

4/22, the Montpelier City Council continued suspension of all Task Force, Committee, and Advisory Board meetings that are not required by law, through June 30th.

Mon., June 8 th	Cemetery Commission	12:00 PM	Green Mountain Cemetery, 250 State St.
Mon., June 8 th	Recreation Department Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Click here to access the Zoom Meeting
Wed., June 10 th	Conservation Commission	6:30 PM	Click here to access the Zoom Meeting
Wed., June 10 th	Regular City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Click here to access the Zoom Meeting



Public Health and Safety

MASK ORDER

As per your vote this week, the mask order is now in effect.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CITY OF MONTPELIER RESPONSE UPDATE

Today is day 85 since the Governor issued the State of Emergency for Vermont due to COVID-19. We know that this situation is stressful to keep up with, and it is draining to keep up with all the changes. However, the Coronavirus is still a present health threat. We want to remind you to continue practicing 6 ft. physical distancing, wearing masks when you go outside, and to choose activities that keep you away from others. But, if we all take appropriate mitigation steps, we can start to make strides moving our community forward.

We want to share updates on the City's actions to keep residents and employees safe and healthy:

State Updates:

- **June 1st, 2020:** The Governor and the DMV announced a restart plan for driver's license services and learner's permit tests, through the [Amendment to Governor's Directive 3 to the Department of Motor Vehicles](#) which included:
 - The DMV will resume offering driver's license examinations next Monday, June 8.
 - Customers who had a driving exam cancelled due to COVID-19 during March or April will be contacted by the DMV to reschedule their exam.
 - Beginning this Wednesday, June 3, customers who did not have a previously scheduled appointment may call and schedule a road test. To schedule exams, customers should call 802-828-2000. All exams are by appointment only.
 - Starting June 8, the Montpelier DMV will be open weekdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. for driver exams only by appointment only.
- **June 2nd 2020:** Governor Phil Scott signed [Executive Order No. 02-20](#) to form the Racial Equity Task Force as a component of a broader state effort to promote racial, ethnic and cultural equity, including in its response to COVID-19.
 - The Task Force will undertake three major projects including:

- Evaluating structures of support for racially diverse populations, including a focus on the racial disparities in health outcomes highlighted by COVID-19;
 - Reviewing current state and federal law on hate speech and freedom of speech and considering changes to state law to clarify the path for prosecuting harassment, hate speech and other bias-motivated crimes; and
 - Studying and presenting options to encourage Vermonters from diverse, marginalized or underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to run and serve in public office at all levels.
 - It will submit recommendations to the Governor on the first project by August 15 and preliminary recommendations on the second and third by December 15. The group will also provide guidance as needed by the Governor.
- **June 5th, 2020:** The Governor announced [Addendum 17 to Executive Order 01-20](#): Modified Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in Vermont; Municipal Regulation of Bars and Restaurants.
 - Amendment 17 issues guidance around the following:
 - Restaurants will be able to begin limited indoor dining starting Monday June 8th
 - [ACCD guidance](#) will allow for only 25% capacity limits with 6ft between dining parties, bar seating is still closed, and reservations will be required. There will also be new cleaning standards and requirements for restaurants.
 - The Guidance does allow local municipalities to require restaurants to remain closed if there is a pressing health need or requirement for their community
 - [Amended Travel Policies](#):
 - Effective Monday June 8th, interstate travel to and from New England and New York counties with 400 or fewer active COVID-19 cases per million is permitted without quarantine requirements.
 - In addition, effective June 15th, travelers may complete quarantine requirements in their home state before entering Vermont.
 - Lodging operations may also increase occupancy limits to 50% or a total of 25 guests and staff, whichever is greater.
 - The Governor also held a press conference where he discussed the following updates:
 - The new Covid-19 cases in Winooski are now considered an official community Outbreak, and the Health Department is working hard on keeping it contained, and focusing on getting testing and other resources to the area.
 - The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has a law passing through the Federal Government that would extend the coverage period until the end of the year.
 - The Commissioner of Health, Dr. Levine, asked that those who are protesting try to get tested for Covid-19 to ensure that they are not further spreading the illness unknowingly.

