

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
2/16	Park's Commission	6:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
2/16	Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee	7:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
2/17	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee Meeting	8:30 AM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
2/17	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
2/17	Montpelier Conservation Commission	6:30 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
2/17	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
2/18	Montpelier Housing Task Force	5:00 PM	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>



## Public Health and Safety

### Coronavirus (COVID-19): Weekly Report: As of February 12, 2021

Today, Governor Scott announced that the State will soon be opening up its vaccination program for Vermonters age 70+. Starting February 16<sup>th</sup>, folks over 70 years old will be able to register to get their COVID-19 vaccine.

Remember that even with the rollout of vaccines to more Vermonters, we have not escaped the impact of COVID-19. There are still thousands of cases in Vermont, and we all still have a moral obligation to stay safe, follow the guidelines, and try to reduce those who get sick in our communities.

Dr. Levine has also urged any Vermonter who gathered for a Super Bowl event to get tested for COVID-19, testing locations are linked in the report below.

#### **Overall State Updates:**

- [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask in public starting August 1<sup>st</sup>](#), and has extended the [State of Emergency through February 15<sup>th</sup>](#).
- [Make sure to remember the new guidelines that prohibit: Multi-household gatherings, whether inside or out, in public spaces or private.](#)
- Vaccine Updates
  - **COVID-19 vaccine registration for Vermonters age 70+ will begin Tuesday at 8:15am through both the website and the phone number (links below):**

- Montpelier has one distribution site: Kinney Drugs at 69 Main Street
  - If you are currently 75 and older, you can sign up for a vaccine online or by phone- information here: [www.Healthvermont.gov/myvaccine](http://www.Healthvermont.gov/myvaccine)
    - The number to call is: **855-722-7878**
    - Info Needed when registering:
      - Name/Birthday/Address/Phone Number/Email
      - And answers to a brief questions about your health and your insurance information (insurance information is optional)
    - **Appointments are needed, no walk-ins will be accepted.**
    - Vermonters of any age can register their information on the state website now, even if their age group is not yet eligible for a vaccine. This assists in speeding up the appointment process when folks are eligible.
  - The State has reported that Walgreens pharmacies will be joining the federal vaccination program, which is separate from the State's allotment of vaccines. More information will be shared as soon as it is available.
    - If folks make appointments at Kinney Drugs or Walgreens, they don't need to go through the state website; they can go directly through the pharmacy websites to sign up (you still have to be in an eligible age-band).
  - Vaccination Updates can be found via the [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)
  - New CDC guidance has stated that people who have been fully vaccinated will no longer need to quarantine after exposure. VT will follow this new guidance, but there has not been a formal change in the State's travel guidelines. Dr. Levine has stated that the State is considering policy changes for people who are vaccinated, but is not ready to make any official changes as of right now.
- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response Updates:
  - Case count and outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).
  - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here](#).
  - Cases are rising in 3 Vermont Counties: Bennington, Rutland and Franklin. Dr. Levine asks people to stop traveling in these counties and take extra precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.
  - There continues to be decreasing cases in long term care facilities.
  - The state is reopening a COVID-19 special enrollment period for Medicaid from Feb. 16 to May 16 for folks who do not have health insurance. More information can be found at: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/covid-19>
  - Yesterday, wastewater testing in Burlington revealed two mutations in COVID-19 viral testing, which is an indication that the B.117 variant (the UK variant) is present in Vermont. Genomic testing by the State is underway to confirm this variant's present.
- Schools Update:
  - Inter-school and squad competition can resume on February 12th with strict guidance in place, including the number of games that can be played in a week, and no spectators will be permitted. [Find the full guidance here](#).

- The State has established new rules to allow for school music program practices, including singing/chorus classes.
- Business/Economic Updates:
  - The Vermont District Office of the Small Business Administration now has [two Paycheck Protection Program weekly webinars](#). The PPP First and Second Draw webinar is held on Wednesdays at 9:00am and covers options, terms, eligibility, and the application process. The weekly PPP Forgiveness webinar is on Tuesdays at 11:30am and offers an in depth look at the forgiveness process.
  - The [Stimulus Equity Fund](#) is Vermont's COVID-19 relief fund for those who were excluded from the federal stimulus due to their immigration status. [Applications are now being accepted](#) through March 1st. If you were ineligible to receive a 2020 federal coronavirus stimulus payment due to your immigration status, you may be eligible for relief from this program.
- 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. City services are still available by phone and/or on-line. 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:
    - [02/25 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. \(parking lot\)](#)



## Sustainable Infrastructure

### **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.

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.

