

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
02/01	Transportation Infrastructure Committee	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
02/02	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
02/02	Complete Streets Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link

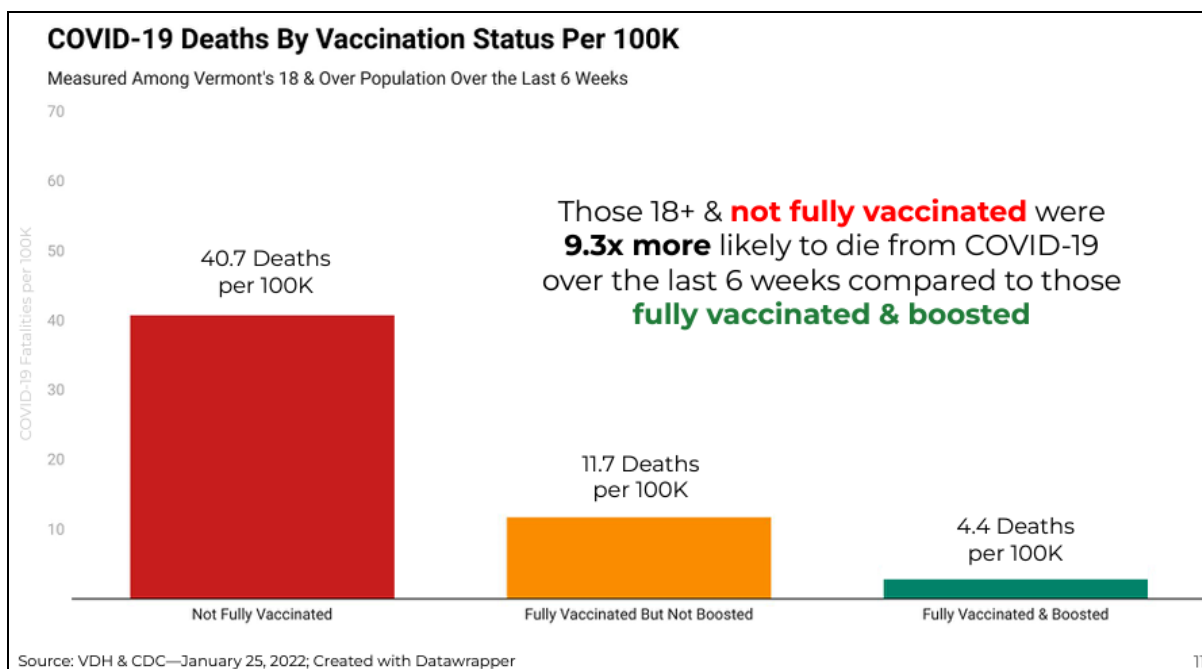


Improve Public Health and Safety

COVID-19 Response- Updated

Update: The State has released their [COVID-19 Modeling report, updated on January 25th, 2022](#). According to the report, COVID-19 cases remain elevated in Vermont, with the daily number of new infections averaging over 1,000. However, the state reported nearly 2,900 fewer cases this week than last, with us finally seeing a decrease of cases. Even with that news, Vermont has now reported over 100,000 confirmed infections.

The report still emphasizes the fact that those aged 18 and older & not fully vaccinated were more likely to be hospitalized or **die** from COVID-19 over the last 6 weeks compared to those who are fully vaccinated & 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.

Update: Federal Government Rapid COVID-19 Test Program

You can order at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests from the Federal Government at www.covidtests.gov. This is a Biden Administration's initiative, and is similar to the "[Say Yes COVID Test](#)" program piloted by the State. Through this new federal program, each household is eligible to receive four tests, which are expected to ship within 7-12 days of ordering. Supplies are limited. Any Vermonter without internet access can call the Governor's Constituent Services Office at (802) 828-3333 for assistance in filling out the online request form.

Update: 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](#).

COVID-19 Reminders:

- COVID-19 vaccination appointments are open for children ages 5 to 11!
Appointments for school-based and state-run clinics can be made at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/vaccines-children> or by calling 855-722-7878.

Warming

The Memorial Room in City Hall has been open for warming purposes during the recent cold spell. It has had regular use with from anywhere between 1-2 and 8-10 people at a time. Thus far it has worked well with no issues. We are developing a policy for use.

Lockers

The Leadership team is looking at options for providing outdoor lockers soon for people with that need.



