

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
9/26/20	Social & Economic Justice Committee- Fundrasing & Social Event	4:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click Here for Zoom and Agenda Link</a>
9/28/20	Planning Commission	5:30 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click here for Zoom and Agenda Link</a>
9/30/20	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click here for Zoom and Agenda Link</a>
10/1/20	Social & Econimic Justice Advisory Committee Meeting	5:30 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Click here for Zoom and Agenda Link</a>



## Public Health and Safety

### City of Montpelier Response Update Weekly Report Date September 25, 2020

The City would like to reiterate the message that Dr. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, shared with Vermonters last week. While Dr. Fauci did congratulate Vermont on keeping our transmission rates low, he emphasized the need to remain vigilant in our everyday practices to slow the spread of COVID-19. He stated, "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>.](#)

#### **Weekly State Updates:**

- Restaurant and Lodging Updates:
  - [ACCD has updated the current restaurant and lodging guidance.](#) Restaurants and bars can now utilize bar seating if patrons are six feet apart and a partition is in place between the patrons and the staff behind the bar. The capacity limits for restaurants has not changed.
  - [ACCD also removed capacity limits from lodging properties, allowing them to book all of their available rooms.](#) All mandatory safety and travel restrictions and quarantine requirements remain.
  
- New Technical Assistance Program Now Available:

- Free technical assistance is now available through the [Small Business Recovery Technical Assistance Program](#) with support in a variety of areas being provided by the state's twelve regional development corporations, Champlain College, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Northern Community Investment Corporation, and the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund. The program is now live, and businesses can begin accessing resources immediately.
- Schools Update:
  - All schools will be put on "Step III" starting this Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Changes include:
    - This change in step level allows for the start of inter-scholastic competitions in all sports programs.
    - Schools may consider the use of common areas such as gyms and cafeterias with staggered use time, disinfecting, and small group sizes.
    - Step III also allows more flexibility in grouping students outside of the 'pod' model that was being used in Step II.
    - Individual School Districts are still in control of in-person or online instruction.
  - More information can be found in the [Safety and Health Guidance for Reopening Schools, Fall 2020](#)
- Vermont's [travel map](#) will be updated each Tuesday instead of Friday.

### **City Hall Updates:**

- City Hall will be open for the public during regular Council Meetings starting October 14<sup>th</sup>. The public will be able to interact with the Zoom Council Meetings in the Council Chambers. Masks or a face shield and social distancing will be required inside City Hall. Masks will be on-hand with City Staff if members of the public do not have any available to them.

### **Regional Aid Groups Update:**

#### Community Meal Information:

- Another Way and the Sunrise Center of Washington County Mental Health Services will serve as hubs for distribution of food starting next Saturday, September 26.
  - Weekday dinners, M-F, will be available at Another Way at 125 Barre Street between 5-6 PM.
  - Weekday lunches will be available at the current Sunrise Wellness Center at 157 Barre Street between 12:30-2:30.
  - Weekend lunches will be available in front of the soon-to-be-opened Sunrise Wellness Center at 34 Barre Street from 12:30-2:30 PM.
  - This is in addition to current church meal offerings during the day which will continue.

### **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.*



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.

## **COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

To avoid conflicts with holidays, the Council will hold **regular** meetings on the following dates:

- October 14 and 28
- November 4 and 18
- December 2 and 9
- January 13 and 21 (Thursday). The 27<sup>th</sup> is not yet confirmed.

Additional dates for **budget workshops** may be added including one between December 9 and 31 and another one on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **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**

## **SRO POSITION**

As requested by the Council, I have sent a formal request to the School Board that City officials be included in any committee that reviews the School Resource Officer. This is the content of that request:

I'm writing on behalf of the Mayor & City Council Members. We appreciate the difficult conversations you are having with regard to the School Resource Officer position. The SRO position has been raised directly with the City as well in the context of conversations about the future of policing as a whole in Montpelier.

The School Department and City/Police Department have been successful partners with the School Resource Officer program since 2000 when we transitioned out of the DARE program. This position has provided direct benefits for both the school system and the community at large. Similarly, the costs have been shared equally between our two budgets.

It is in this spirit of partnership that the City Council unanimously requests that City representatives be included in any committee or task force that is created to review the position. We will all benefit if we're hearing the same information at the same time and can address the question together rather than on parallel tracks. We support the use of Creative Discourses, Inc. as independent facilitators for this conversation and, likewise, support paying 50% of these costs.

We look forward to an open process where we can learn from the community and one another, establish shared values and goals, and create a way forward that best addresses those values and goals.

Thank you.

## **POLICE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Consistent with the conversation at Wednesday's meeting, I have drafted the following charge for the Police Review Committee. I have drawn heavily from Council Member Richardson's motion. If there are no concerns we will begin advertising for interested participants next week.

