

WCFR 1480 SPRINGFIELD, VT  
QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS REPORT  
1ST QUARTER 2024

The following broadcasts were aired in Vermont newscasts which ran at 6:00AM and were rebroadcast at 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM, 4:00 PM, and 5:00 PM.

Jan 2: Highway crashes: Fatal crashes remain consistent on Vermont roads: 36 seconds

Jan 3: Flood relief: A coalition of Montpelier and Barre legislators plans to introduce an omnibus flood relief bill that would provide at least \$85 million in tax relief, business grants and funding for mitigation and preparedness efforts following last summer's devastating flooding: 31 seconds

Jan 4: Nursing shortage: The state has put tens of millions of dollars into attracting, teaching, and keeping new nurses: 37 seconds

Jan 5: Hunting: The preliminary deer harvest numbers are in for the 2023 season: 29 seconds

Jan 8: Bomb threats: Local and state police are investigating after they say multiple bomb threats were made through email on Saturday: 38 seconds

Jan 9: Honeybees: Climate change, habitat loss and mites are contributors to a decline in Vermont's honeybees, but beekeepers say agricultural pesticides like neonicotinoids are their biggest killers: 33 seconds

Jan 10: State politics: An organization trying to attract younger state lawmakers is renewing a push to break down partisan walls at the Statehouse: 33 seconds

Jan 11: Drug overdose deaths: Facing an ongoing surge of fatal overdoses, lawmakers in the Vermont House Wednesday gave preliminary approval to a bill that would create overdose prevention sites: 38 seconds

Jan 12: Sports betting: Vermont sports fans can now legally wager online as mobile sports betting launched in the state on Thursday, an industry that's expected to bring in up to \$7 million in revenue to the state during the first full year: 40 seconds

Jan 15: Cannabis: Vermont lawmakers are looking at possible changes to the state cannabis laws: 35 seconds

Jan 16: Child care: Vermont's child care reform legislation was a top priority of the past session and was said to be one of the most expansive in the nation: 43 seconds

Jan 17: Violence against Palestinians: Protestors tried to block entry into Collins Aerospace in Vergennes Monday afternoon - calling for an end to violence against Palestinian people: 40 seconds

Jan 18: Animal welfare: Animal welfare groups have followed through on their promise to sue the state after the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board

moved forward with new hunting and trapping rules that, the groups allege, don't align with the laws that spurred them: 40 seconds

Jan 19: Family and medical leave: There will soon be a new option for Vermonters to get family and medical leave insurance through their employers: 29 seconds

Jan 22: War in Gaza: Hundreds gathered outside City Hall in Burlington Saturday calling for a ceasefire in Gaza: 36 seconds

Jan 23: Public transit: Vermont's public transit system is facing a funding crisis: 33 seconds

Jan 24: State budget: A budget battle is looming at the Statehouse between Vermont's Republican governor and Democrats in the Legislature: 40 seconds

Jan 25: Cannabis: Vermont health officials say a proposal to increase the potency limits on cannabis is a bad idea: 38 seconds

Jan 26: Property taxes: Vermont lawmakers are searching for answers on how to bring down a massive expected property tax increase driven by school spending: 37 seconds

Jan 29: Forestry industry: Experts traveled from around New England for Vermont Forest Products Association's annual meeting: 43 seconds

Jan 30: University tuition: Tuition is going up for Vermont State University students: 41 seconds

Jan 31: Car thefts: Vermont lawmakers are hoping to crack down on a recent spike in car thefts that authorities say is part of a statewide problem: 44 seconds

Feb 1: Flood relief: Vermont Governor Phil Scott says a budget bill at the Statehouse will put the kibosh on his bundled sale of flood relief license plates and socks: 44 seconds

Feb 2: Opioid settlement: Vermont and New York will both get part of a multimillion-dollar national settlement from an ad agency that developed marketing campaigns for Oxycontin and other prescription painkillers: 43 seconds

Feb 5: Cancer in firefighters: Cancer is an underreported but high-level concern for Vermont firefighters-- that's according to a new report for the Legislature: 34 seconds

Feb 6: Aging school buildings: A new report has revealed staggering costs for fixing or replacing Vermont's aging school buildings: 35 seconds

Feb 7: Domestic abuse: State leaders are launching a new program to help victims and survivors of domestic abuse regain their financial independence: 36 seconds

Feb 8: School budgets: Vermont lawmakers are hoping a plan to delay Town Meeting Day votes on local school budgets will buy them more time to deal with a looming property tax hike: 46 seconds

Feb 9: Homelessness: Officials from Gov. Phil Scott's administration offered more details Thursday on their plans to set up temporary, emergency shelters for unhoused Vermonters exiting the state's pandemic-era motel housing program: 36 seconds

Feb 12: Renewable energy: State lawmakers advance a bill to source more of our energy from renewable resources: 36 seconds

Feb 13: Greenhouse gas emissions: Four more anaerobic digesters are coming to Vermont to help cut down on greenhouse gas emissions on dairy farms. Anaerobic digestors reduce greenhouse gas emissions by turning cow manure into renewable energy, heat, animal bedding, and fertilizer: 47 seconds

Feb 14: Foreign aid: In the wee hours of Tuesday morning, Vermont's two U.S. senators voted against a \$95 billion spending package slated to dispense billions of dollars in aid to foreign allies, including Israel and Ukraine: 33 seconds

