

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
4/5	Police Review Committee Public Hearing on Community Safety & Policing in Montpelier	4:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/5	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/5	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/7	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:45 AM	City Hall- Front Stairs	Agenda Link
4/7	Complete Streets Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates

As of this week: 22% of our population in Vermont have been fully vaccinated. We are still continuously advocating for strict adherence to the safety guidelines even as we continue to vaccinate, as the seven day case rate average is at an all-time high for Vermont! Dr. Levine noted today that our region is doing worse than many other parts of the country.

As of this report- 35 people are in the hospital due to COVID-19, and 2 of those folks are in the ICU. Even in Washington County- there has been 85 new cases in the last 2 weeks. These cases are our friends, family, and neighbors! The State reported that Vermonters in middle age and those 10-17 years old are seeing an increase in cases. There has also been a significant increase in cases in young adults, especially within 18-24 year olds. We all need to continue to wear masks, stay distant, wash our hands, and avoid crowded spaces to ensure there is no further infection or loss of life.

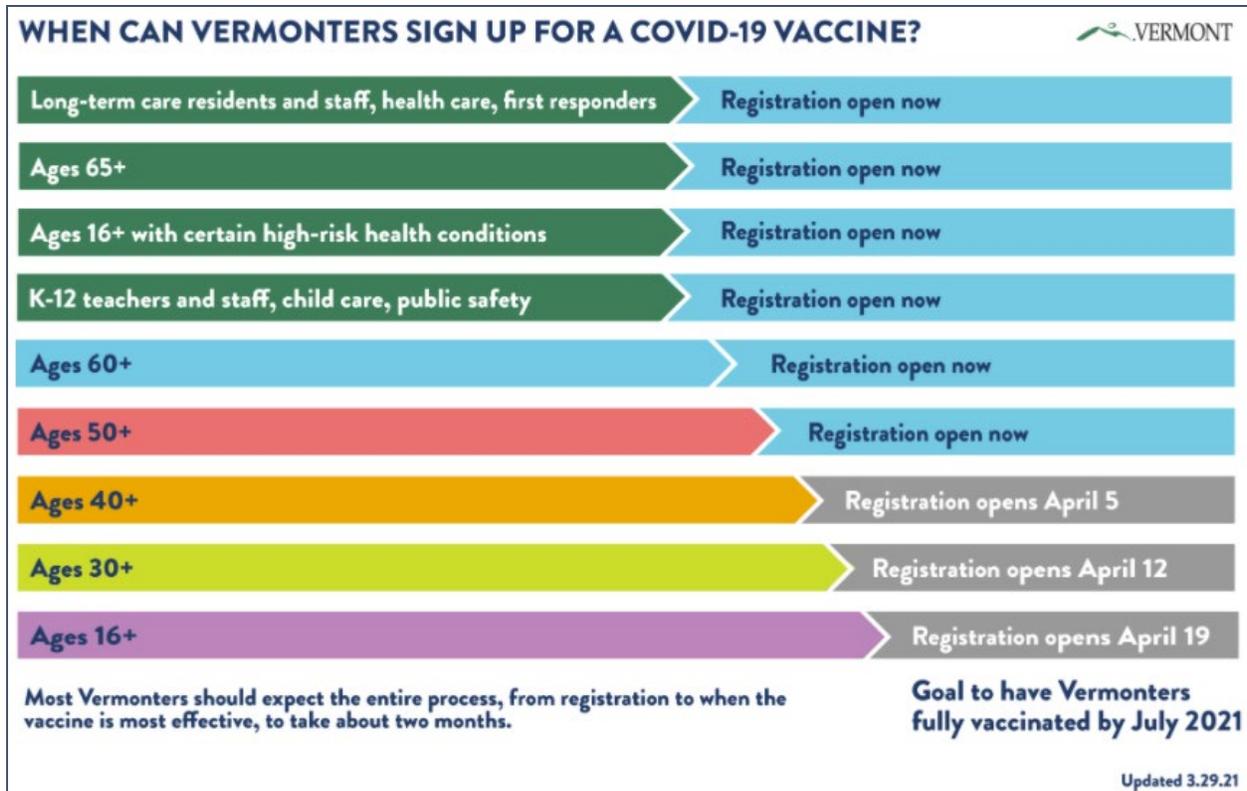
Dr. Levine reminded us all, as we head into a weekend with a significant holiday for many-that staying or gathering with your own household is going to be safest. If you choose to gather, make sure it complies with state guidelines, and aim to stay outdoors if possible.

