

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
01/08	Recreation Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Senior Center and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/08	Planning Commission	5:30 PM	Zoom Only	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/09	Cemetery Commission	12:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/09	Montpelier Senior Center Advisory Council	2:30 PM	Senior Center	Agenda
01/10	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:00 AM	Zoom Only	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/10	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/11	Community Fund Board	8:15 AM	Zoom Only	Agenda and Zoom Link

Improve Public Health and Safety

Montpelier Police Department Weekly Report

*** PENDING WINTER STORM 1/6 + 1/7 ***

After significant snowfalls this Winter, officers have observed many vehicles travelling with large amounts of snow on car roofs and hoods, as well as obstructing headlights, windshields and license plates.

While there is no specific statute requiring removal of snow from motor vehicles after a snowstorm, as an operator it is prudent to clean snow from your car to improve your safety and the safety of other motorists on the roadway.

At speed, blowing snow from the roof of a car can fly off as a cloud or in chunks, obscuring visibility or damaging cars behind.

Braking suddenly can cause snow from the roof of a car to slide down over the windshield, overwhelming wipers and blocking the operator's view.

If you have a difficult time cleaning the top of your vehicle, consider using a broom to remove snow that is out of reach of your ice scraper.

Headlights and license plates are required to be free of obstructions, including snow accumulation from driving in winter weather. Ensure you clean both periodically when travelling in snowy conditions.

Remember, use patience and forethought when driving this winter and you will get home safely.

*** WINTER PARKING IN EFFECT ***

Alternate Side Winter Parking began on November 15th and ends April 1st and is in effect regardless of weather conditions.

See the City's website for more winter parking information and guidelines.

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1192/Alternate-Side-Winter-Parking>

WEEKLY STATISTICS

INCIDENTS - For the week of December 29 – January 4, the Montpelier Police Department (MPD) logged 134 new incidents (calls for service and/or proactive initiations).

TRAFFIC - MPD conducted 35 traffic stops and directed patrols. Most of these car stops were for speed or other traffic violations.

ARRESTS - MPD made 6 arrests in the past week.

DUI – 3; Driving with a criminally suspended license – 1; Leaving the scene of an accident - 1; Active arrest warrant - 1

TRAINING – N/A

INFO – MPD is committed to transparency, accountability, and improving access to information. We have been working hard to create this organized database on our website to fulfill these goals and hope this information will help address community concerns. The Montpelier Police Department's website provides information monthly about arrests, traffic stops, crimes, and calls for service. Please go to the links below for access:

Media Logs

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=39>

Monthly Arrest Reports

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=130>

Monthly Traffic Stop Data

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=125>

Monthly Raw Data Tables - Arrests / Traffic Stops / Calls for Service

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/.../Monthly-Raw-Data-Tables...>

Our report for the third quarter of 2023, as well as previous quarterly reports, are available at this link: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=124>

Budget update

The City Manager's proposed budget was presented on Wednesday night. Full budget can be seen here: <https://city-montpelier-vt-budget-book.cleargov.com/14120/budget-overview/executive-overview>

Council will review the budget at their regular meeting on Wednesday the 10th and at a special meeting on Wednesday the 17th. Public hearing and final deliberations/decisions will be held on Wednesday the 24th.

As per the 2023 Property Valuation and Review Annual Report just issued, there are 1,894 homesteads in Montpelier. Of those 1,212 receive an education tax credit. Total education credits in Montpelier were \$1,839,984 with an average homestead credit of \$1,518. 313

homesteads received municipal credits for a total of \$422,196 or an average of \$1,349. In all, \$2,262,180 in property tax credits came into Montpelier with the average total being \$1,866.

Legislature new

The City has been asked to appear at Senate Finance on Tuesday and Senate Government Operations on Wednesday to discuss flood response and financial impacts of the flood.

General Business Follow Up:

- Staff met with Shaw's store manager. Shaw's will address the trash behind the building.

Pending Legal

Moody vs. City of Montpelier. Insurance case filed regarding a pothole. Costs handled by VLCT PACIF, City represented by Attorney Brian Monaghan

Sign Up for 1-page Summaries of City Council Meetings: Don't have time to attend a meeting or watch the video? Get a 1-page summary of every City Council Meeting sent to your email the following day. Summaries contain highlights of agenda items and discussions, any action taken by the Council. and links to follow-up information. Sign up **here:** <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/list.aspx>

Create More Housing

Country Club Road new

Staff is preparing the current financial summary for this project as requested at the last Council meeting. We will be making a presentation to the Council after budget (February or March) laying out next steps, work plan, and schedule for moving forward. Many of the items are identified in the master plan but we will have more specifics for you.

