

Mon., Aug. 10 th	Recreation Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access
Mon., Aug. 10 th	Planning Commission Meeting	5:30 PM	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

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CITY OF MONTPELIER RESPONSE UPDATE

As we move into August, it can seem hard to keep up with all of the changes and statistics around the Coronavirus pandemic. The State has made it clear that Vermont is not an exception to the virus, and virus cases are trending upwards in the surrounding region. As a community, we need to stay committed to wearing masks, washing our hands, physically distancing, and taking other measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Also, as the State and our local schools have been making their reopening plans, and with the new mask mandate, now is a good time to talk to kids about masks. The Vermont Health Department and UVM have made some helpful resources available [here](#).

As a reminder to residents: [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask starting August 1st](#). The State requires 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 31st, 2020:** The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following:
 - Non-essential retail businesses can operate at 50% of approved fire safety occupancy; or 1 customer per 200 square feet; or 10 total customers and staff combined, whichever is greater, effective August 1, 2020. For further details and requirements, please refer to the [Phased Restart Worksafe Guidance](#).
 - 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>
 - The Governor also signed an [Executive Order making September 8 the Universal School Opening Date](#) for Vermont public schools.
- **August 4th, 2020:** The Governor announced expanded eligibility for Economic Recovery Grants for Vermont businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Starting August 3rd, businesses with at least one W-2 employee, which now includes those who are the owner of the business, are also eligible and encouraged to apply.

- At this time, eligible businesses include those who have experienced a 50% or greater drop in total revenue in any one-month period from March 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020, when compared with the same month in 2019.
- More information can be found at the [ACCD Economic Recovery Grant](#) page.

General City Updates:

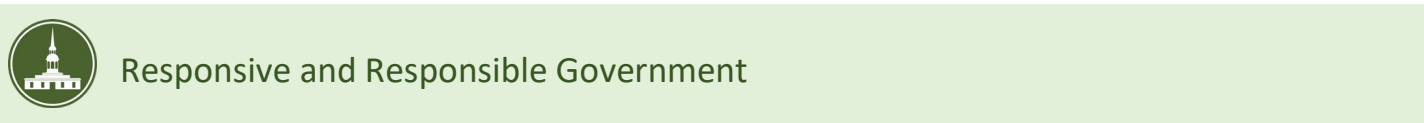
- VOTING:
 - Remember that Vermont’s Statewide Primary Election is this coming Tuesday August 11th! More detailed information can be found in this weekly report under the “Update From The City Clerk’s Office” section.
- City Hall Reopening:
 - The City Hall building is open 8:00am-4:30pm on Tuesdays 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



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 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 cniedermayer@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

- FEAST Senior Meals To Go is served in the Senior Center's beautifully landscaped courtyard in front of 58 Barre Street. Service requires mask-wearing and six feet distancing in line.
 - **Meals for folks 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 Senior Center 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 VHCBAmericorps 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

The Recreation Department has a Rec. Board Meeting on August 10th at 5:30 p.m. on zoom. We are looking into the possibility of extending Summer Day Camp a couple more weeks if possible. There will also be another soccer camp the last week of August with the school delay. Outdoor facilities are seeing a lot of use with folks recreating.

We've had a great crew from Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) joining us in Montpelier Parks this week. They've been focused on water quality work: replacing culverts, stabilizing banks, improving drainage, etc. We thank these hard working youth for their efforts to improve our city!

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

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.

TAYLOR STREET WEEKLY REPORT 8/3 & 8/10

The brick stormwater line under Taylor Street has been replaced from State Street to the railroad tracks and replacement of the line from the railroad tracks to the Taylor Street Bridge has started and will continue throughout the remainder of this week. Next Monday (8/10) the line will be replaced under the railroad tracks. Following the replacement of the line the contractor will begin installing the new stormwater detention system located on the west side of the road across from 1 Taylor Street. This system consists of 4 subsurface drywells which will capture, store, and infiltrate stormwater runoff from Taylor Street.

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 scraps
- Swiffer pads
- Plastic of any kind

Thank you,



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 Home Energy Ordinance 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