

Mon., Aug. 3 rd	Design Review Committee Meeting	5:30 PM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access
Mon., Aug. 3 rd	Development Review Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access
Wed., Aug. 5 th	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:30 AM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access
Wed., Aug. 5 th	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access
Wed., Aug. 12 th	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access



Public Health and Safety

DOWNTOWN TRASH BARRELS

Recently, trash and recycling containers in downtown Montpelier have become unsightly, some substantially overflowing with garbage, irrespective of the opportunity for recycling. Department staff have inspected and emptied containers for a few weeks in order to understand what is being discarded at City expense, and where the trouble spots are located. And, we've been in touch with small haulers licensed by the Central VT Solid Waste District to determine interest and ability to undertake a contract to remove and properly dispose of the materials through the end of this calendar year. The result is that we've identified a viable, interested hauler and we expect to be issuing a contract, soon. In addition, staff returning to work monitoring parking meters will be helping to identify where "trouble spots" exist as they go about their collections, and this will assist us in timely removal that helps to avoid spillage onto the sidewalks.

We'll also be making some minor, but impactful changes to where containers are located and soon will begin an educational effort concerning the benefits of proper use of the collection containers. There's been substantial assessment by national organizations of what, how and why "illegal" dumping occurs and the necessary efforts needed to turn things around. We'll be relying on this information and recommended practices to improve not only our process but the understanding of residents, businesses and visitors about how to properly dispose of their litter. The good news is that the efforts that will be employed are proven to work, and our department has staff with direct experience in how to implement a program that can resolve the illegal dumping and littering and improve our community's appearance.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CITY OF MONTPELIER RESPONSE UPDATE

This week, the State and the Governor really highlighted the importance of looking at National trends in Coronavirus cases when making decisions for Vermont. While Vermont's mitigation efforts have been critical to slowing the virus' spread, the national trend shows that our progress can slide backwards at any time, and there is a risk of cases increasing in Vermont. The State wants to make sure we all do our part in keeping Vermont healthy and open, and for that to happen we need everyone to continue to take prevention seriously.

To that end, the most important weekly update is that the Governor has signed a Mandatory Mask Mandate, where starting August 1st: The State will require that masks are worn in public spaces (indoors & outdoors) when social distancing is not possible. This order applies to everyone over the age of 2, with a few health exceptions.

State Updates:

- **July 24th, 2020:** The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following:
 - **Starting August 1st: The State will require that masks are worn in public spaces (indoors & outdoors) when social distancing is not possible.** This order applies to everyone over the age of 2.
 - Masks will not be required when eating or drinking, doing strenuous activity, and for those who have health or mental conditions that may be aggravated by masks
 - The Governor reminded folks that businesses can refuse to serve folks who are not wearing masks

- **July 28th, 2020:** The Governor announced that he will sign an executive order calling for a universal school start date of September 8, 2020.
 - The goal is to give schools more time to test and fine-tune plans for in-person instruction for the start of the academic year.

- **July 29th, 2020:** The Vermont Department of Public Service has launched a Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP). LECAP provides up to \$3,000 in assistance to help consumers extend telecommunications lines to their homes, with \$2 million in total funds available.

- **July 31st, 2020:** The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following:
 - Starting August 1st, the State is increasing the limits on retail store occupancy from 25% to 50%
 - The State, to implement the mask mandate, is planning on distributing 200,000 free masks. More information on their availability to come.
 - The number of folks eligible to travel to VT from out of state without quarantine has reduced, as more COVID-19 case outbreaks are occurring nationally and within the Northeast. An updated travel map can be found here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>

General City Updates:

- City Hall Reopening:
 - The City Hall building is open 8:00am-4:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments are highly suggested, masks and physical distancing are required.
 - The porta-johns behind City Hall and the Senior Center will remain until we are able to open City Hall full-time.

City Council's Mask Ordinance:

- UPDATES: City Council adopted an [Emergency Order](#) requiring the wearing of masks inside public Montpelier business establishments that went into effect Thursday June 4th, and is currently in place through August 15th.
- This ordinance is supported and superseded by the Governor's State-wide Mask Mandate.

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>
- 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



Responsive and Responsible Government

PARKING

We are actively planning to bring back our parking personnel from furlough on August 4th. They will be splitting their time between parking management and other duties (cleaning, etc.) We will turn the meters on as of August 3rd but not issue tickets until August 17th as an education period for residents. Council will formally vote at their Regular Council meeting on August 12th if they would like to reinstate parking enforcement/management. The City's proposed plan is to enforce parking fees and time limits on street meters only for the first month, leaving all parking lots free.

If the City tracks that there is sufficient parking demand we will start charging for use of all lots in mid-September. We are cognizant that as long as State employees are not working in their offices the State parking lots are wide open for anyone to use. If there is not much parking demand, we will have to reassess whether to continue enforcement if it is costing us more money than it's generating.

