

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
1/25	Police Review Committee	4:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/25	Public Art Commission	5:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/25	Planning Commission Meeting	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Weekly Report: As of January 22, 2021

At the date of writing, it has been 10 months since the first death in Vermont since the beginning of the pandemic. These deaths affected real people: our friends, neighbors, and family, their lives matter and we can't stop trying to stop the spread to prevent more deaths! This week, over 400,000 people in the United States have died from the Coronavirus. As Governor Scott said- "Now is not the time to let up, and I'm hopeful Vermonters will continue to do their part".

This week, the State has reported 174 new cases, bringing our positivity rate of 2.5%. There are 43 patients in hospitals, with 5 folks in the ICU. There have been 6 new deaths due to COVID-19 just this week, bringing Vermont's total to **169**.

Regarding vaccinations, the program is ramping up next week. The State let us know that if more supply of vaccine becomes available, they can quickly scale up and broaden availability, but the first phases of vaccinations are for those age 75 and above. The following phases will be folks age 70+, followed by those age 65 and above. After those phases, folks with certain health conditions will become eligible. The State's website for signing up for vaccinations will open on Monday.

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.](#)
- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response Updates:
 - Cases and Outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).
 - [As of January 19, there have been 102 new cases reported for a total of 10,321 Vermont Cases. There have been 163 total deaths, and there are 40 COVID cases in the hospital, with 5 of those being in the ICU.](#)
 - [Over 400,000 people in the United States have died from the Coronavirus.](#)

- Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here](#). Note that the Regional Positivity Rate is trending upwards.
- Schools 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
 - COVID-19 vaccine registration for people 75 and older will begin January 25
 - Vaccine clinics will start on January 27. People will register online, or by calling a phone number. The website and phone number will be announced on or before January 25, in addition to other details. More information can be found here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>
 - You will not be able to make an appointment by calling any other Health Department phone number. Please do not call your health care provider or hospital for vaccine appointments.
 - 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>
- Business/Economic Updates:
 - ***Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Reopens: The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Treasury Department, began accepting [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) applications for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. This round of the PPP continues to prioritize millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$284 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses through March 31, 2021.***
 - More information can be found on the [ACCD Website](#).
 - 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.
 - BIPOC Business Webinar: The Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation's [Business Resiliency Webinar Series](#) will host a webinar specifically for any self-identified BIPOC and minority business owners or managers on January 21st, from 2:15pm to 3:15pm. The webinar will focus on local and regional technical assistance resources to help access available relief grants, develop loan

applications, and introduce participants to local lenders who may be managing COVID Relief funding (such as the PPP or EIDL loans) in their communities. [Be sure to register ahead of time](#). Past [webinar recordings](#) are also now available to view.

- Covid-19 Guidelines Research Study: Researchers at the University of Vermont are conducting a survey to study how Vermonters as well as out of state residents that recently traveled to the state are understanding and responding to Vermont's Covid-19 guidelines. [Complete the online survey](#) and be entered to win one of ten \$25 gift cards to a local Vermont business.
- 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:

- No updates: the City continues compliance with State requirements by closing City Hall to the public until further guidance is issued by the State. 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:**
 - [01/28 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm 134 State St., parking lot](#)
 - [02/04 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm 134 State St., parking lot](#)



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.

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

Montpelier, Vermont, Partners with ParkMobile to Offer Contactless Parking Payments

Residents and visitors can now easily pay for parking from their mobile device. [ParkMobile](#), the #1 parking app in the U.S., announced today a new partnership with Montpelier, Vermont, enabling residents and visitors to pay for parking on their mobile device. The ParkMobile app is now available at more than 600 on and off-street spaces throughout the city. With the recent COVID-19 crisis, municipal leaders across the country are encouraging residents and visitors to use the app instead of the meter to prevent the spread of the virus.

“Montpelier is very pleased to offer more parking payment options for our residents and visitors,” says Montpelier City Manager, William Fraser. “By partnering with ParkMobile, we can offer a safe contactless solution that will allow people to easily pay without touching the physical parking equipment.”

“We’re thrilled to launch the ParkMobile app in Montpelier,” says Jon Ziglar, CEO of ParkMobile. “We have a large base of users in the local area who can now pay by app whenever they visit the city.”

ParkMobile has over 21 million users and is available for both [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices. To pay for parking with the ParkMobile app, a user enters the zone number posted on the stickers and signs around the meters. The user then selects the amount of time needed and touches the “Start Parking” button to begin the session. The user can then extend the time of the parking session right from the app without having to go back to the meter.

ParkMobile has over 1.2 million users in the New England area and is widely available in cities like Burlington, VT, Greenwich, CT, Portsmouth, NH, and Amherst, MA. Beyond New England, the app can be used to pay for parking in over 450 cities across the U.S., including New York City, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and Miami Beach.

About ParkMobile: ParkMobile, LLC is the leading provider of smart parking and mobility solutions in North America, using a contactless approach to help millions of people easily find, reserve, and pay for parking on their mobile devices. The company’s technology is used in thousands of locations across the country, including 8 of the top 10 cities as well as college campuses, airports, and stadiums. People can use ParkMobile solutions to quickly pay for on-street and off-street parking without having to use a meter or kiosk. Additionally, ParkMobile offers parking reservations at stadium venues for concerts and sporting events. Reservations are also available in metro area garages, allowing people to drive into the city without having to worry about finding parking. ParkMobile has been named to the Inc. 5000, Deloitte Fast 500, Smart Cities Connect “Smart 50,” and the Atlanta Journal Constitution’s Top Workplaces. Additionally, the company won the 2020 Stevie Awards for Achievement in Product Innovation and the 2019 Stevie Awards for Most Innovative Tech Company and Best Travel App. For more information, visit [ParkMobile.io](#) or [@ParkMobile](#) on Twitter.



