

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
11/2	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/2	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/4	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/4	Conservation Commission	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19) City of Montpelier Response **Update** Weekly Report Date October 30th

In the State's press conferences this week, the Governor addressed some of the emerging COVID-19 outbreaks that have been occurring in Vermont. He stated that "we've gotten a little bit complacent; we've let our guard down, and we're seeing the effects of that". The Governor continued to say that we, as Vermonters, can possibly reverse the trend of increasing COVID-19 cases in our area through our individual and collective actions. Dr. Levine drove home the point that "the virus is making a dangerous comeback in many parts of the country...now is the worst time to let COVID fatigue set in".

Dr. Levine stressed this week the importance of wearing masks- saying that the science around them has grown, and that they are known to protect mask wearers as well as the people in the vicinity of the person wearing a mask. He stated that some evidence shows that there have been less cases in places that have a mask mandate. Dr. Levine also stated that wearing a mask also may reduce the viral load for people who do end up contracting the virus.

As a reminder to residents: [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask in public starting August 1st](#), and the [State of Emergency has been extended to November 15th](#).

Weekly State Updates:

- Regional Health Update:
 - [There has been an increase in the Vermont positive COVID-19 cases.](#) The Health Department's most recent [Daily Update on Novel Coronavirus](#) has the most updated case count.
 - Commissioner Pieciak reported that there are 89 positive COVID cases related to the Central VT outbreak, spread throughout multiple counties. More information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).

- 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

City Updates:

- City Hall will be **CLOSED** to the public November 4th-November 9th. This is to ensure the building has time to be cleaned after the influx of visitors for the election. City Hall will reopen Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Tuesday November 10th.
 - City Hall will therefore be closed to the public for the Wednesday November 4th Regular Council Meeting. The Council meeting can still be viewed and participated in via Zoom, phone, through ORCA Media's YouTube channel or via their streaming through local TV channels.
- The Recreation Department will be opening for limited use rentals only. Folks interested in renting the space can contact the Recreation Department at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/838/Montpelier-Recreation> or by calling 802-225-8699.
- Halloween Recommendations:
 - The City of Montpelier recommends each family review [CDC guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween) regarding Halloween, to assess the risk level of Halloween activities.



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.
- 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.
- Free Coats and Winter Gear Available (Hosted by Connecting Hope)
 - Saturday October 31st: Enough Ministries at 24 Washington Street in Barre 10am-Noon
 - November 7th: Lighthouse Christian Church at 3 St. Paul Street Montpelier 10am-Noon

More information can be found at www.connectinghopevt.org



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.

BUDGET DISCUSSION **New**

An informal council discussion about FY22 budget approach and priorities will be scheduled for this next meeting. If you have not already responded to the Mayor's survey please do so.

TEMPORARY PARKLET APPROVALS **update**

As per ordinance, parklets needed to be removed by October 25. All businesses with parklets were notified.

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) **update**

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 to acquire it as part of the One Taylor Street/Bike Path project. The original deadline was December 1st. VTrans responded to the City's proposal, we replied with a revision to their request. This will be brought to the Council when ready.

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

Six people, including Council Members Hierl and McCullough, were appointed to the Police Review committee this week. These six will meet and determine whether additional members are needed to assure broad inclusion of perspectives. The City Manager's office will arrange the first meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

FEAST Senior Meals To Go! NEW 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 donations 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 November menu available on website.

- **Tuesday, 11/3:** Chicken Parmesan w/linguine and red tomato sauce
- **Friday, 11/6:** Roast beef Au Jus w/mashed potatoes and roasted squash

New: The FEAST Farm Journal

Parks Eco AmeriCorps Member Leila Faulstich spends a lot of her days on the FEAST Farm. As a way to document her experience she has started a FEAST Farm Journal. Her first entry touches upon the change in season and prepping the farm for the winter months...

"The light has changed at the farm. When previously it was sticky, thick with heat, it's now that clear and wondrous fall slant that lays shadows across the land. We wear our masks, trudge around in sweaters and boots, and hold mugs of tea as we work. But there's not too much work. As Vermont goes, it's the time of dying and drying for winter. The tomatoes are off their vines, the pumpkin patch leaves have shriveled. It's always a little strange to see things settle down for their seasons. Another season is also ending - the NCCC AmeriCorps crew had their last day. We bid them farewell with cookies and gratitudes and lots of pictures. Still, a lot remains. We'll harvest kale's leathery and fearless leaves into the winter. A big garlic planting day is scheduled for Monday. And right next to all the garden plots, the new hoop house structure is coming into form. It is a ribcage in the sky. Clouds pass between its bones. What a sight." Thanks Leila!

A Feast of Wellness

Tuesday, November 10th | 1-2pm | via Zoom

Join Registered Dietician Alyssa Nathanson for an exciting look at winter wellness. In this one-hour free zoom gathering, you will not only learn how to harness the health of winter vegetables, but also receive tips and to help keep you healthy in body, mind and spirit all winter long. Join us to also receive a special bonus offering of some nutritious and delicious Thanksgiving recipes! Call to register and get the zoom link (and instructions): 262-6288.

FEAST Celebrates the Arts

In collaboration with senior artists, FEAST is thrilled to unveil a series of artistic expressions representing FEAST here at MSAC. As the weather cools, the pandemic still rules, and we are working hard to support our isolated community members, we wanted to bring a celebration of community, warmth, nourishment, harvest and richness right to you.

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*)

11/4	Childcare Option Update COVID-19 Update 1 st Quarter Strategic Plan Update Preliminary Budget discussion	11/18	COVID-19 Update Meet with Legislators (tentative) 12 Main Street Property SRO discussion? Infrastructure Update Cannabis sales – regulatory issues
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 COVID-19 Update
1/21/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions COVID-19 Update	2/10/21	City Manager Review COVID-19 Update
2/24/21	COVID-19 Update	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