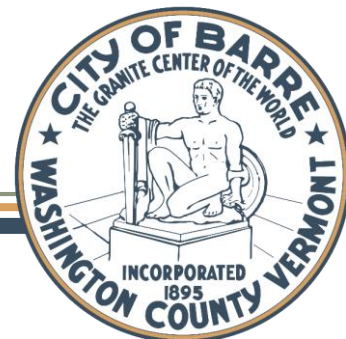


STORM EVENT & RECOVERY UPDATE

JULY 16, 2024



TIMELINE OF EVENTS – PRE-IMPACT

- **Monday, July 8:**

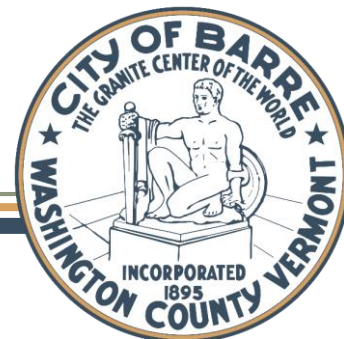
- City begins receiving briefings from the State about concerning forecast. Forecast was for 1-3” in the region, with isolated pockets getting up to 5”.
- City staff begins to meet and plan storm response, including:
 - Cleaning and clearing trash racks and storm basins;
 - Checking known problem areas around the river, including the railroad trestle, bridges, and other areas where debris tends to collect;
 - Preparing the Auditorium in case it was needed as an emergency shelter; and
 - Closely monitoring forecasts and being ready to move assets to the Civic Center if needed.

- **Tuesday, July 9:**

- City issues first website and Facebook notices to residents about the severity of the storm and encouraging residents to follow our website, Facebook page, and sign up for VT-Alerts.
- City distributes sandbags, encourages residents in low-lying areas to fortify their homes.

- **Wednesday, July 10:**

- City issues several website, Facebook, and VT-Alert updates to residents.
- By noon, the forecast had not materially changed (1-3” in the region, with isolated pockets receiving up to 5”)



TIMELINE OF EVENTS - IMPACT

• Wednesday, July 10:

○ 6:00-8:00PM:

- Heavy bands of rain hit the City throughout the afternoon, particularly during this time period.
- At this point, the storm was still tracking as less severe than last year's storm, and if forecast remained at up to 3" of rain, there was little concern of flood conditions

○ 8:00PM-10:00PM:

- Water levels begin to rise in the City as culverts become overwhelmed.
- Main Street in downtown core is closed to traffic.
- City urges residents in low-lying areas to seek shelter at the Aud, and to avoid unnecessary travel as roadways took on water.
- City crews and state partners conduct ~12 high-water rescues.

○ 10:00PM – Overnight:

- City staff is concerned about last heavy band of rain coming through the area. Fortunately, the rain does not materialize and allows storm basis and culverts to catch up and water levels recede.
- Boil water notice issued due to turbidity at the Water Treatment Plant (eventually LIFTED on Friday, July 12 at 1:35PM).

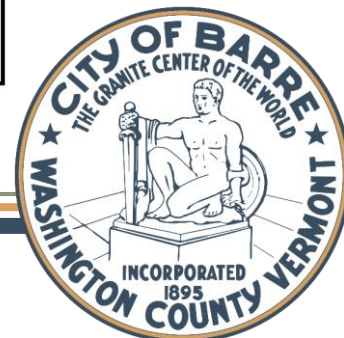
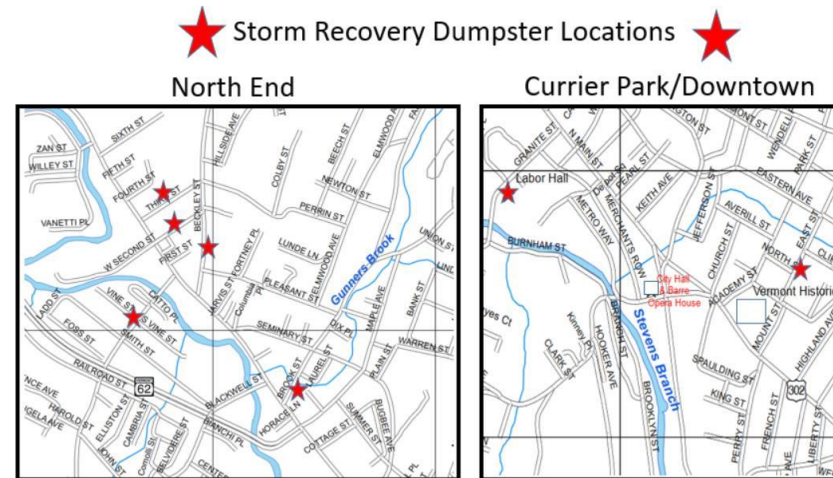
All told, it is estimated that 4.7" of rain fell between the afternoon and 10:00PM.



