

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
10/24	Montpelier Community Fund Board	4:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom
10/24	Planning Commission	5:30 PM	Zoom and City Council Chambers	Agenda and Zoom
10/25	Historic Preservation Commission Special Meeting	6:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom
10/25	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom
10/26	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom

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!](#)

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 19th, 2022](#).

For this seven-day reporting period, the rate of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Vermonters is below 200.

- New COVID-19 admissions are above 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: 106.09 per 100k o Weekly case count: 662 (increase from previous week)
- New hospital admissions of patients with COVID-19, last 7 days: 11.70 per 100K o 73 total new admissions with COVID-19 (increase from previous week)
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with COVID-19 (7-day average): 4.25% (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](#).

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 new

DPW will be leading a large group of employees and volunteers in cleaning garbage from the river and river banks in the area of Confluence Park and the Transit Center on Monday the 24th.

Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

Polco (National Citizen Survey) Community Survey update

This survey can be viewed on the [city's website](#) and the direct link is [here](#). We have received the final report and will be reviewing with the Council next week.

FY24 Budget new

Assistant City Manager Murphy (in the last stages of her Finance Director role) will be outlining the budget schedule, process, and preliminary outlook at next week's meeting. A summary memo is included with the agenda. We expect this to be a very challenging year.

General Business 10/12

- Public Records Request: Have responded, waiting for narrowing of request or confirmation of fees for voluminous vague search,
- Garbage in River: Clean up has been scheduled multiple times but canceled due to unsafe conditions. VOSHA requirements are in place. Currently scheduled for Monday the 24th.
- CAN: Relationship with Sustainable Montpelier Coalition re: CAN is still being reviewed. Recommendation will be forthcoming at a future meeting.

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*. 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

Country Club Road Site

Two fairly well attended community meetings were held this week. One at the site on Saturday the 15th and the other at City Hall on Wednesday the 19th. The third and final session in this series will be held via zoom on Thursday the 27th at noon. Link for that meeting is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87192345422>.

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

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 5 applications to date.

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](#) 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-ameri-corps/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 \(montpelier-vt.org\)](https://montpelier-vt.org/jobs)

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 VHC B 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-ameri-corps/positions>

Congratulations to Sgt. Wade Cochran new

Although we hate to lose him, especially with such a short staffed police department already, we sincerely congratulate Sgt. Cochran on being named Police Chief in Norwich, Vermont. Sgt. Cochran has been with MPD for 17 years and has been an outstanding performer. We wish him the best in his new role as Chief.

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:

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Schedule • Stormwater Utility update • WRRF Update • Communications update – strategy, website, CAN, survey • Preliminary Budget Discussion • Homelessness Task Force request 	11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Update? • Energy Update – buildings, fleet, other • TIF/Tax Stabilization update • Barriers to Housing? • FEAST Update • Fireworks? • Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development • Emerald Ash Borer Update
11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Agenda • Charter Changes • Potential Ordinance re: building violations and zoning permits? 	12/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget • Possible Charter Change • Audit Report • Country Club Road Site update
12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget • Charter Change discussion • PRC – Progress Update 	1/4	Budget Workshop
1/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First PH Budget • First PH Warning • Adopt Charter Language • First PH Bonds • Homelessness Plan? 	1/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If needed for budget
1/25 or 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd PH and adopt Budget • 2nd PH and adopt Warning • PH on Charter Changes • 2nd PH Bonds • Review petitions 	2/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
2/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Club Road Site update? 	3/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Meeting Election

? = 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:

Month	Tentative Topic(s)
November	ADA Transition Projects/ Net Zero Projects Update/ FEAST Program Updates/ **BUDGET** , Future Plans for Outdoor Recreation and Economic, Development Parks Commission Survey
December	**BUDGET**

- 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

Community Services Department Report | Week of October 10 – October 14, 2022

Office Notice for Community Services Department

Office Hours:

- **Monday – Thursday** 9am – 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) starting Monday, October 17th for quicker response.

Community Services Department News

- **Montpelier PLACE – History of the Land: Hubbard Park**
 - Next Saturday, October 22nd, landscape historian Samantha Ford of Turn Stone Research will host a hike and lecture in Hubbard Park about the built environment and history of Hubbard Park. Discover Montpelier's history and the origin of the conservation movement using hidden clues in the form of stone walls, witness trees, barbed wire, and more. This event is part of the [Montpelier PLACE program](#), 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! All events are free with no registration required.

- Our previous Montpelier PLACE event, 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>. 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 Classes: Don't Miss Out!**
 - *Somatic movement: Move it or Lose it with Amy LePage - starts 10/28*
 - *Neurodiversity & the Aging Brain with Dr. Mel Houser - starts 11/2*
 - *Healthy Gluten-Free Cooking with Lisa Masé -11/5*
 - *English Country Dancing with Val Medve & Friends - starting 11/7*
 - *...and a few more!*
 - *Stop by our office to register.*
- **MSAC Advisory Council & Committees:** The MSAC Advisory Council met this past week and is now looking for one-two new members. If you know anyone who would like to be in on the ground-floor of planning for the sustainable growth of the future of MSAC, reach out to the Chair, Dianne Maccario: <mailto:dxm04280@retiree.ccv.edu>. The Fundraising and Finance Committees also met this week to review everything MSAC is currently planning.
- **FEAST will offer Congregate Meals again in November:** 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!
- **Osher Lectures return to MSAC next week:** Osher is offering their Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) lectures at MSAC this fall from September to November with an incredible line-up of presentations. We took a break this week but will return next Wednesday with a

talk from Rick DeAngelis of Good Samaritan Haven. "Homelessness is Everyone's Problem" will explore the underlying causes of homelessness, how we need to reassess our understanding of what it means to be homeless, and what our response should be to this crisis.

- Join us at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, October 19th, 2022 for the next OLLI Series lecture. Register online: <https://learn.uvm.edu/program/osher-lifelong-learning/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 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>. Email or call our Recreation Programs Manager Haidi Arias with questions related to the Ski & Skate Sale: harias@montpelier-vt.org | (802) 225-8691.
- **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>. 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>
- **Youth Basketball (Winter 2022-23)**
 - Youth Basketball registration for the Winter 2022-23 season is now open for grades K-2 and 3-6. Sign up online at bit.ly/MontpelierCSRegistration. Or download the registration form on our website: www.montpelier-vt.org/939/Registration-Forms. Drop it off to the side entrance lock box at the Senior Activity Center (58 Barre Street, Montpelier).

Montpelier Parks

- **Enchanted Forest on October 14th and 15th, 2022**
 - Enchanted Forest is returning to Hubbard Park this weekend on October 14th and 15th. Check our Facebook page [@MontpelierParks](https://www.facebook.com/MontpelierParks) to see the highlights.

Road Work

Main Street Repaving

Except for painting road markings, this project is complete! 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

During the week of October 24th, 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. Paving is also tentatively scheduled for the week of October 24th.

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

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 they will be finishing up line striping and installing the asphaltic joints on each side of the crossing. This work has been scheduled but the weather has not cooperated. This work could result in some alternating one-way traffic using flaggers.

Route 2 Montpelier-Berlin NH Deck (48)

Next week the contractor will continue to remove the material from the temporary roadway and install asphaltic joints, and landscaping. This work will result in alternating one-way traffic using flaggers.

Other DPW Projects

Storm Water Utility

DPW will be hosting another meeting with the construction committee Friday, October 21st, and will present to the City Council on October 26th. 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 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”

Confluence Park Clean-up

On Monday, October 24, DPW, in tandem with other City staff, will begin clean-up in Confluence Park in. Clean-up is scheduled to start at 9:30 am and will focus on the area near the Winooski River.

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 is reaching out to vendors for an interim rental.

Careers

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
- (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...>

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

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Benson, Project Assistant

jbenson@montpelier-vt.org