Practice Good Environmental Stewardship

Home Farm Way Property new

The City remains in conversations with the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) about the future of this property. PTV and VHCB are taking the lead to resolve the complicated ownership issues. It is very likely that the City will become owners of the 15 acre parcel in the back which abuts the river. The 2 acre parcel with the old house is less clear at this time.



Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

February City Council Meetings: City Council, in a reaction to the increase in community transition of COVID-19 and per the authority in the Vermont S.222 Act, will move both of their February Council Meetings to remote only. Council meetings in February will only be held via Zoom.

March 1 Election update

The deadline for candidate filing was Monday, January 24th. We appreciate all people who have filed as candidates for city and school positions. Our local government needs residents who are willing to serve in those capacities.

Budget Information new

The Budget outline will be included in the annual report which is published and posted in February. There will be a complete summary in the February 9th edition of the *Montpelier Bridge*.

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 or (802) 522-3011.

Advocacy new

As reviewed at the last meeting, the City has entered into an agreement with Leonine for advocacy services effective this past week. I am meeting with them today to go over our priorities.

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.* **Update** Greyhound is making plans to transfer service to the Transit Center, probably in February.



Create More Housing



Improve Community Prosperity

Community Services Department Shared Info Updates/Events/Collaborations

Montpelier Senior Activity Center

February’s Newsletter: Hot off the Press, see February’s newsletter and all MSAC updates here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/8049/February-2022-MSAC-Newsletter>

Lunar New Year Celebration: Join MSAC Director Sarah Lipton, instructor Ellie Hayes and friends at Kellogg Hubbard Library next Tuesday, February 1st for a wide variety of celebrations, including a yummy Curbside pickup meal. Learn more here: <https://www.kellogghubbard.org/adult-programs>

Calling all Volunteers: We are gearing up to celebrate all of our amazing volunteers with a special Curbside pickup luncheon on Monday, February 14th! Call to reserve your special lunch if you are a volunteer: 802-223-2518

Recreation Update

The skating rink is looking great going into this weekend. Temperature's look to be favorable for the good ice. We are now accepting applications for seasonal positions such as Lifeguards, Day Camp Counselors, and seasonal maintenance staff if you are interested in applying you can click [here](#) to find more information.

Parks Updates

Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps (MYCC) Spring Semester Begins:

Montpelier Parks is excited to welcome 7 Solons from MHS to join our Parks crew twice a week for important work around the City. They will be with us through the end of June and engage in a huge variety of outdoor conservation-related work. If you see them around please tell them thanks for their contribution to our community!

Montpelier Parks is hiring for the Summer!

We are seeking a half-year, full time Americorps member to run our FEAST Farm Camp. This is a great summer camp program that we piloted last year and are hoping to grow this year. This person will have the chance to work with our crew to shape the program and develop an on-farm camp program that provides a meaningful summer experience for local youth. Experience with summer camps and/or child care is required. More information about the position can be found at: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=109344>.

Hubbard Park Expansion Update:

We have secured the 78-acre Hubbard Park Expansion, and are continuing to fundraise for a summer Youth Conservation Corps to improve trails and install infrastructure. More information is available at www.montpelier-vt.org/parkexpansion.

Ski Trails Update:

With all this recent snow we've been enjoying some fabulous nordic skiing here in the Montpelier area. Montpelier Parks and Onion River Nordic Ski Club maintain our trail networks together. We post daily updates on trail conditions to our facebook/instagram pages as well as Front Porch Forum. You can find maps and information about all the networks at <https://onionrivernordic.org/>. Here's a short summary of where you can ski, snowshoe, fatbike, etc.:

- Hubbard Park: Groomed trails on public lands, Dogs allowed off leash, walkers OK, fat bikes OK in places.
- North Branch Park & Nature Center: Groomed trails on public/private lands, dogs allowed on-leash, walkers OK, fat bikes OK.
- Capitol City Golf Club: Groomed trail on private land for skate skiing and school team practice. No dogs, no walkers, no fat bikes.

- North St. Trails: Groomed trails on private land, wider in places for skating. Snow shoes OK, No dogs, no walkers, no fat bikes currently.
- U-32 & MHS: Groomed trails for school teams. Public access outside of 2-5pm. No dogs, no walkers, no fat bikes.

