

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
9/21/2020	MSAC Advisory Council Meeting	1:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click here for Zook Link</a>
9/21/2020	Design Review Committee Meeting	5:30 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click Here for Zoom Link and Agenda</a>
9/21/2020	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click here for Zoom Link and Agenda</a>
9/22/2020	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee- <i>Fundraising &amp; Social Event</i>	7:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click Here for Zoom Link and Agenda</a>
9/23/2020	Cemetery Commission	11:00 AM	In Person	<a href="#">Click Here for Meeting Agenda</a>
9/23/2020	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee- <i>Fundraising &amp; Social Event</i>	12:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click Here for Zoom Link and Agenda</a>
9/23/2020	Regular City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click Here for Zoom Link and Agenda</a>
9/26/2020	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee- <i>Fundraising &amp; Social Event</i>	4:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click Here for Zoom Link and Agenda</a>



## Public Health and Safety

### **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CITY OF MONTPELIER RESPONSE UPDATE**

This week, Dr. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, joined Governor Scott at one of the State's bi-weekly press conferences. Dr. Fauci took a moment to congratulate Vermont on keeping our transmission rates low, but encouraged all Vermonters to remain vigilant in our everyday practices to slow the spread of COVID-19. He stated, "At the same time that I'm giving kudos to Vermont for doing so well, the message that I'd like all of the citizens of Vermont to hear is that this virus is a formidable foe. So please, you've done so well, don't let your guard down. Let's everybody keep our guard up and not be complacent".

**As a reminder to residents:** [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask starting August 1<sup>st</sup>](#). 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:**

- **September Updates since 9/11/2020:** In general, there are some updates regarding COVID-19:
  - Kinney Drugs has partnered with the State and 11 of their locations around the State will be made into COVID-19 Testing sites. [Details can be found at the Health Department's website.](#)
  - The [#BuyLocalVermont](#) program status Report was released: Almost 12,000 Vermonters received discount offers through this program. [ACCD has released a status report](#) that showing the economic activity. Vermonters who have redeemed their gifts through this program so far have spent 53% more than the \$30 value of the discount, resulting in approximately \$1.50 in economic activity for local businesses for every \$1 invested in the program in just the first week.
  - Funding Available for Rental Housing in Need of Repair
    - Landlords and property owners that have vacant rental properties may be eligible to receive up to a \$30,000 grant per rental unit to renovate rental units so they can be rented. Grants are available from the Department of Housing and Community Development to improve the overall quality, availability, and affordability of rental housing throughout the state.
    - Full details are available at the [ACCD Recovery Resource Center.](#)
  - Survey for Farm and Food Businesses
    - Vermont farm and food businesses are encouraged to participate in a [research survey](#) being conducted by the University of Vermont and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
  - Capital Equipment Assistance Program Open for Applications
    - Applications are open for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' Capital Equipment Assistance Program.
      - Up to \$1,000,000 is available in funding for new or innovative equipment for nutrient management planning. Eligible recipients include farms, custom applicators, non-profit organizations, and other related businesses. Applications are due by November 1, 2020. Details and the application are available at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap>

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.MontpelierMutualAid.org)
- Another Way Community Meal Information:

Another Way (125 Barre St, Montpelier, VT 05602) has put out the following information regarding meals available for those who need them:

  - Friday Night Dinner Take Out 5pm -6pm
  - Wednesday Breakfast Take Out 9am - 10am
  - *The building is closed to public, pick up only from marked porch site. Please wear mask when approaching take out table.*

### **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.
- Parking:
  - As reviewed in the parking plan approved by City Council, **the City will be turning on meters in parking lots starting September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

### **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 4<sup>th</sup>, and is currently in place through October 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - This ordinance is supported and superseded by the Governor's State-wide Mask Mandate.
- 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 on Tuesdays and Thursdays (8am-4:30pm).

## **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](mailto: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](http://www.MontpelierMutualAid.org)
- Another Way Community Meal Information:

Another Way (125 Barre St, Montpelier, VT 05602) has put out the following information regarding meals available for those who need them:

  - Friday Night Dinner Take Out 5pm -6pm
  - Wednesday Breakfast Take Out 9am - 10am
  - *The building is closed to public, pick up only from marked porch site. Please wear mask when approaching take out table.*

## **NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS**

The Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA) and the Parks Department opened over 5 miles of new professionally designed mountain bike trails in the North Branch Park. This three year effort included raising over \$114,000 in private funds as well as hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. These trails will be a community asset for many years to come.



