

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
11/16	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/17	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/17	Police Review Committee	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/17	Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/18	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/18	Conservation Commission	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
11/18	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

City of Montpelier Response Update

Weekly Report Date November 13, 2020

NEW

In the State's press conferences this week, the Governor continued to emphasize that we, as Vermonters, need to be more aware than ever regarding the risks of COVID-19 transition. He stated that the number of cases in Vermont and elsewhere is troubling and that "the risk is higher than we're used to". The Governor also hopes that people who can avoid travel will do so. He says a lot of the new case growth has associations with out-of-state travel. The State has put forth that "Travel now equals quarantine," he says.

The Governor also gave Vermonters the following message: "We're definitely moving in the wrong direction...I want to be clear- we're in a new phase of this pandemic. The days of very low risk are over".

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 December 15th](#).

State Updates:

- [New measures to slow the spread, these guidelines are data driven and targeted to the areas that are driving case growth:](#)
 - **Starting today, multi-household gatherings, whether inside or out, in public spaces or private, are prohibited**
 - Health Commissioner Dr. Levine says the State's data analysis shows that since October 1st, 71% of the cases associated with an outbreak are associated with a private event or social gathering

- Starting tomorrow (11/13/2020) at 10pm, Bars and other social clubs will be closed to in-person service
 - Restaurants can remain open, but will be closed to in-person service after 10pm, but they can offer to-go service
 - Restaurants, museums, gyms & other customer-facing establishments will be required to keep a log of everyone who has entered their buildings
 - Vermonters are now required to comply with contact tracers.
 - Returning College students are now required to quarantine for 14 days or 7 days with a negative test (which the State encourages)
 - Requiring telework for those who can.
 - The State is discouraging in-person meetings at all times, and urge folks to meet digitally if you can. This guidance doesn't impact public safety or other essential workers.
 - Pausing recreational sports leagues
- Travel Updates:
- Due to raising COVID-19 case counts across the Northeast, effective on November 10, 2020, the State of Vermont has *suspended* its leisure travel map and implemented a [mandatory quarantine for anyone returning or traveling to Vermont](#).
 - Most of the country has cases higher than 400 per million, so as of 11/10/2020, the state is [suspending its travel map](#) and requiring a 14-day quarantine (or a 7-day quarantine and negative test) for **ALL** people coming into or returning to Vermont from out of state.
 - (Fewer than 30 counties in the ENTIRE country would currently meet our case count standard for non-quarantine travel if the map were extended to the whole country.)
 - Public Safety Commissioner Michael Schirling says the state will be using state police, fire and safety, local and county officials, and the liquor control to conduct safety and compliance checks at places where there are often out of state travelers.
 - If substantial non-compliance is found, or multiple and repeated violations, the information may be passed on to state officials for possible sanctions or legal action. But the initial checks are to get more education to places and people. There's no fee determination yet.
- Vermont Specific Update: Forecast suggests we may be seeing case counts between 40 and 60 each day over the next few weeks.
- The positivity rate for Nov. 10 is 1.76%. And our 7-day average positivity rate is 1.28%
 - Over last weekend, Vermont had its 59th Death from COVID-19. Health Commissioner Dr. Levine says to remember that this person was "Not just a number, but a person whose life was cut short by this disease".
 - Outbreaks Updates: (More information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#)).
 - There are now 125 cases associated the ice sports teams' outbreak, including 76 at St. Michael's College.
- School-Related Updates:

- The state is planning to offer surveillance testing to teachers in VT K-12 schools starting before Thanksgiving, and will test a quarter of schools at a time after Thanksgiving.
 - Teachers/staff will not have to quarantine while they are awaiting results of asymptomatic tests.
 - Dr. Levine says teachers/school staff are NOT going to be required to get this asymptomatic surveillance testing in order to keep their jobs. But he hopes they will assent to it.

City Updates:

- To comply with the new State requirements, the City will be cancelling in-person Council Meetings and will not have the City Hall building open during meetings- returning to virtual or call-in options only.
- The City will be discussing what other steps will be needed in order to comply, including closing programming and to what degree our public offices remain open, and will be announcing any changes Monday morning (11/16)

Testing Availability:

- Due to increased COVID-19 activity in central Vermont, further expanded testing has been planned for our region for this and the next several weeks.

