

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
12/14	Planning Commission	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/14	Recreation Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/15	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/15	Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/15	Montpelier Conservation Commission	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/16	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/17	Tree Board Meeting	4:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/17	Housing Task Force	5:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/18	Montpelier Community Fund Board	9:00 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

City of Montpelier Response Update

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Weekly Report Date December 11th, 2020

The Governor took time at one of his recent press conferences to really emphasize that COVID-19 case growth inside Vermont and in our region is still increasing. It is not the time to get lax about following our health guidelines. Governor Scott stated "we've come too far to give up, and the consequences are too great".

There have been 93 total deaths in Vermont from COVID-19. These are our friends, neighbors, and family, and we can't stop trying to stop the spread! Governor Scott stated that "The virus doesn't care about individuals or the humanity of those who die. But we do". Governor Scott wants us all to remember that we can do our part to those among us who are vulnerable safe.

The Governor also stated that he's encouraging families and businesses "to help Vermont light the way," asking us all, if we are able, to adorn our homes and businesses with holiday lights- to give us some pandemic-safe seasonal cheer. More information can be found in the [Vermont Lights the Way press release](#).

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:

- [Make sure to remember the new guidelines that prohibit: Multi-household gatherings, whether inside or out, in public spaces or private.](#)
- Vaccine Updates
 - The State's Vaccine Distribution Plan and further information can be found here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/vermont-covid-19-vaccine-planning>
 - The state is refining its Vaccine Distribution Phase 1A plan, based on the anticipated limited doses in the first round of shipments.
 - Phase 1A includes long term care facilities, health professionals who see patients, home health care clinical staff and care givers at high risk, amongst others.
 - The State anticipates receiving the first shipment sometime next week. The State reports that they will be receiving shipments each week and moving forward.
 - Governor Scott emphasized that Vermont won't see the effects of any vaccine until at least February. Vermont won't see significant effects until late spring or summer.
 - The Governor made it very clear that Vermont has no control over how much of the vaccine we get, as this is being rolled out by the Federal Government.
 - Even after vaccination, folks will still need to wear masks as the vaccines effectiveness takes time, and vaccinated folks can potentially still transmit the virus.
- Schools Updates:
 - The State is continuing to postpone the start of school sports, as case data does not support returning to school recreational sports, as of 12/11/2020, there's no update on when school-based winter sports might be able to start. [Guidance can be found here under section 9.1.](#)
 - The plan to have school employees tested has expanded, with 25% of VT schools, spread out geographically, to be tested weekly. By the end of December all schools in Vermont will have completed a second round of PCR tests for all school staff.
 - The State is encouraging any Vermonters interested in being substitute teacher to contact their school district. Even through it's not normally allowed, the State has 29 approved waivers to allow school board members to be substitute teachers in their own districts.
- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response:
 - Cases and Outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard.](#)
 - As of today, there are 113 new cases, and 26 folks are hospitalized
 - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here.](#)
- Mental Health Support & Food Access

- The State shared some resources to assist folks in seeking help for any mental distress, or in need of mental health care. Resources can be accessed through calling 2-1-1 or via the [State’s website for COVID-19 support](#).
- If you need help accessing food, there are also many resources on the State and Local level. Please call 2-1-1 or access [WIC](#), [Hunger Free Vermont](#), [3SquaresVT](#), or other resources outlined via Hunger Free Vermont [COVID-19 response](#).
 - There are also local agencies hosting food access programs such as: the [Vermont Foodbank](#), [Everyone Eats](#), and the [Montpelier Food Pantry](#).
- VTAlert:
 - VTAlert is now offering COVID-19 updates
 - Folks can sign up at the [VTAlert website](#).
- Long-Term Care Facility Updates:
 - State has now contracted with Chittenden-county based TLC Home Care for emergency long term care home staffing needs. This is new surge capacity for long-term care staffing for Vermont.
 - The DAIL (Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living) has also created a website: <http://covidstaffing.vermont.gov> for folks to apply for part-time work assisting those in need

City Updates:

- No changes: the City is still complying with the new State requirements by closing City Hall to the public until further guidance is issued by the State. This includes cancelling in-person Council Meetings. Appointments can still be accommodated with Departments on a case-by-case basis.

