

Vermont Public - News

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Quarterly Issues / Program List 1st Quarter - January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024

The Community Issues listed in this section of the report aired during local Vermont Public segments. This listing is illustrative of the programs aired on Vermont Public and is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of programs responsive to issues of importance to the community. Local news pieces range from 4 to 8 minutes.

Issue	Vermont Public News - Story Narratives	Air Date(s) & Length
Government/Politics/Legislative	Gov. Phil Scott's annual State of the State Address, with post-address context and analysis.	1/4 at 2:00pm
Legislative	Lawmakers are back in Montpelier, and it's become very clear that disaster recovery and climate adaptation will be front and center this year. It's also clear that Democratic lawmakers may be at odds with Republican Governor Phil Scott over how much state funding should go to recovery.	1/5 at 7:50am and 4:50pm
Health & Safety	January 8th marks 10 years since then-Governor Peter Shumlin made the surprising move to devote his entire annual State of the State address to Vermont's opioid epidemic. It was a watershed moment and kicked off a statewide push to tackle the crisis. But now progress has stalled due to more dangerous drugs, the COVID-19 pandemic and a rise in homelessness.	1/8 at 7:50am and 4:50pm
Financial	Today's show: breaking down the new FAFSA form and college financial aid with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation and a post secondary planning counselor at Middlebury Union High School. We'll also check in with the Women's Freedom Center, a domestic and sexual violence organization marking its 50th anniversary serving Windham and Windsor counties.	1/8 at 12:00pm
Eldercare	The number of older drivers in Vermont is rapidly growing. They're more vulnerable in crashes... which is why experts say it's important for them to refresh their skills and be aware of how their age could impact their driving.	1/10 at 7:50am and 4:50pm
Education & Taxes	Education property tax bills are expected to rise more than 18 percent this year, on average.... which means local school districts have some decisions to make about the budgets they'll present voters in March. On this week's edition of Capitol Recap, Vermont Public education reporter Lola Duffort tells us how decision-makers at the Statehouse are reacting to the news.	1/12 at 12:00pm and 7:00pm
Economy	Lawmakers in Montpelier had been bracing for bad news about the state of Vermont's economy. Until yesterday, when state economists shared a surprisingly rosy picture of the state's finances. Statehouse reporter Peter Hirschfeld will share more on that in the latest edition of the Capitol Recap.	1/19; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Government/Politics/Legislative	A recent report from the state paints a positive picture for Vermont's honeybee population. But many beekeepers across the state are telling a different story. They say pollinators are in crisis because of a powerful class of pesticides, which they want the state to ban.	1/23; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Climate	After a year of historic flooding, some Vermont lawmakers and environmental advocates are pushing for the state to create a new program similar to the federal superfund program. Basically, it would force big oil companies to pay for climate-related damages in the state.	1/24; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Refugee Resettlement	Organizations in Vermont are hoping to resettle about 600 refugees this year – an increase over 2023. But the longstanding lack of affordable housing could get in the way. Vermont Public's Mary Engisch spoke to the director of the state's refugee office about the outlook for this year.	1/25; 7:50am and 4:50pm

Literature/Arts/Culture	The Newbery Honors – among the most prestigious prizes in children’s literature – were announced this week. And Calais author MT Anderson received one for his latest book, Elf Dog & Owl Head.	1/29; 7:44am and 4:44pm
Education & Economy	This week, state, House and Senate lawmakers held a two-hour hearing about school spending rising at an unprecedented rate. The most recent forecasts predict that school taxes could rise an average of 17% next year.	1/26; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Higher Education	The University of Vermont is part of a new federally-funded initiative to give higher education a larger presence in rural communities. The program funds partnerships between UVM and towns to address local issues, like flood mitigation or housing development.	1/31; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Climate	Vermont’s Department of Forests Parks and Recreation has proposed a new draft plan for how it manages the Worcester Range. And as Vermont Public’s Abagael Giles reports, it’s sparked debate over how to manage Vermont’s state land in the face of climate change.	2/1; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Healthcare & Economy	Most Vermonters experiencing financial difficulties are eligible for publicly-funded insurance to cover health care costs. But there’s a class of Vermonters that isn’t allowed to enjoy the full benefits of the state’s Medicaid program, and there’s no getting around the factor that disqualifies them.	2/2; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Climate & Agriculture	It’s been a difficult few seasons for farmers, between a late spring frost and recent floods. Then, last month, another major storm swept through the state... including the town of Bristol. Vermont Public’s Lexi Krupp spoke with farmers and sugarmakers there to learn how damages can pile up on each other.	2/5; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Opioids and Law Enforcement	In early-September, 35-year old Jeffery Nichols died from a fentanyl overdose in the state prison in St. Albans. His death is being investigated by several state agencies -- but those inquiries are on-going. That’s been frustrating for Nichols’ family – who are desperate to know what happened in the final hours of their son’s life	2/6; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Health & Wellness	At-risk people are getting far fewer mammograms in recent years... which has doctors worried – because screening is key to catching breast cancer before it’s too late. But mammograms can be uncomfortable... both in the radiology office, and to talk about in the first place. Vermont Public’s Jenn Jarecki recently had her very first mammogram, and documented the experience to demystify it for others.	2/7 at 12:00pm and 7:00pm
Housing/Homelessness	Each year, advocates and officials around the country do a point-in-time count to see how many people are experiencing homelessness on a given night. It shows not just how many people are living outside, but how good a job the government is doing at sheltering people. And the results from this year’s count could look a bit different in Vermont	2/8; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Cannabis	The Vermont Legislature is considering several bills that could dramatically alter the state’s cannabis laws... in particular the medical program, potency limits on retail cannabis, and zoning regulations.	2/9; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Taxes & Education	Property taxes have been front of mind for state lawmakers, as they’re forecasted to jump 20 percent next year due to unexpectedly big school budget proposals. Now, with Town Meeting just one month away, Democratic lawmakers are planning to overhaul the state’s education tax laws... which could lead to some school budget votes getting postponed	2/9; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Eclipse	April’s total solar eclipse is fast approaching. And meteorologist Mark Breen with the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium has been preparing.	2/12; 7:50am and 4:50pm
Social Media	The U.S. Surgeon General warned Americans last year that social media poses a major risk to the mental health of kids. Without action from Congress... Vermont lawmakers are stepping in to consider regulating social media use.	2/16; 7:44am and 4:44pm
Broadband	Unless Congress acts soon, a 14 billion dollar federal program that subsidizes high speed internet for low-income households will run out of money in April. And more than 25-thousand Vermonters would be impacted – many of them older residents.	2/20; 7:44am and 4:44pm

