

Vermont Public Radio - VPR News

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Quarterly Issues / Program List

4th Quarter - October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

The Community Issues listed in this section of the report aired during local VPR newscasts. This listing is illustrative of the programs aired on VPR and is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of programs responsive to issues of importance to the community. A daily programming and local newscast schedule is provided at the end of this report.

Issue	VPR News - Story Narratives	Air Date(s) & Length
Agriculture	The pandemic brought millions of dollars of federal aid for food assistance programs in Vermont. VPR's Howard Weiss-Tisman explores how the pandemic changed some programs, and how they might look different moving forward. Broadcast during Morning Edition.	10/29 at 7:44am, 6 min 9 sec
Agriculture	Vermont's largest commercial compost facility transforms more than 5,000 tons of food scraps into compost and topsoil every year. But starting Jan. 1, 2022, compostable foodware won't be allowed in the mix. We'll hear from Chittenden Solid Waste District on why they're making this change. Broadcast during Weekend Edition Saturday.	10/31 at 9:35 am, 5 min 16 sec
Agriculture	A policy in Vermont is supposed to prevent state and local police from turning farm workers over to federal immigration officials. But body camera footage from a recent traffic stop in Newport suggests some officers are disregarding that guidance. VPR's Peter Hirschfeld brings us that story, on Morning Edition and All Things Considered.	10/6 at 7:50am and 5:50pm, 7 min 23 sec
Agriculture	Indigenous people in Vermont, together with other people of color, manage just one percent of the state's farmland. As VPR's Elodie Reed reports, some organizations are trying to redress these racial disparities by giving resources, land and decision-making power back to communities of color. Broadcast during Morning Edition and All Things Considered.	12/11 at 7:50am and 5:50pm, 7 min 6 sec
Arts / Culture	Some female and femme-identifying musicians in Vermont say they face sexual discrimination when it comes to pay equity and getting top billing in local venues. VPR's Marlon Hyde chats with Myra Flynn about the music culture in the Queen City. Broadcast during Weekend Edition Saturday.	12/19 at 9:35am, 5 min
Arts / Culture	Vermont College of Fine Arts professor Tomás Morin recently published a new book of poetry. It addresses race and police brutality, but is also full of wit and joy. We talk to Morin about his poetry, teaching in Vermont, and the creative community he's built here. Broadcast during Vermont Edition.	11/5 at 12:06pm, 18 mins 45 sec
Arts / Culture	VPR Classical's Helen Lyons takes us inside the Mahaney Arts Center in Middlebury for the New England premier of a new composition that combines classical music and the work of former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove to explore how history has shaped American identity. Broadcast during Weekend Edition Sunday.	12/3 at 8:44am, 5min 45 sec

Arts / Culture	One Vermont author recently found 2 of her books made it on the list of books in Texas that have caused controversy across the state. Titles on the list cover topics like race, and stories about LGBTQ characters. A conversation with that author broadcast on Morning Edition.	12/14 at 7:50am, 7 min 41 sec
Business / Economics	Pandemic relief programs have lifted millions of people in the U.S. out of poverty. And in Vermont right now, jobs are plentiful and starting wages are up. But the data only tells part of the story. VPR's Nina Keck reports. Broadcast during Morning Edition and All Things Considered.	11/10 at 7:44 and 4:44pm, 5 min 41 sec
Business / Economics	Ski resorts are hustling to staff up before the winter season. The nationwide staffing shortage is making that harder than ever. Resorts are offering signing bonuses, housing and other incentives to get enough workers. Will they be able to operate at full capacity? If not, what could that mean for Vermont's tourism economy? Broadcast during Vermont Edition.	11/11 at 12:06pm and 7:06pm, 47 min 30 sec
Business / Economics	The new federal infrastructure bill signed into law this week includes about a hundred-million dollars to help Vermont build out its broadband network. That's in addition to a huge pot of money from the earlier federal COVID relief package for broadband. VPR's Howard Weiss-Tisman breaks down what this all means for Vermont's long promised goal of bringing high speed Internet to every corner of the state, on Morning Edition.	11/17 at 7:50am, 6 min
Business / Economics	We speak with Vermont Attorney General TJ Donovan. He'll discuss why he opposes Purdue Pharma's opioid settlement and more. Broadcast during All Things Considered.	12/16 at 5:44pm, 6 min 7 sec
Business / Economics	Early in the pandemic, VPR checked in with Jennifer Isabell, a restaurant owner in Morrisville, as she navigated sudden disruptions to her business. Now, a year later, she's sold her restaurant. On All Things Considered, VPR's Henry Epp checks back in to hear her reflections on her time in the dining business.	10/23 at 5:44pm, 5 min 37 sec
Business / Economics	Next fall, Vermont's retail cannabis market is scheduled to go into place. The Vermont Cannabis Control Board is in charge of making this happen and they've already made some key decisions. VPR's senior political reporter Bob Kinzel gets us up to speed tomorrow/Wednesday on Morning Edition right here on VPR.	10/27 at 7:50am, 8 min 18 sec
Business / Economics	Many businesses struggling to find staff during the pandemic have offered signing bonuses and higher wages to entice workers. But one general store in the Upper Valley is employing an entirely different strategy. VPR's Lexi Krupp has that story. Broadcast on Morning Edition.	12/19 at 7:45am, 5 min 19 sec
Education and Schools	Despite Vermont's high COVID vaccination rate, case counts have been high. That's prompted some lawmakers, teachers and health care professionals to call on Gov. Phil Scott to impose tighter COVID restrictions. Today on All Things Considered, an interview with the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, which is also asking for stricter mitigation measures - pointing in particular to the pandemic's outsized impacts on Black Vermonters.	10/27 at 5:50pm, 7 min 26 sec
Education and Schools	Last week, state lawmakers released recommendations to overhaul how Vermont's public schools are funded. The changes could dramatically alter how money flows through districts, including for rural schools. VPR's Peter Hirschfeld breaks down the recommendations, on All Things Considered.	12/13 at 5:44pm, 5 min 26 sec