Testing Availability:

- The State is expanding testing capacity.
 - The Central Vermont Medical Center has also expanded testing. To schedule an appointment, call the CVMC COVID Hotline at 802-371-5310.
- The State is encouraging Vermonters to get tested, even without symptoms, if they have gathered with anyone, or if you plan to be with others. The State wants to ensure testing catches asymptomatic people who could transmit the virus to others.
- The State has started a text program being created to let individuals know if they've been exposed to assist Contract Tracers. The text won't replace contact tracing calls, but would be an initial step to ensure quarantines can begin as soon as possible. The text will come from the number: 89361
- **All testing events noted below will be held at the following local locations on the following dates:**

Date	Site	Time	Town	Street Address
12/11/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	4pm-7pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/11/2020	CIC Health in Northfield	9am- 2pm	Northfield	31 Dog River Dr.

12/12/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 2pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/13/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 2pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/13/2020	CIC Health in Northfield	10am- 2pm	Northfield	31 Dog River Dr.
12/14/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 2pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/14/2020	CIC Health in Northfield	9am- 2pm	Northfield	31 Dog River Dr.
12/15/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 2pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/15/2020	CIC Health in Northfield	4pm-7pm	Northfield	31 Dog River Dr.
12/16/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 2pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/17/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 2pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/18/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 2pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.

- More testing dates/locations and preregistration found here or call 2-1-1 for registration assistance: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested#other-testing>

Public Restroom Options Update

This list does not include places that have high barriers to restroom use, such as purchase requirements. This list has been updated since last reported in October 2020, as new restrictions within COVID-19 State Guidelines has impacted what facilities are open.

- **Current Available Restroom Locations:**

- Vermont History Museum: 109 State St, Montpelier, VT 05609
 - Wednesday- Saturday 10 am - 4 pm.
- Cumberland Farms Gas Station: 37 Berlin St, Montpelier, VT 05602
 - 24 hours restroom access, no purchases necessary.
- City Maintained Porta-Johns Units:
 - Blanchard Lot, Behind City Hall: 1 Blanchard Ct, Montpelier, VT 05602
 - Senior Center: 58 Barre St, Montpelier, VT 05602
- Restrooms in other Gas Station Locations:
 - Good Samaritans' Peer Support worker reported that the following gas stations have variable reliability, but are generally open restrooms:
 - Mobil Station (Montpelier Mart) 3 Berlin St, Montpelier, VT 05602
 - Shell Station: 5 Memorial Dr., Montpelier, VT 05602
 - Parker's Quick Stop At the Citgo: 15 Berlin St., Montpelier, VT 05602

- **Other Restroom Options Being Explored:**

- Additional City Porta-Johns:
 - The State had been maintaining two porta-john units to the left of the State House Lawn, which are now removed as the State's grant funding for the units has ended.
 - With funding sponsored by Just Basics, the City is working with the State BGS to reinstate an accessible unit next to the State House Lawn.
 - The unit will be maintained by the State as part of the partnership.
 - Installation date TBD.

- Transit Center Restrooms:
 - According to the General Manager of GMT, they are currently recruiting to staff the Montpelier Transit Center, to start on January 4th from 7am - 11am and from 2:30 pm - 6:30pm on weekdays and from 8am - 6pm on Saturdays.
 - Once staffed, the lobby would be open to the public to use, but with suspended access to the restrooms between 11am - 2:30pm when it was not staffed.
 - The GMT staffing gap is primarily due to budgetary reasons and the challenge to recruit during COVID-19 for positions that interact with the public.
 - GMT reports that to staff the building all day from 7am - 6:30pm it would cost approximately an additional 15k annually, which they do not currently have.



Sustainable Infrastructure

Planning & Community Development. In response to some questions presented to Councilors, the Planning & Community Development department wants to remind everyone how to renew permits for projects that may have been delayed due to Covid. Zoning permits are valid two year and are allowed to receive a single 12-month extension. The permit holder has to request the extension, in writing (email preferred), prior to the original expiration date. There is no fee for the extension and requests should be made to Audra Brown (abrown@montpelier-vt.org) or Meredith Crandall (mcrandall@montpelier-vt.org). Building permits are valid for a year and can be renewed multiple times. If they are renewed prior to expiration, there is no fee. After expiration, there is a \$10 fee. If you have a building permit that you need an extension on you should contact Chris Lumbra (clumbra@montpelier-vt.org) . As always if you have any questions about projects you are working on or considering, please reach out to the permitting staff above and they can guide you through the process.

