

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
1/19	Cemetery Commission	12:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/19	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/19	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/19	Energy Advisory Committee	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/19	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/20	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/20	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/20	Montpelier Conservation Commission	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/21	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Weekly Report As of January 15, 2021

At the date of writing, there have been **163** total deaths in Vermont from COVID-19. These are real people: our friends, neighbors, and family, their lives matter and we can't stop trying to stop the spread to prevent more deaths! Health Commissioner Dr. Levine has discussed that there is a new strain of the COVID-19 virus that is 50% more transmittable (the UK variant), that is being found as close to Vermont as upstate New York. Dr. Levine says that he fully expects that we will see this variant in our State very soon. For all of these reasons, he discussed how it is imperative that Vermonters redouble our preventive measures and to vaccinate more people.

As Governor Scott said today- "Now is not the time to let up, and I'm hopeful Vermonters will continue to do their part".

Overall State Updates:

- [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask in public starting August 1st](#), and has extended the State of Emergency through February 15th.
- [Make sure to remember the new guidelines that prohibit: Multi-household gatherings, whether inside or out, in public spaces or private.](#)

- The temporary change to the gathering guidance, which allowed 2 households to gather through January 2nd, 2021 has ended.
- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response Updates:
 - Cases and Outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).
 - [As of January 15, there have been 142 new cases reported. There have been 163 total deaths, and there are 51 COVID cases in the hospital, with 6 of those being in the ICU.](#)
 - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here](#). Note that the Regional Positivity Rate is trending upwards.
- School Update:
 - School Sports: [Phase 2 of sports and recreation guidance](#) (see section 9.1) for schools starts on Monday, the 18th. This states that organized youth leagues and school-based sports programs (serving individuals age 19 years and younger) may resume full team-based practices including the following activities: Drills involving incidental contact; and Team-based scrimmages.
 - Downhill and XC skiing can begin in small groups outdoors, and other practices can expand. Competition is still not allowed.
- 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 nearing completion of vaccinations for the 1A grouping.
 - Phase 2 will begin on Jan. 25th, prioritizing those age 75 and older. Some chronic conditions will also be prioritized. The State estimates that this phase will take 6 weeks.
 - The State plans on having a website and a phone number for people to sign up for appointments once they're eligible. Registration begins on Jan. 25th.
 - At date of writing, the State has not given the # or website yet.
 - Dr. Levine reminded us to not call the State, PCPs, a hospital, or a local pharmacy to ask for or schedule the vaccine.
- Business/Economic Updates:
 - The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has launched their annual statewide survey of small- to medium-sized businesses. This year COVID-related business questions have been added that will hopefully result in some valuable insights for policymakers. [The survey will remain open](#) until Friday, January 29th.
 - The Vermont Everyone Eats program has put together [resources for the restaurant community](#) and the Department of Mental Health has put together a [business resource page](#) for any business in need of mental health support.
- 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](#).

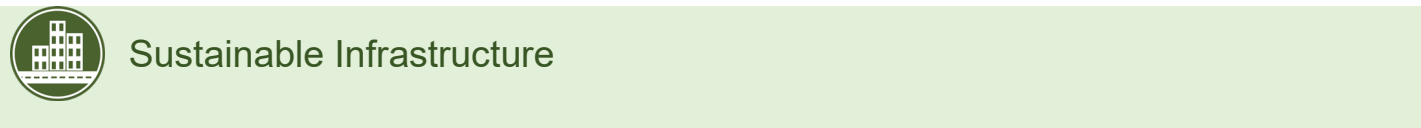
- If you need help accessing food, there are also many resources on the State and Local level. Please call 2-1-1 or access [WIC](#), [Hunger Free Vermont](#), [3SquaresVT](#), or other resources outlined via Hunger Free Vermont [COVID-19 response](#).
 - There are also local agencies hosting food access 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](#).

City Updates:

- At this time, all Fire/EMS City Staff opting in have received their first round of vaccines, and some have received their second round.
- No other schedule 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:

- **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>
 - **Upcoming Montpelier Testing Dates:**
 - 1/21 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm 134 State St., parking lot



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.

WATER/SEWER DIVISION:

Department of Public Works Water/Sewer Division spent time this week working on the pump stations throughout the city as well as hydrants. The project on City Side Drive has been completed. On Thursday, January 14th, 2021 our crews repaired a water leak on the corner of Liberty Street and Loomis Street. A boil water notice was effective for Liberty Street from Loomis Street to Hubbard Street.

STREETS DIVISION:

The DPW streets Division focused on daytime snow removal in various locations throughout the City.

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

November & December 2020 Above & Beyond Recipients **NEW: Jacqueline Huettenmoser & Mike Potter**

November and December were exemplary months for the "Above & Beyond" Employee Recognition Award program, with many amazing nominations to review. In general, the Above & Beyond program has the City awarding a bonus to an individual City employee that has demonstrated exceptional dedication in upholding the City's values while exhibiting exemplary behavior and demonstrating going 'above and beyond' in their position.

