

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
2/28	Community Fund Board	3:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
3/1	Social and Economic Justice Committee	8:00 AM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
3/1	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
3/1	Complete Streets Committee	5:30 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
3/2	Investment Committee	5:00 PM	City Manger'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 February 22, 2023](#)

- New COVID-19 cases, last 7 days: 69.39 per 100k
  - Weekly case count: 433
- New hospital admissions of patients with COVID-19, last 7 days: 6.73 per 100K
  - 42 total new admissions with COVID-19
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with COVID-19 (7-day average): 3.56% (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 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

## **Annual Report** **New**

The 2023 Annual report is now available on line at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/5634> Print copies will be available next week.

## **Budget**

The City Council approved the budget on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The property tax portion will be on the March 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

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 bonds approved last year.

## **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.

**Monday 2/27 Planning Commission meeting canceled.** The Planning Commission has canceled Monday's Planning Commission meeting due to a lack of quorum. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. The meetings are primarily hosted remotely on Zoom but the Commission continues to offer the meeting in a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Council Chambers. Please contact Mike Miller, Director of Planning at Community Development at [mmiller@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:mmiller@montpelier-vt.org) if you have any questions.

## Improve Community Prosperity

**\*\*The Community Services Department weekly newsletter can be found at the end of this report, beginning after strategic plan items. \*\***

### **Economic Development Outcome New**

In July of 2017, the City of Montpelier entered into a Development Agreement with Caledonia Spirits, Inc. In this agreement, the City committed funds to support the construction of public infrastructure to be recovered by future property tax, water, and sewer revenues. The expenses were for upgraded water and sewer mains as well as a public road and rail crossing. The amount of funds committed were as follows:

Water	29,665.17
Sewer	145,000.00
Property Taxes	300,000.00
	474,665.17

Caledonia Spirits, Inc. began paying property taxes and water and sewer fees in fiscal year 2018-2019. The following amounts have been paid to date, 2/13/2023.

Water	29,962.93
Sewer	30,663.61
Property Taxes	436,779.59
	497,406.13

As of 2/13/2023, the City has recouped more than the amount of funds committed to Caledonia Spirits, Inc's development. It was originally estimated that the funds committed by the City would be recouped in fees over a ten-year period. Even though Caledonia Spirits was awarded tax stabilization, these funds were recouped within five years. Of the funds committed, \$100,000 was from the Community Development Fund. This amount should be able to be repaid to the Community Development Fund at the end of fiscal year 2022-2023 with a transfer from the General Fund.

All future revenue from this project is a net increase for the city which we would not realize without the upfront public investment.

## 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. \*\***

## **Information about Infrastructure Funding New**

I submitted the following article to the Times-Argus and Bridge on February 23<sup>rd</sup>:

Infrastructure and budget policy are key issues in Montpelier and merit a review of pertinent information. John Hollar's February 22<sup>nd</sup> commentary in both the *Times-Argus* and the *Bridge* invokes comparisons between 2012 to 2018 when he served as Mayor and 2018 to 2023 when Anne Watson served as Mayor. The facts show that the Watson era Council's combination of annual Capital funding and infrastructure bonding exceed any prior level of capital investment.

The 2012 Hollar era Council adopted a "steady state" plan called the Capital Plan which includes roads, sidewalks, storm drains, buildings, bridges, bond payments, and equipment/vehicles- not just paving. The plan called for increasing annual funding for these items from \$1,572,404 in FY12 to a target of \$2,400,000.

The Hollar Council made the policy choice to incrementally raise this funding over a number of years to avoid large tax increases. As such, the \$2.4 Million target was never reached under the Hollar Council. They, in fact, reduced the amount of Capital Plan funding by \$54,308 in FY17 as part of their overall budget decisions.

The Watson Council continued implementing the Capital Plan to the penny until it reached the full \$2.4 Million target in the FY21 budget.

The pandemic hit two weeks after the FY21 budget was approved. The City faced a revenue shortfall of about \$1.5 Million. 27 City employees were furloughed and services widely curtailed. To address the shortfall, the Watson Council canceled or delayed \$702,970 in Capital Plan items and reduced the FY22 Capital Plan from \$2.4 Million to \$1.925 Million - a reduction of \$475,000.

For the FY23 budget, the Watson Council increased the Capital Plan from \$1.925 Million to \$2.155 Million, an increase of \$228,000 although still below the \$2.4 Million target. Given the totality of budget needs and demands (including inflation impact) they chose to keep the Capital Plan funding at \$2.155 Million for this proposed FY24 Budget.