Zone Signs are being posted in town now. The system is working in those areas where zones have already been established. We will announce when the system is fully functioning.

ParkMobile has over 1.2 million users in the New England area and is currently used in Barre and Burlington, VT,



## Responsive and Responsible Government

### **President’s Day**

Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> is the Presidents Day Holiday. Most city offices will not be providing services that day.

### **City Election**

The Annual “Town Meeting” Election is on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Like November, this will have a mail in ballot option. Most residents should be receiving ballots at any time. There will still be in person voting from 7 to 7 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> but we urge people to take advantage of the early voting opportunity to reduce COVID risk.

We also appreciate that there are multiple candidates for City offices. I, and other City staff, are happy to answer any questions that candidates may have.

### **Parklets**

As discussed at this week’s meeting, the City Council will consider re-enacting the temporary parklet ordinance which was in place last summer and expired on October 25<sup>th</sup>. This will allow restaurants and merchants to take advantage of the same relaxed standards this summer as it appears that COVID restrictions will continue.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mmiller@montpelier-vt.org).

### **TRASH RECEPTACLES:**

As a resident of Montpelier, are you wondering about the best area to place a trash receptacle for trash pickup?

Please, always, place trash receptacles for pick up at the corner of the driveway, behind the sidewalk. If you do not have a sidewalk on your street, please place receptacles on the corner of the drive, in the street closest to the curb. (Not obstructing traffic).

Please do not place receptacles within the sidewalk.

Questions? Please contact Jasmine Benson with DPW at 802-223-9508.



## **Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community**

### **Montpelier City Hall Receives Outdoor Wi-Fi Hotspot NEW**

The City of Montpelier, through the Department of Public Service (PSD) Wi-Fi Hot Spot Program has installed new public Wi-Fi outside the City Hall Building (39 Main Street Montpelier). This PSD sponsored project is in response to the widespread closure of facilities due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which has significantly limited folks' ability to access free and reliable internet. The need for access to a reliable internet connections for healthcare, education, and government services has grown exponentially while existing public access points have become suddenly unavailable due to social distancing requirements. Vermont PSD has assisted the City in

addressing this emergency gap in available public Wi-Fi by contracting for the rapid installation of a commercial-grade outdoor Wireless Access Point. They have installed 190 hotspots throughout the State as part of this program. Montpelier is pleased to have been included.

The City Hall Wi-Fi site is accessible at all hours from a parked vehicle on the road or in-person in the courtyard in front of City Hall and the parking lot to the immediate right of the building. As a COVID-19 safety precaution, the City discourages users from congregating outside. The Wi-Fi name is “**Montpelier Hotspot**” and you should be able to connect without a password.

You can track all the State Vermont Public Wi-Fi sites here: [Wi-Fi Hotspot Map](#)

### **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)! Needs your help!**

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>

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES**

### **Winter Ski Trails:**

Winter trails continue to be in excellent condition. Montpelier Parks and Onion River Nordic Ski Club are working to maintain trails throughout Hubbard Park, the North Branch Park, the North Branch Nature Center, at the Capital City Golf Course, and on either side of North St. in East Montpelier.

The East Montpelier Trails are all on private property, please stay on groomed trails and park only in the designated areas. Thank you to the volunteers and willing landowners who are making this all possible.

For daily updates check the Parks facebook page at [www.facebook.com/MontpelierParks](http://www.facebook.com/MontpelierParks). Maps can be found on the Parks web page at [www.montpelier-vt.org/Parks](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/Parks)

### **Ice on Fire!**

**Ice on Fire! our Celebration of Deep Winter** is not happening in it’s traditional form this year, but AllTogetherNow! and The City of Montpelier’s Parks staff are offering an alternative way for friends and families to enjoy the magic of Winter.

