

Foundation For A Resilient Montpelier - Email Update - April 10, 2026

Welcome to the Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier monthly e-mail update. Born from the merger of the Montpelier Foundation and the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience (MCRR), we are 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.

“A New Day for Montpelier” - Join us for a Community Forum and Social Hour - April 30th

As part of our launch we are hosting a community forum and social hour at the Montpelier Performing Arts Chapel within College Hall at Greenway Institute on April 30th. The focus of the evening will be breakout conversations on our downtown, community resilience, and civic culture. The social hour, including some tasty food thanks to generous event sponsors, will begin at 5:30pm and the 90 minute program starts at 6:15pm. Dessert by potluck for those who want to bring something to share. See the flyer for the event [here](#).

What’s happening with the old Post Office?

We are continuing the work initiated by MCRR to shape the future of the old Post Office and federal building at 87 State Street. With the help of a \$100,000 appropriation from the legislature, due diligence has been performed to better understand the opportunities and obstacles to redevelopment of the property. Initial evaluation indicates that the 50,000 sq. ft. building is most suited to commercial space and there is room for up to 70 units of new housing on the remainder of the property.

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development bought us some time for studying the building when they stepped up to negotiate with the General Services Administration about the possible purchase of the property. The combination of PCB contamination and an inflexible federal government brought those “negotiations” to an unsuccessful close. The next step in the official process is a public auction, which is likely to last 60 days and start sometime in the spring or early summer. In the interest of determining the future of this important location, we are working on the formation of a Local Development Corporation (LDC) for the express purpose of purchasing and/or redeveloping the property. An LDC would have special access to financing and environmental clean-up funds while also mitigating the risk that the property is purchased by an under-capitalized speculative investor. Positive conversations are underway with potential institutional board members that will help guide the LDC, and a full-court press is being implemented at the legislature in an effort to secure funds to acquire and/or hold the property. While the outcome of these efforts is far from certain, we are confident that a proactive approach increases the likelihood that our community can realize the goals of increasing economic activity and developing housing at this central downtown location.

After the Dams Event

Join us on Wednesday, April 15th for presentations and conversations about how to transform Montpelier’s rivers through dam removals, flood resilience projects, and in-river recreation. This event is co-hosted by the City of Montpelier, Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier (FRM), and the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC).

The event will feature:

- A 20-minute presentation about 4 dam removals proposed for Montpelier from SLR Consulting.
- A 20-minute presentation about the potential for in-river recreation in Montpelier from Outdoor New England.

Following the presentations, community members will be invited to review concept plans, ask questions, and provide feedback.

The event will take place at 58 Barre St. in the Montpelier Senior Activity Center's second floor Activity Room starting at 6:00 PM. This room is accessible by elevator and the event will also be live-streamed by ORCA Media at [this link](#). Light refreshments will be provided. Bring your curiosity, questions, and ideas to share!

Montpelier Neighbor Net

Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier is carrying forward MCRR's goal of blanketing Montpelier in neighbor-to-neighbor connection. In less than a year, Montpelier Neighbor Net (MNN) has incorporated 30 hyper-local neighborhood groups coming together to strengthen social connections, improve communications, and grow emergency preparedness & response in their neighborhoods. These *Local Neighbor Nets* are built from the ground up by neighbors and cover more than 900 households across the City. To learn more about getting connected to your neighbors, visit www.MontpelierNeighbor.Net/join

We're Hiring Our Next Americorps VISTA member!

Any day now, an official job posting will go live recruiting a new Americorps VISTA member at Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier. We've been tremendously well-served by our current member, Jillian Turcola, who is heading off to greener pastures (literally - she'll be working on a farm this summer) at the end of May. The new position will start in late summer. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity, and please put anyone interested in touch with Jon Copans at jon@montpelierstrong.org

Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier Small Grant Program

The Foundation for a Resilient Montpelier is pleased to announce the opening of an application period for its annual Small Grant Program. This program carries on the Montpelier Foundation's role held since 1994— to provide funding for bricks-and-mortar projects that make life better in Montpelier. For 2026, there is \$10,000 in funds available for grants with a simple application to apply. All applications must be submitted by April 30. Learn more about the program details and how to apply here: <https://www.montpelierfoundation.org/grants>

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