

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
2/21	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
2/21	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
2/21	Development Review Board Meeting	7:00 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
2/22	Montpelier Restroom Committee	10:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
2/22	Homelessness Task Force Special Meeting	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
2/22	City Council Chambers	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
2/23	Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link

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 February 15, 2023](#)

- New COVID-19 cases, last 7 days: 79.33 per 100k
 - Weekly case count: 495
- New hospital admissions of patients with COVID-19, last 7 days: 6.73 per 100K
 - 41 total new admissions with COVID-19
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with COVID-19 (7-day average): 3.80% (increase from previous week)

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.

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](#)

Homelessness Task Force

The consultants for the Task Force, Parker Advisors, are nearing completion of their project. They expect to be presenting their recommendations at the Council meeting on March 22nd.

Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

Budget:

The City Council approved the budget on January 25th, 2023. The property tax portion will be on the March 7th ballot.

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

The Combined residential tax rate is up 3.9%, well below the national 6.5% inflation rate as of December. The overall residential tax rate has a two-year average increase of 1.65% compared to a two year inflation average of 6.75%. City tax rate is up 7.6%, School residential tax rate is up 1.4%, there is no change to the water and sewer benefit charges.

City Meeting Election new

Ballots are now in for the annual city elections. Early voting can be completed through the City Clerk's office. Election Day is March 7th, polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM. All early ballots must be returned by 7 PM on March 7th.

Voters will be electing a Mayor, four City Council members, School Board representatives and others. City and School budgets will be considered. Also, on the ballot are measures to withdraw from the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority and to amend the terms of two bonds approved last year.

City Manager's Annual Review

Reminder that the Council needs to conduct the Manager's annual review in February. Please return your completed evaluation forms to Council President McCullough. This discussion has been moved to February 22nd.

Pending Legal

The City currently has no active litigation.

Create More Housing

Country Club Road

The City Project Team completed the three public sessions this week. The Survey is still open for those who wish participate. <https://polco.us/n/res/vote/montpelier-vt/winter-2023-country-club?> The team will be compiling all the public feedback along with the technical data from the site. We expect them to report findings and preliminary recommendations to the City Council in March and April.

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

Police Officer Hire **new**

MPD has hired Sabrina Boutin, a certified police officer currently working at Williston PD. She has approximately 8 years' experience including 2015-2018 in New York and 2018-present in Vermont.

Officer Boutin has great interest in impaired driver enforcement and is a certified car seat technician which will be nice to have at the PD again. The tentative start date is between 2/26 and 3/14/2023. We plan to enroll her in Team 2 training on March 16 followed by CIT training.

With this hire, MPD will be at 16 officers ready for service once our 3 new recruits graduate from the academy. This is a long way from the 11 active officers we had relatively recently.

Municipal Job Openings

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

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.

APPLY NOW! Root To Fork Coordinator: This position serves under the Montpelier Parks & Trees Department through the VHCB AmeriCorps Program. Starting March 1st, 2023, become a part of combatting food insecurity in Central Vermont through supporting the FEAST initiative of the City of Montpelier. You will work under staff supervision to support three areas of the FEAST initiative: FEAST Meals Program, FEAST Farm Program, and FEAST Farm Stand Program. More information about this position can be found on either VHCB's website (www.vhcb.org) or the City of Montpelier Parks & Trees Department's website (www.montpelier-vt.org/parks).

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*)

2/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Manager's Review • PH on Bond articles 	3/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Meeting Election
3/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elect Officers - Ethics Policy - Rules of Procedure - Code of Conduct - Group Norms - Committee Assignments • Orientation 	3/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Club Road Update • Review Strategic Plan • CIT Update • Homelessness Plan
4/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Club Road Decisions • Road Maintenance update • Fireworks? • Heaton Woods Loan 	4/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casella/Leachate? • Outside Agencies Policy • ADA update
5/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water & Sewer Budgets • Water & Sewer Rates 	5/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Schedule
6/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Heat Budget • District Heat Rates 	6/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

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

CURRENT PENDING STRATEGIC PLAN ITEMS

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

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

Community Services Department Report Week in Review: February 13th – 17th

- **Senior Activity Center Office Hours:**
 - Monday – Thursday | 8:30am – 3pm
 - Friday | Office Closed
- **Recreation Department Office Hours:**
 - Monday – Friday | 8:30am – 4pm
- **Parks & Trees inquiries can be fielded at either office.**

For all things from Community Services, go to: www.montpelier-vt.org/cs

Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) News

Download our February Newsletter: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/304/Newsletter>

- **Congregate Lunch with a bunch of new faces:** we welcomed Beth Stern from Senator Sanders' team and Police Chief Eric Nordenson to our FEAST Kitchen this week. We had a great meal of Shepherd's Pie, fresh salad, including locally-grown radishes, and cookies!
 - **Next Lunch will be on Thursday, March 2nd.** Please RSVP by calling or emailing: FEAST Manager Eli Mutino at 802-262-6288 or email: emutino@montpelier-vt.org. Subscribe to our e-newsletter to learn about upcoming menu items: www.montpelier-vt.org/304/newsletter.
 - And learn more about FEAST by viewing our updated webpage: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/FEAST>, or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FEASTSeniorMeals/>
- **We Heart Our Volunteers! A Happy Voluntine's Day Celebration FEAST and MSAC Volunteers:** FEAST Manager Eli welcomed all of our volunteers to a special celebration in the Memorial Room to recognize all of the work they do for MSAC and FEAST. Our volunteers help us run the many amazing classes we offer, deliver any of the meals folks need regardless of the weather, and prepare and cook all the food in the kitchen. Without our volunteers, we'd be sunk. Thank you from the MSAC & FEAST staff!
- **Robert Frost Today with writer Tom Slayton [OLLI]** The OLLI series welcomed writer Tom Slayton this past Wednesday to discuss the works of poet Robert Frost. The audience loved to hear more about Frost's contributions to the Green Mountain State, and we thank Tom for sharing Frost's beautiful poetry with us. Come and attend next week for an important discussion on modern-day agricultural practices. Milk with Dignity in Vermont & Beyond featuring speakers from Migrant Justice, a Burlington-based non-profit assisting immigrant farmworkers. You must register for all OLLI events in advance by going to the OLLI website:



learn.uvm.edu/olli/centralvt. You can also register over the phone by calling **802-656-5817**. *Programs are canceled when Montpelier schools close due to weather. Fees are \$8/program or \$40/70 for singles/couples for all 11 programs.*