Overall State Updates:

- Vaccine Updates
 - If you or anyone in your household identifies as Black, Indigenous, or a person of color (BIPOC), including anyone with Abenaki or other First Nations heritage, all

household members who are 16 years or older can sign up to get a vaccine currently.

- Starting Monday April 4th, Vermonters age 40+ will become eligible to get the vaccine.
- The Governor's Office [clarified the state's vaccination policy for college students](#). College students who meet the residency requirements -- which includes out-of-state college students who intend to stay in Vermont this summer -- can get vaccinated once their age group is eligible.



- COVID-19 vaccine registration is available through both the website and the phone number:
 - Sign up for COVID-19 vaccine appointments at HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine or by calling (855) 722-7878
 - Appointments are needed, no walk-ins will be accepted.
- There is a new call center for home-bound Vermonters to call to get an appointment for a vaccine via a home-visit. The number is: **833-722-0860**
- 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](#).

- The weekly summary report on cases can be found [here](#), which this week focuses on cases between March 5, 2020 – March 31, 2021
- Business/Economic Updates:
 - The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) has launched a landing page for the [Shuttered Venue Operators Grant \(SVOG\) application portal](#) in anticipation of opening applications for the critical economic relief program on Thursday, April 8th.
 - Prior to the official SVOG application opening, the SBA will host a [national informational webinar](#) to highlight the application process for potential eligible entities on Tuesday, March 30th from 2:30pm to 4:00pm.
 - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced [extended deferment periods](#) for all disaster loans, including the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, until 2022.
- Reminder: 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 or someone you know is in crisis or needs emotional support, help is available 24/7:
 - Call your [local mental health crisis line](#).
 - Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the [Crisis Text Line](#).
 - Call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at 1-800-273-8255. For more info, visit [healthvermont.gov/suicide](#).
 - Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at [VT Helplink](#).
 - Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at [COVID Support VT](#).
 - 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](#).
- Reminder: Gathering Guidelines
 - People who are [fully vaccinated](#) may gather with other people who are vaccinated. Two unvaccinated people or households may gather at a time. Masking, distancing, capacity limits, and other mitigation guidelines remain in place. [Read the full guidance updates here](#).
- Reminder: Travel and Quarantine Guidelines

- Effective February 23rd, those who are fully vaccinated (meaning two weeks after their second dose), will not need to quarantine after traveling. More information here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>
- New Quarantine requirements have been outlined in [this updated chart](#).
- Reminder: Updates to the Be Smart, Stay Safe Order
 - The Governor announced [updates to COVID-19 guidance](#) for bars and social clubs. Effective March 24th, establishments will be able to follow the [restaurant guidance](#), which will allow them to reopen within current restrictions. These include operating at 50% capacity, requiring patrons be seated at tables with a maximum of six per table, six feet of distance between parties, masking and more. Municipalities will be able to place more restrictions on these establishments in their jurisdictions.

City Updates:

- The Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) is working on creating a concrete plan for reopening. Their goal is a slow, safe, and steady reopening process. More information will be shared when available.
- The City itself is also beginning to refine reopening plans. More information will be shared when available.

COVID 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:
 - 04/08 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. (parking lot)
 - 04/15 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. (parking lot)



Environmental Stewardship

PFAS

The Attorney General's office reports that they currently have two active lawsuits filed against manufacturers of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Both cases were filed in June of 2019. They are seeking damages for losses relating to degradation of natural resources which could result in funds for cleanup, treatment, or removal. Both cases are currently independent but one has been consolidated with other similar cases in federal court for purposes of discovery, etc. They do not have a timetable for resolution. Additionally, the Agency of Natural Resources is preparing regulations. It's not known when that process will begin.



Responsive and Responsible Government

FEDERAL FUNDING

City staff is creating a summary of potential uses for the incoming \$2.158M in federal funds. Items fall into certain categories:

- Projects and equipment which were deferred as a result of the FY20 and FY21 budget mitigation plans to address the sudden revenue losses.
- Projects and equipment which were not funding in the FY22 budget due to projected revenue shortfalls.
- Major projects in development which exceed the annual capital plan and would normally require bonding and/or multiple funding sources.
- Current projects facing budget constraints.
- New projects and economic initiatives which have been proposed in the last year or less.

