

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
2/22	Montpelier Public Art Commission	5:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
2/22	Planning Commission	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
2/22	Police Review Committee	4:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
2/24	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

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

This past week, the State has opened up the vaccination program for Vermonters age 70+, and now folks over 70 years old can register to get their COVID-19 vaccine. Links to sign up are below. 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.

Due to new CDC guidance- starting next Tuesday, those who are fully vaccinated will no longer need to quarantine after travel out of Vermont. Regarding those who have been vaccinated- masks, distancing and other prevention methods are still in place for all Vermonters.

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.](#)
- Vaccine Updates
 - Effective this Tuesday February 23rd, those who are fully vaccinated (meaning two weeks after their second dose), will not need to quarantine after traveling. This also means those who come to Vermont from other states will not need to quarantine if they can prove they have been fully vaccinated. More information can be found here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>
 - **COVID-19 vaccine registration is available through both the website and the phone number (links below):**

- Vermonters ages 70 and older who have yet to do so are encouraged to sign up for COVID-19 vaccine appointments at HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine or by calling (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](#)
- 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](#).
 - 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. This suggests the presence of this more contagious variant in our State. [Read the Health Department's press release here](#).
 - 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>
- Schools Update:
 - The State has established new rules to allow for school music program practices, including singing/chorus classes. [Find the full guidance here](#).
- 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. Appointments can still be accommodated with Departments on a case-by-case basis.
- New CDC guidance has stated that people who have been fully vaccinated will no longer need to quarantine after exposure. Vermont has made changes to its travel guidance in response. The City will change its internal policies regarding staff travel to echo the State's guidance.

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. \(parking lot\)](#)
 - [03/04 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 through ParkMobile! ParkMobile is the #1 parking app in the U.S., and has a new partnership going live with our City, 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.

ParkMobile 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. We are excited to add this to our parking options!

Other payment options, such as coins and credit cards, will still be accepted.



Responsive and Responsible Government

City Election

The Annual “Town Meeting” Election is on March 2nd. 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 2nd 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 the last meeting, the City Council will consider re-enacting the temporary parklet ordinance which was in place last summer and expired on October 25th. This will allow restaurants and merchants to take advantage of the same relaxed standards this summer as it appears that COVID restrictions will continue. First reading is on the February 24th agenda.

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.

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 Community Justice Center NEW

The Montpelier Community Justice Center provides Restorative Justice services for Montpelier residents including Restorative Justice Panels, Reentry services, Circles of Support and Accountability and Victim Outreach. Additionally, the Conflict Assistance Program provides mediation and consultation for Montpelier residents in need of help resolving disputes. Volunteer opportunities exist in all of our programs and with the Community Advisory Board where members help guide our work. For more information contact us at mcjc@montpelier-vt.org or call 802.522.5566.

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

Ice on Fire – Community Celebration of Deep Winter

It is happening, but not in its traditional form. AllTogetherNow! and The City of Montpelier Parks' staff have created an alternative way for friends and families to enjoy the magic of Winter.

During the week of school break, February 20-March 2, the community is invited to visit the Montpelier Recreation Field and enjoy walking a tree maze, sledding on the hillside luge, help build a snow person village and enjoy a StoryWalk. The field will be decorated with banners and trails will be maintained for you to walk amongst it all to enjoy with your family and friends. On Friday February 26, 2-5pm, the Parks and AlltogetherNow! staff will provide a warming Fire in the Snow village.

The Recreation Field is an access to the many North Branch trails. We ask that you maintain social distancing and mask-wearing. Please No Dogs in the tree Maze and pick up after them.

MSAC's March for Meals is coming with *Ten* Special Events presented by all-stars, starting March 1!

March is National Meals on Wheels Awareness Month! To raise awareness and funds for our essential FEAST Senior Meals Program, which operates Meals on Wheels and Curbside Meals for seniors, we have cooked up an enticing menu of TEN diverse, affordable, and pandemic-safe offerings - *9 online, 1 curbside dinner* - to be enjoyed from the comforts of your own home. We invite you to click here to [browse our event menu, learn more and register here](#) for *four* health & wellness events, *three* family-friendly performances and *two* events about film and music appreciation with some of your favorite MSAC instructors and friends: Erik Nielsen, Rick Winston, Lisa Mase, Opeyemi Parham, Sarah Parker-Givens, Shannon Hepburn, Janice Walrafen & Jason Mallery, Rob Mermin and No Strings Marionette Company! Online events begin March 1 and are by donation; lasagna meal on March 25 is \$10/pp or \$35/4.