General City Updates:

- Recreation Updates:
 - The City would like to remind residents that while the Governor's orders may allow for Gyms to open June 1st, the Recreation Center will remain closed until our staff returns from their furlough.
 - The City's summer camp programs will be opening for summer 2020. Registration can be found on the Recreation Department's website.
- The City is finalizing its Phase I reopening plan which will be reviewed by Council at their regular meeting on Wednesday June 10th.

City Council's Mask Ordinance:

- City Council adopted an [Emergency Order requiring the wearing of masks](#) inside public Montpelier business establishments that went into effect Thursday June 4th. Follow the link for the full language of the order.
 - The order requires any person, whether an employee, a customer, or a visitor who enters a public business establishment located in the City of Montpelier to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while inside the establishment in the presence of others.
 - Businesses have until Monday the 8th to install signage at their business indicating the mask requirement.
 - There are exceptions to this order: masks are not recommended for strenuous outdoor activity, anyone under the age of 2, anyone with a medical condition that is complicated or irritated by a facial covering, or anyone with difficulty breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

If anyone has a medical condition that is complicated by facial coverings like a cloth mask a face shield is an appropriate alternative.

This ordinance shall not strictly apply to the extent that it frustrates the primary purpose of the business.
 - This Order shall remain in effect until the Montpelier City Council amends, rescinds, or suspends this Order or until the Governor declares an end to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Vermont, whichever occurs first, which is currently June 15th, unless the Governor amends that order.

Regional Aid Groups Update:

- The City is maintaining a list of situational updates and regional resources for those who may need them on the COVID-19 Response page on the website here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1155/Coronavirus-Response>
- THRIVE has begun to scale-down the WNOC-RRCC. After Friday, May 15, the WNOC-RRCC structure will become dormant but will remain accessible if a future community emergencies.
 - However, the Community Call Center is still functioning:
 - **Community Call Center hours will be 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, open weekdays. You may call or text (802) 636-2025.**
- The Capital Area Neighborhoods (CAN) contact information:
 - MontpelierCAN@gmail.com and (802) 828-7375
- Open Meal Sites and their locations are being tracked and posted on the Montpelier Mutual Aid website: www.MontpelierMutualAid.org

Remember to look out for yourself, each other, your neighbors, and friends. This is a situation we can only get through together.



Responsive and Responsible Government

POLICE CHIEF PROCESS

I was very pleased to announce the appointment of Chief Brian Peete this week. We all welcome his family and him to Montpelier and look forward to working with him.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER DIRECTOR

As you probably know, CJC Director Yvonne Byrd officially retired as of the end of April. She is back working part time preparing for her transition out of the CJC. Our plan is to promote Programs Coordinator Carol Plante to Director. Ms. Plante was the Director of the Hardwick Justice Center prior to coming to Montpelier. She was hired with this transition in mind.

LEADERSHIP TEAM CHANGES

The above two appointment gave me pause to think about the dramatic changes in our leadership team and key positions over the last year. On July 1, seven of the 14 team members will be different people than occupied those positions on July 1, 2019.

Assistant City Manager	Sue Allen	Cameron Niedermayer
Assistant to the City Manager	Jamie Carroll	Jhasmine Lamb
CJC Director	Yvonne Byrd	Carol Plante
Finance Director	Todd Provencher	Kelly Murphy
Parks Director	Geoff Beyer	Alec Ellsworth
Police Chief	Tony Facos	Brian Peete
Public Works Director	Tom McArdle	Donna Barlow Casey

In addition, DPW Superintendent Brian Tuttle retired with the position being somewhat retooled as Operations Manager held by Zach Blodgett. Senior Accountant Ruth Dockter retired and was replaced by Heather Graves. CJC Programs Coordinator Judy Gibson retired. Finally, Police Captain Neil Martel is slated to retire in October.