FIRST STEPS OF RECOVERY

- Closed Main Street between Elm Street and Maple Avenue for mud clean-up.
- Procured water from the State due to boil water notice.
- Ramped up FEMA-compliant operations in anticipation of meeting the disaster threshold.
- Began to secure dumpsters for residential clean-up -- currently seven dumpsters are deployed in the North End and around Currier Park.
- Directed residents to shovel mud to the right-of-way for eventual pick up by City crews.

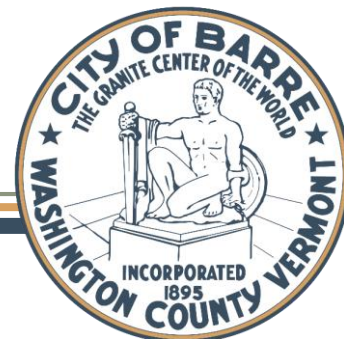
To qualify for a major disaster declaration, FEMA must verify at least \$1.183 million in response and public infrastructure recovery costs. Individual counties must also show damages of \$4.60 per capita to qualify. Per the Governor's Office, estimated damages to public infrastructure resulting from the storm exceed \$15 million.



DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

- Limited damage at City buildings (Public Works Garage, Public Safety Building, and City Hall), which is not expected to require new contracted work.
- Limited damage to City fleet.
- Citywide there was significant damage to culverts and basins, limited damage to streets and sidewalks compared to last year.
- Parks and playgrounds in the North End have mud accumulations.
- Commercial and residential damage is still extensive:
 - Damage was **less widespread** overall
 - Water levels were **lower** overall
 - Mud was **lower** overall, but more soupy consistency and still requiring very labor-intensive removal
- One minor landslide identified, no immediate risk and low-priority for response.
 - Existing landslide sites had no visible impact or change.

For many of our neighbors, this year's flood was just as bad or, in some cases, worse than last year. Many faced several feet of water in basements, mud, and extensive damage to personal property.



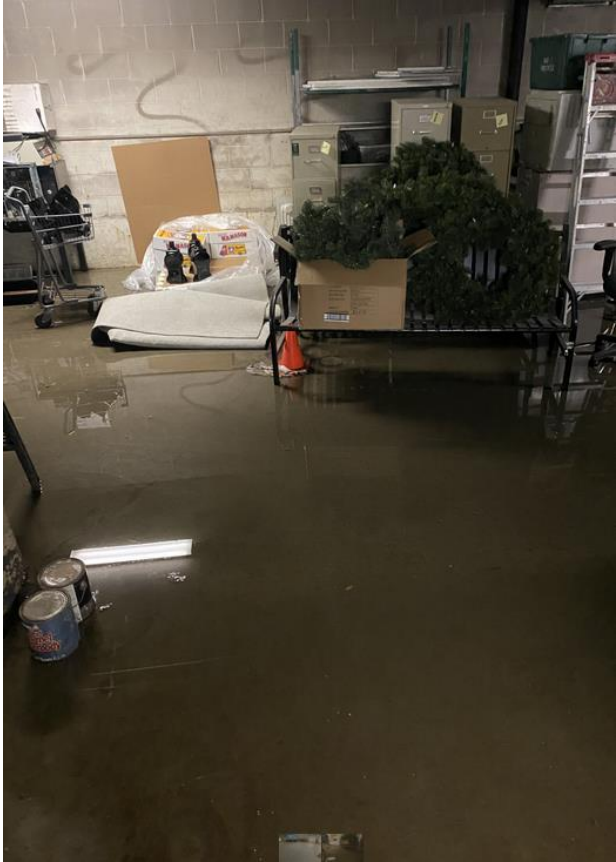
DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS



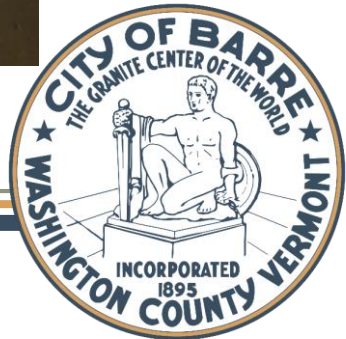
Berlin St Bridge



Public Safety Building



City Hall



CONDITIONS OF RENTAL UNITS/HOMES

- Most properties in hardest hit areas have been inspected
 - 81 Green tags (Safe for Occupancy)
 - 45 Yellow tags (Partial Occupancy)
 - 5 Red tags (Unsafe for Occupancy)
- City requested continued availability of the Red Cross shelter at the Aud for residents impacted by the storm until building inspections are completed.
- Renters with concerns should make reports to Code Enforcement:

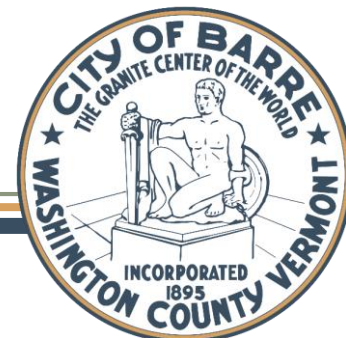
<https://www.barrecity.org/complaint-form.html>

5 Red Tags

- Structural issue
- Refused entry
- Electrical under water
- Pierre Motel first floor
- Burned vacant building



If you were impacted by the storm, please report damage to 211, and request assistance by calling (802) 242-2054.



CURRENT/ONGOING PRIORITIES

- Cleaning and removing mud from streets/sidewalks, including picking up mud piles in front of resident homes.
- Clearing debris from around bridges and trash racks (Brook Street completed, Berlin Street Bridge on Tuesday).
- Supporting Barre Up rebuilding/volunteering efforts, and deploying relief organizations.
- Relief for homeowners
 - Abatement of water/sewer bills
 - Waiver of building, flood hazard, and associated electrical permit fees for storm-related repairs
 - Waiver period will end upon two weeks' notice from the City Manager

Residents and contractors **MUST** get permits prior to commencing work. Fees will be waived, but permits continue to be **REQUIRED**.

