693632>.

#### Profile of Park Commissioner, Kassia Randzio

The beauty and sovereignty of nature have always been central to Kassia Radzio's sense of self, and to her calling to serve..... Read the rest of Kassia's profile by Neville Berle that was published in MSAC's January newsletter on page 3 here.

**Ice on Fire:** Ice on Fire will be hosted in East Montpelier this year, and not through the City's Parks Department. This Year, AllTogetherNow! Community Arts Center in East Montpelier will be hosting the annual Ice on Fire event on Sunday, February 6, 2-5pm. AllTogetherNow!'s address is 170 Cherry Tree Hill Rd, East Montpelier, VT 05651

### Montpelier Recreation Division updates/events

**Weekly Updates:** Working with the state to have the lights connected on the Rink today. Skating Rink resurfaced today to smooth out the ice. Youth basketball continuing this weekend with no

spectators at this time. Open gym basketball going well for the winter season. Getting ready to recruit seasonal staff this next week for summer jobs. Looking into lifeguard training opportunities that are available this coming season for staff.

***Tae Kwon Do for Youth & Adults: spaces still remain and a Winter session just started***  
[Click here](#) to reach Registration forms page for these and other programs!

### Montpelier Senior Activity Center Division updates/events

***Senior Center Pauses In-person gatherings for two weeks, adds to COVID prevention strategies***

#### **MSAC Opens Again for Drop-in Groups**

Next Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> the Montpelier Senior Activity Center will again be open for Drop-in Groups to return. The City helped us purchase kn95 masks for staff use to ensure more safety for staff and members when they come visit, as well as the purchase of other safety equipment/supplies.

**FEAST Kitchen Gets New Equipment!** New Kitchen Equipment in the FEAST Kitchen, and Energy-Saving Support from Green Mountain Power, as reported by WCAX!

Just before the holidays, this happened in a flash, thanks to collaboration of many people and organizations. We're thrilled with the upgrades AND energy efficiency improvements!

**Senior Center's new drinking water fountains are green, up and running!** MSAC now has two modern, ADA accessible drinking water fountains for use by the public. One is near the 1st floor MSAC library in the lobby, and the other is near the elevator on the 2nd floor. You can step up with your water bottle and hold it underneath, saving countless disposable cups and dishwasher runs in MSAC's future. Thanks to the State of VT Building & General Services Facility Grant program for covering part of the cost, and to plumber Johnny Cloutier of BOLT Electric for pro-bono install support!

#### **Registration for Tax Clinics now Open**

Registration for the annual tax clinics is now open through the MSAC office – call 802-223-2518



**Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure**

#### **Stormwater Utility Committee**

The Montpelier City Council and Department of Public Works is looking to appoint members to the newly formed Stormwater Utility Committee. The committee has been tasked with building out/developing a new Stormwater utility and to present to City Council on their findings. The committee will solicit proposals to partner with a consultant to assist with the development of the utility. The Stormwater Utility Committee will work closely with the selected consultant to address the feasibility of the utility, the financial impacts of said utility, and engage the public throughout the development of the utility.

This committee has two Council representatives, Councilmembers Jay Ericson and Lauren Hierl who were appointed on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Committee is looking for additional members as follows: (2) staff liaisons, (1) member of the Friends of the Winooski, (3) members from related city commissions/committees such as the planning commission, conservation commission, development review board, Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee, or others and (1) member of the public. The ideal member of the public will have at least one of the following: background in finances, experience dealing with Stormwater, or development of other enterprise utilities.

If you are already on a committee and are interested in joining you and your chair should nominate yourself by sending an email to Zach Blodgett at the following email address [zblodgett@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:zblodgett@montpelier-vt.org). If you are a member of the public and interested in joining you will need to fill out a full application using the link below.

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/formcenter/boards-commissions-12/city-of-montpelier-boards-commissions-ap-60>

All nominations and applications are due by January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Committee appointments are scheduled to occur at the January 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting.



## Employment and Personnel Announcements

### **Milestone Work Anniversaries for January New**

The following employees have reached a milestone year in working for the City! Thank you so much to Chris, Heather, and Harry for their dedication to working for and improving our community. We appreciate you all very much.

Name	Department	2022 Service Anniversary (Years)
Chris Cox	DPW: Water Resource Recovery Facility	10
Heather Graves	Finance	5
Harry Divack	Community Services: Montpelier Senior Activity Center	5

### **Municipal Job Openings**

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

- **Police Department- Patrol Officers:** The Patrol Officer is responsible for the efficient



performance of required duties in conformance with the laws and the Department's rules, regulations and policies. Duties shall consist of, but are not necessarily limited to, a number of general police responsibilities necessarily necessary to the stability and safety of the community. For applications and more information, click [here](#) or email [recruiting@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:recruiting@montpelier-vt.org). We have one more open officer position.

- **City Assessor:** The City of Montpelier, Vermont (population 8,000), seeks qualified candidates for the position of City Assessor. This position directs the operations of the Assessor's Office and the inspection and valuation of 2,900 real and 500 personal property accounts in the City. The Assessor is responsible for all of the assessing functions of the City including appraisal and assessment of all properties, defense of values, maintenance of the City's parcel maps and other lists. The Assessor leads field functions in inspecting and valuing residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Work is performed under the administrative direction of the City Manager and in accordance with state statutes. The Assessor will be responsible for overseeing the contracted city-wide reappraisal in which all property in the City of Montpelier will be reappraised for the 2023 Grand List. Work on this initiative has begun as of October 2021. A minimum of 5 years of experience as a lister/assessor, or equivalent experience and education, is desired as well as a thorough knowledge of appraisal methodology, State laws pertaining to appraisal and assessing of property, the Current Use Program, and rules and procedures regarding maintenance of the City's Grand List. Knowledge of State mapping requirements and updating of the City parcel maps is also required. If interested, please submit your resume and letter of interest to City Manager Bill Fraser at [wfraser@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:wfraser@montpelier-vt.org) or by mail at City of Montpelier, City Hall, 39 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. This position is open until filled.



