

## Weekly Report December 30, 2022

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
1/3/23	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
1/3/23	Montpelier Housing Committee	6:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
1/3/23	Montpelier Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	7:00 PM	Zoom Only	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
1/3/23	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
1/4/23	Social and Economic Justice Advisory Board	8:00 AM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
1/4/23	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
1/4/23	Complete Streets	5:30 PM	City Manager's Conference Room	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
1/6/23	Stormwater Utility Committee	1:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>

## Improve Public Health and Safety

### COVID-19 Updates:

**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 for December 28, 2022](#)

- New COVID-19 cases, last 7 days: 66.03 per 100k
  - Weekly case count: 412
- New hospital admissions of patients with COVID-19, last 7 days: 5.29 per 100K
  - 33 total new admissions with COVID-19
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with COVID-19 (7-day average): 3.90%

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

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](#)

## Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

### City Council

Mayor Anne Watson and District 2 Council Member Conor Casey officially resigned last week so that they may turn their focus to their new roles as State Senator and State Representative respectively. Mayor Watson served a total of 10 years as Council Member and Mayor, while Council Member Casey served for 5 years.

The Council appointed Pelin Kohn to fill the vacant District 2 seat. She will serve until the March election when the remaining year of that term will be filled by the voters.

The City will not have a Mayor until the March election day when the remaining year of that term will also be filled by the voters. In the interim, Council President Jack McCullough will assume all duties which normally fall to the Mayor.

### Budget :

The City Council adopted a preliminary budget last week. The budget will not be finalized until the completion of the public hearing process.

*January 11* – First public hearing on budget and related items

January 26 (Thursday) – Second and final public hearings on budget and related items.  
Deadline for adoption.

All budget materials are available on the City’s website. Departmental budget presentation videos have been posted for public review/

**Charter Changes update:**

We anticipate that two charter changes may be considered this year including local option sales tax and stormwater utility.

<i>Discussion</i>	December 21, 2022
<i>Discussion, Adopt language to file with Clerk (at least 10 days prior to 1<sup>st</sup> PH)</i>	January 11, 2023
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing (at least 30 days in advance of voting)</i>	January 26, 2023
<i>20 days prior to election for revisions</i>	February 1, 2023 (if needed)
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing</i>	February 22, 2023

**Pending Legal**

- *Appeal of Zoning Permit.* Neighbors have appealed DRB approval of a permit to move a barn structure. City is represented by Attorney David Rugh. We are monitoring the case. Filings by appellants challenging the validity of sections of the city’s zoning ordinance have been dropped.
- *Abdo Banfield v. City of Montpelier.* A decision has been rendered in the Abdo Bandfield case. In the original application, the property owner at 25 Cliff Street, Mr. Foelsche, was installing an access drive for some solar panels on his property. By state law, solar facilities are regulated by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) under 30 V.S.A. § 248 and are exempt from local zoning. The City therefore limited its review to the temporary access road needed for building the solar installation. The City Zoning Administrator approved the project and issued an administrative permit for the temporary access road, which was appealed to the DRB by a neighbor, Ms. Bandfield. Following a public hearing on the matter, the DRB also approved the issuance of the permit. Ms. Bandfield then further appealed construction of the access road to the Environmental Division of Superior Court. In his decision, Judge Walsh determined that the access road is part of the solar facility which had been approved by the PUC and thus not subject to review under the scope of the City’s zoning authority. As a result, the City’s zoning permit is void, Ms. Bandfield’s appeal is dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction in the Environmental Division, and Mr. Foelsche can proceed with his project.
- *Ferry et al v. City of Montpelier.* This case, concerning non-citizen voting, was argued in the Vermont Supreme Court on Wednesday October 27<sup>th</sup>. Case is pending decision from the Court.

## Create More Housing

### **Country Club Road Project**

Our consultants will make a full presentation to the Council and community on January 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be followed by three public forums on January 28<sup>th</sup> (on site), February 2<sup>nd</sup> (at City Hall) and February 9<sup>th</sup> (online).

## 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:** A conditional offer has been made and accepted. We will have an announcement upon successful completion of background checks,

**Police Chief Update:** Chief Eric Nordenson was sworn in on Wednesday.

**Montpelier Police Department Updates (NEW):** The Montpelier Police Department is excited to share that they are down to three vacancies with three candidates registered to attend the 115th basic police academy class in Feb. 2023. After 18 weeks of training, they will officially join the department and begin their field training with veteran officers of the Montpelier Police Department.

### **Municipal Job Openings**

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

**FT Police Department- Officers:** The Montpelier Police Department has three police officer vacancies, if you have ever considered a career in law enforcement, now may be your time. To apply: <https://www.policeapp.com/Entry-Level-City-of-Montpelier-VT-Police-OfficerJobs/2921/>

**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.

## 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*)

<b>1/11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First PH Budget</li> <li>• First PH Warning</li> <li>• Adopt Charter Language</li> <li>• First PH Bonds if needed</li> <li>• Homelessness Plan?</li> <li>• Call special election for Mayor</li> </ul>	<b>1/18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Club Road</li> </ul>
<b>1/26 Thursday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> PH and adopt Budget</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> PH and adopt Warning</li> <li>• PH on Charter Changes</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> PH Bonds</li> <li>• Review petitions</li> </ul>	<b>2/8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Manager's Review</li> <li>• Fireworks?</li> <li>• Confluence Park</li> <li>• Potential Ordinance re: • building violations and zoning permits?</li> </ul>
<b>2/22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Club Road Site</li> <li>• PH on Charter Changes</li> <li>• ADA update</li> </ul>	<b>3/7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Meeting Election</li> </ul>
<b>3/8</b>	Organizational Meeting	<b>3/22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Strategic Plan</li> <li>• CIT Update</li> </ul>
<b>4/12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside Agencies Policy</li> </ul>	<b>4/26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