Feb 15: School budgets: Is the skyrocketing cost of health care contributing to higher school budgets and a projected spike in property taxes: 40 seconds

Feb 16: Unemployment insurance: Vermont's online portal for those seeking unemployment insurance benefits experienced technical difficulties again on Sunday and Monday, marking the latest in a recent series of disruptions to the system: 33 seconds

Feb 19: Organic farming: Farmers, gardeners, and more agriculture enthusiasts got to share ideas and network at this weekend's Northeast Organic Farming Association winter conference: 23 seconds

Feb 20: Overdose deaths: Non-opioid overdose deaths among Vermonters spiked during the pandemic, fueled by cocaine, prescription medication and alcohol, according to a new report issued by the state Department of Health: 31 seconds

Feb 21: Flood relief: Gov. Phil Scott has asked the White House to approve a third major disaster declaration for the state for 2023 after seven of Vermont's counties experienced yet another bout of flooding in mid-December: 29 seconds

Feb 22: Property taxes: The Vermont Senate Wednesday approved a bill that seeks to bring skyrocketing property tax bills back to earth: 47 seconds

Feb 23: Vehicle emissions: Vermont has joined a group of other states raising objections to a proposed emissions settlement with the engine maker of Ram Trucks over so-called defeat devices installed in their diesel vehicles: 35 seconds

Feb 26: Electric vehicles: There's a new opportunity for Vermonters looking to save money while driving electric: 36 seconds

Feb 27: National politics: Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley is making a campaign stop in Vermont this weekend: 39 seconds

Feb 28: Education spending: The latest data from the Vermont Agency of Education shows a small decrease in projected education spending and

affirms previously anecdotal evidence on the major factors causing a projected increase in education property taxes: 29 seconds

Feb 29: Homelessness: A budget adjustment bill in Montpelier will keep the homeless hotel program going, but at a lower cost: 40 seconds

Mar 1: Qualifications for officials: A proposed state constitutional amendment to set qualifications and removal procedures for elected county officials has reached a dead end in the Legislature: 39 seconds

Mar 4: Public health: Data from the CDC suggests norovirus is peaking in the northeast: 47 seconds

Mar 5: Local politics: Tuesday is Town Meeting Day and one of the most contentious conversations happening for voters and leaders surrounds school budgets: 43 seconds

Mar 6: Gaza war: Three Vermont communities passed cease-fire resolutions on this Town Meeting Day: 31 seconds

Mar 7: Power grid: Developers of a federally backed, major transmission line project that would have run through Vermont and New Hampshire have decided not to move the project forward: 39 seconds

Mar 8: Public health: The Vermont Department of Health is investigating after two people were infected with listeria, and officials say it may be linked to a Vermont grocery store: 39 seconds

Mar 11: Worker shortage: According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Vermont has 36 available workers for every 100 jobs: 38 seconds

Mar 12: State politics: This will be a busy week in Montpelier where Vermont lawmakers face a key deadline to advance legislation. Friday marks "Crossover Day," the halfway point of the session where bills move from one chamber to the other: 44 seconds

Mar 13: Passenger rail: Vermont is on track to receive federal funding as the state considers an Amtrak expansion: 37 seconds

Mar 14: Shorter work week: Sen. Bernie Sanders on Wednesday announced a plan for a shorter workweek for Americans: 33 seconds

Mar 15: Homelessness: Hundreds of homeless Vermonters are set to be kicked out of their state-funded motel rooms on Friday as the emergency program's wintertime adverse weather regulations expire: 35 seconds

Mar 18: Forest products industry: The last 18 months have dealt a blow to Vermont's \$1.4 billion forest products industry: 36 seconds

Mar 19: Maple industry: Trees are tapped across Vermont, and while the sap has already been flowing for many due to the mild winter, Gov. Phil Scott kicked off the unofficial start to the maple sugaring season at Buck Family Maple in Washington on Monday: 42 seconds

Mar 20: State politics: Gov. Phil Scott has made Bram Kranichfeld's appointment as Franklin County State's Attorney permanent: 27 seconds

Mar 21: Health care: OneCare Vermont's board of managers has tapped Abe Berman to be the accountable care organization's CEO, elevating the

former health care executive from his position as interim CEO: 31 seconds

Mar 22: Medical malpractice: Laura Purdy bills herself online as "America's favorite doctor" but Vermont regulators this month reprimanded her for practicing shoddy telemedicine that violates state regulations: 34 seconds

Mar 25: Ski industry: It's being marketed as "a miracle March" for the region's ski industry: 40 seconds

Mar 26: State budget: A key Vermont House panel advanced a plan to fund critical priorities in the budget, floated by about \$125 million in new taxes: 44 seconds

Mar 27: Car theft: Burlington police are warning the public about suspicious tracking devices found on some vehicles returning to the U.S. from Montreal: 31 seconds

Mar 28: Pesticides: A bill to protect bees and other pollinators from toxic pesticides known as neonics is moving forward at the Statehouse after it was approved by the House last week: 44 seconds

Mar 29: School budgets: Vermonters are continuing to vote down school budgets nearly a month after voters on Town Meeting Day rejected an unprecedented one-third of budgets: 35 seconds