

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------|---|
| 8/24/2020 | Planning Commission Meeting | 5:30 PM | Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access |
| 8/26/2020 | 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 head out of August, and our understanding of the Coronavirus has been evolving, and it can be hard to keep up with all of the updates. The State has made it clear that while Vermont is currently doing 'well' in regards to its infection rate- it 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 communicated 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:

- **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.
- **August 7th, 2020:** Governor Scott and the Department for Children and Families announced the launch of the Operational Relief Grant Program, to help child care programs offset pandemic-related expenses and losses.
 - [The application](#) is open through August 26th and award notices are anticipated by September 11th. Eligible applicants include child care and after school programs, summer day camps, parent child centers and agencies that serve as fiscal agents for local Children's

Integrated Services.

- **August 14th, 2020:** Governor Phil Scott announced that the [COVID-19 State of Emergency has been extended to September 15, 2020.](#)
 - [Municipalities have been given additional discretion](#) to determine gathering size limits and liquor sales regulations for their towns that can be stricter than the State's established limits.
- **August 18th, 2020:** Governor Phil Scott announced an increase to the maximum grant award for [Economic Recovery Grants](#) for Vermont businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The increase in the maximum grant award is available to businesses in the lodging, retail, hospitality, arts, travel and event affiliated sectors that have continued capacity constraints.

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.
 - The City has been given a supply of reusable cloth masks by the State, and they are on the table in the hallway of City Hall- free to the community during the hours City Hall is open.

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 September 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

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER PROCESS

We received 118 applications for this key position. After some really tough decisions, we'll be talking with 11 people between now and the end of next week. After those conversations, we'll have more lengthy interviews with a smaller number of candidates the following week.

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

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 age 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 8/25:** BBQ Pork, Baked Beans, Potato Salad & Dessert
- **Friday, 8/28:** Chicken Breast with Caper Relish, Polenta & Dessert

The Power of Protein: Nutritional Education and Q&A Session

Friday, August 28 | 1—2 pm | Free Zoom

We've all heard that protein is essential for health and wellbeing. But what's the best source? How much is enough or too much? How do you keep it interesting? Whether you are a meat eater or vegetarian, this interactive workshop will cover why protein is so important, how to assure that you are meeting your needs, and what protein sources are best for you. Presented by Sylvia Gaboriault, RDN, CDCES. To sign up,

email msac@montpelier-vt.org. Mention the title to receive the zoom link and pre-event survey. Free Registered Dietician consults available to eligible participants.

Dine with friends, meet our new FEAST Manager Sarah Lipton, and talk with MSAC Director Janna Clar at our first-ever FEAST Together in Hubbard Park ! Plus, Optional Walk with Geoff Beyer!

Tuesday, August 25 | 12—1 pm, 1—2 pm

FEAST Together will be enjoyed *in-person(!)* at the New Shelter at Hubbard Park, with an optional physically-distanced walk afterwards from 1-2pm with former Parks Director, Geoff Beyer as he shares “A random mix of Park history and Park natural history.”

BBQ pork and baked beans are on the menu, but must be reserved in advance (262-6288). A reserved meal also guarantees you a seat at one of our limited tables. If you bring your own lunch instead, please bring a chair or blanket for the ground, too. All will be expected to socially distance. Please note that the ground near the shelter is earthen and not entirely level. Parking is close-by, and there are no stairs to climb. Walking trails are dirt roads and paths; depending on the group, we may divide into smaller groups based on mobility. Thanks to the Parks Crew for their support of and participation in this event! Register by calling Harry at 223-2518 or emailing msac@montpelier-vt.org. We need a critical mass to run this event, so please RSVP today! Rain date: September 15.

Registering for Fall Classes with MSAC!

Registration for our Fall Classes is opening next week, and it’s no longer a “first come, first served” race! No payment necessary at sign-up time, and any classes that receive more sign-ups than available slots will have a random lottery drawing. We will be offering fewer classes than usual (less than half our usual weekly 75+), and most will be online, but a few will be in-person at the MSAC facility. Registration will take place through Wednesday, Sept. 2 and can be done by dropping off forms, mailing them in, or going online. FY20 members as of June 2020 need not renew for Fall. Classes include Drawing, Painting, Rughooking, Chinese Calligraphy, Opera Appreciation, Poetry, Great Decisions, 5 series of twice-weekly Bone Builders, 2 levels of Pilates, 2 different Tai Chi, twice-weekly Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, and many levels of Yoga. For a full list of classes and descriptions, guides, forms and information about the new registration process, please visit our online class page at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/751/Classes>.