MSAC's Inclement Weather Meal/Event Cancellation Policy

When the Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools close (or go "virtual online") due to inclement weather conditions that make driving unsafe, MSAC's FEAST Curbside To-go meals are cancelled for the day, as are Meals on Wheels deliveries and any other scheduled in-person services such as tax clinics and foot care clinics. On these dates, office staff are still answering phones and responding to email requests, sometimes in person and sometimes from remote. Online classes and drop-in groups are not cancelled on these dates. If you are unsure about the status of cancellations, you may call our voicemail, check our website or Facebook by 8:00am where we post the announcements. In addition, the school cancellations continue to be announced on many radio stations and news websites.

MSAC's Book Discussion Group: Room for two more participants and seeking copies of some book titles!

The MSAC book discussion group met on Thursday, February 11, to discuss Anthony Doerr's *Four*

Seasons in Rome. A range of opinions prevailed. Readers are now engaged in reading Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* for the second Thursday of next month, March 11. The Zoom screen has room for two more members, and if you are interested in joining the group, please be in touch with Barbara Dall at 229-4870. If anyone would be willing to lend a copy of either *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson or *Landmarks* by Robert Macfarlane for upcoming meetings of the MSAC book discussion group, please contact Barbara. Thanks!

MSAC Advisory Council Nominations Requested

The MSAC Advisory Council currently has one vacancy, and four additional vacancies are coming up at the end of June. We encourage all members (anyone age 50+ is eligible!) to consider joining or nominating another member, and you can learn about the expectations of serving by reading the latest edition of the Governance Policies & Procedures (GP&P) available on the website or via request by email/USPS. Terms were reduced to two years as of 2020, and other details about expectations and vacancies were amended in the GP&P. Only MSAC members may nominate themselves or other MSAC members for an AC seat. Nominations must be in writing and include the candidate's name, address, telephone number and email address (if any), and confirm that they are an MSAC member (or willing to become one). Nominations must be delivered or emailed (msac@montpelier-vt.org) to the MSAC office by March 31.

FEAST sends out a HUGE Thank You to the Volunteers, Crafters, Artists and Community Members who recently helped us bring LOVE to our Meals on Wheels and Curbside Pickup attendees

Thanks to Scudder Parker and Katie Trautz for their deeply heart-warming performances at our online FEAST Love Fest on February 12 (video coming soon so everyone can enjoy)! Thanks to Sally DeCicco, Linda Workman and Joan Barrett for providing perfectly lovely Valentines that we enjoyed surprising Curbside Pickup attendees with! A hearty thanks to Martine Bisagni and her niece Mia for the gorgeous homemade Valentines we surprised our Meals on Wheels clients with!! A HUGE thank you to our stellar volunteers who made the trek to visit our Meals on Wheels clients with those Valentines and a check-in chat: Ellen Drysdale, Kris Clark, Michelle Jones, Jeanne Felmy and Andrew Gribbin. The love that all of you share allows the FEAST Senior Meals Program to be the best that it can be! Thank you!

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

Curbside Pickup meals are offered to seniors 60+ from anywhere (not just Montpelier residents) twice weekly. Call to register and simply drive up to the side door of MSAC on Tuesdays and Fridays between 12-12:30pm to receive a delicious, hot takeout meal. If you are new to the program, you will be asked to fill out a short nutritional survey. You can see our monthly menu on our website. Donations are \$7-\$10. Please call to make your reservation: 262-6288. 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 February Menu for Tuesdays/Fridays, [click here](#).

FEAST Meals on Wheels:

MSAC's FEAST Senior Meals Program is proud to offer Meals on Wheels to seniors 60+ in Montpelier and Berlin. Do you have an older adult in your life who needs more access to delicious, healthy food? Do you know someone who is struggling to get food on the table or eat more nutritionally? Let us know because we can help! Our program offers regular nutrition education, socially distant engagement AND delicious, nutritious meals. Eligibility is simply for anyone over the age of 60; there is no charge, but donations are gladly accepted. Call us at the FEAST office to connect to our robust Meals on Wheels program: 262-6288. Call 262-6288 or email

<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.

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 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,



John Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (**TENTATIVE**)

2/24/21	Dispatch Issues update Zoning Amendments Public Hearing Temporary Parklet Ordinance 1 st .	3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election
3/10/21	Organizational Meeting Rules of Procedure Ethics Policy Committee Assignments Library Board appointment Legislative update WRRF presentation Temporary Parklet Ordinance 2 nd Home Energy Labeling Ordinance	3/24	Strategic Planning? MDC/Economic Development Recommendation – tentative?
4/14	3 rd quarter financials Hotel/Garage Project update	4/28	3 rd quarter Strategic Plan update
5/12	Winter Parking Review	5/26	

PENDING ITEMS

PFAS Update

Stormwater Utility

Police Committee Report (June/July)