We are also moving forward with implementing the ParkMobile parking app. This app allows people to pay for parking with their smart phones without touching the meters. It's a widely used app – Burlington has used it for years and Barre is starting up with it as well – and is a good way to manage parking. Our goal is to have this up and running by end of September.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/PARK AVENUE

Due to Department of Education COVID-19 requirements, the schools need to check in each student individually every day with temperature readings and health questions. They need an assembly area where they can process these 430 students. Therefore they are seeking to close Park Avenue again, similar to the way it was done two years ago for the playground construction.

The school needs to move forward with active planning for the street closure and to begin communication with staff and families about this arrangement. This plan, of course, requires street closure approval from the City Council, and Council will be discussing it at the August 12th regular meeting.

TEMPORARY PARKLET APPROVALS

City Council has enacted a temporary parklet ordinance for the purpose of providing additional business expansion opportunities during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Temporary Parklet Application](#) (All applications will be submitted to the City Manager's Office at jlamb@montpelier-vt.org)
- [Temporary Parklet Ordinance](#)

This temporary ordinance is in place through October 25, 2020.

Approved Temporary Parklets:

- The North Branch Café (currently opting not to use it)
- Three Penny Taproom
- Julio's Cantina



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

UPDATE FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

The following are the procedures for in person voting on the Statewide Primary Election, August 11:

Voting for the August 11 Primary Election will be held on the main floor in City Hall. Due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19 transmission, procedures for voting will be different than usual.

- Voters will be expected to wear masks and maintain a distance of six feet from others. The floor in City Hall will be marked at 6 foot distances.
- Voters will enter from the front of the building (those with accessibility challenges may enter through the rear entrance).
- Voters will be allowed into the Council Chambers for voting with no more than six in the room at a time.
- Voters will enter the voting room through the front door and leave through the rear door. They will then leave the building through the rear entrance.
- Every voting booth and marker will be cleaned between uses.
- Public restrooms will not be available.
- Staffed boxes will be available in front and in the rear of city hall to drop off early ballots that have not already been returned.

As always, polls will be open from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Early/absentee voting is strongly encouraged. Please note that there will not be an opportunity for early voting on the Saturday prior to the election, which has been the procedure in the past.

MONTPELIER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER REPORT

FEAST Senior Meals To Go! Served outside Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:00-12:30

- Served in our beautifully landscaped courtyard in front of 58 Barre Street. Requires mask-wearing and six feet distancing in line. **Meals for Over 60**, by suggested donation of \$5 – 10 with completed Annual Nutritional Survey; **Under 60, fee of \$7-10**. Reservations appreciated, and/or request vegetarian by calling **262-6288** by the previous day. All meals include milk. Next week's menu below. Full August menu available on website.
- **Tuesday, August 4:** Ginger Beef, Poppy seed Cole Slaw & Dessert

- **Friday, August 7:** Mac & Cheese, Ham, Vegetables & Dessert

Dine with friends, old and new! FEAST Together by phone or video Zoom, two Fridays!

On **Friday August 7 and 14 from 12:30-1:30pm**, anyone wishing to dine together and chat by phone or video Zoom may request the link information in advance! Email Harry at msac@montpelier-vt.org or call 223-2518, preferably a day or more in advance. Help from Chet is also available if you're new to Zoom; just ask! New offering by Montpelier Senior Activity Center. Participation is welcome by people who pick up FEAST To Go from 12:00-12:30, but anyone can join in! Stay tuned for announcements about our August 25 FEAST Together at Hubbard Park with optional walk in the park!

Very Soft Re-Opening Planning: By reservations only!

We will release more details in next week's report, but we expect to have 2-3 events per week in the MSAC 58 Barre Street facility, **beginning August 10**, and start a smaller-than-usual offering of in-person and online classes the week of September 21. Our initial activities will have strict attendance limits and include foot care clinics, informal social gathering and at least one short film event. Visitors will be required to do health screening and sign in before entering, wear masks, and practice social distancing and other safety measures for Covid-19 transmission prevention. All visits to our facility will require an advance reservation by calling 223-2518 or emailing msac@montpelier-vt.org and providing your name, event, date, time, and contact information.

Senior Activity Center is Hiring! New Americorps position to start September 9: Aging in Place Coordinator!

This Americorps member has the opportunity to support our thriving FEAST meal program, plus develop and implement exciting new offerings that will take MSAC's programs beyond the brick walls of our building to build volunteerism with the Village and other partners to support Aging in Place. Aging services experience is not required, only the motivation to learn and a passion to serve others. View [position description here](#), and [apply or get more information about the VHCBC Americorps benefits and program here](#). We are offering a rental subsidy, too.