Our City Staff continue to do amazing jobs in the face of the community and global challenges that the Coronavirus pandemic has presented. The adversity and financial challenges that the City is facing has spurred many employees to go "above and beyond" the call of duty. As always, we are grateful to have such a skilled, dedicated, and exemplary workforce.

We've had a small backlog of nominations, and are presenting both November and Decembers'

recipients: Jacqueline Huettenmoser & Mike Potter.

Jacqueline Huettenmoser: Jacqueline “Jac”, our Park’s Supervisor, has been the driving force behind creating the Feast Farm program, even in the challenging Covid-19 environment. The Feast Farm is a community farm that is growing food to support our home food delivery program through the Senior Center. Her nomination said the below: “Jac worked tirelessly throughout the early quarantine days, securing funds and supplies to start the [Feast] Farm, and then spent the growing season assuring there were enough volunteers and other resources to make the farm pilot program an astounding success, growing healthy, local food for those in need in our community”. Jacqueline had also written and received numerous grants to support the program, to ensure the program can grow and flourish to further support our community. Since 2020, she has been awarded 4 separate grants, raising just over \$7,000 for the project.

Mike Potter: Mike Potter, our DPW Equipment Division Supervisor, has been the sole position supporting the Department’s equipment maintenance and repair. As his nomination stated, he has been able, without much available support, to maintain and prepare DPW’s equipment for the winter season. The nominator noted that the equipment that Mike maintains are the ones that make it possible for the City to clear the roads during winter weather, and possible to keep both the equipment operators and our community safe. His nominator went on to say: “I couldn’t imagine one person going so far above and beyond their normal duties as Mike Potter has this entire year”. Jac and Mike’s commitment and dedication to the City and their fellow employees is very apparent. Thank you to Jac and Mike, this month and always!

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!

Budget Question Answered NEW

How does uncollected taxes, which is a liability get treated? How is it recorded? A: Each year the tax year is closed on June 30th. Any delinquent taxes owed are recorded in the general fund and the balance is reduced as payments are received. Per our audit, property tax revenues are recognized when they become available. Available includes those property tax receivables to be collected within sixty days after year end. The remaining receivables are recorded as deferred revenues.

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

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)! Needs your help! NEW

The City of Montpelier is looking for help identifying local safety hazards to assist in editing the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)! Hazard Mitigation Plans aim to develop long-term strategies

for protecting people and property from future hazard events. Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property damage by lessening the impact of safety hazard events or disasters. This is accomplished by identifying risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural and other risks. Hazard mitigation is most effective when implemented through a strategic, comprehensive, and long-term Hazard Mitigation Plan, which are reviewed and updated every 5 years. A FEMA approved LHMP is a requirement for receiving certain FEMA assistance. The City of Montpelier, in collaboration with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, has begun the LHMP update process and is looking for input from Montpelier residents to help identify the hazards that impact the City.

We're asking the community to respond to the following survey to help inform the LHMP: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MVGR8GD> Your input is greatly appreciated and will help reduce risks and damages from future hazards. The LHMP Committee is also still accepting members if you would like to assist with the planning! Applications can be found here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/CommitteeApplication>

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

Parks Winter Trails

The Parks & Trees Department collaborates with Onion River Nordic Ski Club, the North Branch Nature Center, and a number of other groups to maintain winter trails throughout the city. We update our trail conditions every morning on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/MontpelierParks. Our Winter Trails Map can be found on the Parks web page at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/211/Park-Maps>. Trail conditions this week are pretty good despite the thin snow cover, with open areas being in particularly good shape. If you're interested in local skiing, please check out these resources and consider joining the Onion River Nordic Ski

Club.

Free Event: Intergenerational Conversation in honor of MLK, Jr. Day Week: Aging in Place & Food Security

Tuesday, January 19, 11:00am to 12:30pm, via Zoom video or phone

MSAC invites you to join us for an intergenerational conversation on the topics of Aging in Place and Food Security. Offered as part of AmeriCorps' commitment to honoring the dedication to service of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, join MSAC members and AmeriCorps members from around the state for a moderated discussion on this and other important topics and their impact in our communities. This event, moderated by Michael Sherman of Montpelier's Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee, is open to all, and we welcome everyone's perspective, regardless of age. Those wishing to participate may do so virtually on their computers or join the conversation on their telephones. Please contact MSAC's AmeriCorps member Andrew Gribbin at msac-ameri-corps@montpelier-vt.org or 262-6287 to receive the Zoom link or phone number to participate, and technical assistance is available.

More Free Events Presented by National Service members and V4A during MLK, Jr. Day Week

Join VHCB AmeriCorps, Eco AmeriCorps, Vermont Youth Development Corps/Vermont Youth Tomorrow, SerVermont VISTA, and the Vermont Area Associations on Aging to celebrate and honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his lifelong dedication to service! Events include yoga, improv, an intergenerational discussion, an introduction to nature journaling, and bingo! More information and Zoom links can be found [here](#). If you have any general questions about the page or the schedule, please contact Ellie at ellie@chcb.org.