If you are symptomatic, please contact your primary care provider. The Central Vermont Medical Center has also expanded testing. To schedule an appointment, call the CVMC COVID Hotline at 802-371-5310.

All testing clinics noted below will be held at the **Barre Auditorium: 16 Auditorium Hill, Barre, VT 05641 from 9:00am to 3:00pm on the following dates:**

- Friday, November 13th
- Saturday, November 14th
- Monday, November 16th
- Tuesday, November 17th
- Wednesday, November 18th
- Thursday, November 19th
- Friday, November 20th
- Monday, November 23rd
- Tuesday, November 24th

Preregister here or call 2-1-1 for registration assistance: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested#other-testing>

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.



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.

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

City Considerations concerning S.54 Act 164 An Act Relating to the Regulation of Cannabis:

At the previous Council Meeting, Councilmember Casey asked for information regarding the Act Relating to the Regulation of Cannabis, and what information and steps the Council would need to consider. Staff has compiled the following information regarding the act:

The bill [S.54 \(Act 164\)](#), was allowed to become law on October 7, 2020 without the Governor's signature, outlines how Vermont will implement a retail cannabis marketplace. The following is a summary of the aspects of the legislation that impact the City of Montpelier:

Consumption of cannabis in public places. The current prohibition against consuming cannabis in public places remains.

Cannabis Control Board. The State is creating a Cannabis Control Board with members from the executive branch, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. They'll be implementing and administrating the licensure of sales, including compliance and enforcement. The Control Board will also have a Cannabis Control Board Advisory Committee to be a resource for them- which will include "one member with an expertise in municipal issues" who is the sole voice for municipal governments.

State administration of local fees. The Cannabis Control Board will set state and local license fees. Municipalities that host a cannabis retailer will receive a fee paid to the state by applicants when an applicant applies for a yearly license. It's currently unclear how the Board will quantify costs incurred by municipalities to determine local license fees. Municipalities will not know what the local license fees will be until the board presents the fees to the legislature by April 1, 2021.

Local licensing and regulatory authority. Municipalities that host cannabis retailers may create a local cannabis control commission. This commission (for example, the City Council) must administer the rules furnished to them by the Cannabis Control Board. No additional local standards will be allowed beyond signage and nuisance ordinances and very specific zoning provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 4414, which does not add any new authority for the City, as local governments may already regulate signage, nuisances, and 24 V.S.A. § 4414. Also, local governments are forbidden from adopting local

ordinances to regulate the time, place, and manner of cannabis operations as part of local licenses and permits.

Municipalities will have to wait for the Cannabis Control Board to present the rules for cannabis establishments to the legislature by April, 2021. These rules – which would address licensing criteria, land use and environmental laws and advertising regulations at the state and local level – will affect current zoning bylaws.

According to the law, Municipalities cannot do the following:

- prohibit the operation of a cannabis establishment within the municipality through an ordinance adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2291 or a bylaw adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4414
- condition the operation of a cannabis establishment, or the issuance or renewal of a municipal permit to operate a cannabis establishment, on any basis other than the conditions in subsection (b) of this section; and
- exceed the authority granted to it by law to regulate a cannabis establishment

Voter approval of cannabis operations. ([Page 26 of the Law](#)) Local voters, to allow retail sales in their community, must opt in, however there is no vote in whether growers, manufacturers, laboratories, or processors are allowed. Some communities that currently have medical cannabis dispensaries will also be able to vote on integrated licensees in addition to retail establishments. Local voters must vote by Australian ballot at an annual or special meeting to permit the operation of a retail establishment. This provision of S.54 took effect upon passage, and municipalities may now hold local votes if they wish. Municipalities that vote to allow retail operations or permit integrated licenses may rescind that vote at a subsequent annual or special meeting, but all licensed cannabis retailers or integrated licenses that are operating at the time of the subsequent vote will be grandfathered in.

Montpelier already has a medical dispensary operation already which means our community will also be able to vote to allow integrated licenses. It's not a requirement to vote, but in order to allow retail, the voters must approve such operations.