Improve Community Prosperity

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

Trash Tramps and GRIT new:

To highlight two great volunteer efforts in our City, many thanks to these people who work hard to make our City look great,

Trash Tramps met a total of 51 times during our 8th year. The number of volunteer hours contributed was 395. This does not include set up and cleanup which would add another 38 hours.

7 Trash Tramps participated in at least half of the gatherings, 28 different Trash Tramps contributed their time to pick up litter.

Using grant money from Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, buckets, long handled tongs, and smaller vests were purchased.

Buckets were filled 603 times, an average of 12 buckets per week.

As is the case worldwide, cigarette butts are Montpelier's biggest litter problem. Fish and birds mistake them for food which is one reason why they need to be kept out of our rivers and off of our streets.

Weekly collection of butts ranged from 200 (on a snowy Tuesday) to 4,000 with a total of 80,000, an average of 1600 per week. These are low estimates. Sidewalk Buttlers collected another 9,750 for a total of more than 90,000 butts.

The cigarette butt data is from mid September through July 11 when our system for recycling the butts through CVSWMD stopped. We would very much like to resume the recycling of the butts if a reliable system can be reestablished as it was through ARCC, the Additional Recyclable Collection Center.

New Trash Tramps of all ages are always welcome, children need adult supervision. We meet every Tuesday at 1:45 at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center and pick up litter from 2 to 3 pm.

GRIT (Graffiti Removal Infrastructure Team)

Volunteer initiative to clean up Montpelier's graffiti

Launched in May 2022 by Nancy Schulz

17 outings took place in 2022 with 17 individuals helping at least once

4 individuals helped with 7 or more outings in 2022

17 outings took place in 2023 with 15 individuals helping at least once

4 individuals helped with 7 or more of the outings in 2023

Each outing was at least 2 hours long

Number of volunteer field hours in 2022: 136 (not including prep and clean up time)

Number of volunteer field hours in 2023: 130 (not including prep and clean up time)

GRIT operates seasonally from approx. mid-May to mid-November

GRIT is grateful to Montpelier Alive and Tim Heney for funding and to the Montpelier Senior Activity Center for storing GRIT supplies and equipment. DPW employees Corey Line and Zach Blodgett have been very helpful in facilitating contact with commercial property owners (e.g., Casella, Myers, and Consolidated Communications).

Zach also scheduled the Vac Truck on three occasions in 2022 to assist with removing graffiti via pressure washing.

Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure

****The Department of Public Works weekly newsletter can be found on the City's Department of Public Works webpage.****

Sustainability and Facilities Coordinator Update

Sustainability:

- Citywide LED building lighting changeover. This project has been delayed by emergency flood related work, but lamps have been purchased with a \$23,620 grant from Efficiency VT. A portion of the installation work has been completed and will continue as manpower becomes available. The lamps in the basement of MFD that were flood damaged were replaced and offices and storage areas at the DPW Garage/Shop have been replaced. Estimated installation labor cost of \$21,258 is being paid using the Net Zero Revolving Loan Fund. Annual savings of \$15,928 yield a simple payback of 1.3 years and the estimated average lifetime of the efficiency improvements is 17 years.
- A Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grant of \$4,000 has been awarded and was applied toward the engineering for the WRRF Phase 2 Solids Drying Project. The city has applied for and been awarded MERP no-cost level 2 energy assessments for 3 city buildings: Barre St Rec Center, DPW Garage/Shop, and DPW Equipment Barn. We are waiting for VT BGS to select contractors and schedule the assessments. These are the first 2 steps in a 3-step application process that makes the city eligible for a \$250,000 MERP grant.
- We are pursuing a Thermal Energy Storage Grant sponsored by U.S. DOE for the Barre St Rec Center. The grant is up to \$1.3 million and requires a 20% City match. It will provide air to water heat pump heating with thermal storage to provide the utility with flexible load management. The required electrical upgrades and building envelope improvements will also be covered by the grant. The building has been assessed for suitability by VEIC and the city has provided the required letter of interest, completed the required budget justification spreadsheet and confirmed our 20% fund match. It is possible that Efficiency VT and/or GMP can provide incentives to further reduce the city's fund match. There is also a possibility to participate in flexible load management with the utility, which would provide an ongoing income stream to the city. VEIC has indicated that we are a very strong candidate for the grant award. We are awaiting an update from U.S. DOE. This grant opportunity was identified through our ongoing collaboration and weekly meetings with Efficiency VT/VEIC. GMP plans to install DC fast chargers for EV's downtown as part of their next phase rollout.