LANGDON STREET

Steel barricades have been placed along the upper half of the street! It's important to note that traffic will be able to enter Langdon Street from Main Street and exit onto Elm Street, as usual. The only difference is **where** the travel lane for cars will exist.

Thus far, only one restaurant has taken advantage of this new configuration. If the restaurants require less space, Public Works can remove the fencing and allow some parking spaces to return on the right side of the street. We'll monitor and work with businesses to test and adapt so that we maintain safety and explore opportunities for local businesses.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Day camp has been having a good summer and we are going into week 7 of 9 weeks. We also have a soccer camp happening at the Rec. Field as well as tennis lessons. My maintenance staff have our facilities looking good and giving folks an outdoor place to recreate. The baseball and softball fields are very busy with youth and adult teams.

ORCA MEDIA

ORCA Media supports the City of Montpelier by live streaming videos to local TV and on YouTube. Recently, Comcast changed the government channel to 1085.

- Click here to access City Council Meetings: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council>
- Click here for Live Stream Events: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>



Sustainable Infrastructure

BARRE ST. CLOSURE UPDATE

As a result of backfill and compaction work for the new rail crossing on Barre St., the existing water main began to leak. In order to prevent future water main issues at this location as well as potential impacts to the new rail crossing, the City is moving forward with work to place the new water main in service. This will allow for the abandonment of the existing water main and eliminate the need for repair of the leak. To facilitate this work, Barre St. will be closed through the end of next week (August 7th).

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Planning Commission held its second public hearing on Monday regarding two potential zoning changes. The first zoning change was approved by the Commission on July 13th involved the long awaited revision to the design review rules. That included a complete rewrite of section 2201 to update the rules to make them clearer and more predictable which will also make decisions more defensible in court. Some procedural changes will exempt certain projects from review all together as well as making other projects administrative permits (not requiring a hearing but still needing to meet some rules). The Planning Commission also reviewed the boundary of the design review district and made some changes to better follow neighborhood boundaries so that it was less arbitrary than the one we currently use. The amendment was prepared by the Historic Preservation Commission and revised through severable public hearing before the Covid-19 shutdown. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the changes and send them to City Council for consideration.

The second hearing topic was a zoning change proposed for some properties bounded by Pioneer Street, River Street and the Rail road tracks. This is where the Lazerwash car wash and self-store units are found. A few options were discussed but ultimately the Commission decided to approved the proposal at their July 27th hearing. Both of these proposal will be presented to City Council on August 12th and a hearing is scheduled for August 26th. All proposals can be found on the City website under design review proposal. Comments or questions can be sent to Mike Miller at mmiller@montpelier-vt.org.

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 | • Cosmetics and cosmetic wiper | • Shop towels |
| • Baby wipes | • Cloth or paper napkins | • Condoms |
| • Moist towelettes | | |

- 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 scraps
- Swiffer pads
- Plastic of any kind



Cameron Niedermayer
Assistant City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)

8/12	Equity Action Plan implementation Stormwater Master Plan Street Painting Policy Parking Reinstatement Park Ave Street Closure Design Review COVID-19 Update Withdraw from EC Fiber Personnel Plan	8/26	Community Policing Discussion Homelessness Task Force COVID-19 Update
9/9	Net Zero 2030 Plan Public restrooms COVID-19 Update	9/23	New Budget Process Special Election Warning (if needed) COVID-19
10/14	Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 1 st quarter Budget status	10/28	Legislative Priorities 2021
11/11	Veteran's Day– may need to change date) Childcare Option Study	11/25	(Thanksgiving Eve – may need to change date) Preliminary Budget Discussion
12/9	Implement Housing Initiatives Budget	12/23	(near Christmas, may need to change date) Budget
1/13/21	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 nd quarter budget status	1/28/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions
2/10/21	City Manager Review	2/24/21	TBD
3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election	3/10/21	Organizational Meeting

REPORTS DUE:

Universal Recycling Law – Periodic updates

MDC/MA Partnerships – Periodic updates

Protect, Maintain and Improve Built Infrastructure – Update in October

Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates

Gould Apartments
Montpelier Housing Authority
155 Main St.
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-229-9232

July 23, 2020

William J. Fraser, City Manager
39 Main St., City Hall
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Bill:

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I am pleased to enclose a check in the amount of \$2,750.00. This represents a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes for Gould Apartments for the current fiscal year.

The Board feels very strongly that owners of exempt property should make a contribution to the city whenever possible, in support of vital city services. Each year we review our income and expenses to determine if a payment is possible, and if so in what amount.

We plan to continue making these voluntary payments as our financial situation permits.

Normally we would make this payment in December, however in light of the current financial issues due to COVID 19, we wanted to show our support by making the payment earlier in the year.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

Sincerely yours,


Jo Ann Trofano
Executive Director

JAT/

Enc:

cc: Board of Commissioners
Mayor Watson