Education and Schools	At the Dartmouth Media & Health lab researchers are hoping to learn more about children's screen time and how that affects healthy eating and exercise habits. We hear more about the new study on Weekend Edition Sunday.	12/12 at 8:35am, 6 min 21 sec
Health Care / Public Health	During this latest surge of COVID, younger patients are ending up in the hospital. Some health care workers say that's contributing to the burnout many are feeling. VPR's Mitch Wertlieb brings us a conversation with one emergency department nurse who works in a hospital in Bennington, on Morning Edition.	10/7 at 7:45am, 3 min 43 sec
Health Care / Public Health	Earlier this month, the Scott administration announced a plan to make rapid tests available at pharmacies for free. At some pharmacies the program is up and running. But there are several caveats: it only covers people with certain types of health insurance, and it relies on pharmacies having the tests in stock. Broadcast during Morning Edition.	12/21 at 7:45am, 5min 56 sec
Health Care / Public Health	At Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, a new program has been started to support new nurses as they navigate their way through the sometimes challenging first year. Broadcast during Morning Edition and All Things Considered.	11/15 at 7:50am and 5:50pm, 7mins 23sec
Health Care / Public Health	State regulators say that Vermont's hospital system is losing too much money and they want to see major changes to avoid another bankruptcy. That could mean eliminating beds and consolidating services. VPR's Howard Weiss-Tisman reports on All Things Considered.	11/3 at 4:50pm, 6 min 45 sec
Health Care / Public Health	Vermont has struggled to contain the Delta surge of COVID-19 for months now, and new cases and hospitalizations from the virus have reached all time highs. It comes at a time when hospital workers say they are exhausted from nearly two years of the pandemic. Every day this week, VPR is airing stories from frontline healthcare workers at Northeastern	week of 12/5 at 7:50am and 5:44pm, 7min each
Politics and Government	Two charged debates have been taking place in Burlington lately surrounding homelessness and policing. This hour, Mayor Miro Weinberger joins us to discuss these issues and answer your questions. Broadcast during Vermont Edition.	10/28 at 12:06 and 7:06pm, 48 min 46 sec.
Politics and Government	Congressman Peter Welch has pledged not to accept any money from corporate PACs in his bid for U.S. Senate. But he enters the race with over \$2 million dollars in his account for his current position in the House, some donated by corporate supporters. VPR's Henry Epp has more on that and other campaign finance issues on All Things Considered.	12/2 at 5:44pm, 5 min 23 sec
Politics and Government	Lawmakers are in Montpelier today for a one-day special session. They're expected to pass legislation that would give municipalities the authority to institute local indoor mask mandates. We catch up with VPR statehouse reporter Peter Hirschfeld on All Things Considered.	11/22 at 5:50pm, 8 mins
Vermont Issues	After putting its headquarters up for sale, the 132-yr old Hardwick Gazette is recruiting "citizen journalists" to work remotely and help ensure the paper serves its community. Broadcast during Weekend Edition Saturday.	12/11 at 9:35am, 5 mins