

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
10/26	Planning Commission Meeting	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
10/28	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Montpelier COVID Outbreak **New**

Outbreaks at the Civic Center and the Schools have raised concerns in the community. In both cases, the Vermont Department of Health is taking the lead on contact tracing and providing advice. The School system has been very pro-active in managing the situations with people in their community. The City has reached out to VDH and MRPS to offer any assistance and remain in the information loop. We urge people to remain diligent with masks, social distancing, and hand washing. VDH will be running a pop up testing site at Montpelier High School on Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM for Montpelier residents.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

City of Montpelier Response **Update** Weekly Report Date October 16th

With the uptick in cases in the Montpelier region, it's more important than ever to reemphasize the importance of following COVID-19 safety guidelines, washing your hands, and masking up! It is up to all of us to protect one-another from this virus.

The State has also recommended that Vermonters get their flu shots to ensure flu cases stay down to make sure that our hospital capacity stays available for those who may need COVID-19 treatment throughout the rest of the fall and into the winter.

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

Weekly State Updates:

- [Governor Scott Extends State Of Emergency To November 15](#)
 - In addition to helping the state manage the public health risks, the State of Emergency keeps supports in place to mitigate economic hardship resulting from the pandemic. These protections include expanded housing and meal delivery systems, expanded eligibility for unemployment insurance, resources for businesses and federal emergency funding.
- Training for Vermonters Impacted by Covid-19 through the Community College of Vermont

- The Community College of Vermont announced free college courses and training for the next 2 months to Vermonters whose work and household situations have changed due to COVID19.
 - Please visit www.vsc.edu/Vtworkers for more information and to sign up for classes
- Health Updates:
 - Cases within Schools
 - Union Elementary in Montpelier has had 2 identified cases. This is the State's first in-school transmission.
 - Regional Update:
 - The outbreak associated with hockey and broomball teams in Montpelier is up to 18 cases. The cases are within players and their close contacts.
 - Testing will be available in Barre this Saturday (Oct. 17th). People can register for the pop-up clinic at www.healthvermont.gov/covid19-testing
 - The State is only recommending those associated with the outbreak- such as those associated with the Civic Center or these specific sports teams.
 - Current case counts can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).
 - Travel Update:
 - The State discussed safe holiday travel, noting that there are not many 'green' counties outside of Vermont to travel to and from without quarantining. They encouraged all Vermonters to not let their guard down, and to work hard to travel safely and follow the guidelines. See the updated [cross state travel map](#) for more information.
 - Long Term Care Guidance Updates:
 - Indoor visitation will be allowed in counties where the positivity rate is low, as federal rules outline. For counties with higher case counts, only outdoor visitation and compassionate visitation will be allowed. And if there is a case in the facility, visitation will be halted.COVID-19
 - Simpler PPP Forgiveness for \$50K Loans or Less
 - The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\) has released a simpler loan forgiveness application](#) for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$50,000 or less.

City Updates:

- City Hall will be open for the public during regular Council Meetings. 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.
- Halloween Recommendations:
 - The Montpelier Mayor, City Council, and City Manager recommend that residents refrain from Halloween Trick or Treating this year. Recent COVID 19 outbreaks in the City are a reminder that

the pandemic continues and that Montpelier is as vulnerable as any other area. Neither the City nor Montpelier Alive will be sponsoring or holding any organized Halloween activities such as downtown trick or treating or the Recreation center party.

- The City does not have internal public health expertise and so has been relying on the Vermont Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for public health guidelines since the beginning of the pandemic. The State has not taken any official position with regard to trick or treating, but the CDC has released guides for low- moderate- and high-risk activities. People who choose to celebrate Halloween should understand the risks and are advised to follow guidelines [from the CDC.](#)



Regional Aid Groups Update:

Community Meal Information:

- 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.

Donations Requested:

- Another Way, a community drop-in center located at 125 Barre Street, seeks clean camping gear in usable condition for distribution to folks in our community experiencing homelessness. At this time they are accepting donations of Tarps, Tents, Sleeping Bags & Pads, and Backpacks. Sundry items such as tent stakes, para-cord, waterproofing sealant, flashlights & headlamps are also welcome.
 - Another Way is not able to accept clothing of any kind currently.
 - Please contact Another Way prior to donating by either calling 802-229-0920 or emailing janell@anotherwayvt.org to schedule a drop off.



Sustainable Infrastructure

Alternate Side Parking: Update:

Getting the Message Out! The Police Department will help Public Works disseminate information to residents on the upcoming change in Winter Parking options by placing information on parked car windshields Tuesday 27th and Thursday the 29th. PW will begin posting messages on social media and our web page informing residents of key changes, and directing readers to go the City website to look up specifics for where they typically park, whether that be during the daytime, evenings or both. Please feel free to email any questions or comments to Jasmine Benson @ jbenson@montpelier-vt.org.

City Compliance with State Food Scrap Ban New:

Next week we anticipate installing a Green Cone on City Hall property that will allow staff in Police, Fire and City Hall to divert food scraps in accordance with the state requirements. Green Cones are a unique and effective method for managing food wastes, as a portion of the “Cone” is dug into the ground and a hollow, enclosed top with a lid is firmly connected to the bottom. This allows users to place scraps inside the cone where they accumulate in the below the ground “basket” and attract beneficial insects that consume the scraps while the Cone’s top generates heat from decomposition. This natural process renders the scraps negligible while fertilizing the surrounding area to the Cone. It’s not only a good option for “disposal” but an excellent fertilizer for planted areas. In spring, we will likely add some surrounding shrubs or plants that would benefit from the fertilization.