Ice on Fire Cancelled:

Due to concerns about COVID, we've decided to cancel this year's Ice on Fire event. All Together Now will be holding a smaller alternative event in East Montpelier. Stay tuned for more information on alternative plans in our Parks.



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 25th, 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. 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 still open. Committee appointments will occur at an upcoming council meeting.



Employment and Personnel Announcements

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. **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 or by mail at City of Montpelier, City Hall, 39 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. **This position is open until filled.**
- **Seasonal Park/Recreation Maintenance Staff:** Spring-Summer-Fall Mowing, driving tractors, maintaining sports fields, keeping parks and facilities clean. This is a busy, hands-on physical job that requires some heavy lifting and being on your feet for long periods of time. Visit <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/869/Employment> for more information about the positions available and how to apply. Or call 225-8699, 9am-4pm to inquire.
- **Looking for Summer Pool Staff!** The Montpelier Recreation Department is seeking seasonal pool staff for the municipal swimming pool this summer. Full and part-time positions are available. Staff will start work June 11 - August 21. There will be pre-season training prior to the start of the pool season. Training dates to be announced. Responsibilities would include supervising patron activity in and around the swimming pool, teaching swimming lessons, and front desk responsibilities. Applicants who do not hold a current Lifeguard certification could be accepted contingent on successful completion of a lifeguard course prior to the pool opening date, and reimbursement would be paid at end of season. Please submit a resume and cover letter describing your interest and qualifications. Please submit to amcmullen2@montpelier-vt.org or Montpelier Recreation Department, 58 Barre Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. Please submit

applications by March 31. The City of Montpelier is an Equal Opportunity Employer

- **EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHER/CLERK:** The Montpelier Police Department is seeking applications for the position of Emergency Dispatcher/Clerk. This part-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. The position requires a considerable degree of initiative and independent judgment within procedural boundaries in responding to emergency and non-emergency situations. The dispatcher is also the first point of contact for those that come to the police station seeking assistance.
- **Streets Maintenance Worker Truck Driver, Level 1:** Montpelier, Vermont has a current opening for a Street Maintenance worker within the Streets Division of Public Works. 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.
- **Water/Sewer Truck Driver Level 1:** Montpelier, Vermont has a current opening in the Water-Sewer Division of Public Works. 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.



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 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 (TENTATIVE)			
2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CJC Introduction• Police Committee Follow Up• City Manager Review and Contract• Public Records Fees?• Mask Mandate extension	2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2nd PH on Bonds• Budget information meeting• Parklet Ordinance
3/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Meeting Election	3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizational Meeting• Elect Officers• Rules of Procedure• Ethics Policy• Committee Assignments• Mask Mandate extension• Election results review
3/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoning Revisions?• Reaffirm Strategic Plan• VRC Confluence Park	4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mask Mandate Update• 3rd Quarter Financials• Community Center update• Water/Sewer Fund Budgets• Zoning Revisions
4/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Plan Update• Zoning Revisions	5/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water/Sewer Rates• District Heat• Public Bathrooms
5/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telecommunications Infrastructure Update (CVPSA)• Conduit Policy	6/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Development Strategic Plan• TIF/Tax Stabilization Updates• Workforce Development Plan?

			• 12-16 Main St?
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? = Date is tentative, may shift to a different date

CURRENT PENDING STRATEGIC ITEMS

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

Month	Tentative Topic(s)
February	CJC Introduction and Grant Updates / PRC Recommendations (tentative)
March	Zoning Changes and Housing Project Updates/ VRC Confluence Park Presentation
April	Community Center Updates
May	Public Restrooms/ District Heat (end of heating-season wrap up)
June	Economic Development – Strategic Plan, TIF, Tax Stabilization Updates/ Workforce Development program
July	Stipend Implementation Plan Recommendation (from SEJAC)
August	Website Updates / Capital Area Neighborhoods Presentation/ Stormwater Utility Updates (tentative)
September	Economic Development Strategic Plan Contract (Launch) / Strat Planning/ Accomplishments and Future Plans for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development / Review Community Survey results
October	Creative Discourse Recommendations Status Update/ Strat Planning
November	ADA Transition Projects/ Net Zero Projects Update/ FEAST Program Updates/ **BUDGET** / PFAS Updates
December	**BUDGET**

Topics Pending Scheduling:

Homelessness Plan

- Mutual Aid Issues with Middlesex and Berlin
- Update Barriers to Housing Study
- City Master Plan (Fall/Winter 2022)