During school break, **February 20-March 2**, the community is invited to visit the Montpelier Recreation Field to enjoy walking a tree maze, a snow luge on the hillside, building a snow person village and more. The field will be decorated with banners and paths will be maintained for you to walk amongst it all to enjoy with your family and friends. The Recreation Field is also the prime access point to the extensive trail system in North Branch Park. We ask that you maintain social distancing and mask wearing.



For more information and details you can visit our Facebook sites [/alltogethernowvt](#) and [/MontpelierParks](#). You can make a contribution to support our efforts on the [alltogethernowvt.org](#) website's donate button.

### **Cocoa in the Park**

Saturday, Feb. 13 | 5 – 7 pm | Poolside Drive | No charge.

Grab your boots/skies/snowshoes for a candlelit walk! Walk at your own pace from the Pool Parking Lot (on Elm Street) to North Branch Nature Center and back, with strategically placed candles lighting your way. Onion River Outdoors will be on hand with a limited number of snowshoes, but bring your own equipment if you have it (or rent beforehand!).

Cocoa will be available to sweeten the event even more. Masks and social distancing are required. Please no pets.

### **“How to Use Zoom” Free Training with MSAC**

Thursday, Feb. 18 | 10 - 11 am

Have you heard about Zoom but felt nervous or resistant to try it out? Have you had a frustrating time with it, or been using it and want to learn tips to improve your experience? MSAC Americorps member, Andrew Gribbin, will cover: turning your video and microphone on and off, changing your views and user-name, using the Chat function, Zoom etiquette and more. There will be time to practice and ask questions. To register, or learn about Zooming with your phone only, call Andrew at 262-6287 or email [msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org).

**Delayed: Intergenerational Activities & Events with Parks, Montpelier High School—Sign-up lists available!**

**Postponements:** The City Parks crew planned several wonderful socially-distanced group outings for February, including one with bird-watching, but are postponing until around April (at least) for COVID-19 safety.

Additionally, MSAC's planned intergenerational offerings with Montpelier High School are on hold until at least March, but we are hoping to match some students enrolled in enrichment classes to do some of the following with older adults: remote interviewing, games, and possibly, socially-distanced walks. Interested? Please sign up to be given updated information as it becomes available! Call the MSAC office at 223-2518.

### **Mary Carlson, MSAC volunteer extraordinaire!**

Need a job done well and quickly? Ask someone who likes being busy, and knows the pleasure of working toward a common goal. Such qualifiers could well describe Mary Carlson, a frequent MSAC volunteer who, depending on the day, can be seen wearing one of many hats. To paraphrase MSAC Director, Janna Clar: “Mary is an active member of our Advisory Council and takes minutes for most meetings. She’s a member of our Program Committee, drafted our Annual Survey in 2019, and single-handedly created its Summary Report. Mary had a hand in creating our Governance Policies & Procedures document, has been on the editing team of our literary magazine, sunflower, and assisted with our now-paused national accreditation process. More recently, she has also helped MSAC prepare some newsletter mailings (folding/labeling) and a postcard-mailer for raising funds.” Now retired, Mary has extensive, professional experience working for the regional Community Action agency and the State of Vermont. She now applies skills learned there to volunteering with community non-profits, including Community Harvest of Central Vermont.

To read the rest of the profile about Mary by MSAC member, Neville Berle, click [here](#) and start on the front page of MSAC's February newsletter, where you can find lots of other interesting content and events, too.

### **FEAST Curbside 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](mailto:feast@montpelier-vt.org).

**FEAST To Go February 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](mailto:feast@montpelier-vt.org).

## **REMINDERS**

### **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](mailto:jbenson@montpelier-vt.org).

### **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.

### **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](mailto:susan.lemere@wcmhs.org) or contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

### **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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Hoffman'.



William Fraser, City Manager

## Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

2/17/21	City Manager Review	2/24/21	Dispatch Issues update Zoning Amendments Public Hearing MDC/Economic Development Recommendation – tentative? Legislative update
3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election	3/10/21	Organizational Meeting Rules of Procedure Ethics Policy Committee Assignments WRRF presentation Library Board appointment Home Energy Labeling Ordinance
3/24	Strategic Planning?	4/14	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter financials Hotel/Garage Project update
4/28	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter Strategic Plan update	5/12	Winter Parking Review

### **PENDING ITEMS**

PFAS Update

Stormwater Utility

Police Committee Report (June/July)