Comparing FY22, FY23, and FY24 budgets to the Capital Plan target shows a budget "shortfall" of \$965,000 over those three years. Adding the \$702,970 in delayed items makes a total of \$1,667,970 that was delayed or reduced during that time.

In response, the Watson Council allocated \$1.525 Million - \$1,090,000 of ARPA Money and \$435,000 of Capital Fund Reserve - to restore the Capital Plan. Therefore, the Watson Council provided an average of \$2.35 Million per year toward the Capital Plan over the last three years – barely shy of the \$2.4 Million target. That amount exceeds any Capital Plan budget proposed by the Hollar Council.

The Watson Council also addressed issues which had been deferred by prior Councils. They invested \$7.2 Million for a total overhaul of East State Street. They invested \$1.215 Million for the Barre/Main intersection, downtown street lighting, retaining wall repair, and sustainable heating at the DPW facility. They took on the longstanding problems of an inadequate recreation facility and lack of housing by purchasing of the Country Club Road property. They also budgeted to implement the Net Zero Energy goal adopted but not funded by the Hollar Council.

Mr. Hollar suggested that the city's plan for replacing Water and Sewer infrastructure – paid from water and sewer rates outside of the Capital Plan - is inadequate and stretches for too many years. Yet this plan was reviewed and approved by the Hollar Council in 2017 and remains city policy. The Watson Council continued implementation of this plan as adopted. The Watson Council also allocated an additional \$450,000 of ARPA money for water and sewer infrastructure.

Montpelier has had high water pressure since the inception of the water system a century ago. The Hollar Council was briefed on this and did not express any concern nor initiate any action. Now, the City is completing an independent engineering study to provide specific recommendations about water pressure and to identify the highest priority water lines for improvement.

The Hollar Council defined a sustainable budget as staying within inflation, meeting Capital Plan funding goals and continuing the Water and Sewer plan. Over the last three years, The Watson Council proposed cumulative increases of 15% against 14.9% inflation. The Watson Council funded the Capital Plan, maintained the water and sewer plan, took on lagging projects, fully staffed departments, jump started Net Zero, and provided a full array of services all within the cost of living during a pandemic.

As we enter the next Mayoral era, we can reflect on the leadership of the recent past with a full understanding of the facts. Could the city spend more on roads and water/sewer lines? Of course. Every Council wrestles with this balance and reaches decisions about how to allocate Capital Plan funding and the appropriate level of taxes and fees. The next Mayor and Council will face the same difficult choices.

## Employment and Personnel Announcements

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://www.vhcb.org)) or the City of Montpelier Parks & Trees Department's website ([www.montpelier-vt.org/parks](http://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*)

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

? = 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"><li>• City Master Plan (Summer 2023)</li><li>• Homelessness Plan (March)</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: February 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

- 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](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/cs)

### Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) News

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

- **Drag Bingo @ MSAC: February 24<sup>th</sup> 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. The event starts at 6pm, and MSAC humbly asks for a donation of \$10 to join, although there is no entry fee.
- **Next Congregate Lunch on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please RSVP by calling or emailing:** FEAST Manager Eli Mutino at 802-262-6288 or email: [emutino@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:emutino@montpelier-vt.org). Subscribe to our e-newsletter to learn about upcoming menu items: [www.montpelier-vt.org/304/newsletter](http://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/>
- **MSAC Goes On A Day Trip:** We're excited to announce that our first trip of the year is to the Vermont Flower Show at the Champlain Valley Expo next Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>! If you haven't registered yet, please stop by our office and pick up a trip form. Trip cost is \$35, and we'll be leaving from MSAC at 9:15am with a return time of 3:30 pm. We hope you can join us and check out the amazing floral displays!
- **Milk with Dignity with Madeline Sharrow of Migrant Justice [OLLI]** The OLLI series welcomed activist and organizer Madeline Sharrow of Migrant Justice this past Wednesday to their organization's Milk with Dignity campaign. We were thankful to host such an important conversation about migrant justice in Vermont. Come and attend next week for more discussions about our environment. Animal rehabilitator, John Alberth will discuss protecting our wildlife here in Vermont. You must register for all OLLI events in advance by going to the OLLI website: [learn.uvm.edu/olli/centralvt](http://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.
- **Seeking Some Fun?** Join our wide variety of drop-in groups, most open to all ages. Hankering 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**

- **Day Camp Registration opened this week!** Capital Kids is back for summer 2023, and we cannot wait for our campers to have fun after a long school year. To register, please visit our website: [www.montpelier-vt.org/rec](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/rec) or visit our office at 55 Barre Street during regular business hours for forms and more information.
- **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](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
  - **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 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. 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 through March 24<sup>th</sup>, 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**

- **FEAST Farm Congress:** We want to thank our community partners for joining us at the FEAST Farm Congress on Wednesday. We had a riveting discussion about what the farm should be, how it can be funded, what ways it can connect to the wider Montpelier community and more! Thank you to MHS teachers: Sam Bromley, Matt McLane, Tom Sabo, and Brigette Savard. And also thank you to former Parks Supervisor, Jac Huettenmoser, Central Vermont Career Center's Ari Lattanzi, and Community Harvest of Central Vermont's Director Allison Levin for attending this Congress meeting!
- **APPLY NOW! Root To Fork Coordinator:** This position serves under the Montpelier Parks & Trees Department through the VHCB AmeriCorps Program. Starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://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](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/parks).
- **Final versions of the Draft Management Plans are live!** [The Montpelier Parks Commission has published the final version of the draft management plans for Hubbard and North Branch River parks. To view the plans, go to: bit.ly/MPParksPlan22](#)

## Winter Weekly Round-Up

### This Week in Montpelier

#### Severe Cold Weather Expected Friday Night

The National Weather Service is predicting very cold temperatures overnight tonight Friday, February 24, 2023.

While snowfall is not expected to accumulate more than an inch in some areas, please remember to keep trash and recycle bins away from the road and sidewalk so the plow truck can safely pass by to salt the roadways.

[Click here](#) for a detailed weather outlook for our region from the National Weather Service.

#### Alternate Side Parking in Effect

DPW continues to install more Alternate Side Parking signage in the neighborhoods outside the downtown.

Alternate Side Parking began on November 15<sup>th</sup> and will be in effect until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. On even-numbered days, park on the side of the road with even-numbered addresses; on odd-numbered days, park on the side with odd-numbered addresses.

For more information about alternate side parking, check out the Public Works page on the City's website here <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1192/Alternate-Side-Winter-Parking-Newly-Adop>

### Tip of the Week

**Keep sidewalks clear for pedestrians and the sidewalk plow.**

During the winter months when snow crowds our streets, it's extra important to keep sidewalks clear of obstructions so pedestrians and the sidewalk plow can pass through safely. Please make sure your vehicle does not encroach onto the sidewalk and keep trash and recycle bins in your driveway or on the yard behind the sidewalk so they don't get caught by the snowplow.

## Road Work

### East State Street

DPW engineers are actively working on project design. DPW is currently developing options for the project's streetscape, including sidewalks, parking, and bike lanes. DPW anticipates these options will be ready to present to the City Council in February of 2023.

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.

The City has received confirmation from the State that the project will be partially funded using Clean Water State ARPA dollars. DPW received a \$1.4 million dollar grant as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dedicated to CSO projects. Most of the funding for this project will come from a low-interest loan from USDA, Rural Development. The City also received a \$3.25 million grant which will support both the City's Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Phase 2 project and the East State Street project. East State St. construction is anticipated to begin spring of 2023.

### Route 2 State Paving Project

The State of Vermont will be repaving a 5-mile stretch of Route 2 in this upcoming construction season. The State will be paving Route 2 from Montpelier's town line with Middlesex near Dairy Creme all the way to the town line with Berlin near Preston's Kia past the roundabout.

The route will follow Route 2 to State Street, then turn right to follow Bailey Ave across the bridge. It will then follow Memorial Drive to the Route 2/302 roundabout. The State awarded the bid to Pike Industries and is on schedule to start in the early summer of 2023.

## Other DPW Projects

### Stormwater Utility

#### *Infrastructure Update –*

The DPW engineering department is actively working through billing and integration in order to apply for grant programs from the State of Vermont. The State of Vermont prioritizes the distribution of ARPA funding through a priority infrastructure application queue. The more projects that get into the queue, the more opportunity they will have to receive funding. DPW engineering staff are working to put together a comprehensive list of all infrastructure projects eligible to receive this funding so that the City received as much funding as possible.

The Stormwater Utility Committee Meeting will be rescheduling its standing meeting this week. At their last meeting, the Stormwater Utility Committee discussed forecasting, revenue, and billing topics. After reviewing the legal requirements for implementing the utility, it is unlikely a charter change will be needed. The City will need to propose ordinance revisions for the City Council to consider and vote. The ordinance revision will follow the standard process of two public readings and will open for public comment. The ordinance revision will be posted on the City Council agenda when it is prepared.

#### **Background**

The City now has a webpage dedicated to this project on the Public Works page linked under the "Projects" tab. [Click here](#) to go to the Stormwater Utility webpage.

The Storm Water Utility Committee has been tasked with building out and developing a new stormwater utility and presenting their findings to City Council. 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. [Click here](#) to learn more about the committee on the City's website.

### **What is a Stormwater Utility?**

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'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. Brown and Caldwell have been awarded the contract to develop the Montpelier Stormwater Utility.

## **State Street Combined Sewer Overflow**

DPW has begun to review submittal requests for this project, and pre-project coordination efforts are underway. Over the next few weeks, DPW staff will work with the contractor to develop a proposed schedule for this project. The schedule will be posted on our website once it's completed. DPW anticipates a start date of April 3, 2023, however this is weather-dependent.

### **Background**

The City Council awarded this contract to Hebert Excavation at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. DPW received a \$675 thousand dollar grant from the State this week to help fund this project. The State of Vermont's Clean Water funding will provide the grant. The State provides low-interest loans to help municipalities complete clean water infrastructure projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

## **Grout Road Bridge**

DPW is now reviewing final design plans and bid documents and is aiming to advertise open bidding next week.

### **Background**

DPW met with the design consultant and the State of Vermont to arrange for a temporary bridge while construction gets underway. The temporary bridge will be rented from the State of Vermont for a very low cost per day. DPW anticipates the temporary bridge will be set in June 2023 with reconstruction on the existing bridge soon following.

DPW is working with our consulting engineer to conduct historic property evaluations.

Public comments were received on the wetland permit application, and DPW is working with the consultant to address the comments. The timeline for this project has been pushed back slightly. DPW is hoping to bid the

project out before the end of this year. This project is being funded through ARPA grants and a Class 2 Highway Structure grant.

## FAQs

### *“I read it in the DPWNews”*

#### **Sewer Blockage on Main St.**

DPW crews responded to a sewer blockage on Main St. this week. Crews successfully cleared it, but the blockage caused some damage to the newly paved road. Traffic cones line a 60-foot section along the curb line of the street cautioning the damaged area. DPW is trying to get help from Rural Water to inspect the lines using a scoping camera to determine what caused the issue and prevent further issues from developing in this area. DPW will repair the damaged section when the weather allows for a more permanent fix.

#### **Streetlight Out on Stone Cutters Way**

A streetlight on Stone Cutters Way was damaged this week by a truck operating in reverse. Repairs are underway and will require a new light pole to be installed to replace the broken one. The current wait time for a new pole may take several weeks. All electricity has been shot off to this unit and DPW has a temporary barrel covering the broken base of the pole.

#### **New Asset Management Software**

DPW’s Asset Management & Work Order Management software being upgraded to Brightly Software DPW currently uses Brightly for vendor permitting. The upgrade to Brightly will unite all of DPW’s existing internal software capabilities, creating a streamlined network that will greatly benefit the community’s needs.

#### **DPWNews Moving to Bi-Weekly Schedule for the Winter**

Winter is a slow time of year for construction and infrastructure projects in Vermont. The DPWNews will now be published every other Friday until construction season gets into full swing around April.

## Careers

### *Join Our Team!*

Full job descriptions and requirements are posted on the City’s website: [Montpelier-vt.org/jobs](https://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) 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](mailto: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](mailto:jbenson@montpelier-vt.org).

## Contact Information

### *Got Questions or Comments?*

Montpelier Department of Public Works - Phone: (802) 262-6276

Kurt Motyka, Director [kmotyka@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:kmotyka@montpelier-vt.org)

Jasmine Benson, Project Assistant [jbenson@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:jbenson@montpelier-vt.org)

Website: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/167/Public-Works>

Facebook: Department of Public Works – City of Montpelier

**Emergency Dispatch:** (802) 223-3445



**Sign up for Notifications**

## Subscribe to the DPW Weekly Newsletter!

1. Go to <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/>
2. Scroll down and click on the gold “Notify Me” banner
3. Add your email and click “Sign in”
4. Click on the envelope icon in front of DPWNews!