I am proud of the entire city team, including the leadership group, for maintaining quality of services, engaging in solid strategic planning, and, most importantly, dealing with the COVID 19 crisis all while getting to know one another.

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH-DEATH RESULTING

On Thursday, June 4, 2020 at approximately 20:34 hours (8:34PM) the Montpelier Police Department was notified of a motor vehicle crash that occurred on Memorial Drive at the intersection of Taylor Street in the city of Montpelier, Vermont.

A Vermont State Police Trooper was in the area and reported that the crash involved a motorcycle and a minivan. The Vermont State Police Trooper immediately began rendering aid to the operator of the motorcycle.

The operator of the minivan was identified as Brian J. Whalley (21) of Ellsworth, Maine.

The operator of the motorcycle was identified as Jason L. Lester (32) of Waterbury, Vermont. As a result of the crash, Lester died on scene.

The Montpelier Police Department and the Vermont State Police Crash Reconstruction Team are currently investigating the cause of the crash and speed appears to be a factor.

The Montpelier Police Department is requesting anyone that may have observed the crash to please contact 802-223-3445 to provide their information.

No further information is available at this time.

[Click here to view the official press release](#)

MPD OFFICER GRADUATES VERMONT POLICE ACADEMY

MPD Officer Jacob Johnson graduated from the 109th Police Officer Basic Training at the Vermont Police Academy in Pittsford, VT last week. This was a unique class that was completed under strict COVID-19 prevention protocols which included both recruit and instructor quarantine. Officer Johnson received two awards at graduation: he was number one academically and he received the top firearms proficiency award.

BUDGET

The Finance Director is pulling together a projection for FY21 which will be included separately. We are facing a projected budget adjustment of \$1.2 to \$1.5 Million.

5 HOME FARM WAY

I met with all of the key stakeholders involved in this property on Tuesday morning. No final decisions were reached but some new ideas exchanged. I recommend holding this item off of the agenda until this group can meet again.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Montpelier Parks and the Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association are teaming up to host a volunteer work day this Saturday, June 6th. We'll be fixing and improving trails in the North Branch Park, and beginning the next phase of building trails as part of the North Branch Trails Initiative. Hours are 8am-12pm, meet at the pool parking lot. Bring a mask (required), and a shovel and a bucket (optional).

NORTH BRANCH TRAILS INITIATIVE

Next week will mark the beginning of the last phase of a 3-year project constructing multi-use trails in the North Branch Park as part of the "North Branch Trails Initiative." You can find more information about the project here: <https://bikemamba.org/north-branch-trails/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON MONDAYS: HELP PARKS TEAM GROW FOOD FOR FEAST!

This summer, the Parks Department is organizing a small community farm project to grow fresh food for MSAC's FEAST meals program. We are farming a small plot at 5 Home Farm Way in Montpelier and are in need of volunteer help with weeding, planting, watering, harvesting, and more. Would you like to help provide FEAST with fresh, local food? We are looking for volunteers to sign-up to help for 2-hour shifts on Mondays. No special skills or abilities are necessary! Please bring water and work gloves. [Sign-up here](#) or email Jacqueline Huettenmoser at [eco-](#)

americorps@montpelier-vt.org for more information. This is the link to the sign-up sheet
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xQZqxvF_o_4jV_yDa6t_DzfHysHG_HGAA1RDNJhJWc/edit#gid=0

MSAC PROMOTING PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS NOW ONLINE!

We are pleased that some of our community partners have created online versions of events that may have been offered in our facility had we not closed for the pandemic, and more are in the works for in the future. These are free and open to the public, with registration through the partners and instructions in the descriptions.

