



Weekly News Roundup January 8, 2021

[Visit our website](#)

Upcoming Events

Martin Luther King & Disability Rights Movement Day Event

January 18, 2021 | 4:00–5:00 pm

Join the Vermont Center for Independent Living to watch a film and talk with Deborah Lisi-Baker about Martin Luther King's legacy and disability rights.

[More Details and Registration Information Here](#)



CVRPC Zoning Administrator Roundtable

January 21, 2020 | 9:00 am

Join CVRPC for a ZA roundtable for discussion with your peers on Accessory On-Farm Businesses and Accessory Dwellings, Flood Hazard Regulations, Determinations and Enforcement, followed by an open roundtable. See [Agenda](#) and contact Clare at rock@cvregion.com with questions or to RSVP.



Veggie Van Go

January 22, 2020 | 9:00-10:30 am

VeggieVanGo is a program that aims to help people who cannot afford to buy enough fruits and vegetables to sustain a healthy lifestyle.

VeggieVanGo in Central Vermont takes place at the Barre Auditorium on the fourth Friday of the month from 9-10:30 AM.

Is Your Zoning Stuck in the 1970s?

Workshop offered January 26th, 1:00 – 2:00 PM January 28th, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

It may have lost its groove. Many municipalities are learning how mid-century zoning values can suppress housing supply, drive up housing costs, and widen racial and economic disparities. While complete zoning overhauls are out of reach for most communities, -- smaller, [incremental changes](#) can make a big difference. Learn more about ways to make your community more inclusive and economically stronger by registering for interactive online training sponsored by AARP-VT, ACCD and CNU. Learn more and [register here](#).

Reshaping the U.S Workforce through Diversity and Inclusion Principles

January 26, 2021 | 2pm-3pm

Norwich University will present a live webinar to will examine the growing demand for diversity and inclusion in the workplace and the knowledge and skills diversity officers, organizational managers, and senior leaders need to implement change in an organization.

Topics include:

- Improving employee retention through diversity, equity, and inclusion
- How diversity, equity, and inclusion creates a positive work culture
- Building hiring practices and policies that elevate equity
- Company pathways for career advancement

Community News

My Ride by GMT Service Begins

On January 4, GMT began operating MyRide by GMT, a new flexible-route, flexible schedule service. Passengers will be able to book their trip via the MyRide by GMT app, by calling the GMT Call Center, or through one of our Customer Service representatives at the Montpelier Transit Center. MyRide by GMT will replace the Montpelier Hospital Hill, Montpelier Circulator, and the Capitol Shuttle.



For more information, visit [RideGMT.com/myride](https://ridegmt.com/myride). If you have questions or comments, please email info@ridegmt.com or call 802-223-7287.

People, Places, and Transportation

Kate McCarthy has announced a new project of VNRC: the People, Places, and Transportation blog. Many of you probably know this blog as Sustainable Transportation Vermont, managed by Julie Campoli. In collaboration with Julie and Richard Watts at UVM, VNRC has taken this on and will continue exploring a range of topics related to transportation.

Please check out the email below, and if you're not already signed up to receive emails, [click on the link](#) to be added to the list. Please let Kate know if you have any questions, and if you have any ideas for entries - kmccarthy@vnrc.org

Placemaking Meet-ups

AARP VT has teamed up with Community Workshop to provide free monthly Placemaking Meet-ups for anyone working on placemaking or interested in getting started. Each month will feature a different theme, and will be a chance to explore placemaking examples, resources and tools. These meet-ups are a place to share knowledge, problem solve together, get inspired by the work happening across the state, and walk away with actionable projects and ideas. All calls are held on Zoom on the last Friday of the month. Register [here](#).

Better Places

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Vermont Community Foundation along with funding partners, the Vermont Arts Council, Preservation Trust of Vermont, and the National Life Group Foundation are pleased to announce \$90,000 in grant funding to launch Better Places, a statewide partnership that will help communities reimagine and reopen public spaces for safe dining, shopping, and recreation, while showcasing the unique sense of place their community offers. Applications are due January 22, 2021. For more information and to apply, [visit the program website](#).

COVID 19 Updates

Central Vermont Pop-Up Testing

While it's still too early to know how the recent holidays impacted COVID-19 cases in Vermont, you can still protect your loved ones and community by getting tested. The Health Department recommends testing if you gathered with anyone you don't live with or had a potential exposure to someone with COVID-19. If you are symptomatic, please contact your primary care provider. Central Vermont Medical Center has also expanded testing- to schedule an appointment, call the CVMC COVID Hotline at 802-371-5310.

Pre-registration is required, pre-register here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>

Farmers to Families Food Box Program Extended

Food distribution will take place daily through the state during December and January. To reduce wait times and improve your experience picking up food, everyone is required to pre-register- complete the simple, four-question survey here: <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/food-help> to register for your food box before going to the next food distribution site. Please register by 12:00pm the day before your preferred event.

Sign up to VTAlert for COVID-19 Updates

VT-ALERT is used by the state and local responders to notify the public of emergency situations including evacuation information; chemical spills; shelter-in-place alerts; severe weather advisories, and more. Residents can tailor the alerts to specific locations, types of alerts and on which devices they will be notified. VTAlert will now provide COVID-19 information including changes in safety guidance, availability of vaccines, and other important info.

- Sign up here: <https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert> and select "COVID information" under the "Health Alerts" tab.
- If you already have an account, [log in](#) to update your subscriptions and receive COVID information.

Vaccine Information on VDH Website

The Vermont Department of Health website has is working closely with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other partners to prepare for vaccines as they become available. [Visit this webpage](#) for information, and check back often as VDH updates this page with new information.

News from CVRPC

The status of many municipal offices has changed in recent weeks - please see our [Municipal Status](#) chart for the latest information (in red). If your community has a need we can assist you with, please contact us at CVRPC@cvregion.com. Previously published editions of [CVRPC's Municipal Updates](#) related to COVID-19 are available on our website. Stay Safe!

RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines

VNRC's Small Grants for Smart Growth

Photo Credit: Vermont River Conservancy (previous grant recipient)

VNRC continues its Small Grants for Smart Growth program with a new approach in 2021: They are offering one larger grant of \$3,000 in a competitive grant round, with applications due February 1st. They'll continue to accept applications for awards of up to \$1,500 on a rolling basis. Learn more at <https://vnrc.org/small-grants-for-smart-growth/>



Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)

FY 2020 APPLICATION PERIOD ANNOUNCED: 1/4/21 - 2/12/21

Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. Documents available [here](#).

Election Resiliency – 2021 Mobile Voting Pilot Program Grants

Recent elections have highlighted a resilience gap in many jurisdictions' election processes and the technical ability to adapt to changing circumstances. There are also ongoing concerns about voter accessibility and the need for protections against voter intimidation. In light of these challenges, it is critical to explore alternative voting methods that can strengthen the resilience of elections.

The goal of the grant program introduced this year is to identify and incorporate technologies that might improve the resiliency of the election system. Secure the Vote will provide a grant to jurisdictions that seek to offer more secure methods for electronic ballot transmission and return. Applications are being accepted for the January–November 2021 timeframe. Priority will be given to those holding an election in the April/May window, with consideration given to those having summer or fall races as well. Funds are limited, and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Further Information and Application

Upcoming Meetings

Please note that CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings

JANUARY

Jan 12 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 13 2 pm Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Via Technology

Jan 14 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 18 Martin Luther King Holiday - CVRPC Office closed

Jan 20 9 am Green Mountain Byways Steering Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 26 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Jan 28 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

STAY CONNECTED