## Reminders

### **Social Worker Available to Residents**

The Montpelier Police Department, the Barre City Police Department and Washington County Mental Health have partnered in providing an onsite social worker to help residents in crisis or needing an extra hand during the pandemic. If you would like to speak to Susan please contact her through email at: [susan.lemere@wcmhs.org](mailto:susan.lemere@wcmhs.org) or contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

### **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>
- Or stream via ORCA's YouTube channel during meetings here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/orcamedia>

### **City-wide Reappraisal Property Inspections Have Begun!**

We have begun the process of a city-wide reappraisal of all real property. Representatives from the New England Municipal Consultants will visit each property in the city to gather data. The inspection process will start in late 2021 and continue through the spring of 2023. NEMC will mail notices to property owners in advance of conducting inspections.



**Stump Dump:**

Need to get rid of lawn debris, stumps, and branches? The City Stump Dump is open! Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please call the City Garage at 802-223-9510 before going to dump to approve of your items!

**Trash Receptacles:**

As a resident of Montpelier, are you wondering about the best area to place a trash receptacle for trash pickup? Please, always, place trash receptacles for pick up at the corner of the driveway, behind the sidewalk. If you do not have a sidewalk on your street, please place receptacles on the corner of the drive, in the street closest to the curb. (Not obstructing traffic). Please do not please receptacles within the sidewalk.

Questions? Please contact Jasmine Benson with DPW at 802-223-9508.

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items ( <i>TENTATIVE</i> )			
1/20/22 <u>Thursday</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> PH/Budget Adoption</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> PH on Bonds</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> PH on Warning/Adoption</li> <li>• CVPSA Status</li> <li>• Audit Report</li> <li>• Consideration of Petitions</li> <li>• Bond Necessity Resolutions</li> <li>• Mask Mandate extension</li> <li>• Strategic Plan Update</li> </ul>	2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJC Introduction</li> <li>• Police Committee Follow Up</li> <li>• Guertin Park</li> <li>• City Manager Review and Contract</li> <li>• Mask Mandate extension</li> </ul>
2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> PH on Bonds</li> <li>• Budget information meeting</li> <li>• Parklet Ordinance</li> </ul>	3/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Meeting Election</li> </ul>
3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational Meeting</li> <li>• Elect Officers</li> <li>• Rules of Procedure</li> <li>• Ethics Policy</li> <li>• Committee Assignments</li> <li>• Mask Mandate extension</li> <li>• Election results review</li> </ul>	3/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning Revisions?</li> <li>• Reaffirm Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask Mandate Update</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financials</li> </ul>	4/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Plan Update</li> </ul>

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

## **CURRENT PENDING ITEMS**

Housing Task Force Report follow up  
Zoning revisions –March 23?  
City Master Plan – Fall/Winter 2022  
12-16 Main St. site planning  
Conduit Policy

### **From Strategic Plan for future agendas:**

Economic Development – Strategic Plan, TIF, Tax Stabilization  
Workforce Development program  
City Committee recruitment/stipends (also with budget)

- ✓ Coordination with CAN –11/17

Equity Action Plan recommendations  
Planning Department exercises

- ✓ PFAS Alternatives – 11/17

Stormwater Utility  
Homelessness Plan

- ✓ Police Review Committee recommendations - started on 11/10, to be continued on 2/9

Mutual Aid Issues with Middlesex and Berlin  
Update Barriers to Housing Study

### **From Strategic Plan for Budget Discussion:**

- ✓ Confluence Park Funding – in proposed bond
- ✓ Dam Removal Study – in Capital Reserve funding
- ✓ Early Childcare Feasibility Study – included with work on new Rec Center
  - Economic Development Funding - \$50,000 in budget, not full \$100,000
- ✓ Website improvement/Communications platforms – upgrade in budget, communications in ARPA2
- ✓ Fund ADA transition plan items – In CIP
- ✓ Fully Staff city departments – in budget
- ✓ Housing Trust Fund – fully funded at \$110,000 in budget
- ✓ Housing and Services Hub – funded in ARPA 2
- ✓ Net Zero Plan recommendations –first project in proposed bond
- ✓ Implementing Green Print – trail project in budge
- ✓ Construct Public Restrooms – funded in ARPA 2
- ✓ Recreation Building – proposed bond to purchase property
  - Fund Capital Plan – funding increased from FY22 but not back to target levels
- ✓ Maintain 70 PCI on streets – target funding included in CIP and Capital Reserve
  - Expand Peer Support and Social Worker capacity – 0.5 FTE expansion proposed, 1.0 FTE left unfunded
- ✓ Implement CIT program – Included in Police budget
- ✓ Implement Police Review recommendations – body worn cameras in CIP, many other recommendations in police budget
  - Implement Televate communications infrastructure plan – Funding approved in FY22 held over for use with potential build out of all or some of this plan

### **From Strategic Plan for Staff Action:**

✓ Rec & Parks as Economic Driver – seeking to acquire Elks club, recently purchased new Park land  
Expand hours of childcare program  
Work with developers for more housing  
Support Christ Church housing project  
2022 VHCB grant application for housing and services hub  
Complete projects included in budget  
Expand CJC support to MPD

✓ Protect Berlin Pond Watershed – negotiating for land purchase