

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
12/21	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/21	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/21	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/22	Public Art Commission	5:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Weekly Report Date December 18, 2020

The Governor took time at one of his recent press conferences to discuss that he knows it's hard to keep avoiding travel and seeing family and friends during the holidays. He noted that Vermonters are used to long dark winters and "hunkering down", but noted that there is a silver lining coming. He says "I need you, each and every one of you, to make sure we get through the last of this on solid footing, with as little loss of life as possible, with our health care system intact". We have to persevere.

At the date of writing, there have been 105 total deaths in Vermont from COVID-19. These are real people: our friends, neighbors, and family, their lives mattered and we can't stop trying to stop the spread to prevent more deaths! 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 January 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>

- All hospitals in Vermont have now received their first week's doses for employees. Partner pharmacies in Vermont are scheduled to begin vaccination clinics at long term care facilities next week.
 - Vaccine Priority Groups:
 - Priority group 1A will get first doses—included in this group are front line health care workers and residents of long term care facilities.
 - The 34,000 doses VT should have by the end of the month won't cover all of the 1A priority group, and this is just the beginning of the distribution process.
 - Priority group 1B is still being determined by the State, and they are waiting for recommendations from a State panel and from the Federal Government on who should be included in group 1B.
 - Group 1B will probably include people over 65, those who have chronic conditions, and front line workers.
 - As a reminder: those who have received the vaccine will still need to follow health guidelines, like wearing masks and distancing to prevent spreading COVID-19 to those who haven't been vaccinated.
 - Dr. Levine estimates the vaccine will be in the general population starting in the summer.
- Schools Updates:
 - The State has continued to postpone school sports, as case data does not support returning to school recreational sports, as of 12/18/2020, the State stated they cannot support the start of school or recreational sports at this time. [Guidance can be found here under section 9.1.](#)
 - The State reports the plan for 25% of VT schools, spread out geographically, to be tested weekly is working well, and that over 40% of staff are participating.
 - Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response:
 - Cases and Outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard.](#)
 - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here.](#)
 - This week has been the most deadly for Vermont, bringing us to 105 total deaths.
 - 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.](#)

- VAlert:
 - VAlert is now offering COVID-19 updates
 - Folks can sign up at the [VAlert 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
12/19/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 4pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/20/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 4pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/20/2020	CIC Health in Northfield	10am- 2pm	Northfield	31 Dog River Dr.
12/21/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 2pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/21/2020	CIC Health in Northfield	9am- 2pm	Northfield	31 Dog River Dr.
12/22/2020	CIC Health in Berlin	9am- 2pm	Berlin	336 Airport Rd.
12/22/2020	CIC Health in Northfield	4pm- 7pm	Northfield	31 Dog River Dr.

- **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.



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.

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.

A **budget workshop** will be held on 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

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 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.

Community Feedback Wanted 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>.

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 months, 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

Still in need of donations to "boxes of cheer" for homebound neighbors!

Thank you to everyone who has already donated....it turns out we need to fill 10 more boxes...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 BRING YOUR ITEMS to the side entrance of MSAC on Monday, December 21st between 10am-noon.** Thank you for helping us to share the love with our community!

REMINDER Capital Kids Afterschool has openings for holiday vacation childcare. The weeks of December 21-24th and Dec 28th-31st. For more information checkout our website at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1186/After-School-Childcare>"

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)!

MSAC Recognizes 2020 Volunteers in Curbside Luncheon

On Monday, December 14, 2020, a portion of MSAC's 2020 volunteers happily picked up (curbside) a lovely to-go meal produced by Good Taste Catering. A special thank you video link was also shared 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! To see a list of their names, and the list of community partner organizations who also support MSAC operations and services, [click here](#), and please let us know of any names accidentally omitted!

Thank you video published online for MSAC's Volunteers who served our community in 2020

To view the video made by FEAST Program Manager Sarah Lipton and featuring over a dozen City leaders, employees, elected officials and more, [click here](#).

MSAC Partnering with Montpelier High School and CVCOA to offer Technology Assistance to Older Adults

Andrew Gribbin, AmeriCorps Aging in Place Coordinator at MSAC since September, is leading local efforts to create deeper partnerships with the high school and Central VT Council on Aging to learn best practices, train trainers, share resources and assist older adults with the three challenges many face in connecting online effectively: procurement of devices, internet connection, and technical training.

MSAC FEAST Program Manager Designs Statewide Online Nutrition Education Plan for Older Adults

Sarah Lipton, FEAST Program Manager, recently presented a clear strategy to the Vermont's five Area Agency on Aging Nutrition Directors and the State DAIL representative tasked with providing nutrition education during and beyond the pandemic. Rather than continue with dozens of sites creating education events with limited resources and attendance, the new strategy encourages a streamlined process for visioning, producing and sharing events online. [Click here to read the plan.](#)

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: call Andrew at 262-6287 for individualized help!

FEAST Senior Nutrition Program

FEAST Thanks our Volunteers

A huge shout of thanks to all the community volunteers who donated craft items and gifts, wrapped boxes, created cards and are doing extra driving routes to delivery Holiday gift boxes, cards and hot meals this week to our Seniors at Home!!! Special thanks to our partners at Westview Meadows and youth leaders at the Hugh O'Brien Youth Conference for all the amazing contributions!!

FEAST TO-GO Curbside Meal Pickup: 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. *We will be closed the last week of December.*

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.

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 Review 2 nd quarter strategic plan status
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 WRRF presentation
--	--	--	---

REPORTS DUE:

Universal Recycling Law – Periodic updates

MDC/MA Partnerships – Periodic updates

Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates