

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
3/6	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Link</a>
3/6	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Link</a>
3/7	Town Meeting Day	All Day	City Hall	
3/8	Special Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Link</a>
3/8	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and 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 March 1, 2023](#)

- New COVID-19 cases, last 7 days: 56.09 per 100k
  - Weekly case count: 350
- New hospital admissions of patients with COVID-19, last 7 days: 6.73 per 100K
  - 37 total new admissions with COVID-19
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with COVID-19 (7-day average): 2.92% (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](#)

## 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 are now available at City Hall, the Library and the Senior Center.

### 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.

### **Bond Language Explained NEW**

The following is a representation of amended bond language. This is not new debt. These Articles were approved by voters at last year's Town Meeting on 3/1/2022. If language adjustment(s) are voted down the original applies.

#### **As presented on the warning:**

**ARTICLE 14.** Shall the voters amend the authorization provided to the City Council on March 1, 2022, to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$1,815,000 for highway, recreation park and building infrastructure improvements? If amended, proceeds from this bond funding may be used to finance a range of city infrastructure projects such as: a renewable heating system and other energy-efficiency projects at the Public Works Garage; new streetlights, traffic lights, and intersection improvements; a retaining wall on Marvin Street; various highway, infrastructure projects; and Confluence River Park project. (Requested by the City Council)

**“Redline” version: ARTICLE 14.** Shall the voters amend the authorization provided to the City Council on March 1, 2022, to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$1,815,000 for highway, recreation park and building infrastructure improvements? If amended, proceeds from this bond funding will be **may be** used to finance a pellet boiler range of city infrastructure projects such as: a renewable heating system and other energy-efficiency projects at the Public Works Garage; new streetlights, replacements, traffic lights, and intersection improvements at Barre & Main Street; a retaining wall on Marvin Street, Confluence River Park various highway, infrastructure projects; and Confluence River Park project. (Requested by the City Council)

**Explanation:** *The main item being amended is the language striking the pellet boiler and adding “renewable heating system and other energy efficiency projects.” Funding levels are NOT proposed to change and are as follows: \$250K pellet boiler/renewable heating system; \$600K Confluence River Park, \$550K Barre & Main/intersection improvements, \$250K streetlights/traffic lights, and \$165K for Marvin Street.*

**As presented on the warning:**

**ARTICLE 15.** Shall the voters amend the authorization provided to the City Council on March 1, 2022, to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$16,400,000 for various sewer treatment systems to upgrade the Water Resource Recovery Facility on Dog River Road? Said improvements are planned to improve the facility’s solids processing system and correct and eliminate the odor violation at the site. If amended, the bond would be issued for a term not to exceed 30 years. (Requested by the City Council)

**“Redline” version:** Shall the voters amend the authorization provided to the City Council on March 1, 2022, to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$16,400,000 for various sewer treatment systems to upgrade the Water Resource Recovery Facility on Dog River Road? Said improvements are planned to improve the facility’s solids processing system and correct and eliminate the odor violation at the site. If amended, the bond would be issued for a term not to exceed 20 30 years. (Requested by the City Council)

**Explanation:** *The term is adjusted from 20 years to 30 years based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA RD) financing package.*

**As presented on the warning:**

**ARTICLE 16.** Shall the voters amend the authorization provided to the City Council on March 1, 2022, to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$7,200,000 for the reconstruction of East State Street? Work will include engineering and construction of a new water and sewer distribution system in the amount of approximately \$3,200,000, and approximately \$4,000,000 roadway, sidewalk and bicycle facility and other improvements. If amended, bonds for these capital items would be issued for a term of 30 years. (Requested by the City Council)

**“Redline” version:** ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters amend the authorization provided to the City Council on March 1, 2022, to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$7,200,000 for the reconstruction of East State Street? Work will include engineering and construction of a new water and sewer distribution system in the amount of approximately \$3,200,000, and approximately \$4,000,000 roadway, sidewalk and bicycle facility and other improvements. If amended, bonds for these capital items would be issued for a term of 20 30 years. (Requested by the City Council)

**Explanation:** *The term is adjusted from 20 years to 30 years based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA RD) financing package.*

**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 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 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.

## 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. \*\***

## 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

<b>Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)</b>			
<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> <li>• SEJAC Declaration of Inclusion</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 27<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</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

Hot off the Press! Download our March Newsletter: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/304/Newsletter>

Cure Cabin Fever with a FEAST Party!



You are the Root of our success, Montpelier. Support Your Meals on Wheels program for 2023.

Have fun *and* support food security: enjoy delicious treats, a silent auction & guest performers. Dress up and come out to play!

March for Meals Gala  
Saturday, March 18th | 5 pm  
Montpelier Senior Activity Center: 58 Barre Street

RSVP & Learn More : [bit.ly/MFM2023](http://bit.ly/MFM2023)

- **March for Meals Gala – Saturday, March 18 at 5pm** Come in from the cold, cure your cabin fever, and enjoy a FEAST party with our annual March for Meals Gala on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center. Support food security and help us raise funds for our Meals on Wheels program in 2023. There will be delicious treats, a silent auction, and guest performers. To learn more, go to: [bit.ly/MFM2023](http://bit.ly/MFM2023).
- **Spring Class Registration is now open!** Check out some new courses like Argentine Tango and Learn Mah-Jongg, as well as returning favorites like Reelin' & Rockin' and Staged Workshop and

Performance. Sign up on our website: [www.montpelier-vt.org/MSAC](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/MSAC) or visit our office for a registration form.

- **Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us on Drag Bingo Night!** We want to thank Montpelier Pride, Rainbow Umbrella Group of Central Vermont, Drag Queen DJ Emoji Nightmare, and all of our bingo players for putting on an amazing night last Friday. We look forward to providing more inclusive and diverse events throughout 2023.
- **Our next Congregate Lunch is on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</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).

- Thank you to everyone who came to Chef Joey Buttendorf's congregate lunch on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We were happy to see so many content faces eating a delicious spread of chicken & biscuits, green beans, and mashed potatoes.





- 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 Plans Its 2023 Trips:** After being rescheduled from February, we have a new date for our trips planning committee meeting: Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am! Grab a trip registration form from our office and gather ideas for trips before attending. Contact our office with any questions: [msac@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:msac@montpelier-vt.org)
- **Protecting Our Wildlife with animal rehabilitator John Aberth [OLLI]** The OLLI series welcomed animal rehabilitator John Aberth of Roxbury, VT this past Wednesday to discuss his recent beaver rehabilitation project. John was recently featured for his work in Seven Days, which you can read here: <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/roxbury-man-builds-a-customized-beaver-abode-and-runs-into-a-regulatory-logjam/Content?oid=33872379>. Stop by next week for a look at the Vermont State House architecture. Intimate Grandeur: Vermont's Community State House with VT State Curator, David Schutz, will look at the building's history and what it stands for in Vermont's culture and meaning.
  - 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 **\$15/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.

### 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

- **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!

## Montpelier Recreation News

- **Day Camp Registration is now open!** 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

- **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](#)