Facilities:

- Assistance was provided in coordinating boiler repairs for the Rec Center. The boiler has been restored to operating condition.
- Feasibility study for the Barre St Rec Center has been presented to Council and we have been asked to continue pursuing redevelopment options to provide services for people lacking permanent housing. The option presented by gbArcitecture showing ramped access to the basement with new public bathrooms as well as the possibility of developing a permanent basement shelter will be explored in greater detail in hopes of pursuing funding partnerships to help this become a reality; To this end, the city has reviewed the existing building with representatives from service providers and other stakeholders to determine the buildings suitability for homeless services.
- The GSH temporary winter shelter at 203 Country Club Rd is operating.
- City Hall/MFD generator has been restored to pre-flood operation.
- City Hall and MFD dry-pipe sprinkler systems have been restored to pre-flood operation.

- Support was provided to DPW for sprinkler service repair at Garage/Shop. The repair is complete, and the system has been restored to operational condition.
- Elevated shelving has been constructed in the basement vault to store City Clerks' vital records above base flood elevation.
- Mold abatement and follow-up deep cleaning at CCR are complete.
- Draft contract for building repair/resiliency design consultants is under legal review.
- Stevens and Associates has performed their initial site visit/survey.
- Push button door openers at Transit Center are being investigated to determine cost to install additional components to make them operable.

Other:

- Arrangements have been made to relocate the portable toilet from MSAC to behind the Barre St Rec Center. This will facilitate snow removal at MSAC and allow the unit to remain in place through the winter months.
- City Council chambers have been emptied of basement contents that had been stored in the aftermath of the July flooding.
- New England ADA Center has confirmed the City Council meeting can return to chambers if reasonable accommodations are provided.
- A meeting was held at the Country Club Rd property with USPS to discuss the possibility of locating a temporary postal facility on site.
- Shaw's management was contacted regarding citizen complaint of garbage on the riverbank. Shaw's will clean the riverbank.

Stump Dump Temporarily Closed

The Montpelier Stump Dump is currently closed to the public while we work to ensure permit compliance. The City of Montpelier was recently notified by the State of Vermont about a permit compliance issue with Montpelier's Stump Dump located off Finch Road. The City was notified that fill material was encroaching on two Class 2 wetlands. The facility is required to obtain a solid waste utility permit to comply.

➤ Where Can I Bring Yard Waste While the Stump Dump is Closed?

While the Stump Dump is closed, those looking to dispose of yard waste can use the Casella Transfer Station at 378 East Montpelier Rd., or any other transfer station listed on the Central Vermont Solid Waste District website. Learn more about where to dispose of lawn and yard waste on the CVCSWD website here: <https://www.cvsmd.org/leaf-and-yard-waste.html>

Questions? Please contact the [Department of Public Works](#) at 802-223-9508.

Winter Operations: Clearing Rights-of-Way for Snow Removal

Winter is coming! With snow on the way, DPW is reminding businesses and residents to make a plan to relocate dumpsters, storage units, and any other items in the public right-of-way so our crews can safely remove snow on streets and sidewalks. Public rights-of-way are streets, sidewalks, and City-owned parking spaces.

Please make sure large items are clear from the right-of-way by the start of Winter Operations on Wednesday, November 15th. Clearing these items will help DPW safely plow the streets and sidewalks without damaging private property and City equipment. If you have any questions about the best location for your items, please call the [Department of Public Works](#) at 802-223-9508.

Thank you for your help keeping our City thriving throughout the winter!

Employment and Personnel Announcements

NOTE – the City is currently in a hiring freeze due to financial circumstances.

Municipal Job Openings

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

Reminders

Guidelines for Winter Parking

From 12:00 AM-5:00 PM: All cars must be parked on the correct side of the street as indicated by whether building numbers are odd or even according to the ODD or EVEN calendar day. Parking on ODD sides of the street on odd-numbered calendar days and EVEN sides of the street on even-numbered calendar days.

From 5:00 PM-11:59 PM Transition Period: Move your vehicle to the other side of the street at any time during this transition period.

Downtown

1:00 AM -6:59 AM: No Parking is allowed

7:00 AM-12:59 AM: Daytime Parking is allowed as usual (regardless of the day)

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 Meeting:
- Click here for Live Stream:

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Council Meeting Agenda Schedule and Strategic Planning Items on following pages

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

1/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Committee Appointments • Use of FEMA funds • FY25 Budget 	1/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY25 Budget
1/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget PH • Warning PH • Petitioned Charter PH • Petitions • Zoning Intro 	2/1 Special	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH for petitioned charter change
2/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning Amendments 1st • Short Term Rentals 1st • Leachate • City Manager's Review 	2/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning Amendments 2nd • Short Term Rentals 2nd • CCR Work Plan (possibly on 3/27)
3/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Meeting Election Day 	3/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational Meeting • Council Overview • Strategic Plan - Infrastructure
3/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan – Housing • CCR Use Policy 	4/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan – Future resilience, Environmental Stewardship
4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan – Community Prosperity 	5/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan – Public Health and Safety.

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

Community Services Department Updates

- **For Community Services updates and resources**, follow the City of Montpelier's main page: [@MontpelierVT](#); and Volunteers page: [@MontpelierVolunteers](#) on Facebook and Instagram. You can also follow our Community Services Departments pages: [@MontpelierSeniorActivityCenter](#), [@MontpelierRec](#), and [@MontpelierParks](#).
- **Reminder: our offices will be closed on Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)

- **Middlesex and Worcester voters, MSAC needs your support for our operations!**
 - MSAC is seeking appropriations from the town of Middlesex for \$4,000 and from the town of Worcester for \$2,700 for Town Meeting Day 2024. However, to get on the ballot, we need signatures from registered voters in each town to do so. If you are **a registered voter** in either the town of Middlesex or Worcester, please come into our office and sign your town's signature form.
 - We need 75 signatures for the town of Middlesex and 50 signatures for the town of Worcester by **Friday, January 12th**. Your support is critical to MSAC's operations. And remember, even if you aren't a registered voter for either of these towns, you can ask a friend or family member who is to come in and support our senior center.
- **Read the January Newsletter and Winter Program Guide here:** <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/MSACNewsletter>
- **Our next FEAST congregate lunch will be Thursday, January 18th at noon inside MSAC. The menu will be published on our website and social media soon.**
- **Next MSAC potluck lunch is Friday, January 26th at noon inside MSAC. Please RSVP by email nanmunno0@gmail.com. Bring your best homemade dishes!**
- **Check out some of MSAC's Drop-in groups!** We've got several new drop-in groups to stay engaged in the cold months of the year. Visit our website www.montpelier-vt.org/MSACClasses to learn more about our classes and drop-in groups.
 - **New drop-ins are available like Reader's Choice, the Rhythm Method, and Tech Help Mondays. Come to play games on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Get outside with Tuesday walks and Trash Tramps. And socialize at our Monday coffee group!**

Montpelier Recreation News

- **Open Gym is back at the Rec Gym from Wednesday to Saturday during the evening hours.**

- **Dodgeball at the Rec Gym – Tuesdays from 7-9pm | \$55 for Montpelier Residents for the season! | Learn more online: 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](#) (**ONLY IF YOU HAVE A USER ACCOUNT ALREADY! Please call 802-225-8699 for setup assistance**)

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.

- **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, pickleball only):** Montpelier Residents: \$45; Non-Montpelier Residents: \$60
- **Noontime Basketball**
 - Noontime Basketball takes place in the Recreation Department gym at 55 Barre Street on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 11:45am – 1:15pm.

Montpelier Parks

- **Support the Parks Legacy Fund!**

- All of our Parks were created through generous donations of land or funds from people who felt passionate about keeping land open and accessible for future generations. This spirit of generosity has led to the amazing network of parks and trails that we enjoy today.



- Our Parks Legacy Fund supports the strategic expansion of our Parks System, and matches grant funds for large capital improvement projects. You can support this goal through a donation of funds, stock, or a legacy gift. Please consider an annual donation as part of your annual giving plan.
- Some of our recent successful projects include:
 - 78-acre expansion to Hubbard Park in 2021
 - Construction of a Universally Accessible Trail from the New Shelter to the Tower in Hubbard Park in 2022.
- To learn more about the fund, please contact Parks Director Alec Ellsworth at aellsworth@montpelier-vt.org. All donations to Montpelier Parks are tax deductible under section 170(c)(1) of the tax code (just like donations to a 501(c)(3), just a different tax number).