



# Montpelier Alive

• ENRICHING A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN •

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Community Forum on Local Options Taxes on February 23, 2012

MONTPELIER, VT – In response to the community’s interest in learning more about the impact of the local options taxes on businesses and residents, Montpelier Alive is hosting a community forum on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza. The goal of the forum is to clearly identify what local options taxes are and discuss how they may impact Montpelier’s citizens and business owners with enough time to make informed decisions before the Town Meeting Day vote on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

“Montpelier Alive is responding to the concerns and questions we are hearing from our community,” said Phayvanh Luekhamhan, the organization’s Executive Director. “We are watching the debate to learn more about how our downtown will be affected by the outcomes of the vote.”

“Montpelier Alive expresses concern that the adoption of local option taxes may make it more difficult to accomplish its mission, which includes collaboration with businesses, civic and governmental organizations, and the wider community to enhance the city’s position as a preferred location for business,” said Greg Guyette, Montpelier Alive Board President.

Montpelier Alive is also concerned that the adoption of local option taxes would impede the development of a downtown special assessment district which is an alternative way to support a vibrant downtown.

“We’re always looking for ways to improve our sustainability,” Luekhamhan said. “Holding this forum will help us get a clearer idea of what may lie ahead.”

The forum will be moderated by Todd Bailey of KSE Partners and feature the following panelists: Ken Jones, the State of Vermont Department of Taxes; Bill Fraser, Montpelier City Manager; Bob Gross, Montpelier resident; and Rob Kasow, Montpelier resident and co-owner of Bear Pond Books and Rivendell Books. The event will be broadcast on ORCA Media (Montpelier community television).

### Event Details

When: Thursday, February 23, 2012. 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Capitol Plaza, 100 State Street, Montpelier