

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
3/13	Cemetery Commission	12:00 PM	Guare Funeral Home	Agenda
3/13	Recreation Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Senior Center and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
3/13	Planning Commission	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
3/14	ADA Committee	10:00 AM	City Manager's Conference	Agenda and Zoom Link
3/14	Housing Committee	6:00 PM	Memorial Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
3/14	Historic Preservation Commission	7:00 PM	Manger's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
3/15	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:00 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
3/15	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
3/15	Public Art Commission	5:00	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
3/15	Conservation Commission	5:30	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 March 8, 2023](#)

- New COVID-19 cases, last 7 days: 55.45 per 100k
 - Weekly case count: 346
- New hospital admissions of patients with COVID-19, last 7 days: 6.89 per 100K
 - 43 total new admissions with COVID-19
- Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with COVID-19 (7-day average): 2.73% (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](#)

Crisis Intervention Training:

The Washington County Crisis Intervention Team Training is scheduled to begin on March 17, 2023. This training consists of 40 hours of in-depth training with graduation scheduled for March 30, 2023. There are currently 18 first responders registered for this inaugural training with 7 coming from Montpelier Police Department. This slide show will give a brief explanation of the training and history:

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/7496/Crisis-Intervention-Team-CIT-Program-Virtual-Town-Hall-Presentations->

Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

Annual Report

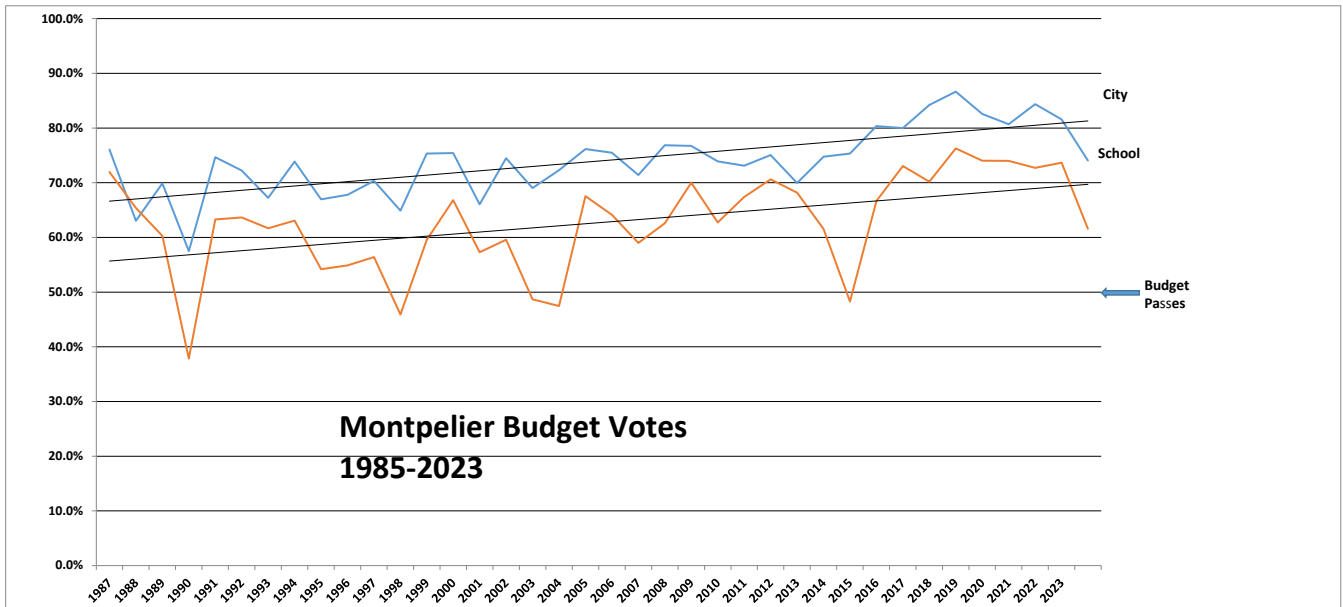
The 2023 Annual report is now available on line at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/5634> Print copies are now available at City Hall, the Library and the Senior Center.

City Meeting Election Wrap Up New

Voter turnout: 2,203 people voted in Tuesday's election. This is almost exactly the average Town Meeting turnout since 1985. More interesting, though, is Montpelier's voter turnout compared to other Vermont communities. I compared Tuesday's voter turnout with the 2020 census population for all Vermont cities (except Essex Junction who doesn't vote until April 11) and a handful of towns near our size. Montpelier had the highest percentage turnout.