We are focusing on the major projects group as having the most potential for the earmark application. Those are the furthest along in design and have the most immediate benefit, of course they tend to be the most expensive as well. Our top priority project internally is East State Street which includes a new water line, new sewer line, the environmental benefits of a new storm water system and sewer overflow reduction. It will also result in a new rebuilt and repaved street and sidewalks. It's a \$7 Million project in all. Earmark funds could go a long way to move this along.

We will bring the full list to the council for your consideration at one of the April meetings with recommended priorities and comments on funding eligibility.



More Housing

City of Montpelier to proclaim the month of April 2021 to be Fair Housing Month in Montpelier, and the City Council urges all individuals, agencies, and institutions—public and private—to contribute to the observance by continuing our efforts to eliminate housing discrimination in our community and to increase housing opportunities for all.

The City Manager's office continues to work regularly on two potential private housing projects in Montpelier. One project may require use of TIF for infrastructure.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)

The Montpelier Police Department will be working with all Washington County police departments, the Washington County State Attorney's Office, Washington County Mental Health Services, the Central Vermont Medical Center, and mental health peers and advocacy organizations to establish a Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Program. CIT is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families, and other advocates. It is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training to help persons with mental disorders and/or addictions access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness-related behaviors. It promotes officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis¹. I would like to invite you to attend a virtual town hall to discuss CIT. We can also talk about any other topics or concerns you may have regarding the Montpelier Police Department's efforts in servicing our community.

The scheduled virtual town hall times are:

- **April 2, 2021 (Friday) 12 noon**
<https://zoom.us/j/96573266941?pwd=TVFtdTJzZ01zTHILbnQrcFdObjREUT09>
Meeting ID: 965 7326 6941
Passcode: 933390
One tap mobile: (929)-205-6099
- **April 7, 2021 (Wednesday) 5pm**
<https://zoom.us/j/97499267876?pwd=eTVqZDNRS0hzcDAwVmhQTFAvMlpFUT09>
Meeting ID: 974 9926 7876
Passcode: 693703
One tap mobile: (929)-205-6099
- **April 10, 2021 (Saturday) 12 noon**
<https://zoom.us/j/99992663998?pwd=cmR6bWR6WWUxQ2ISYXhTRE1ITzk2Zz09>
Meeting ID: 999 9266 3998
Passcode: 091480
One tap mobile: (929)-205-6099

If you cannot make these dates and times, and would still like to learn more about CIT, please feel to reach out to me directly via email at bpeete@montpelier-vt.org or phone at 802-223-3445.

¹ [https://www.citinternational.org/What-is-CIT#:~:text=The%20Crisis%20Intervention%20Team%20\(CIT,their%20families%2C%20and%20other%20advocates.&text=It%20also%20promotes%20officer%20safety,of%20the%20individual%20in%20crisis.](https://www.citinternational.org/What-is-CIT#:~:text=The%20Crisis%20Intervention%20Team%20(CIT,their%20families%2C%20and%20other%20advocates.&text=It%20also%20promotes%20officer%20safety,of%20the%20individual%20in%20crisis.)

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

Chocolate Egg Hunt 2021 Canceled

Montpelier Rec. is once again unable to offer the chocolate egg hunt that usually takes place in Hubbard Park due to COVID-19 restrictions.

MSAC's [April 2021 Active Times](#) is ready to read in full!

Check it out for 16 pages of content that include: a volunteer profile of Tina Muncy, information on Spring classes, poetry events and others presented by MSAC and our community partners, Parks & Rec news, Village services, a March for Meals recap, ways to stretch your food budget, all sorts of other announcements, the April FEAST Curbside Meals Menu and other FEAST updates, a recipe for Farro salad, and our weekly calendar. [Click here](#) to read it all!

Thank you to all who participated in and supported MSAC's March for Meals campaign!

MSAC just wrapped up our March for Meals Campaign. This campaign exceeded our expectations - not only in surpassing our fundraising goal of \$3,000 for the FEAST Senior Meal Program and increasing community awareness of FEAST, but also in the response and enthusiasm for the campaign demonstrated through community participation. During March, a total of 118 people registered for at least one of our nine online events for a total of 224 sign-ups, \$2,741 was pledged as donations for those events, and 177 meals were served at the March 25th Curbside pick-up meal, with gross sales totaling an additional \$1,630. All together, the March for Meals campaign brought in \$4,371 in pledged donations for FEAST Senior Meals Programming!

