

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
10/5/20	Development Review Board	7:00	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
10/6/20	Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee	6:00	Zoom	Agenda Zoom Link
10/7/20	Complete Streets Committee	5:30	Zoom	Zoom Agenda



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19) City of Montpelier Response Update

In his address this week, the Governor has urged all Vermonters to not become complacent-acknowledging that with the positive trends we have had in the suppression of the COVID-19 virus, it is easy to let your guard down. He pressed that we shouldn't become victims of our own success. We all need to continue to follow the safety guidelines.

In the same press conference, Dr. Levine, Vermont Commissioner of Health, shared a very sobering statistic about how the United States, while only accounting for 4% of the world population, has more than 20% of the world's COVID-19 related deaths. The virus is very present and we should remain vigilant!

As a reminder to residents: [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask in public starting August 1st.](#)

Weekly State Updates:

- Mortgage Assistance:
 - The [VHFA mortgage assistance program](#)'s application period has been extended. They are encouraging folks to apply as soon as possible since funding is limited.
 - Since it started, the program was also expanded in several ways:
 - It now provides up to 6 months of grants for past due mortgage or property tax payments for qualified applicants (Previously, we could only cover property taxes that were escrowed with mortgage payments. Now we've determined that we can cover tax payments made directly to the town, assuming that the property has a mortgage).
 - Income limits were raised to expand income eligibility to more Vermonters with COVID hardship

- It can be used by qualified owners of mobile homes in parks with mortgages
- **Travel Update:**
 - Because of those rising case numbers in areas near Vermont, the state has adjusted the [safe travel map](#), reducing the number of people who can come here without a quarantine to 4.2 million from 4.7 million last week.
- **Economic Recovery Grant Program:**
 - The ACCD Economic Recovery Grant Program announced that they are fully subscribed at this time.
 - The Legislature is working on another round of money for the program and ACCD will announce details of that program soon.
 - If you have an application that is in process, ACCD is continuing to process those in the order they were submitted until the remaining money is gone.

DMV Updates:

The DMV re-opens three more branch offices to the public:

- Bennington, Newport, and Springfield are re-opening to the public by appointment only using the new online scheduling system. The first appointment times available will be for Monday, October 5th.

City Hall Updates:

- City Hall will be open for the public during regular Council Meetings starting October 14th. 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.



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 27th is not yet confirmed.

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

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)
- **Temporary Parklet Ordinance**

Approved Temporary Parklets:

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

Assessor's Office

- New GIS map link on Assessor's Page of City website. Entitled "Montpelier GIS Link". It has all of the features of the existing Interactive Parcel Maps, which it will be replacing, and many new features.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Retirement of Captain Neil Martel

On Wednesday we celebrated the retirement of Captain Neil Martel after 34 years of service to the Montpelier community.

Neil has been the rock of this department for decades, rising from a knowledgeable, community-oriented patrol officer, to a dedicated and steadfast sergeant, to the administrative backbone of our agency as Captain. His calm demeanor, approachability, sense of humor, and wisdom helped set the example and mentored dozens of Montpelier Police Officers over the years in what police work in the Montpelier community is all about. His exceptional work ethic and fatherly presence will be missed.

Police Department modified lobby opening

The Montpelier Police Department's front lobby will remain locked, but available once again for

prescription drug drop offs. Residents are asked to ring the front door buzzer to speak with dispatch and to wear a mask when entering the building. Anyone showing any signs of sickness is asked to stay away from the building and only one person will be allowed in the lobby at a time. The Department will also be hosting a DEA drug take back day on October 24, 2020 between 10am-2pm.

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 21 of our 24 Fall classes (19 online and 2 in-person; 3 are full now) 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. Financial Aid is available for all MSAC members age 50+ regardless of town of residence. Assistance with Zoom is available!

MSAC Crafters Tabling at Planting Hope's Solidarity Craft Fair Downtown

Saturday, October 10 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

The 27th Annual Fair will be held at the Julio's Parking Lot, 54 State Street in Montpelier, Vermont. The rain date is on Sunday, Oct. 11, and part of the proceeds support Planting Hope. Sales at the

MSAC Crafters' Table support MSAC fundraising for our programs, and they are offering knit, sewn, quilted items and more!

