

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
02/05	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
02/05	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
02/06	Housing Committee	6:00 PM	Senior Center 58 Barre Street and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
02/07	Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:00 AM	Zoom Only	Agenda and Zoom Link
02/07	Complete Streets Committee	5:30 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
02/07	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom Only	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 26 – February 1, the Montpelier Police Department (MPD) logged 202 new incidents (calls for service and/or proactive initiations).

TRAFFIC - MPD conducted 68 traffic stops and directed patrols. Most of these car stops were for speed or other traffic violations.

ARRESTS - MPD made 8 arrests in the past week. Violation of Conditions of Release – 2, Unlawful Mischief – 2, Retail Theft - 1 and DUI – 3.

TRAINING – Several MPD officers attended training in the use of less lethal options.

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 see below for calls for service (taken from Valcour) for the last three years during the month of January:

Capitol Regional Dispatch (Fire and Ambulance services)

2024	562 calls
2023	674 calls
2022	586 calls

Montpelier Police Department

2024	846 calls
2023	625 calls
2022	683 calls

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...>

Grant Data

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=132>

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:

None this week

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.***

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:

- 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 the installing contractor has confirmed that flood related emergency work has been substantially completed, allowing them to resume work on the lamp changeover. 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.
- 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 is underway to identify the most likely candidate buildings for expansion.
- A meeting was held with district heat users to discuss current bills and system status.
- Efficiency VT is providing a \$8,000 flood relief rebate to help with the cost of the burners that were replaced on the City Hall boilers. An additional rebate is being pursued for the water heater that was replaced.

Facilities:

- 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 gbArchitecture 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. Assistance was provided to coordinate permitting with VT DFS to allow expansion of the shelter space.
- 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 the cost to install additional components to make them operable.
- City hall doors have been repaired and a contractor will be contacted to determine the cause of a recently discovered roof leak.

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.
- New England ADA Center has confirmed the City Council meeting can return to chambers if reasonable accommodations are provided.
- Ongoing property management at CCR. The existing daycare expects to be moved out by 2/16/2024.
- CJC office has been relocated to the Memorial Room.
- Office space has been fitted up at MSAC for the upcoming Programs and Activities Director.

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.cvswwd.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

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 partial 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*)

2/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoning Amendments 1st ● Building Code 1st ● Leachate ● CCR Work Plan ● W/S Budgets? ● Water Line Plan? ● City Manager's Review 	2/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoning Amendments 2nd ● Building Code 2nd ● Audit Report
3/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City Meeting Election Day 	3/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organizational Meeting ● Council Overview ● Cemetery Commission ● Eclipse Update ● Set Date for Retreat
3/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Infrastructure ● Water Line Plan ● Capital/Equipment Plan ● DPW overview ● FEMA Building Update 	4/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Housing ● Short Term Rentals 1st ● CCR Update ● Planning & Development Overview
4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Resiliency ● Short Term Rentals 2nd ● MCRR Update ● Net Zero Update ● FEMA projects update 	5/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Community Prosperity ● Shelter Update ● Parks Overview ● Montpelier Alive Update ● Set Summer schedule
5/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan – Public Health and Safety. ● Police Overview ● Fire/EMS Overview ● Recreation Overview ● Senior Center Overview 	6/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water/Sewer Rates ● Admin (City Manager, Finance, HR, Clerk, Assessing) Overview ● Revised Communication Plan
6/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set Tax Rate? ● 	7/10	

? = 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 15th at noon inside MSAC. This special lunch will include a meet and greet with Program & Membership Director Amy Pitton. Menu: fettucine alfredo, garlic bread, salad, chocolate cake. Appetizers will be served. All are invited to lunch!
- 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 information. Follow our social media channels [@MontpelierParks](#) for updates on volunteer requests.

Conceived by Tarin Chaplin & created by the community

Free hot drinks (bring a mug) and activities for all ages!

Bring blankets, make drums, shakers, bells, and a S.P.I.R.I.T. OF C.E.L.E.B.R.A.T.I.O.N!

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

- **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).