Free Online Medicare & You Workshops (Remote on Zoom: Call-in or video)

Tuesday, June 9, 10:00am – 12:00pm (And another on June 23, 1-3pm)

Turning 65 and have questions about applying for Medicare? Confused about the options available within Medicare plans? In this workshop, we will walk you through the ins and outs of Medicare plans and options, including Parts A, B, and D prescription coverage, supplemental plans, Advantage plans, and more. Central Vermont Council on Aging provides information, counseling, and assistance to all Medicare eligible persons under the auspices of the State Health Insurance & Assistance Program. CVCOA is your local non-profit Medicare expert with nothing to sell. Our presenters are State Health Insurance Program Coordinators with knowledge of the most recent changes to Medicare. This workshop is interactive, lively and fun, so please join us! Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, call 479-0531 or email medicareworkshops@cvcoa.org. If you can't attend but have questions, or to learn about more 2020 workshops in Central Vermont, visit www.cvcoa.org or call CVCOA at 479-0531.

Vermont Legal Aid Presents a FREE Virtual Legal Advice Clinic for VT Seniors

Wednesday, June 10, 9:00-11:00 am

Vermont Legal Aid is hosting a virtual legal advice clinic by phone for free legal assistance to Vermont seniors, aged 60 and up, to answer your legal questions about COVID-19. How will the stimulus check affect your benefits or housing? Do you qualify for the expanded unemployment coverage? Are you experiencing a civil legal problem not related to COVID? Give us a call and book your free 20-minute appointment!

To schedule an appointment, CALL: 1-802-318-4169. Leave your name and number, and the best time to return your call so we can call you back to give you your appointment time. The phone number above is just for the legal advice clinic. If you have an immediate legal problem, call our general phone number and ask for help: 1-800-889-2047

PLEASE NOTE: Attorneys cannot help you with criminal cases or problems. Your appointment must involve your own problem, and not a question about a family member or friend's problem. All consultations are confidential. This clinic is by appointment only and the number of available appointments may be limited.

Don't Flush That! Reduce and Replace Toxins at Home: A CVSWM District Webinar

Thursday, June 11, 2:00-3:30 pm

What should not go down the drain? Join Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District educators and learn to avoid using toxic materials in the first place as well as what to do with those you already have on hand. We will emphasize appropriate collection points for expired medications, household hazardous wastes such as cleaners and automotive fluids, and the array of "universal waste" that can be properly recycled for free throughout Vermont, including paint, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, e-waste & mercury containing devices. Register through CVSWM at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dont-flush-that-reduce-and-replace-toxins-at-home-a-free-webinar-tickets-103865360088>. Other upcoming webinars by CVSWM can be found at this link: <http://www.cvswwd.org/workshop-registration.html>.



WRRF

The contractor continued cleaning Digester #1 this week and will go through next week. Work also continued on the fabrication of the new digester cover. Next week the electrical subcontractor will resume work in the dewatering room for the new screw presses and drum thickeners.

DON'T FLUSH THAT

Due to the public health crisis, not only is our city seeing a shortage on toilet paper, but many communities are as well. Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone what should NOT be flushed. Flushing items listed below could cause sewer blockages, in which could cause plugged and overflowing toilets, poorly draining sinks and showers, raw sewage backing up through floor drains, manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters, health hazards and nuisance odors, increases in the City's maintenance costs and costly maintenance and repair bills for YOU.

- Paper towels
- Baby wipes
- Moist towelettes
- Cosmetics and cosmetic wipes
- Cloth or paper napkins
- Shop towels
- Condoms
- Tampons and pads
- Diapers
- Cat litter
- Cigarette butts
- Dental floss
- Latex gloves
- Hypodermic needles
- Facial tissues
- Fats, oils or grease
- Clothing or rags
- Medications (pills or liquid)
- Bandages
- Cotton balls
- Food scrapes
- Swiffer pads
- Plastic of any kind

William Fraser
City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)

6/24	COVID-19 Personnel Plan Tax Stabilization Mowatt/TKS 5 Home Farm Way	7/8	COVID-19 Stormwater Master Plan
------	--	-----	------------------------------------