



Weekly News Roundup March 26, 2021

Visit our website

Upcoming Events

Prevention Works!VT is launching Prevention Day 2021

March 29, 2021 | 12:15 - 2:00 pm

Prevention Day Part 2 will feature a panel discussion on the local efforts to educate communities and towns on the retail cannabis opt-in voting on Town Meeting Day March 2, 2021.

Join prevention coalition staff as they share their experiences in their community. The panel discussion will be followed by small group discussions on alcohol delivery, youth engagement and ACT 164 next steps. [Register](#)



Clean Water Lecture Series

April 1, 2021 | 1:00 pm

The next lecture in the Clean Water series with David Sausville, Wildlife Biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will discuss the Multiple Benefits of Wetland Conservation and Restoration. [Register here.](#)

Natural Resources Planning Trainings in April and May

The Community Wildlife Program at VT Fish & Wildlife is pleased to offer two training courses this spring on Vermont's ecology and town-focused natural resources planning. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we'll be offering both trainings online in April and May. These trainings are ideal for folks serving on town conservation commissions, planning commissions, as well as for other interested people. They are free courses, but attendees do need to attend all 3 sessions in order to receive a certificate of completion. You can sign up for NR 1, NR 2, or both.

Training descriptions and registration links are [available here](#), and any questions can be directed to andrew.wood@vermont.gov

Planning Commissioners + Municipal Officials Roundtable

March 31, 2021 | 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Topic: **Cannabis is Coming**

Session will include a review Act 164 Legislation and discussion on how municipalities can be partners in supporting healthy communities and preventing substance abuse.

Remote Participation via GoToMeetings. Via computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/734320605>

Via Phone: 1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 734-320-605

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/734320605>

Community News

Funding for Additional Wi-Fi Hot Spots- Last Minute Opportunity

Funding is available from the [Information Technology Disaster Resource Center \(ITDRC\)](#) to install Wi-Fi hot spots at additional locations in the next few weeks free of charge.



If you are aware of additional locations for Wi-Fi Spots in your community, please submit information immediately via the following website: <https://www.itdrc.org/covid-19/projectconnect>).

These could be sites without good Wi-Fi access (indoor or outdoor) or where a network could be expanded. Public housing, daycares, shelters, farmers markets, downtowns, parks, etc., are all eligible in addition to town buildings, schools, libraries, etc. The program includes equipment and installation but does not cover the cost of Internet service.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs and Public Information (CAPI) line at 1-800-622-4496.

GMP Workplace Electric Vehicle Charging Program

Green Mountain Power is beginning a pilot program that allows businesses, organizations and municipalities to install EV chargers for public use with no upfront costs. Instead, a subscription beginning at \$35/month covers a level 2 charger, installation, software, project management and maintenance. Financing is available through the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA). For more information, see GMP's [webpage](#). VEDA applications require a letter of support from the RPC. Please contact [Zach Maia](#) with requests.

Northfield & Middlesex Receive Better Places Grants

The Montpelier Bridge recently announced that Northfield and Middlesex were the recipients of Better Places grant monies for public spaces in their town. read the full article [here](#). Congratulations to Middlesex and Northfield!

Marshfield Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Survey- Feedback Requested

The Town and Village of Marshfield is looking for help identifying local safety hazards to assist in updating the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)/

Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property damage by lessening the impact of disasters. Hazard mitigation plans identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural and other disasters and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events.

Hazard mitigation is most effective when implemented through a strategic, comprehensive, and long-term Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), which is reviewed and updated every 5 years. The Town and Village of Marshfield, in collaboration with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, has begun the LHMP update process and is looking for input from Calais residents to help identify hazards that impact the Town and Village.

Please respond to the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MarshfieldLHMP> to help inform the LHMP. [Please complete the survey within the next 2 weeks](#).

Your input is greatly appreciated and will help reduce risks and damages from future hazards.

Contact Grace Vinson at vinson@cvregion.com with any questions.

Public Spaces Awards 2021

Is there a space in your municipality you would like recognized and awarded? Public Spaces Awards are meant to recognize special public spaces, the corridors that connect them, or networks of public spaces which have been defined or enriched by planning or design, as well as regulations that promote positive, public uses and benefits. Read more about the [program](#) and [entry](#) process.

VTrans Releases New Work Zone Safety & Mobility Policy & Guidance

New Work Zone and Mobility Policy was released by VTrans last month. The Policy and Guidance document outlines state- and project-level processes and procedures required to be compliant with VTrans Work Zone Safety and Mobility Policy and Federal Regulations with an intent for every new project to incorporate the new processes by October 1st, 2021 and for existing projects to incorporate them if possible. The new Policy and Guidance document and additional resources, and be found on the VTrans [webpage](#).

COVID 19 Updates

Bars and Social Clubs May Reopen

The Governor announced [updates to COVID-19 guidance](#) for bars and social clubs. Effective March 24th, establishments will be able to follow the [restaurant guidance](#), which will allow them to reopen within current restrictions. These include operating at 50% capacity, requiring patrons be seated at tables with a maximum of six per table, six feet of distance between parties, masking and more. Municipalities will be able to place more restrictions on these establishments in their jurisdictions.

COVID-19 EIDL Deferment Period Extended

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced [extended deferment periods](#) for all disaster loans, including the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, until 2022. All SBA disaster loans made in calendar year 2020, including COVID-19 EIDL, will have a first payment due date extended from 12-months to 24-months from the date of the note. All SBA disaster loans made in calendar year 2021, including COVID-19 EIDL, will have a first payment due date extended from 12-months to 18-months from the date of the note.

Updated Vaccination Schedule

- 03/29: Vermonters age 50+ eligible to register
- 04/05: Vermonters age 40+ eligible to register
- 04/12: Vermonters age 30+ eligible to register
- 04/19: Vermonters age 16+ eligible to register

See this link for more information: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>

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

Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Application Opens on April 8th

The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) has launched a landing page for the [Shuttered Venue Operators Grant \(SVOG\) application portal](#) in anticipation of opening applications for the critical economic relief program on Thursday, April 8th.

Prior to the official SVOG application opening, the SBA will host a [national informational webinar](#) to highlight the application process for potential eligible entities on Tuesday, March 30th from 2:30pm to 4:00pm.

Open Space Institute - Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund

Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund will provide capital grants to protect 50,000 acres in key focus areas along the Appalachian Range, with a focus on reducing climate risks for communities disproportionately affected by flooding and other climate-induced threats.

Deadline: April-14-2021

Funding Amount: \$50,000 to \$400,000

Website <https://www.openspaceinstitute.org/funds/appalachian-landscapes-protection-fund>

Eligibility: Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont: Must be spearheaded by an entity with the capacity and financial ability to execute the transaction and ensure long-term stewardship of the property; and be completed within 18 months of receiving notification of OSI's grant award

Upcoming Meetings

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

MARCH

Mar 30 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Mar 31 6 pm Planning & Zoning Roundtable (see info above)

APRIL

Apr 5 4 pm Executive Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Apr 13 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Apr 13 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Apr 14 2 pm Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Apr 22 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Apr 27 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group, Via Technology (See Agenda)
Apr 27 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

STAY CONNECTED

