

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
11/9	Recreation Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/9	Planning Commission Meeting	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/10	Historic Preservation Commission	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/10	Transportation Infrastructure Committee	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19) City of Montpelier Response Update Weekly Report Date November 6, 2020

In the State's press conferences this week, the Governor continued to emphasize 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...now is the worst time to let COVID fatigue set in".

The State also stated that they will be issuing new recommendations for social gatherings, and Governor Scott stated "we strongly advise Vermonters to limit gatherings in general". They say that hosting a large gathering in your home over the holidays, Vermonters would be increasing the COVID-19 transmission risk, which could threaten the ability of schools to stay open.

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

State Updates:

- Regional Health Update:
 - [There has been an increase in the Vermont positive COVID-19 cases.](#) Vermont currently has 2,326 cases.
 - The Health Department's most recent [Update on Novel Coronavirus](#) has the most updated case count.
 - **Health Commissioner Mark Levine strongly advises limiting all gatherings to under 10 people.**
 - The State discussed Winter Holiday Planning:
 - Recommended that Vermonters AVOID TRAVEL
 - If Vermonters do have visitors coming for the Holidays, those visitors will need to quarantine in the home (this includes returning college aged folks). This means

that out of state guests will need to do the following until 14 days or 7 days with a negative test have passed:

- Wear a mask in all common spaces in the house;
 - Use a separate bathroom (if possible);
 - Eat separately; and
 - Stay 6 ft. apart.
- Outbreaks Updates: (More information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#)).
 - Total of 116 cases have been tied to the Ice Sports Teams Outbreak
 - 6 area schools have also been impacted by positive cases: South Burlington High School, Williston Central, Frances C. Richmond Middle School, Barre Elementary, Montpelier High School, and Oxbow High School
 - St. Michael's College Outbreak has 69 cases currently, though the Health Department noted most cases have been asymptomatic
- **School Based Winter Sports Guidance:**
 - The [Agency of Education had further information about School Winter sports:](#)
 - Under the guidance, the schools will not be hosting wrestling or indoor track, and cheerleading may not practice 'vocal cheers'. The guidance for the schools is more restrictive than those that govern recreational sports, which is what the City provides.
 - The Guidance has the following updates for school sports:
 - Establishes that indoor sports events, games, practices, will not have any spectators
 - The mask mandate is extended to referees and officials
 - Games cannot start until January to give time for health updates as needed
 - Team based social gatherings are strongly discouraged
- **Ski Areas Guidelines:**
 - [ACCD Vermont Ski Resort Covid-19 Winter Operations Guidance](#)
 - These new guidelines for Ski Areas, requires continuing the existing health and safety but adds a new layer of regulation. ACCD highlighted the six specific new guidelines:
 - Requires customers to attest that they've complied with travel requirements
 - Requires the ski area to track contact tracing info for every visitor
 - Ski areas are being asked to reduce out of state workers
 - Lift operations will run on a reduced capacity of 50% except for families/ Enclosed gondolas will be for one party only unless they have enough space for 6 ft. between them
 - Requires that base lodges reduce their capacity to 50% of fire occupancy or no more than 75 people total in that space
 - Requires that ski areas make more lenient cancellation policies

City Updates:

- City Hall will remain CLOSED to the public through 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.

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)
 - 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:

Getting the Message Out! Public Works has been posting messages on social media and on 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:

This 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.

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 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.

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 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. The City Manager's office has reached out to arrange the first meeting..

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

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 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, 11/10: Coq-Au-Qin Champenoise w. egg noodles & carrots

Free Nutrition Education: A Feast of Wellness: Tuesday, November 10th | 1-2pm | via Zoom

Friday, 11/13: Beef Enchilada, rice & beans, with zucchini/potato

Free Nutrition Education with Registered Dietician: 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

Day Before Thanksgiving Hot Meal Delivery

Seniors age 60+ who live in our meal delivery area of Montpelier and Berlin (with the exception of W. Berlin) are invited to register in advance to receive a Thanksgiving Hot Meal Delivery on Wednesday November 25th. Our teams of volunteers are excited to bring you a delicious Thanksgiving meal and a warm hello this year. Please let us know by Monday, November 16th if you'd like to receive a hot meal, and we look forward to serving you! Donations are welcome, \$5-

\$10, but there is no charge. Call to register: 262-6288 or email feast@montpelier-vt.org.