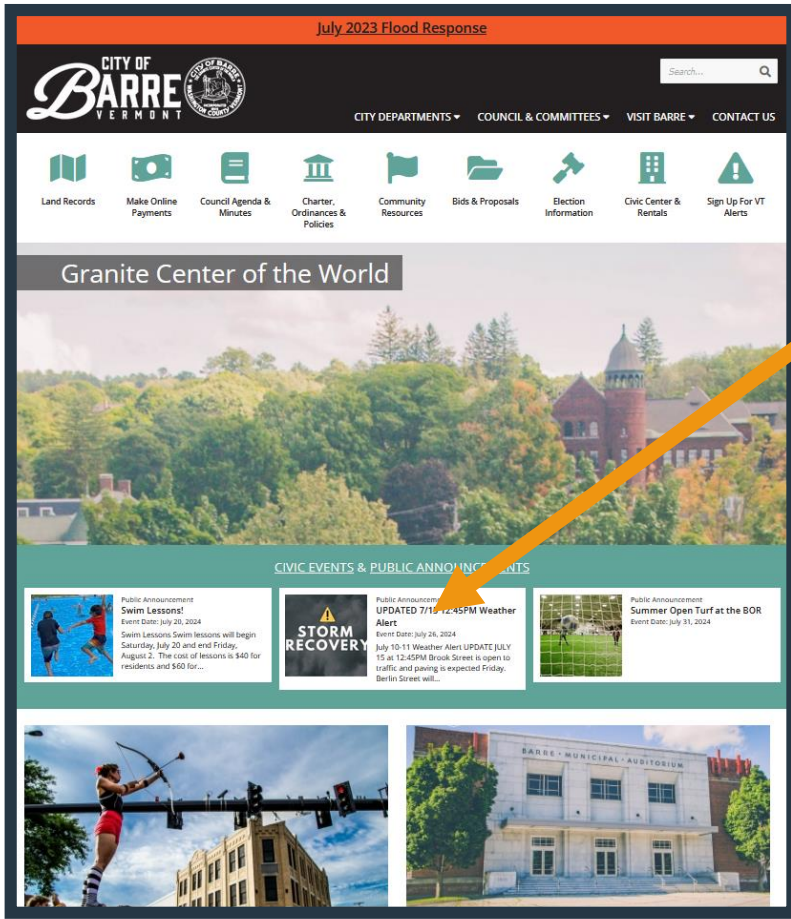


IMPACTS OF THE FLOOD ON CITY FINANCES WILL TAKE TIME TO ASSESS

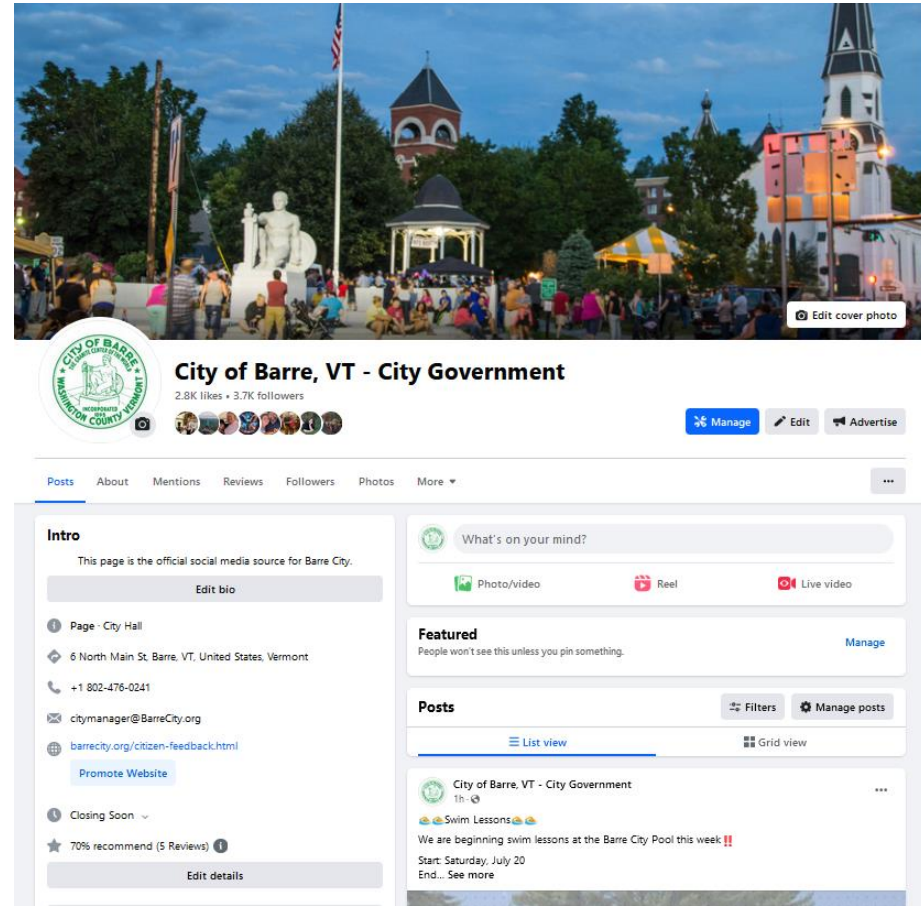
- The greatest stressors on City finances will be:
 - Property tax abatements and loss of tax base
 - Cost of flood recovery projects
 - Cash flow to front the cost of flood recovery projects
 - If FEMA declaration is made, FEMA expenses will be reimbursable, so the City would have to have to pay up front and wait weeks/months for reimbursement, assuming project costs are approved
 - Fortunately, \$1.5 million Municipal Climate Recovery Fund bond from the Vermont Bond Bank is available. Last year, we also secured a \$3 million line of credit that could be an option if needed.



HOW TO STAY INFORMED?

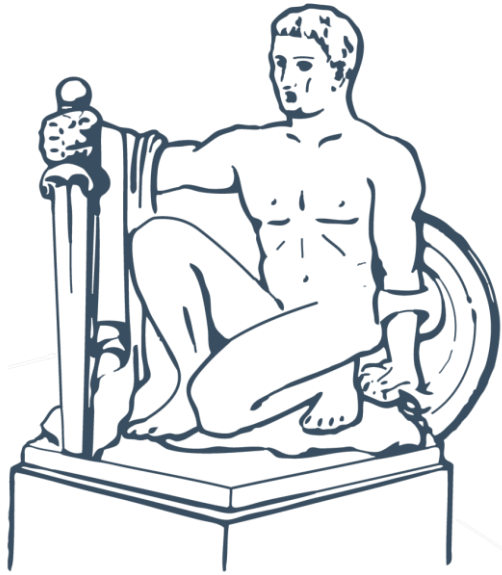


Go to:
barrecity.org
Click on “Storm Recover” icon on the scroll (Features cycle through).



Official Barre City Facebook Page:
[@BarreCityVT](https://www.facebook.com/BarreCityVT)





THANK YOU

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION?

WWW.BARRECITY.ORG



@BARRECITYVT