	Voted	Population	
Montpelier	2,203	8,074	27.3%
Burlington	10,696	44,743	23.9%
Shelburne	1,455	7,717	18.9%
Vergennes	440	2,553	17.2%
South Burlington	3,388	20,292	16.7%
Rutland City	2,596	15,807	16.4%
Hartford	1,633	10,686	15.3%
Barre City	1,241	8,491	14.6%
Middlebury	1,220	9,152	13.3%
Newport City	556	4,455	12.5%
Williston	1,152	10,103	11.4%
Winooski	827	7,997	10.3%
St. Albans City	456	6,887	6.6%

Budget vote: The City budget received 74.1% approval and the School Budget received 61.6% approval. Last year's approvals were 81.6% and 73.7% respectively – this year was down 7.5% on the City side and 12.1% on the school side. It's the first year since 2014 that the city budget approval was below 80% and the lowest approval since 69.9% in 2012. For the schools, it's the first time since 2016 that approval was below 70% and the lowest since 2014 when the school budget was defeated.



Mayoral Election: The Annual Reports only list election results back to 1986. In those 37 years there have been 20 Mayoral elections including this year's 1 year term election. 11 of those 20 elections have been contested. Of those 11, four have had three or more candidates (including this year). This year's election was the only one where the winner in a 3 or 4 way election received more than 50% of the total vote (53.5%).

2023	McCullough	1,126	53.5%	Jones	708	33.6%	Sheir	272	12.9%			
2022	Watson	1,751	84.6%	Whitaker	318	15.4%						
2020	Watson											
2018	Watson											
2016	Hollar											
2014	Hollar	1,525	66.1%	Hallsmith	782	33.9%						
2012	Hollar											
2010	Hooper	1,377	69.2%	Schy	613	30.8%						
2008	Hooper											
2006	Hooper											
2004	Hooper	1,257	48.7%	Power	655	25.4%	Anderson	536	20.8%	Sheridan	441	17.1%
2002	Karparis											
2000	Karparis	1,939	73.4%	Nelson	701	26.6%						
1998	Karparis											
1996	Karparis	1,828	78.3%	Ellis	506	21.7%						
1994	Cummings	1,327	60.8%	Skeels	855	39.2%						
1992	Cummings											
1990	Cummings	1,424	58.1%	Goss	1,027	41.9%						
1988	Goss	883	34.2%	Rice	831	32.2%	Cummings	807	31.3%	Merrill	58	2.2%
1986	Rice	952	44.6%	Goss	894	41.9%	Kelley	290	13.6%			

Council Workshop or Retreat New

We'll be reviewing the current strategic plan and priorities at the next meeting. If there is a desire for a council workshop or retreat to talk about those, or group norms, or any other similar topic, I'll note that due to the calendar there are three weeks between the March 22 and April 12 meetings notwithstanding the next item in this report. That could be a good time to hold such a session. This can be decided on the 22nd.

Council Meetings in April – date changes? New

While going over my calendar today, I realized I have conflicts for both of the April meetings (12th and 26th). Options include meeting without me for both meetings or move them to the 5th and 19th. I can meet on the 10th or 11th but the room is often in use for DRB or Planning Commission on those nights. If we moved both meetings than May 3rd might work for a retreat/workshop date. I am sorry for the inconvenience.

General Business 3/8

CVPSA dissolution information has been provided to the Council. The March 8 vote was warned by CVPSA as a special meeting for this purpose. The City Clerk has the original signed warning for that special election.

Pending Legal

The City currently has no active litigation.

Create More Housing

Country Club Road update

The City Project Team completed the three public sessions this week. The team is compiling all the public feedback along with the technical data from the site. An initial presentation will be made to the City Council on March 22nd with a follow up discussion in April for Council decisions and direction

Improve Community Prosperity

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

Homelessness Report New

Parker Advisors Consultants are expected to review their draft Homelessness Report and recommendations with the Homelessness Task Force next week. The Plan will then be presented to the City Council on March 22nd or in April depending the discussion with the Task Force.

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. ****

Congressional Earmarks New

The new system of Congressional earmarks provides for direct applications to members of the Congressional delegation. We will be submitting an application today to Senator Sanders for approximately \$4.5 Million for district heat to expand customers, reduce price to existing customers, and eliminate more fossil fuel emission, We will be submitting comparable sized applications to Senator Welch for the Country Club road project and Representative Balint for water system improvements.

Water Distribution System Preliminary Report: The City's consultant Engineer, Dufresne Group Engineering has completed a 90% draft report of the water distribution system. This report reviews alternatives for pressure reduction in various locations around the system compared to the current practice of aging infrastructure replacement. The report also includes the cost estimates associated with the various alternatives. The conclusion of the report provides a recommended approach. This draft report has been submitted to the State of VT Water Supply Division and is subject to change based on the comments received. The report can be found [here](#).