Call for Turkeys, Volunteers

Please consider donating a fresh or frozen turkey of any size to our kitchen so we have enough to prepare for this extra hot-meal delivery. Please call 262-6288 to let us know you plan to bring one, and we'll tell you a good time to bring it by 11/23. You are also invited to help volunteer with us to get these meals delivered —please contact us soon if you're interested. Thank you SO much for helping us bring this seasonal warmth to our community!

48th Annual Free Thanksgiving Meals For All Ages, All Towns, from WCYSB, National Life & Sodexo

Wed., Nov. 25 (Day Before Thanksgiving) National Life Group and Sodexo are proud to continue the tradition started by Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club in collaboration with area organizations and volunteers. Due to COVID-19 in-person dining restrictions, this year's meal will only be available as a pick-up or delivery option. Masks will be required for pick-up and social distancing is required. Pick-up will be 11 am—6 pm the day before Thanksgiving outside the Bethany Church (115 Main St. Montpelier) or outside National Life Group Main Entrance (1 National Life Dr., Montpelier). Delivery will be offered on the same day. To reserve a free meal, please call 802-229-9151 or email Thanksgiving@wcysb.org by November 18. Available to all ages and in all towns of Washington County!

Thanksgiving Day Phone and Video Gatherings to Share the Day Despite the Pandemic

Thursday, November 26 | Three times We know Thanksgiving is going to be challenging this year as gathering in person is not possible for many. Join our group phone and video gatherings with MSAC staff, volunteers and friends to help beat the loneliness of the day that many are anticipating this Thanksgiving. Join any or all of our three options! Tell others about it! All ages, all towns welcome!

- 10:00-10:30 am with Sarah Lipton, FEAST Manager
- 12:30-1:00 pm with Andrew Gribbin, Americorps
- 5:00-6:00 pm with Janna Clar, MSAC Director

To get the special call-in phone number or video link, contact us by Wednesday afternoon, 11/25 at 262- 2688 or email <mailto:feast@montpelier-vt.org>.

Harris Webster's Walking Guide Now Available by Donation

Longtime Montpelier resident and MSAC member, Harris Webster, whom you may know from his popular "Walks with Harris" and "Weekend Walking" series, has authored a walking guide of Montpelier! Ten copies of "Travel Walking and Awe Walking in the City of Montpelier" are now available by a suggested donation of \$5 each at the MSAC office. This guide--containing about 200 Designated Locations within the City as well as approximately 300 'Sites and Sights' - building, gardens, wooded trails, etc. --expands on Harris' approach to walking in Montpelier - inviting readers to explore the "outdoor museum of Montpelier" and gain a deeper appreciation for and awareness of the beauty, details and art often overlooked and taken for granted. Thanks, Harris!

Farmer Spotlight Zoom Luncheon

Friday, November 20th | 12:30-1 pm | via Zoom

We would have no meals to serve you if not for our amazing farmers, AND the incredible folks at the Community Harvest of Central Vermont (CHCV) who bring us those gleaned veggies. Join us with your lunch to meet Allison Levine who runs CHCV for our first-ever Farmer Spotlight zoom luncheon. Here at the FEAST office, we are passionate about not just providing you with yummy, healthy meals, but about providing as much community enrichment, nutritional education and social engagement as we can, even during a pandemic. Call to register and get the zoom link (and

instructions): 262-6288

FEAST Celebrates the Arts

In collaboration with senior artists, we are 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.

FEAST Recipe Corner

This month, Chef Mike has shared: Sweet Potato Pie! All of the ingredients can be sourced locally, and we encourage you to find someone to make this dish for you as the harvest comes in!

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*)

11/18	COVID-19 Update Meet with Legislators (tentative) Guertin Park Infrastructure update Cannabis sales – report 12 Main St - tentatve		
12/2	Housing Initiatives Update Budget COVID-19 Update GMT – micro transit CFMAS – dispatch project	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