



FOUNDATION  
for a RESILIENT  
MONTPELIER

# October Update

## Carve Pumpkins, Build Community, and Support The Enchanted Forest this Sunday

Emerging from the public forums hosted by Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier in April and June, a group has been meeting monthly to implement strategies that support volunteerism as a way to strengthen community here in Montpelier. We're calling it the **M**ontpelier **V**olunteer **E**xchange, or **MoVE**. One of the initiatives of the group is to organize, promote, and/or support monthly large volunteer events. Last month it was the Friends of the Winooski River's annual river clean-up.

This month, we are organizing a pumpkin carving party to support The Enchanted Forest. The Enchanted Forest is hosted by All Together Now! and the Montpelier Parks Department, a spooky and enchanted evening walk through Hubbard Park. The path is lined with hundreds of carved and lit pumpkins, and that is where you come in.



Come and bring a friend or someone new to town to carve a pumpkin or two -

**When:** this Sunday, October 11, from 3 - 5 PM

**Where:** At the New Shelter (the one by the caretakers house) in Hubbard Park.

**Bring:** Your carving tools, your friends and family and someone new to town – all are welcome

**We will have:** Pumpkins for carving and light refreshments

Want to join the **MoVE** task force to help organize more events like this, an annual volunteer fair, and other ways to connect community members to volunteer opportunities? [Click here](#) to sign up.

**87 State Street - Patience and Persistence Required**

If you haven't seen the news, the General Services Administration (GSA) rejected the high bid of the 87 State Street Local Development Corporation (LDC) after an auction for the property that concluded in August. While this was obviously a disappointment, ultimately the LDC views this as one more switchback on what will be a long path towards redevelopment of the property.



On Friday October 2nd, GSA informed the LDC that another auction has been initiated for the property. This one is a sealed bid auction ending on December 16th. With an award from the Vermont Department of Economic Development's Rural Industry Development Program, the LDC intends to participate again, and will continue to ensure that other potential bidders appreciate the significant expense necessary to remediate PCB contamination in the building. As a Local Development Corporation, the LDC is uniquely positioned to manage liability and secure public funding to address the contamination and prepare the property for future redevelopment. Read the press release put out by the LDC after learning that their high bid had been rejected [here](#).

### **Advancing a Rivers Edge Action Plan**

In collaboration with the City of Montpelier, Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier is initiating a community planning process focused on transforming our river's edge. A first step is hiring a planning consultant who will provide technical expertise to support the process. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been published with a deadline of October 30. [You can find a link to the RFP here](#). Know any planning consultants who might be interested? Help us spread the word. The plan is to have a consultant signed up before the end of 2026, with the planning process beginning in earnest in early 2027

### **The Latest from Montpelier Neighbor Net**



'Tis the season for block parties and potlucks, and we've been hearing about many hosted by Local Neighbor Nets. This is just one way that Montpelier Neighbor Net aims to support our neighborhoods to come together for better communication, social connections, and emergency preparedness. Working on a hyper-local level, local volunteer coordinators are strengthening our ability to connect and look out for one another. MNN is growing with nearly 50 active Local Neighbor Nets covering over 1,350 households! [Click here](#) for an interactive map of the neighborhoods in the network. Help us move towards full coverage of our City - for anyone interested in starting a Local Neighbor Net in a place that isn't already organized, we'd love to support you as a local coordinator. Sign up and join the buzz at [MontpelierNeighbor.Net/join](https://MontpelierNeighbor.Net/join).

## **Welcoming a New Team Member -** **Pavan Radhakrishnan**

Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier is very fortunate to participate in SerVermont's Americorps VISTA program, and even more fortunate to welcome our newest team member, Pavan. Pavan is serving as our Community Resilience Project Coordinator. He recently moved to Montpelier from California to serve in this role.



He graduated from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in history and musicology earlier this year. Pavan will be coordinating Montpelier Neighbor Net and will contribute to other projects supported by the Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier

## **Who We Are**

Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier is an action-oriented organization established to create a healthy and resilient city through facilitating democratic engagement, supporting community-led initiatives, and gathering and distributing resources. The new organization was born from the merger of the Montpelier Foundation and the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience. For regular updates on our work and events, join our mailing list here: <https://www.montpelierfoundation.org/join>.



Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier

Contact: Jon Copans at [jon@montpelierstrong.org](mailto:jon@montpelierstrong.org)