Parks Director Alec Ellsworth (with able assistance from his son Axel) cuts the ribbon for new Mountain Bike Trails.



## Responsive and Responsible Government

### **WINTER PARKING CHANGES**

Following the Council's preliminary approval of a new winter parking system, a project team has been established to finalize ordinance and operational details as well as manage public education and publicity efforts.

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM RETREAT**

With wonderful facilitation by Montpelier professional Claire Wheeler, the leadership team completed a successful two day retreat at the Senior Center. We came away with a better understanding of how each person operates as well as the composite strengths and capacity of the team as a whole. We developed specific processes for implementing the strategic plan. We identified specific areas for focus in the next few months. We clarified and affirmed our structures for meeting, communicating, and decision making by the team. We looked at best and worst case post COVID scenarios and discussion possible strategies for various outcomes. It was a great way to integrate our new team members with our longer serving officials.

### **PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

The Planning Department is happy to announce that Kevin Casey has returned from furlough. Kevin is the City's Community Development Specialist and in that capacity he works on grant administration and program management for the City's housing initiatives and other community related projects. Some specific projects he will be returning to are the accessory dwelling unit program with Vermont State Housing Authority, the elevator upgrade at Kellogg Hubbard Library, and the supportive housing and services grant with Washington County Mental Health and Another Way. His return brings the Planning Department back to full operation.

### **SCHOOLS REOPENING AND TRAFFIC**

School reopened last week. People can expect significant traffic congestion around Union Elementary School and Main Street Middle School during both the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times. Please plan accordingly. High impacts can be expected for School Street, Loomis Street and Main Street (near the Middle School) as well as nearby neighborhood streets.

We have had police officers at both UES and MSMS to assist with traffic management and safety.

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

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

Approved Temporary Parklets:

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

- Julio's Cantina



## Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

### **POLICE RELATED UPDATES**

**Follow Up to August 26** discussion is tentatively scheduled for the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. This will include information relating to the 11 requests made as well as a recommendation concerning the Public Safety Advisory Committee.

The School Board voted to temporarily suspend the services of the School Resource Officer pending a community process to review the program. We are seeking clarification with the Superintendent about that that means and how certain services will be provided if at all.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES**

#### **Fall Classes Still Accepting Registration for Youth and Adults**

MSAC is still accepting registration for 25 Fall classes (21 online and 4 in-person) to begin the week of Sept. 21. Many of these classes are open to all ages, and very few have any sort of size limit. Some of the classes being offered include: Drawing, Rug Hooking, Poetry, Opera Appreciation, Very Gentle Yoga (with a seated option) Tai Chi for Fall Prevention and many more! For a complete list of classes, times, prices, and instructions on how to register, please visit our [program guide](#) and [registration form](#) online.

#### **Hurrah for MSAC Instructors!**

We are grateful to our many contract instructors offering classes with us during the pandemic. Many of them are or will also be offering remote classes independently/privately, and we are pleased to provide [this list](#) that gets updated about once weekly. Please support them while keeping yourself engaged and active! In some cases, private classes will end when instructors begin teaching with MSAC in late September. Some instructors will continue teaching privately (only), and some will be doing a combination of MSAC and private classes. Ask us if you are confused about any particular teacher!

#### **Advisory Council Meeting**

Monday, September 21 | 1:00 - 2:30 pm | via Zoom

The agenda will include Wellness survey, committee assignments, and status of class registrations. All members are welcome. To get the zoom link, email <mailto:msac@montpelier-vt.org>. The Agenda and August 24 minutes are both posted on our website's Advisory Council page.

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

Pick-up 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 September menu available on website.

- **Tuesday 9/22:** Slow Cooked BBQ Pork Shoulder, Potato Salad, Baked Beans & Dessert
- **Friday, 9/25:** Seared Chicken Breast with Basil Tomato Caper Relish, Polenta, Summer Greens & Dessert

- Optional Event: 12:30-1:30: FEAST Together Distantly by Phone or Video on Zoom; RSVP by Sept. 24

### **FEAST Together Distantly w/MSAC Staff on Zoom**

Friday, Sept. 25 | 12:30 - 1:15 pm | via Zoom

Join MSAC Staff (Director, Janna Clar and FEAST Manager, Sarah Lipton) and other MSAC members for a digital lunch. You'll be able to ask questions, get answers and spend some time with friends, old and new! Email Harry at [msac@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:msac@montpelier-vt.org) or call 223-2518, preferably a day or more in advance to receive Zoom link. Help from Chet is available if you're new to Zoom; just ask!

