

Central Vermont Food, Fuel and Transportation Winter Preparedness Coalition

The Coalition is urging towns in Central Vermont to examine how they can support residents who may be vulnerable this winter because of high food, fuel, and transportation costs. The City of Montpelier is taking a two prong approach to ensuring the safety of Montpelier residents during the winter months.

City government is creating an emergency management plan which organizes, in advance, appropriate responses for people experiencing difficulty. The city has met with community partners to ensure services will be in place and that the city is prepared to respond should many residents be unable to heat their homes or experiencing other difficulties.

In addition, the City of Montpelier has launched an effort known as Montpelier CAN! (Montpelier Capital Area Neighborhoods). The goal is to create permanent neighborhood associations that can respond to emergencies and other needs that are outside of the capacity of local government. In addition, the neighborhood association can serve as a link between city government and residents on neighborhood issues and concerns. On August 25th more than 50 people gathered in city hall for a kick off meeting. The group enthusiastically took up the challenge of reaching out to neighbors to create neighborhood associations with a first goal of recognizing and supporting people who may be experiencing difficulty this winter

Breaking into groups representing neighborhoods around the city, each group came up with different approaches to reaching out to and communicating with neighbors. Team leaders were chosen and next organizational meetings established. The team leaders will meet the first week of September to work together to help create the neighborhood associations.

Montpelier residents are urged to call the Planning office, 223-9506, to get information about the neighborhood association that represents them—and when it will be meeting.

The Central Vermont Food, Fuel & Transportation Winter Preparedness Coalition will be meeting on September 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the United Way Conference Room, 963 Paine Turnpike, Berlin. Subcommittees have been meeting and will be presenting their ideas and recommendations. There will also be updates from both a municipal and state perspective. If you are interested in attending, call Kate at Green Mountain United Way at 223-9532 or by email at gmunitedway@madriver.com.

For further information please contact either Pat McDonald at 476-8411 or patmcdonald8411@charter.net or Mary Hooper at 793-9512 or maryhooper@verizon.net. McDonald and Hooper are the co-chairs of the CVWPC Communication and Education Action Team.

Submitted by Mary Hooper 8-28-08, 223-2892