Responsive and Responsible Government

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

Zoning amendments forwarded to Council for consideration. On January 11, the Planning Commission voted to send another set of zoning changes to the City Council for consideration. This most recent set of changes will address three topics:

1. Sabin's Pasture: There were two changes requested to help facilitate development in the Sabins pasture area. First were changes to how traffic is regulated in the zoning. These changes fix inconsistencies in the bylaws between two sections (3303 and 3504), eliminates the level of service as a guideline for determining "undue adverse effect", and eliminates the requirement that a New Neighborhood Planned Unit Development must be used in the Riverfront district.
2. Housing changes: Due to changes in state law in 2020, amendments needed to be made to the zoning. Those requirements included how we regulate small non-conforming parcels, make changes to the use table (figure 2-15) so that some conditional uses will now be permitted uses, and also make some changes to accessory dwelling units. There is also a second set of housing related changes to address some outstanding issues and internal inconsistencies. These are relatively minor and mostly address how we group housing uses (into dwelling units and congregate living) and the related changes associated with that fix.
3. Finally we have miscellaneous changes that have been found while using the bylaws: these including items like fixing very minor changes on the riparian buffers on the Natural Resources map, fixing an error in the lines that were made during the last Design Review Boundary amendments, adding some rules on how to address requests for reasonable accommodations for ADA, and a number of minor technical fixes.

A complete strike out copy can be found at the following link which includes a full zoning as well as an abbreviated version (showing only where changes are being made): <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1112/2020-Zoning-Regulations-Updates>

The City Council will hold hearings on February 10th and 24th to discuss, take public testimony, and make any revisions. If anyone has questions or comments they can send them directly to their councilor or to Mike Miller, Planning Director at mmiller@montpelier-vt.org.



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.

Trails Update NEW

We've had great snow this week but our snowmobile has been (and still is) in the shop, so the Parks have remained un-groomed. Luckily this light layer of snow we seem to be getting every day is keeping the trail surface fresh and lovely for skiing. Onion River Nordic has been grooming the trails up at Morse Farm and off of North St. As always, please stay on the groomed trails and park only in the designated locations. All of the trails outside our public parks are on private land and public access is contingent upon these few simple guidelines. Temperatures are looking very favorable for the snow to remain nice over the weekend and throughout next week! Maps can be found here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/211/Park-Maps>.

Celebrate the 2021 Birthday of Trees with the Montpelier Tree Board

The 2021 Festival of Trees goes outdoors this year with the 2021 Festival of Trees Scavenger Hunt. Go to <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1218/Festival-of-Trees> to find the Tree Board Scavenger Hunt. Use the Hunt to go outside and take some time to get to know the trees you see every day at your house, on your street, in your neighborhood or on a walk through Montpelier. Take a Scavenger Hunt selfie with your favorite tree and email it to the Tree Board Chair, John Snell, jrsnelljr@gmail.com, between January 24 and 31, to be eligible to win a prize!

Remember, let's stay safe and healthy, so when you walk outside, dress for the weather **and** "Masks on faces, 6 foot spaces, uncrowded places" Although we can't hug our human friends right now, we can *hug a tree*.

For more information about the Tree Board's 2021 Festival of Trees and to find the Trees Scavenger Hunt go to <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1092/Festival-of-Trees><https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1092/Festival-of-Trees>

AARP Tax-Aide Clinics

MSAC is hosting the AARP tax clinic again this year as a State-approved, non-group, low-contact service! Clinics begin Monday, Feb. 8. We are taking signups over the phone at 802-223-2518.

Regulations and availability are changing frequently, so on your initial call we will take down your name and information and call you back with more details. We are trying to accommodate as many as possible given the season's pandemic limitations, so make sure to put your name on the waiting list! This clinic is for most low-to-moderate income clients to fulfill their tax obligations and claim credits or refunds to which they are entitled. However, tax returns for those who have income from complex sources such as rental property, businesses with employees or inventory, capital gains from the sale of assets other than marketable securities whose basis is known or unusual investment income are not eligible.

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

Want to make a difference in the FEAST Kitchen at 58 Barre Street in Montpelier? Chef Mike says that morning and early afternoon shifts are available to help with food prep and/or 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 must 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.

FEAST Senior Nutrition Program

FEAST TO-GO: Tuesdays & Fridays, 12-12:30 pm, served at 58 Barre St.

Seniors 60+, drive up to the side door of MSAC every Tuesday and Friday to receive your delicious, hot FEAST To-Go takeout meal. We have shifted to Curbside Pickup for your safety and ease. 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 or email us at: 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.

Vermont Everyone Eats relaunched statewide for at least 3 more weeks, with 6 sites in Montpelier starting the week of January 25!

Vermont Everyone Eats provides nutritious meals to Vermonters in need of food assistance, as well as a stabilizing source of income for Vermont restaurants, farmers, and food producers. Funded by the Vermont Legislature to address COVID impacts, VEE is administered by [SEVCA](#), has coverage in all 14 Vermont counties and is currently producing 30,000 meals a week.

Click here for a list of distribution sites nearest you.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W5KfP8InYVv2sfCg7sBGVddEOAUWEIzjecSrcibq8Rg/e/dit#gid=0>

Click here for Additional State Food Resources, VEE regional hub resources and for information on additional ways to access local food.

<https://vteveryoneeats.org/resources#338e078f-8b65-4fe9-a75d-5bbd23691d05>

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*)

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