### **FEAST Together *Inside* MSAC**

Tuesday, September 29 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm MSAC Community Room | RSVP required!

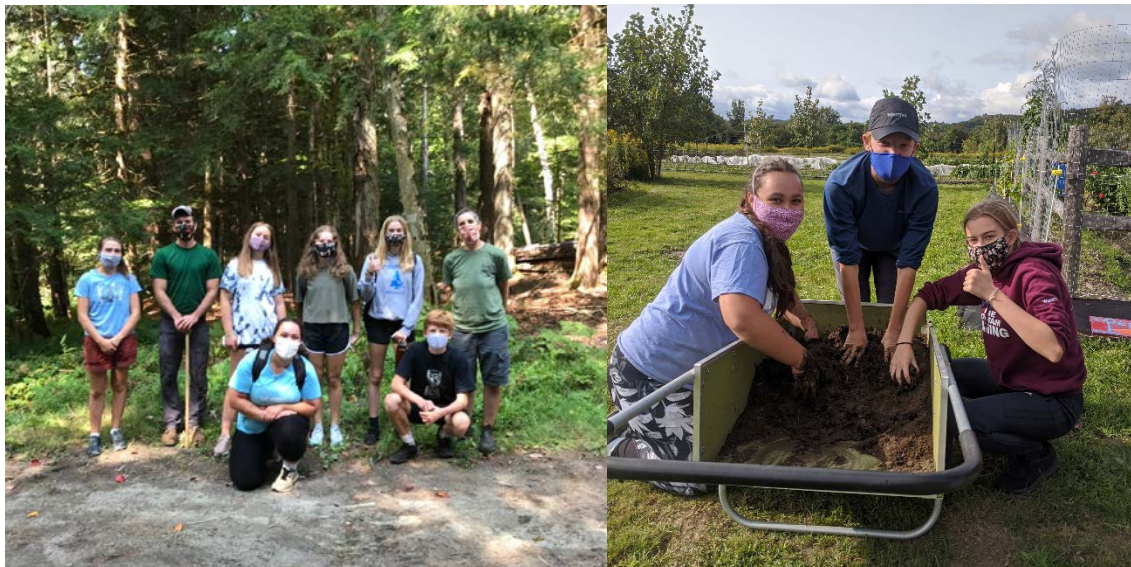
Chef Mike and MSAC staff are feeling confident that we can safely start inviting people indoors for our much missed congregate meals! Join us for some brisket, potatoes, broccoli, carrots and dessert as well as some (distant) in-person dining. Please be prepared to undergo a health screening, sit 6 feet apart, wear a mask except when eating or drinking, and be served at your table. Reservations required for this event by calling 262- 6288 or emailing [mailto:feast@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:mailto:feast@montpelier-vt.org).

### **New Face at MSAC**

This past week MSAC welcomed Andrew Gribbin as the new "Aging in Place Coordinator" AmeriCorps member. Andrew will be splitting his time between assisting with FEAST programming as well as helping to establish a Village Project and volunteer collaborations with MSAC and community partners. Welcome Andrew!

### **Parks & Trees and Montpelier High School Launch New Partnership**

The Parks & Trees Department began a new partnership program with MHS this week: the Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps. A group of five students will spend two mornings each week helping out the parks crew in all aspects of their work. They'll learn about various aspects of conservation, outdoor recreation, and local government.



## **Montpelier Rec busy starting and preparing for Fall Classes and Offerings**

This week saw the setting up of for our new afterschool childcare program to start in early October. Our maintenance staff has been doing a great job keeping the outdoor athletic fields in tiptop shape for fall sports, three of which, Tae Kwon Do, Youth Soccer and Youth Tennis all have begun and are off to a great start. We recently applied for a Recreational Facilities Grant for renovations of our pool house bathrooms and eagerly wait to hear if we receive funding.

## **Community Justice Center Updates:**

Following the retirement of two long-time staff members, Yvonne Byrd and Judy Gibson, and the return of one COVID - furloughed staff member (Pat Hoffman) the Montpelier Community Justice Center is settling in to a new chapter of providing exceptional Restorative and Reentry Services to the community.