MONTPELIER POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The MPD family would also like to send a heartfelt “THANKYOU” to Dispatcher Justina George who will be leaving us in the weeks to come. Our hopes are that she continues to flourish in the next chapter of her storied life. Justina, we love you. You will be missed dearly.

MPD is also convening a Hiring Board for the vacancy of Sergeant. The Board will consist of representatives from outside law enforcement agencies, community volunteers, appointed State and City officials. We wish all of our candidates the best of luck!

An internal Initial Organizational Assessment and Strategic Plan was completed regarding the Montpelier Police Department (MPD). MPD will post this document on its Facebook and Department webpages.

Chief Brian Peete recently participated in a roundtable study and discussion regarding Law Enforcement

Engagement with People with Behavioral Health Issues and Developmental Disabilities. This study is sponsored by the U.S Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. This is an ongoing study to develop standardized training procedures for law enforcement in responding to people with Behavioral Health issues and Developmental Disabilities. Chief Peete also participated in a virtual discussion with the Systemic Diversity and Inclusion Group to discuss procedures and challenges in Law Enforcement Training.

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

DPW STREET & WATER/SEWER DIVISIONS UPDATES:

The City of Montpelier's Department of Public Works Street Division assisted the Water/Sewer Division installing concrete blocks and rail system for the grit box at the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). Our team completed a variety of different tasks such as:

- Street sweeping
- Hot mixing pothole areas, finished hot mixing on receiver on Ridge Street, and hot mixed new area for grit box at WRRF
- Started filling shoulders near Deerfield/Greenfield area
- Receiver work Foster Street
- Ditch work on lower Wheelock Avenue (stone lined with check dams)
- Crosswalk painting
- Set up for street closures and contractor work around the city
- Assisted mechanics division
- Collected trash and relocated trash barrels
- Removed graduation banners

Next week our team will begin road side mowing, continue street sweeping finish up crosswalks and stop bars and start painting arrows. Work will also begin on Finch Road including ditching, stone check dams and 18" drive culvert.

The City's Water/Sewer division completed the concrete blocks at the WRRF, continuing the week completing the following:

- Reconstructed our Vector dump station
- Cleaned storm catch basins on clarendon
- Valve box repair on clarendon
- Cleaned sewer main on Woodcrest

- Camera sewer main on Woodcrest
- Repaired sewer pump station #2
- Water meter repairs and readings
- Repaired pump station on Lower State Street

Next week our crew will continue with Vactor cleaning sewer main lines, more in depth pump station maintenance and water meter repairs and readings.

Clarendon Ave:

This week the contractor finished installing the last sewer manhole and storm line at the top of Jordan St. as well as installing the new storm line on Redstone Ave. This marks the end of the utility work on these streets as well as Clarendon Ave.

Today the contractor will be starting to connect the water services along Bailey Ave. Work on Bailey will continue through the end of next week. Residents on Bailey should anticipate some interruption in water service while the service lines are transferred to the new main. The contractor will provide notice to individual buildings prior to shutting off water service.

Following the water system work on Bailey Ave, asphalt prep and road subbase installation will be performed on Redstone Ave, Jordan St. and the top of Clarendon Ave. Final paving is tentatively planned for the end of September, depending on the paving contractor's availability.

WRRF

Two of the Digesters have been cleaned and the contractor has mobilized a crane to remove the cover from the largest tank. The steel cover will be replaced with a dual membrane cover for methane storage. This new cover installation will take place over the next month.

TAYLOR STREET WEEKLY REPORT

The replacement of the brick Stormwater line has been completed. Installation of the new Stormwater detention system will begin on Monday. The system is located across the street from the new 1 Taylor Street building and consists of 4 drywells surrounded by drainage stone. There are also carrier pipes which connect the drywells to each other and to the existing Stormwater system on the street. The anticipated timeline to install the entire system is 2 weeks.

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. ***The Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone about what should NOT be flushed.*** Flushing the items listed below could cause sewer blockages, which could cause plugged and overflowing toilets, poorly draining sinks and showers, raw sewage backing up through floor drains and/or manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters, health hazards and nuisance odors, and this could result in increases in the City's maintenance costs and costly repair bills for involved residents.

The following items should NOT be flushed!

-
- 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,

City Manager



William Fraser

Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)

| | | | |
|---------|---|---------------------|--|
| 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