- **Dumbbell Sale at MSAC:** MSAC is hosting a fundraising sale on its gently used dumbbells from the Activity Room. We're now asking **\$20/pair or best offer**. Visit our front office at 58 Barre Street for more information and to see the dumbbells. Cash, check, or credit card are accepted.
- **Drag Bingo @ MSAC: February 24th from 6-8pm in the MSAC Community Room** Montpelier Pride & Rainbow Umbrella Group of Central Vermont are co-producing a Drag Bingo night featuring Drag Queen DJ Emoji Nightmare at MSAC. Dress up in your favorite drag, or just come as you are, and enjoy a night of fun & games with friends. The event starts at 6pm, and MSAC humbly asks for a donation of \$10 to join, although there is no entry fee. **There will also be a pop-up vaccine clinic for COVID-19, Flu, and hMPXV at the event.** Email eka@pridecentervt.org to sign up for the clinic by Monday, February 13th.
- **Share Your Story of "Lost and Found" with Mosaic VT:** Mosaic VT is looking for storytellers just like you who wish to share their journey of disappearance and reappearance, finding forgotten objects, losing people, or finding themselves. They are looking for 8 storytellers to share their 'Lost & Found' journeys. If chosen, you will attend 2 session workshops with Sue Schmidt from 'The Moth!' Live event is April 29th, 2023, from 6 - 7:30 pm. This event is accessible and will have ASL interpreters available. Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit a story. People of all ages, genders, races, and experiences are welcome.
 - If interested, please submit your written or audio-recorded story to: mary@mosaic-vt.org by February 28th, 2023. Read more about the contest details here: <https://bit.ly/StorytellingFeb2023>
- **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.

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
Tuesday Walks | Tuesdays | 9:30 am | on-going | meetup locations vary week to week
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 | 10:30 am-12 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
Long Life 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

- **Valentine's Day Ice Skating Broomball Party at the State House Lawn**

- Despite the warmer-than-average temperature on Valentine's Day, we still managed to have a lot of fun both on and off the ice! Thank you to the UVM Women's Hockey ladies who made our broomball game with the kids such a treat to watch. The ice rink will be closed for a few days during this warm stretch of weather, but check our website for the latest updates: www.montpelier-vt.org/rec



- **Program Registration** – You can 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](#)

Extra registration forms and a locked drop box are 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. There is a 12-player maximum per session. 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
 - **Beginner/Intermediate:** Thursdays → 1:30 – 3 pm
 - **Intermediate:** Mondays → 9 – 10:30 am | Wednesdays → 1:30 – 3 pm | Thursdays → 1:30 – 3 pm
 - **Intermediate/Advanced:** Fridays → 9 – 10:30 am
 - **Advanced:** Tuesdays → 9 – 11 am
- Open Gym Fees:
 - **Walk-Ins:** Montpelier Residents: \$4; Non-Montpelier Residents: \$6
 - **Punch Cards (22 visits):** Montpelier Residents: \$45; Non-Montpelier Residents: \$60
- **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 1st, 2023, and continuing through until April 30th, 2023.
 - The walk-in fee is \$4 for residents and \$6 for non-residents. Register at the Recreation office. Season passes are also available. They are \$90 for residents and \$130 for non-residents.
- **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 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>
- **Tae Kwon Do – Winter 2023**
 - Instructor Matthew Girouard welcomes beginners to join his Tae Kwon Do classes. This is a class for people who want to learn the art of Tae Kwon Do and is an instructional class. Tae Kwon Do will be offered twice a week for ten weeks.
 - There are two classes available: 2526-A is for students aged 6-8 years old, and 2526-B is for students 9 years and older. Both classes meet on Mondays and Thursdays. 2526-A meets from 5-6 pm while 2526-B meets from 6-7 pm. Class size ranges from 10-20 students.

Montpelier Parks

- **APPLY NOW! Root To Fork Coordinator:** This position serves under the Montpelier Parks & Trees Department through the VHCB AmeriCorps Program. Starting March 1st, 2023, become a part of combatting food insecurity in Central Vermont through supporting the FEAST initiative of the City of Montpelier. You will work under staff supervision to support three areas of the FEAST initiative: FEAST Meals Program, FEAST Farm Program, and FEAST Farm Stand Program.
 - To apply, go to VHCB's website www.vhcb.org and search for the Root to Fork Coordinator position; or visit <https://bit.ly/ParksRootToForkCoordinator>.
 - You can also go to the City of Montpelier Parks & Trees Department's website: www.montpelier-vt.org/parks.
- **Express your thoughts on the Draft Management Plan – Parks Commission meeting on February 21st at 6pm:** [The Montpelier Parks Commission will once again be meeting for open public comment about the Draft Management plans for Hubbard and North Branch River parks on Tuesday, February 21st at 6PM on Zoom and in-person at City Hall. For more information about the plan, go to: bit.ly/MPParksPlan22](#)