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 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*)

3/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Club Road Update • Review Strategic Plan • Homelessness Plan • SEJAC Declaration of Inclusion • Committee Assignments • Group Norms • Code of Conduct 	4/12 (or 5?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Club Road Decisions • Road Maintenance update • Fireworks? • Heaton Woods Loan
4/26 (or 19?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casella/Leachate? • Outside Agencies Policy • ADA update • FEAST update • 	5/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water & Sewer Budgets • Water & Sewer Rates • Water & Sewer Infrastructure Plan
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"> • 	7/12	<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>

CURRENT PENDING PROJECTS THAT WILL NEED COUNCIL ATTENTION – not yet scheduled

- Public Restroom
- Future of Barre St. Rec Center
- Water & Sewer Line upgrades
- 12-16 Main Street Sale
- East State Street Surface Design
- Reappraisal
- City Plan Hearings
- Stormwater Utility Decision
- Confluence Park

Community Services Department Report Week in Review: March 6th – 10th

- 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

Hot off the Press! Download our March Newsletter: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/304/Newsletter> | Spring Program Guide to be released next week!



- **Join the March!** The March for Meals Gala is almost here, and we need 100 people to donate \$100 to build our grassroots network – help us nourish Montpelier from Root to Fork. **Donate:** bit.ly/MFM23Donate.

- **About the 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 18th 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.

- **RSVP for our Nourishing Your Mind, Body, and Soul Yoga Class!** Saturday, March 11th at 10am – Donate at least \$25 and send your emailed donation receipt to instructor Sarah Parker-Givens at sparkergivens@gmail.com. Donate and RSVP: <https://bit.ly/MFMYogaClass2023>.



- **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 or visit our office for a registration form.
- **Our next Congregate Lunch is on Thursday, March 16th.** 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.
 - Learn more about FEAST by viewing our updated webpage: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/FEAST>, or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FEASTSeniorMeals/>

- **Intimate Grandeur: Vermont's Community State House with State Curator David Schutz [OLLI]** We were thrilled to have David Schutz join us this past Wednesday to review the architectural history of the Vermont State House. Learn more about David's work at the State House here: <https://www.vermonthumanities.org/conference-temple-democracy>. Next week, we will convene for an important conversation on the changes to Medicare with Council on Aging specialist, Christine Melicharek.
 - 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 **\$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.
- **MSAC Rummage Sale | Drop Off Dates: March 27th & March 28th 9am-4pm | Sale Dates: March 31st 10am-5pm & April 1st 10am-2pm** The MSAC Rummage Sale has returned after a long pandemic pause. Join us starting on Friday, March 31st for two days of rummaging through gently used treasures supplied by you, our lovely community. We will be accepting donations for the event beginning the Monday on the week of the event, March 27th. Please drop off your items to our front office.
 - Acceptable items for the sale include: clothing, shoes, accessories, toys, housewares, linens, books, arts, jewelry, and antiques in good condition. What is not accepted are: upholstered items, electronics, large furniture, and VHS or cassette tapes.
 - **Reminder:** Saturday, April 1st is our bag sale, which means everything you can fit into a reusable bag (MSAC will have a limited supply to give out) will be **\$4!** Also, we're still looking for volunteers to help out throughout the week of the sale. If you have a pick-up truck for transportation of unsold items, we would especially like to talk to you. Call our office with questions: [802-223-2518](tel:802-223-2518).
- **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

- **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, 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 welcome. 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 Spring Noontime Basketball**
 - **Are you ready to shoot some hoops?** Register now for 2023 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, continues through 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 continues 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 with 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.
- **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: \[bit.ly/MPParksPlan22\]\(http://bit.ly/MPParksPlan22\)](#)
- **Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps (MYCC) is looking for Summer 2023 workers!** Are you a local youth entering grades 10+? Are you interested in conservation work and helping your community? Learn more and apply on our website: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1233/MYCC>.
 - Members of the Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps (MYCC) have the opportunity to work hard and have fun as part of a small conservation focused team. This summer, MYCC will be working to protect our natural surroundings while enhancing recreational opportunities in Montpelier.
 - **Job Details:** This is a paid 30 hours/week position which runs Tuesday-Friday from 8:30am - 4:00pm. The program is available to High School aged students in Central VT. MYCC members may work on a number of projects centered on creating a more connected, sustainable Montpelier. Whether building bridges in the North Branch Park, harvesting crops at the FEAST Farm, or creating new trails in the Hubbard Park Expansion, every project is meaningful and community-based.
 - This summer we'll have two 3-week long sessions. New members can sign up for 1 session, and returning members can sign up for up to 2 sessions. During each session, crews of 5-7 corps members will rotate work on Parks, Trails, and Farm. MYCC is a great program for youth who want to do physically satisfying, community-based, paid conservation work. Reach out to Leila Faulstich-Hon at lfaulstich@montpelier-vt.org with any questions.
 - Session 1: June 26 - July 14
 - Session 2: June 17 - August 4