Taxing authority. S.54 does not provide any cannabis-specific taxing authority to municipalities. The state will keep and control all tax revenue which includes a stand-alone 14-percent cannabis excise tax and the six-percent sales and use tax. No tax revenue will go to municipalities except for the 16 towns and cities that have a one-percent local sales tax. Those municipalities will receive tax revenue *if* they host retail establishments and the customary 70/30 split of local option tax revenues applies.

Timeline. [Available here](#), the goal is that on or before Oct. 1, 2022 the State will begin issuing licenses for retailers and that retailers may begin selling cannabis and cannabis products to the public.

City Police Impacts. This law has impacts on the enforcement of Impaired Driving. The law states that on or before December 31, 2021, law enforcement officers shall receive a minimum of 16 hours of training as required in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training as approved by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council. The law also adds a saliva test for the limited purpose of detecting the presence of a drug in the person's body.



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 committee will meet for the first time this coming Tuesday November 17, 2020 at 6:30 PM via zoom. The agenda and the zoom link are posted on the city's website. (and at the top of this report 😊)

Law Enforcement Press Releases from this Week:

Montpelier Landlord-Tenant Issue results in Multiple Arrests

On Friday, November 6, 2020 at approximately 6:22PM, the Montpelier Police Department received multiple emergency calls from persons witnessing, and involved in, a physical altercation at a residence on North College Street in the City of Montpelier. Our investigation revealed the incident stemmed from a landlord-tenant issue where several involved parties attempted to prevent access, fought with, and then attempted to unlawfully restrain a resident.

The Montpelier Police arrested Heath Sanville (age 21), of Bristol, NH, and Steven Hall (age 24), of Northfield, VT for disorderly conduct, simple assault, and unlawful restraint. Emily Shoestock (age 21), of Barre, VT was arrested for violating court ordered conditions of release, disorderly conduct, simple assault, and unlawful restraint.

Corey Grossman, the home owner, (age 61) of Montpelier, VT was later arrested for being an accessory to the above crimes.

Sanville, Hall, Shoestock and Grossman are scheduled to appear in Washington County Superior Court-Criminal Division on December 17, 2020 at 08:30 AM to answer to the charges.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Montpelier Police Department at (802) 223-3445.

No additional information is available at this time.

New information Shared by the New Hampshire Attorney General Regarding Grandparent Scam - Warning to Vermonters

In a "Grandparent Scam," a scammer calls or e-mails a victim posing as one of the victim's relatives, typically a grandchild or child. The scammer posing as the relative then claims to be in trouble, often saying he or she has been arrested by law enforcement in another state or country. The scammer may also pose as a member of law enforcement and claim to have arrested or detained the victim's relative. The scammer will instruct the victim to not tell anyone, often saying the victim is under a "legal gag order" to not speak about the incident.

In the past, these scammers would then seek to swindle money from the victims by requesting that the victim wire funds to a bank account or otherwise transfer funds electronically. However, residents in New Hampshire have recently reported these scammers have arranged for the in-person pick-up of money or other valuable goods directly from the victim's home. This represents a new and dangerous threat to residents and could be utilized in Vermont.

Be aware that scammers are able to "ghost" or utilize what appear to be trusted telephone numbers or may utilize similar e-mail addresses to those belonging to relatives. The scammers are also often able to supply personal information about the relative, which the scammer has obtained through the internet. As a result, even if it appears that the telephone number or e-mail address is familiar or the caller provides some information you know to be true, be cautious and aware of the potential that it may still be a scam call.

Legitimate law enforcement officials will never:

- Issue a "gag order" regarding the release of a relative over the telephone or by e-mail;
- Demand immediate payment over the telephone or by e-mail by wire transfer or in-person payment of cash or other valuables (such as gold) in exchange for the release of a relative;
- Ask for your personal information in exchange for the release of a relative.