Clarendon Avenue:

The paving contractor, Pike Industries, on Wednesday has placed base pavement on Clarendon Ave., Jordan St. and Redstone Ave. This will be followed by curbing and then the top course of paving.

Street Paving:

In addition to the paving in the Clarendon Ave. neighborhood, Pike Industries also placed a thin overlay of asphalt on a section of Memorial Drive that was in very poor condition as well as on the Bailey Ave. bridge. These two areas needed to be addressed due to the high traffic volumes and the difficulty to maintain during winter operations.

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 scrapes
- Swiffer pads
- Plastic of any kind



Responsive and Responsible Government

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

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

- 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.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE New

The First Quarter Strategic Plan update has been moved to the November 4th meeting due to a staff medical issue this week.

TEMPORARY PARKLET APPROVALS

As per ordinance, parklets must be removed by October 25.

Although the terms of the temporary ordinance were originally intended for 2020 only, we may wish to revisit this in early 2021 to determine whether conditions warrant an extension.

12 MAIN STREET (former TKS property)

As we know, the City needs to make a decision about whether to purchase this property for the \$134,000 of federal funding that was spent to acquire it as part of the One Taylor Street/Bike Path project. The original deadline was December 1st. We have made a proposal to VTrans for this purpose and will bring the issue to the Council when we have received a response.

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

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 Update

The following has been advertised with an application deadline of October 22nd for council consideration on the 28th. We have received 14 applications which are included with the agenda.

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.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER Update

Council Member Jay Erickson was appointed to represent the City Council on the School Board's review committee. Former Police Chief and still resident Tony Facos will represent the police perspective on this committee. We appreciate Tony's willingness to serve in this capacity.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

FEAST Farm in the News!

The FEAST Farm Tour launched off last week with fantastic success! Thirty people gathered to learn about our amazing collaboration on this farm, and we got picked up for the front page of The Times Argus!

You can see it here: https://www.timesargus.com/slider/green-with-envy/image_c471ec33-8f5f-51a7-a502-b987d39e70ef.html?fbclid=IwAR16L3ok95q8krPQcYzUH452LsOgILKr8fESCID4lkdlsl54tOdzspWUoq4

MSAC Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, Oct. 26 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm | via Zoom

The agenda will include Wellness Call Project Update, membership and Annual meeting options, committee reports and Village update. All members are welcome. To get the zoom link, email msac@montpelier-vt.org. The agenda and Sept. 21 minutes are both posted on our website's Advisory Council page: www.montpelier-vt.org/369/MSAC-Advisory-Council.

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, 10/27:** Chicken w. Olives and Walnuts/Pecans, White Bean Salad, and Assorted Vegetables
Optional Event: 12:00-1:00: FEAST Together Inside at MSAC; RSVP by October 23, more details below
- **Friday, 10/30:** Spaghetti in a Red Sauce w. Beef & Green Beans

FEAST Together Inside!

Tuesday, Oct. 27 | 12:00 - 1:30 pm | MSAC Community Room

FEAST Together in-person with us again! Registration required so we can host you at one of 3

different seatings (12 pm, 12:30 pm, and 1 pm). Chef Mike will be preparing a delicious Tuscan style chicken with olives and nuts, white bean salad and assorted local vegetables. Register by calling 262-6288.

CAPITAL KIDS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM: A Licensed Afterschool Program.

The City of Montpelier is running an Afterschool Childcare Program! The program is running in accordance to the school calendar year and will be open many days when schools are closed during the school year (for holidays, etc.). Any scheduled closures during holidays and other scheduled off-days will be announced in advance. The program is running 5 days a week, Monday – Friday 1:30pm – 5:30pm. The program will be run out of the Old River Rock School space located at 46 Barre Street next door to the Senior Center.

The Afterschool Program is for all children who are in Kindergarten up to 12 years old. The City plans on ensuring young children arrive safely from school by having Program staff walk children to the Afterschool Program directly from Union Elementary School. When school is not in session, the Program will be open for drop-off and pick-up of participating children at 46 Barre Street. Each day will be filled with all kinds of age appropriate activities (indoor activities, crafts & outdoor or gym activities)!

Parents may pre-enroll their children in the program to ensure a spot. Pre-registration is required for the Afterschool Program. Payment is due the Thursday prior to the week the child is attending.

Pre-enrolled weeks may be cancelled by calling the City's Recreation office at 802-225-8699.

Registration forms and more information is available in our office at 58 Barre Street and on our website at www.montpelierrec.org or call (802) 225-8699.

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,



William Fraser

City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

10/28	Legislative Agenda Guertin Park Police Committee Appointments COVID-19 Update		
11/4	Childcare Option Update COVID-19 Update 12 Main Street Property 1 st Quarter Strategic Plan Update SRO discussion? 12 Main St. ? Infrastructure Update	11/18	COVID-19 Update Meet with Legislators (tentative)
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