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 Installs Green Cone for Food Scrap Diversion

At the back of City Hall sits a new, odd looking green cone-like unit under the fire escape. It's a food scrap digester called a Green Cone. City Hall, Fire and Police can will now be able to comply with the State's mandate that food scraps not be disposed of in the trash as garbage. Food scrap pails will be given out in the next week to place in kitchen areas. Helpful hints will be posted nearby

identifying what should go into the digester and how to make sure it “does its magic”.



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

Montpelier City Council will hold **regular** meetings on the following dates:

- 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.

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

The first Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meeting was held this week to help facilitate the City updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The old plan is available here for review:

<https://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Montpelier-Mitigation-Plan-Adopted-Dec-2014.pdf> The process kicks off with reviewing the 2015 plan and updating it to capture what mitigation work has been done. Then the plan will start to look at what hazards still exist in the Montpelier area, and what new hazards may need to be added. The City will be aiming for robust community engagement around this process- so be on the lookout for an upcoming survey to poll residents on what hazards they feel should be a priority for mitigation!

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 Lobby Currently Locked NEW

Due to COVID 19 the Police Department's front lobby is currently locked. We ask that anyone needing police assistance to please contact MPD by telephone at 802-223-3445. If you are in person at the police department, please ring the front intercom and a dispatcher will speak directly to you. If you need an officer, an officer will come to the front of the police department to meet with you and assist you.

Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force NEW The Montpelier Police Department has become an affiliate agency of the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (VT-ICAC). VT-ICAC works to prevent the victimization and exploitation of children through the use of computers, technology or the internet.

Montpelier Chief Selected for Crisis Intervention Team NEW Chief Brian Peete was selected to serve on the Board of Directors for CIT International (CIT stands for Crisis Intervention Team). CIT International is a nonprofit membership organization whose primary purpose is to facilitate understanding, development, and implementation of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs throughout the U.S. and worldwide in order to promote and support collaborative efforts to create and sustain more effective interactions among law enforcement, mental health care providers, individuals with mental illnesses, their families and communities and to reduce the stigma of mental illness. More information on CIT International can be found at their website:

<https://www.citinternational.org/>

Community Feedback Wanted NEW MPD is working to implement a trial period of a community feedback system called Officer Survey. For approximately one month, MPD will evaluate the Officer Survey platform which will allow for community members to provide feedback to the department about interactions with officers. Officers will have survey cards that can be provided to individuals after interactions or calls for service. For more information on Officer Survey, please visit <https://www.officersurvey.com/company>.

Assault and Robbery NEW On December 6, 2020, at approximately 3:10PM, the Montpelier Police Department received a report of a stolen vehicle. During the investigation, it was learned the victim had been assaulted by an acquaintance, who also took the victim's wallet. The suspect had active conditions of release for previously stealing another vehicle. The vehicle was entered into NCIC (National Crime Information Center) as a stolen vehicle. A short time later, the vehicle was located and stopped in Queensbury, NY. The operator of the vehicle was Gregory Rodgers (DOB 4/5/1976). Rodgers was found to have the victim's wallet on his person. Rodgers was arrested in NY for related charges. An arrest warrant was sought for Rodgers, in Vermont, to answer to the charges of Assault and Robbery, Operation without the Owner's Consent and Violation of Conditions of Release.

Social Worker Available to Residents

The Montpelier Police Department, the Barre City Police Department and Washington County Mental Health have partnered in providing an onsite social worker to help residents in crisis or needing an extra hand during the pandemic. Susan Lemere has been a friendly and effective presence in town for the last several month, but COVID has slowed our outreach efforts down. If you would like to speak to Susan please contact her through email at susan.lemere@wcmhs.org or contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

Capital Kids Afterschool Program is Accepting Registrations! NEW

The City of Montpelier is running a Licensed 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.

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.

There's still Time to Donate to FEAST Farm Challenge Grant

FEAST Farm, which grows food for the MSAC's FEAST Meals Program, is participating in a crowdfunding campaign through SeedMoney. We are in the final week of our 30-day fundraising campaign and are working hard to reach our "stretch" goal here:

<https://donate.seedmoney.org/4892/feast-farm>.