TENTATIVE Green Stormwater Infrastructure Walk (group event will run only if COVID safety guidelines that day allow)

Monday, Jan. 25 | 10 am | Montpelier High School

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) works by mimicking natural conditions. Specific locations in urban areas are identified where vegetation, soils, and porous substrates are used to soak up stormwater. Using GSI to manage stormwater not only helps to improve water quality, but also beautifies cities. Join Page Guertin, of the Montpelier Conservation Commission, and Sarah Hoffmeier, a landscape architect, for a walk around downtown Montpelier to learn about our city's GSI. To inquire on COVID status of this event or register, contact Jacqueline Huettenmoser, Montpelier Parks Supervisor at City of Montpelier - Parks & Trees Department, (908) 566-8280 | jhuettenmoser@montpelier-vt.org.

MSAC's Tax Clinic with AARP Tax-Aide Foundation Starts in February, Appointment-making starts January 19

Protocols for the 2021 clinic are still evolving in coordination with AARP, and pandemic changes to decrease contact will certainly be in place, with health screening and face coverings required for anyone entering the 58 Barre Street facility. Eligibility information may be read in the MSAC January newsletter, page 4-5, [here](#). This tax preparation service (at no charge) is generally for households with relatively simple returns. To make an appointment, starting on January 19, call 223-2518. Please note: appointment slots fill up quickly!

Volunteer Request: Kitchen Help with Prepping FEAST To-go and Meals on Wheels and/or Dishwashing

Want to make a difference in our FEAST Kitchen at 58 Barre Street? Chef Mike says that morning and early afternoon shifts are available to help with either or both needs: food prep and dishwashing. Food service interest or experience is helpful but not necessarily required. For interested volunteers, training is also provided in using our commercial dishwashing machine.

Volunteers are required to do State of VT COVID Safety training and be willing to cooperate with following strict safety protocols. Some flexibility in hours and numbers of shifts per week; occasional subs also welcome to apply! Adults who are not in high-risk categories for COVID-19 are encouraged to contact us at 262-6288 or email feast@montpelier-vt.org to express interest.

Volunteer Request: Help an Older Adult Grocery Shop!

Looking to give aid and care for older neighbors in the community? Are you willing to help with grocery shopping and contactless delivery? If so, apply today at <https://www.cvcoa.org/volunteering.html>. No formal experience required, and COVID-19 protocols are in effect. Signed and completed paperwork plus background checks are required to volunteer. For assistance, contact AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator, Dante DeNault, at 802-279-0512 or email him at <mailto:americorpsmember@cvcoa.org>.

Now available: Guide for Washington County Community Meals & Food Resources

This week, we received a comprehensive guide to area community meals, food shelves and other food resources in Washington County, assembled by Unitarian Church of Montpelier. We have posted [a link to it](#) on our Helpful Resources and FEAST webpages for reference. Hard copies will also be available at FEAST To-Go Tuesdays and Fridays. Let us know if you'd like a copy mailed or emailed to you by calling 262-6288.

4 more spaces left in popular Current Events Discussion Program Online with MSAC, open to the public age 15+:

- **Great Decisions** Facilitators: John Turner & Barbara Thompson | 9 Wednesdays, starts 1/27| 10:00—11:30 am | via Zoom online | \$50 member/\$75 public| Ages 15+
Great Decisions (GD) gives opportunities to focus on important topics in world affairs, learn from others, and reach informed opinions. The largest, longest running civic-education program on U.S. foreign policy and global issues, GD is created by The Foreign Policy Association, which develops educational resources about critical global issues facing America today. The 2021 topics are: “Global Supply Chains and National Security”, “Persian Gulf Security Issues”, “Brexit and the European Union”, “Struggles Over the Melting Arctic”, “China’s Role in Africa”, “The Korean Peninsula”, “Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic” and “The End of Globalization?” Registration fee includes books; links to related videos available by discounted subscription to registrants. Each week participants will read the briefing book topic before discussion group meets on Wednesday morning. Links to other resources can be found at: www.fpa.org.
- Registration the above and other January-March programs continues. You can find the Winter Program Guide and Registration forms you need [here](#) for dozens of affordable, diverse classes open to younger people, too. Not familiar with Zoom yet, frustrated, or nervous? Don't worry, we've got you covered: call Andrew at 262-6287 for individualized help or to sign up for a future group training!

FEAST Senior Nutrition Program

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 January 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*)

1/21/21 Thursday	Audit Report Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions Review 2 nd quarter strategic plan status Community Fund Board Presentation	2/10/21	Utility Budgets Zoning Amendments City Manager Review MDC/Economic Development Recommendation - tentative
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