? = 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
- Casella re: leachate – spring 2023

# CURRENT PENDING STRATEGIC PLAN ITEMS

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

Month	Tentative Topic(s)
December	<b>**BUDGET**</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City Master Plan (Summer 2023)</li><li>• Homelessness Plan (January)</li><li>• Barriers to Housing (in City Plan)</li></ul> <p><i>Note: items in the recently approved plan update have not yet been scheduled</i></p>

## Community Services Department Report Week in Review: December 26 – 30th

- **Senior Activity Center:**
  - **Offices Closed This Week**
  - **Closed January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the holidays**
  - **Open for business as usual January 3-6: 8:30-4pm**
- **Recreation Department Office Hours:**
  - **Monday – Friday | 8:30am – 4pm\* Office closed on**
- **Parks & Trees inquiries can be fielded at either office.**

Community Services Program Guide  
can now be found online:  
<https://www.montpelier-vt.org>

### Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) News

January Newsletter now Available: [please click here](#)

**MSAC Works on Strategic Plan for Calendar year 2023:** MSAC Director, Sarah Lipton, with support from the MSAC Advisory Council, is currently in progress on many large maps to draw out the strategic plans for how MSAC will accomplish fiscal and service goals. Goals, strategies and initiatives are being called out to support all the operations of MSAC moving into the new calendar year. Staff will be entering a 2-day planning retreat on January 12-13 to map out the calendar for the year as well as engage in empowering activities to ensure a smooth, sustainable and enriching work environment for everyone.

**Seeking some Fun??** Join our wide variety of drop-in groups, most open to all ages. Hanking for music? Poetry? Drumming? Dancing? Community service? Games? Coffee & Conversation? Book discussions? Meals? Drag Bingo? We've got it all!

#### **Drop In Groups**

*\$5 suggested donation appreciated for drop-in groups to help keep our space beautiful.*

**Monday Walks** | Mondays | 9:30 am | on-going | meetup locations vary week to week  
**Coffee & Conversations** | Mondays | 9:30-10:30 am | on-going | MSAC Community Room  
**Artists Group In-Person at MSAC** | Mondays 10am-12 pm | MSAC Art Room  
**Beginner-Friendly English Country Dance** | 4 Mondays (Starts 2/27) 7-9 pm | MSAC Community Room  
**Readers' Choice** | Tuesdays | 12:45 - 1:45 pm | MSAC Activity Room  
**Italian Group** | Tuesdays | 1:15 - 2:30 pm | MSAC Resource Room  
**Scrabble** | Tuesdays & Fridays 1-3pm | MSAC Art Room  
**Trash Tramps Outdoors** | Tuesdays | 2:00 pm | meets at 1:50 pm inside MSAC  
**Winter Poetry Group** | every other Wednesday | 10-11:30 pm | MSAC Resource Room  
**Crafters Group In-Person at MSAC** | Wednesdays | 12-2:30 pm | MSAC Art Room  
**Bridge** | Thursdays | 12:30-3:15 pm  
**Community Jam with Experienced Musicians** | Biweekly 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 6:15-8pm | MSAC Community Room  
**Ukulele Players** | Biweekly 2nd & 4th Thursdays | 3:30-5pm | MSAC Community Room  
**Life Long Qi Gong** | Fridays | 11:45 am - 12:15 pm | MSAC Activity Room  
**The Rhythm Method** | Fridays | 2:30 - 3:30 pm | MSAC Activity Room  
**Mah Jongg** | Fridays 1:00-3:30 pm

#### Montpelier Recreation News

- **Registration: NO REGISTRATION OVER THE PHONE!** Please deliver registration forms either:
  - in person at the Recreation Center
  - by mailing forms and

payment to 58 Barre Street, or

- using [our online registration platform](#) Page 8 of 11



Extra registration forms and a locked drop box are located in the side vestibule of 58 Barre Street (the Senior Activity Center) for after-hours use.

- **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](http://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:
  - **Walk-Ins:** Montpelier Residents: \$4; Non-Montpelier Residents: \$6
  - **Punch Cards (22 visits):** Montpelier Residents: \$30; Non-Montpelier Residents: \$45

- **2023 Winter/Spring Noontime Basketball**

- **Are you ready to shoot some hoops?** Register now for 2023 Winter/Spring 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 January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and continuing through until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- The walk-in fee is \$4 for residents and \$6 for non-residents. Register at the Recreation office.

- **2023 Open Gym at the Recreation Center**

- Join us at the Rec Gym this fall and winter for open gym hours! 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
- **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 the Winter semester starting on Monday, November through March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Learn more: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1186/After-School->



to register for 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

[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](http://bit.ly/MontpelierCSRegistration). Or download the registration form on our website: [www.montpelier-vt.org/939/Registration-Forms](http://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**

- **Draft Management Plan Update from the Montpelier Parks Commission:** The Montpelier Parks Commission is requesting the public's feedback on their draft management plans of Hubbard Park and North Branch River Park. **The plans are available now** and can be found on our website: [bit.ly/MPParksPlan22](https://bit.ly/MPParksPlan22). Please submit your comments about the plans before December 30th, 2022.

## **Community Services Department News**

- **Community Services offices will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**
  - A reminder that the MSAC office will be closed for the last week of this month. Their last day of 2022 will be Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Recreation office will be open in a limited capacity through the end of 2022, with the exception of December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>, which will be closed for the holidays. We will reopen to the public on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. We hope you all have a happy and safe holiday season, and we'll see you in 2023!