SeedMoney also offers 205 challenge grants available on a competitive basis and the more we are able to raise, the larger the grant we can qualify to receive.

Every donation, no matter how small, helps us inch closer to our goal. Thanks for your support!

Village Zoom Event Successful

On Tuesday evening, December 8, approximately 40 community members gathered with MSAC's Americorps member and Director, along with the Village Workgroup, to discuss progress in our recent initiative to develop on this national model to support Aging in Place, connected with community and with intergenerational focus. Volunteers and staff gave background, provided information and fielded questions, and we are pleased with the early interest in supporting and participating in this initiative. The community can fill out a survey that will be launched soon to gauge interest in participating. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements, or contact Andrew Gribbin to learn more by calling 262-6287 or msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org.

Annual MSAC Volunteer Luncheon Goes Curbside for Pick-up!

On Monday, December 14, 2020 volunteers will be presented with a lovely meal produced by Good Taste Catering. A special thank you video link will also be shared Monday with the 218 volunteers who have served in some capacity to support MSAC and FEAST operations this year, including delivering meals, leading classes, helping with mailings and outreach, serving on committees, and much more. We are so grateful for everyone's contributions of time, energy, skill and care!

Seeking Holiday Gifts

We are working with generous friends and neighbors to put together holiday packages to bring extra cheer to our meals on wheels recipients who are extra isolated this year. If you would like to contribute to these gift boxes, please reach out to Sarah at 262-6288 or feast@montpelier-vt.org by Dec. 14th, and thank you for helping us to share the love with our community!

Winter Class Registration (for January-March programs) continues. You can find the Winter Program Guide and Registration forms you need [here!](#)

- 15 of the 25 scheduled, affordable, diverse classes are open to younger members of the public - spread the word!
- **21 of the 25 Winter classes are scheduled to happen online**, and of the four tentatively scheduled on-site at MSAC, three will be online as well if COVID guidelines dictate we must stay closed or close again to group programs.
- **Not familiar with Zoom yet, frustrated, or nervous?** Don't worry, we've got you covered with our next training on Dec. 16 (more info below), or call Andrew at 262-6287 for individualized help!

For full details about these and more events coming up, and registration instructions, [click here](#).

Online WebTrac How To (Learn to register for MSAC and Recreation classes online)! Free! | via Zoom | Registration required

Thursday, Dec. 17 | 10-11 am

How To Zoom - put yourself at ease with the technology we use for most of our classes and events (and that your friends and family are probably using to socialize!)

Wednesday, Dec. 16 | 11 am - 12 pm

FEAST TO-GO: Tuesdays & Fridays, 12-12:30 pm, served at 58 Barre St. This operates out of the side door; simply pull up, and they'll deliver your meal to your car (or line up safely on foot at a distance). Please try to RSVP in advance so we know to expect you: 262-6288 or feast@montpelier-vt.org.

FEAST To Go December Menu for Tuesdays/Fridays, [click here](#).

FEAST at Home (Meals on Wheels): Do you have an older adult in your life who needs more access to delicious, healthy food? Is there someone in your life who is struggling to eat more nutritionally? Let us know because we can help! Have them call the office to be connected to our robust (and yummy!) program. Call 262-6288 or email feast@montpelier-vt.org.

Holiday Hot Meal Delivery

Seniors 60+ in Montpelier and Berlin: Register by Monday, Dec. 14th to receive a Thanksgiving hot meal delivery and special holiday cheer on Wednesday, December 23rd. Reserve your meals by contacting at 262-6288 or feast@montpelier-vt.org.

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*)

1/6/21	Budget Workshop		
1/13/21	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 nd quarter budget status Award MEAC Contract	1/21/21 Thursday	Audit Report Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions
2/10/21	Utility Budgets Zoning Amendments City Manager Review	2/24/21	Utility Budgets
3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election	3/10/21	Organizational Meeting Rules of Procedure Ethics Policy Committee Assignments

REPORTS DUE:

Universal Recycling Law – Periodic updates

MDC/MA Partnerships – Periodic updates

Protect, Maintain and Improve Built Infrastructure – Update provided in November

Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates