



Weekly Report January 26, 2024

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
02/01	City Council Meeting	6:00 PM	Montpelier High School and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link

Improve Public Health and Safety

Montpelier Police Department Weekly Report

*** COFFEE WITH A COP ***

MPD will be holding our next Coffee with a Cop event on Saturday, 10 February 2024 at 10 AM at the @montpelierfarmersmarket located at the Caledonia Spirits Distillery (@barrhillgin) at 116 Gin Lane in Montpelier.

What is @coffeewithacop you ask?

It's a simple concept. Police and community members come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee. In thousands of cities and towns in all 50 states, and in many other countries, "Coffee with a Cop" has done wonders for community trust, police legitimacy, and partnership building.

Community members come to a local "Coffee with a Cop" for a variety of reasons, but no matter why, they are likely to leave with a more positive impression of their local police department.

One of the keys to "Coffee with a Cop's" success is that it removes the physical barriers and crisis situations that routinely define interactions between law enforcement officials and community members. Instead it allows for relaxed, informal one-on-one interactions in a friendly atmosphere. This informal contact increases trust in police officers as individuals which is foundation to building partnerships and engaging in community problem solving.

Free coffee generously provided by @birchgrovebaking!

All are welcome! We'll see you there!

*** 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 January 19 – January 25, the Montpelier Police Department (MPD) logged 237 new incidents (calls for service and/or proactive initiations).

TRAFFIC - MPD conducted 101 traffic stops and directed patrols. Most of these car stops were for speed or other traffic violations.

ARRESTS - MPD made 3 arrests in the past week. Driving with a criminally suspended license – 2 and DUI – 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 fourth quarter of 2023, as well as previous quarterly reports, are available at this link: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=124>

Budget

With the Council's completion of the budget, we will finalize the annual report and information for voters. The team will be working on implementing operations within the approved funding levels.

Legislature

We are closely tracking funding for flood relief, abatement relief, and mitigation in both the FY24 Budget Adjustment Act and the FY25 Budget. We'll provide more details as we get them.

General Business Follow Up:

- The City had received no notice about a potential oil leak behind the Unitarian Church as of the meeting Wednesday night. Staff checked the situation out and learned that it does exist, ANR is aware, and it is being managed per ANR expectations.
- The City had already checked water run off near MMR on Court Street. It is not a water

leak from either the city or the building – confirmed by water testing which showed that it is not city water. It is some sort of drainage run off and the source has not been located.

- As mentioned during the meeting, the City’s budget includes funding for here new DPW trucks.

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

Staff will be making a presentation to the Council at the next meeting 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.***

Donation of Desks: **NEW** On behalf of the Community Justice Center, we wanted to extend our deepest gratitude to the National Life Group for the recent donation of desks. Their generous contribution will undoubtedly have a significant impact on our ability to serve the community. The desks they provided will not only enhance the physical space of the Community Justice Center but will also contribute to creating a more functional and welcoming environment for those they serve.

Eclipse Planning

There will be a total eclipse of the sun on Monday, April 8th at 3:25 PM. Montpelier is in the path of “totality” and will be completely dark for about 2 minutes. Experience in other communities shows that many people – in the thousands - will visit cities in the eclipse path. The state is aware and is making statewide preparations. Montpelier Alive and a City team are working on local plans including safety, sanitation, viewing locations, etc. More to come on this as the date gets closer.

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 is underway. LED lamps for all city facilities 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. 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. Total lifetime savings is projected to be \$249,518.
- 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.
- Manual District Heat meter readings were performed.
- A District Heat expansion funding meeting was held to explore possible grant and incentive funding that can be used to help expand the existing customer base. Efficiency VT, VT Forest, Parks and Recreation and the Clean Energy Development Fund participated in the meeting with the city's District Heat team. Follow-up work has begun in order to identify the most likely candidate buildings for expansion.
- Efficiency VT is providing an \$8,000 rebate to help with the cost of the burners that were replaced on the City Hall boilers.

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.
- Contract for building repair/resiliency design consultants is awaiting signatures from Stevens and Associates.
- 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.
- Weekend repairs/temporary measures were made to the heating system serving the GSH shelter over the weekend January 6-7. Permanent repairs were completed 1/10/24. Door locking issues and leaking toilets have also been addressed.

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.
- Ongoing property management at CCR. The existing daycare expects to be moved out by 2/16/2024.
- Preparations are underway to prepare the Memorial Room to house the CJC offices.

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

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

<p>2/1 Special</p>	<p>PH for petitioned charter change</p>	<p>2/14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoning Amendments 1st ● Building Code 1st ● Leachate ● CCR Work Plan ● City Manager's Review
<p>2/28</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoning Amendments 2nd ● Building Code 2nd ● W/S Budgets? 	<p>3/5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City Meeting Election Day
<p>3/13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organizational Meeting ● Council Overview ● Cemetery Commission ● Eclipse Update ● Set Date for Retreat 	<p>3/27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Infrastructure ● Water Line Plan ● Capital/Equipment Plan ● Stormwater Utility? ● DPW overview
<p>4/10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Housing ● Short Term Rentals 1st ● CCR Update ● Planning & Development Overview 	<p>4/24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Resiliency ● MCRR Update ● Net Zero Update ● FEMA projects update
<p>5/8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Community Prosperity ● Shelter Update ● Parks Overview ● Montpelier Alive Update 	<p>5/22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Public Health and Safety. ● Police Overview ● Fire/EMS Overview ● Recreation Overview ● Senior Center Overview
<p>6/12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water/Sewer Rates ● Admin (City Manager, Finance, HR, Clerk, Assessing) Overview ● Revised Communication Plan 	<p>6/26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set Tax Rate

? = 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, February 19th for Presidents' Day.**

Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)

- Follow our website for the latest event info: www.montpelier-vt.org/MSAC.
- MSAC is excited to announce that Amy Pitton will become our Program & Membership Director starting on Monday, February 5th! Amy comes to MSAC after many years at the Bethany Church serving as both minister and executive director there. See her introductory letter in our February newsletter to be published next week.
- Read the February Newsletter and Winter Program Guide here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/MSACNewsletter>
- Our next FEAST congregate lunch will be Thursday, February 1st at noon inside MSAC. Menu: pulled pork, cornbread, collard greens, banana pudding. Vegetarian option: BBQ tempeh.
- Next MSAC potluck lunch is Friday, February 23rd 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

- **Ice on Fire**

- Sunday, February 4, from 2pm to dusk at the Country Club Road property
- Join us for Ice on Fire, Central Vermont's Celebration of Deep Winter! Come one, come all to this community festival to celebrate the lengthening days, and the warmth of our Montpelier community even in the frigid depths of winter. It is a fun afternoon of dance, theater, music, storytelling, and poetry performed by local artists and community members. Come dressed festively to be outside in whatever the weather. Bring your own mug for hot drinks!
- Parking is limited. Please carpool if possible, and please consider making a donation when you come visit us!
- Volunteers will be needed! Please contact AllTogetherNowVT at (802) 223-1242 or the Parks Department at 802-223-7335 for more

Conceived by Tarin Chaplin & created by the community
Free hot drinks (bring a mug) and activities for all ages!



Bring friends, cross-country skis, snowshoes, and a S.P.I.R.I.T. OF CELEBRATION!

Join us for storytelling, song, poetry reading, theatre and winter games.

Sunday, February 4th at 2pm
(Opening ceremony starts at 2pm. Closing ceremony will start at sunset.)

203 Country Club Rd, Montpelier
(Located at the former Elks Lodge property, across from Agway.)

Parking is very limited.
PLEASE carpool if possible.

Suggested Donation: \$5-10 per person
No one will be turned away!

For event info: contact Janice at info@alltogethernowvt.org | 802-223-1242

information. Follow our social media channels [@MontpelierParks](#) for updates on volunteer requests.

- **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).



[Meeting Agenda & Documents](#)

[Meeting Video](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

Highlights On the Agenda

- **General Business & Appearances:** Video start time: ([2:50](#))
 - Sidney Cushing, DPW Water & Sewer Supervisor
 - Stephen Whitacker
 - Eric Chase, DPW Equipment Division
- **Consent Agenda:** Video start time = ([13:16](#))
- **Charter Change Petition – Just Cause Eviction:** Video start time = ([14:05](#))
- **Public Hearing #2 on FY25 City Budget Discussion:** Video start time = ([54:52](#))
- **Annual Warning Second Public Hearing:** Video start time = ([2:33:08](#))
- **Intro of Proposed Unified Development Regulations:** Video start time = ([2:37:00](#))

Action Taken

- **Consent Agenda:** Minutes removed; Approved.
- **Approved FY 2024 City Budget:** After several weeks of debate and discussion, the City Council voted 8-1 to approve the final version of the FY25 City Budget. This proposed budget will appear on the March 5th ballot.
- **Annual Warning:** Moved & Approved.

Follow-Up

- **Next City Council Meeting:** 6:30 pm on 02/14 at the Montpelier City Hall & on Zoom.
- **Country Club Road Update:** At the 2/14 City Council meeting, the Planning & Community Development Department will present an update on the plans for the Country Club Road Site project.
- **Charter Change Petition – Just Cause Eviction** follow-up on 2/1
- **Proposed Unified Development Regulations:** A first and second public hearing on 2/14 & 2/28.

Learn More

City Meeting Warning: View on our website [here](#).

Learn About the Country Club Road Site project on the City's website [here](#).