Please be vigilant. Anyone receiving one of these calls should take the following steps:

Do not engage with the caller; Hang up immediately;

Do not provide money or personal information, including home address;

Contact your local police department immediately, especially if you have lost money or other valuables, or made arrangements for the pick-up of money or valuables from your own home; and Report the scam to the Office of the Vermont Attorney General-1-800-828-5511

<https://ago.vermont.gov/epi/get-help/>

Anyone with knowledge that a vulnerable adult has been scammed or financially exploited should also contact the Vermont Adult Protective Services at 1-800-564-1612;

If the scam was perpetrated using the internet, file a complaint with the FBI IC3 center at:

<https://www.ic3.gov/Home/Comp1aintChoice>

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

MSAC Pandemic Wellness Calls Project Proceeds

Co-facilitated by our new Aging in Place Coordinator AmeriCorps member Andrew Gribbin and Director Janna Clar, MSAC trained over a dozen volunteers this week in three online Zooms to prepare to call close to 1200 MSAC members to make wellness checks, share resources and information, and determine what follow-up help might be needed during the pandemic. Volunteers will start with the 200 members in our oldest age cohort, and participation in calls is confidential and optional for all. We are grateful to the involved volunteers and also the Central VT Council on Aging, an essential project partner who is also helping with background checks. New interested volunteers are welcome to join the effort and can learn more by contacting Andrew at 262-6287 or msac-ameri-corps@montpelier-vt.org.

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.

Thanksgiving Day Community Gatherings

Thursday, November 26 | 10am, 12:30pm and 5pm

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! To get the special call-in phone number or video link, contact us by Wednesday afternoon, 11/25 at 262-2688 or email

feast@montpelier-vt.org.

Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, November 16 | 1:30—3pm | via Zoom

Agenda (including MSAC Budget, Winter Programs, Committee reports, membership dues and more) and Draft minutes for October meeting will be posted on MSAC's Advisory Council page: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/369/MSAC-Advisory-Council>. All members are welcome to participate. To receive the Zoom link email msac@montpelier-vt.org.

MSAC's Nov. 17 In-person Meal Cancelled

The in-person "FEAST Together" meal that was scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 17 has been cancelled due to the increase of COVID-19 cases locally. However, the meal is still available for pick-up through "FEAST To Go"!

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, November 17: Roast Pork Loin w. sautéed onions & roast veggies

Friday, November 20: Slow-Cooked Beef Brisket w. mashed potatoes and poppy seed coleslaw

** Farmer Spotlight During Lunch: 12:30-1pm | via Zoom video or phone*

Farmer Spotlight Zoom Luncheon

Friday, November 20th | 12:30-1pm | 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 virtually with your lunch to meet Allison Levin 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 To-Go Updates

Seniors 60+, we are so pleased to continue to offer our Tuesday and Friday FEAST To-Go pickup meal and are moving it inside for the change of season. Please remember your mask and plan to come to the side entrance for a health-screening and then walk through to pick up your meal and exit through the front hallway. We'll have signs to remind you where to go. You can see our menu on our website. Please call to make your reservation: 262-6288

MSAC and Montpelier High School Discussions

Aging in Place Coordinator, Andrew Gribbin (a 2009 graduate of MHS), and Janna Clar met online last week with the Community Based Learning and Flexible Pathways program staff of Montpelier High School, to discuss and brainstorm ways to get local teens connected with older adults in various ways including technology assistance, art, and winter walks. Stay tuned for more information to come and let us know if you have a particular skill that might be of interest to a younger person, as MHS seeks mentors from the community! While the details of how this collaboration might look and feel are still under discussion, interested community members are encouraged to take this short survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrmdoQFL0ijINuhagFqBXRLk0eiP8Q00FX0A-kOswEbGogA/viewform>. Questions? Please contact Heather McLane at heathermc@mpsvt.org or 802-522-7098.

Everybody Eats and local food producers offering daily (FREE!) meals in Montpelier

In these uncertain times, no one should have to worry where their next meal is coming from.

Luckily, myriad options exist in our community aimed at preventing anyone from having to deal with

that reality. In partnership with Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE), a program created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, daily meal sites exist in Montpelier and beyond to distribute free meals to anyone impacted by the pandemic. By contracting with local restaurants and caterers (including FEAST meals producer, Good Taste Catering) to produce and distribute the meals, VEE helps buttress a vital part of our local economy – one that has been especially hard hit during the pandemic – making use of the program even more critical. More information regarding the VEE program, including information on the Digital Voucher Program, can be located below:

Information on the “Digital Voucher Program”, which allows participants to download an app to get meals directly from participating restaurants at no cost: <https://vteveryoneeats.org/find-a-meal>

Current (statewide) meal

sites: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W5KfP8InYVv2sfCg7sBGVddEOAUWEIZjecSrcibq8Rg/edit#gid=0> (note that this list is updated regularly and is subject to change).

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