The City of Montpelier seeks interested residents to serve on a Police Review Committee. The number of members and length of terms has yet to be determined. The City Council has charged the committee with the following work:

- 1) Review the historic functions of Montpelier police department;
- 2) Review modern policing trends and practices, such as those embodied in the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and other reference materials;
- 3) Meet with community stakeholders for feedback on the role and function of the Montpelier Police Department. (list of stakeholders will be provided but can be expanded)
- 4) Review existing historic law enforcement data for trends, significant issues, and other observations or conclusions that are relevant to current and future planning and funding of the Montpelier Police Department. (list of data will be provided but can be expanded)
- 5) Review and analyze the functions of the Montpelier Police Department, its existing policies, and help create the Department's current strategic plan
- 6) Compile the information into a report to be delivered to the City Council by June 30, 2021. The report will include recommendations for this committee's future charge and function.

## **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) that began 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), Bone Builders, Somatic Movement 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.

### **MSAC Village Offering Raking, Wood stacking and other Outdoor Chore Help this Fall and Recruiting Volunteers**

With fall officially in full swing, it's time to start thinking about what outdoor chores need to be done before the first flakes fly. Have any leaves that need to be raked, wood that needs stacking, or a garden to be put to bed? If you're a Montpelier resident, let MSAC know! As part of an initiative to create a Village model here in Montpelier (more information below), we are pleased to announce the offering of assistance with outdoor chores in the month of October! If you – or your

Montpelier friends, family, or neighbors – need any assistance with an outdoor to-do list, we are here to help. Contact AmeriCorps member Andrew Gribbin at 262-6287 or at [msac-ameriacorps@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:msac-ameriacorps@montpelier-vt.org) to learn more about this new initiative and to register for the services today. We hope to see you – socially distanced – in your yard soon! Additionally, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to lend their time in support of this project. If you are able to assist in this initiative, we could use your help! Any amount of time you are able to give will go a long way to ensuring your neighbors can check all the boxes on their fall chore list. Please contact Andrew Gribbin to learn more about ways to assist or to register as a volunteer.

What is a Village model and why is one planned for Montpelier? Learn more about it here: [https://www.timesargus.com/news/local/village-model-proposed-for-capital-city/article\\_2f4e8d22-328e-560a-9915-4fd25607fce8.html](https://www.timesargus.com/news/local/village-model-proposed-for-capital-city/article_2f4e8d22-328e-560a-9915-4fd25607fce8.html) and here: [www.vtvnetwork.org](http://www.vtvnetwork.org) and keep an eye out for more communication ahead!

### **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 9/29:** Beef Brisket, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Carrots & Dessert  
Optional Event: 12:00 – 1:30: Our first congregate meal in months; RSVP required!
- **Friday, 10/2:** Roast Beef au Jus, Potatoes, Spinach & Dessert

### **FEAST Together Inside MSAC - Our first congregate meal in months!**

Tuesday, September 29 12:00 - 1:30 pm | RSVP REQUIRED!

With your safety as our first priority, we are excited to announce our first in-person meal coming right up on Tuesday, September 29th! In coordination with Chef Michael Morse and our outstanding volunteers, we are very pleased to invite you to dine in with us for one of three seatings. On the menu is Chef Mike's popular Smoked Beef Brisket, and locally harvested veggies. We know it will not look and feel the same as our usual congregate meals, but we still want to see you and give you the opportunity to see each other, even if it's from a larger distance than feels normal. Please register in advance and let us know if you'd like to sit down with us at 12pm, 12:35pm or 1:10pm. Our staff and volunteers will work hard to maintain your social distance by guiding you to your seat, serving your meals, and sanitizing your area after you leave. You will have the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal with us this way, or still come for a to-go meal if that feels better for you. Please register no later than Friday, September 25th so that we can plan accordingly, and we sincerely hope to see you! Call us to register: 262-6288.

### **Montpelier Parks and Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA) celebrate the close of a 3 year trail building project.**

Last week, a ribbon cutting event was held to celebrate the completion of the "North Branch Trail Initiative," which brought 4 new miles of multi-use trails to the North Branch Park, along with 2 miles of rehabbed trails. Thanks to MAMBA and Sinuosity LLC for all their hard work on this project.

### **Montpelier Parks and MAMBA break ground on new Pump Track.**

This week, Sinuosity LLC began building a new "Pump Track" at the southern end of the North Branch Park near the end of Cummings St. This fun bike course for kids will tie into a kids trail, and provide another great outdoor recreation feature to Montpelier.

### **Enchanted Forest Tickets on Sale!**

Enchanted Forest 2020 tickets are now on sale at <https://enchantedforest.brownpapertickets.com>.

The event will look a little different now to accommodate for keeping attendees, staff and volunteers safe, but it will feature a lot of the same enchantment that people have come to enjoy over the last 20+ years of this event. Please note, that ticket sales will be online only this year, and there will be no tickets sold at the event.

### **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>

Thank you,  
City Manager



William Fraser

## Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

10/14	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter Budget status FY22 Budget Process 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 Restrooms TKS/Mowatt properties	10/28	Legislative Priorities 2021 Infrastructure Update COVID-19 Update PFAS Update (tentative) 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter Strategic Plan status
11/4	Childcare Option Update Meet with Legislators (tentative) COVID-19 Update	11/18	COVID-19 Update
12/2	Housing Initiatives Update Budget COVID-19 Update	12/9	Budget COVID-19 Update
1/6/21	Budget Workshop	1/13/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter budget status
1/21/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions	2/10/21	City Manager Review
2/24/21		3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election

### **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