The newest member of our staff is Erin Anderson who began her role as the Restorative Programs Coordinator on 9/9/20. Erin holds a BA degree in International Relations and an MA in Engaged Buddhism. Erin brings to the position direct experience with restorative justice from her previous work in probation and corrections in Colorado and through specific related training in the areas of mental health, domestic violence and sex offenses. Erin has also been trained in mediation, motivational interviewing skills and has experience with training delivery. She lives in Underhill with her husband and two young boys. We are thrilled to welcome Erin to the MCJC team and the Montpelier community.

The COVID-19 pandemic required a shift in how we conduct our work to using an online platform (Zoom) for restorative panel meetings and Circles of Support and Accountability. As such, we have not had disruption in offering the programs and we've been able to make safe, socially-distanced accommodations for a few participants lacking the technology or equipment to participate online. The COVID-related delay in court hearings to process cases has slowed the number of referrals for sentenced cases though the Restorative Justice Alternative (direct referrals from Montpelier, Northfield and Berlin Police) remain steady. We also continue to address conflicts referred to the Conflict Assistance Program (neighbor disputes and civil ordinance violations) and to provide services in our Transitional Housing Program.

We are excited by the opportunities arising from the transition of staff at the justice center and as we continue to engage with all of our community partners.

## **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:**

Our Street Division this week collaborated with our Water/Sewer and Mechanic Division assisting the W/S with the Heating pipe project between City Hall and the Montpelier Fire House. Our



Mechanic Division received assistance from Street Division in the shop, working on equipment. Our Vactor Truck representative provided the DPW Staff with training throughout the week. Street paintings/markings and arrows were completed throughout downtown area, sidewalk repair on River Street is completed, staff also performed storm receiver repairs, cut brush along sidewalks around schools and the bike path. The Finch Road stormwater project was also completed this week, which included erosion restoration along with site grading.

Upcoming tasks that the Street Division crews will complete:

- Walker Terrace Road repair (upper section)
- Ditch Mill Road and Corry Road
- Pave in ruts on Pioneer Street bridge deck
- Painting arrows downtown
- Pave in upper end of Walker Terrace

Our Water/Sewer Division had one crew most of the week working on the Heat piping project between City Hall & Montpelier Fire House. Our second crew spent the week working on water meter repairs, Dig Safe markings, pump station maintenance and daily checks, addressed any resident concerns.

Next week our Water/Sewer Division will have a crew back over at City Hall/Fire House project, another crew will be beginning winter hydrant maintenance along with routine weekly task. All of our Divisions will continue safe practices associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Clarendon Ave:**

This week the contractor finished with the excavation on Bailey Ave. This included all of the new water services and the Cut and Cap on the abandoned water main. Next week work will begin on roadway reconstruction on Clarendon Ave., Jordan St. and Redstone.

**WRRF:**

This week a large crane was mobilized to remove the steel covers from the digester tanks. Next week work will be focused on rehabilitation of the largest digester in preparation of installing the new membrane cover.

**Wayfinding:**

The wayfinding contractor is excavating and installing bases for the future wayfinding signs. This work is happening at various locations around the City and will continue through next week.

**Taylor Street:**

The process of excavating and rebuilding the subbase for the roadway has started. This work will begin at State Street and progress south and continue into next week.

Thank you,  
City Manager



William Fraser

## Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

9/23	Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee Creation (Tentative) CVPSA appointments and updates Winter Parking- Alternate Side of the Street Proposal Ordinance Change 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading COVID-19 Update (with further In-Person Meeting Recommendation Updates) Police Issues Followup Council meeting dates review – October, November, December		
10/14	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter Budget status Budget Process Update (Tentative) Winter Parking- Alternate Side of the Street Proposal Ordinance Change 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Montpelier Alive- Downtown Improvement District Budget MDC Update COVID-19 Update Public Restroom Discussion (cont.) TKS/Mowatt properties	10/28	Legislative Priorities 2021 Infrastructure Update COVID-19 Update PFAS Update (tentative) 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter Strategic Plan status
11/11	Veteran's Day ( <i>may need to change date</i> ) Childcare Option Study COVID-19 Update	11/25	Thanksgiving Eve ( <i>may need to change date</i> ) Preliminary Budget Discussion COVID-19 Update
12/9	Implement Housing Initiatives Strat Plan Discussion Budget COVID-19 Update	12/23	( <i>near Christmas, may need to change date</i> ) Budget COVID-19 Update
1/13/21	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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