Winter Program, Presentation and Class Proposals Due 10/13

Do you have an exciting idea for a class or educational presentation that you would like to see MSAC offer this winter and either the skills to lead it yourself or clear information about someone willing to do so? The Program Committee is currently accepting proposals for Winter classes and other programs. All classes will be held in accordance with the most up-to-date State COVID-19 guidelines or held online. We always love to hear from our members about what they would like to see offered, but now more than ever – what could we do that would keep you engaged? Request proposal forms by emailing Harry at msac@montpelier-vt.org.

Senior Activity Center Continues Slow Re-opening with Classes, Crafters, and FEAST

- MSAC continues its slow re-opening with careful attention to health screening, person counts, sanitizing, physical distancing and face-masking!
- Between September 21-25, 24 classes re-started for 10-12 week series – most online and four in-person. Ten outdoor and online drop-in groups have also resumed on a weekly basis, and we host two foot care clinics each month with CVHHH nurses on-site.
- We also started hosting our MSAC Crafters Drop-in group again on Wednesday afternoons at 1-3pm, when people gather to sew, knit, quilt and craft together. This group is open to the general public but has limited seating and requires RSVP by calling 223-2518.
- Meanwhile, FEAST To Go continues every Tuesday and Friday outdoors – more info below – and FEAST At Home (Meals on Wheels) continues to deliver weekly bulk meals to over 50 older adults.

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 October menu available on website.

- **Tuesday, 10/6:** Shepherd's Pie with Gravy, Whole Wheat Pasta Salad, Peas and Carrots
- **Friday, 10/9:** Coq-au-Vin Champenoise, Lima Beans, and Egg Noodles

First In-person FEAST Together Meal a Success!

FEAST Together in-person went swimmingly this past week with 8 courageous diners. Thank you to our incredible Chef Mike for making scrumptious food and a huge cheer to our stellar volunteers (Carole Baker and Jeanne Felmly) for helping make the event go so smoothly! We feel good about trying again at the end of October with another in-person meal, so mark your calendar for October 27th. Registration will be required so we can plan to host you at 3 different seatings. We are also talking about the possibility of a congregate meal together outside, if the weather holds, so stay tuned to learn more about that!

FEAST Together via Conference Call!

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 16th - we'll be setting up a conference call for you to join us while you eat your lunch. We miss being together, and are trying to figure out ways to do so safely - so why not jump on the phone with us?

Celebrate the FEAST Farm!

We're in planning with the Montpelier Parks Department to set up a FEAST Farm Tour on Monday, October 19th at 10am. We will gather together out at the beautiful FEAST Farm by the old two rivers farm behind Agway for a tour with Farm Manager Jacqueline, some tasty treats from Chef Mike, and a chance to meet some of the young volunteers helping to grow the food **you've been eating all summer. Stay tuned for more information so you can register to join us!**

Rec Dept. Sees Heavy use of Outdoor Facilities; New Afterschool Program Begins Next Week!

Outdoor facilities are being heavily used with youth and school sports. Lots of activity on the tennis courts with pickleball and tennis. Youth soccer is going really well. The maintenance staff has been doing a great job keeping the fields and courts ready for use. Our afterschool program begins next week, and we have been getting the facility ready for our inspection this Friday. The lights at the tennis courts on Elm Street are currently out of order, but scheduled for repair this Saturday.

New Montpelier Rec. Program Coordinator begins Monday, Oct. 5

Montpelier Rec. is excited to announce that Nick Marinelli will be joining the Department this next week as our new Program Coordinator. Most recently, Nick has been working as a Rec Specialist for the City of Burlington. We are excited to welcome him aboard and for him to bring his talents to our community.

Enchanted Forest Next Week!

Enchanted Forest will be happening this year with a lot of modifications to make it safe for everyone. You'll still find many of the same things people have come to enjoy over the years, including lots of carved pumpkins, bagged lights, and enchanting performances. Tickets can be found at

<https://enchantedforest.brownpapertickets.com>., <https://enchantedforest.brownpapertickets.com>..

The event is already more than half sold out, so get your tickets soon!

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 st quarter Budget status FY22 Budget Process Winter Parking- Alternate Side of the Street Proposal Ordinance Change 2 nd 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 st 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 nd 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