A very special thank you to our amazingly talented and **generous presenters**, all of whom donated their time and expertise to bring a variety of pandemic-friendly, accessible, online events to the community: in chronological order, **Erik Nielsen, Lisa Mase, Rob Mermin, Dr. Opeyemi Parham, No Strings Marionettes Company, Rick Winston, Sarah Parker-Givens, Janice Walrafen & Jason Mallery, and Shannon Hepburn**. March for Meals wouldn't have been possible without you. More gratitude is in order for **Chef Andre Burnier** for his leadership and cooking talents for the lasagna meal production as well as the countless others who donated in smaller ways toward production costs. We are immensely grateful to our **presenting sponsor—Hunger Mountain Co-op**—and to the City of Montpelier, the Community Services Department staff team, and all others who helped organize and promote our campaign. And lastly, thank you **community**, for your support of the FEAST Senior Meals Program!

Volunteer with the MSAC Village – MSAC at Home!

Throughout the many different Villages across the country and beyond, one consistent factor remains the same: the need for volunteers. Volunteers are the heart and soul of each and every Village. We need to grow our pool of volunteers as we continue to roll out Village-related offerings (technology assistance, wellness calls, and outdoor chore assistance to start). Since the volunteer onboarding process includes a background check to ensure the safety for those receiving the services, there is no better time to sign up as a Village volunteer to ensure you are ready to go when the next volunteer opportunity arises. To sign up as a volunteer or to learn more about needs and expectations, contact MSAC's Aging in Place Coordinator Andrew

Gribbin at msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org or 262-6287.

Affordable, diverse, online Spring classes for all ages with lots of space – many start the week of April 5 – Sign up now!

Won't you consider signing up or encouraging a friend or family member? These classes are open to all ages, led by fabulous experts, and great ways to stay connected to community and meet new people, learn new skills, stay healthy! Among 31 total classes offered this Spring, these have the most space: Food as Medicine Fundamentals (age 14+), Opera III: The 20th and 21st Centuries (age 12+), Great Decisions Current Events program (age 15+), Creating and Remaking Poems (age 18+), Qi Gong (age 15+), Rug Hooking (age 30+), A Pro-Active, Insightful Approach to Estate Planning (age 15+), Somatic Movement (age 18+), Tai Chi Fundamentals (age 15+), Chair Yoga (age 18+), Moving into Stillness: Yoga & Meditation (age 18+), and Yoga for Focus & Fitness: Strength & Flow (age 14+). **Get full details and register at: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/751/Classes>.** (Hard copy forms available at 58 Barre St., MSAC side door vestibule; several payment options available).

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.

FEAST To Go April 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.

Healthy Eating on a Budget: Video Available

We all know how hard it is to eat on a budget, but we also know how important it is to eat healthfully. Watch Registered Dietician Brigitte Harton in this online exploration into how to harness nutrition while also respecting our economic limitations. Free of Charge, call the FEAST Office to get the video link: 802-262-6288.

Food Security in Montpelier & Beyond

FEAST Senior Meals program is honored to be part of the food security puzzle for Montpelier area seniors, and very pleased to have the delicious food by Good Taste Catering to offer. If, however, you know of others who are facing food insecurity, please direct them to this extremely helpful resource, which outlines all times, dates and locations for free meals and other food resources: <https://rb.gy/dncdbl>.

Nordic Trails Closed:

It was a glorious year for Nordic Trails in and around Montpelier, but unfortunately those days have come to an end. All of the trails on either side of North Street are on private property and are not open to the public outside of ski season, so please do not walk in these areas.

Thanks so much to everyone who made these trails possible this winter, especially to the landowners for your generosity and to Onion River Nordic for your dedication to sharing your passion for skiing with the next generation.

Mud Season in the Parks!

It is still ice season in the parks, with a mud in the forecast. We don't close our parks in mud season like many trails, but we ask that you adhere to these basic guidelines:

- When you see a muddy trail, the best thing to do is turn around.
- If you must go forward, please walk THROUGH the mud and not around it.
- Do not make new trails through dry areas, or widen trails by going around muddy spots.

We're really happy to provide a place for people to recreate during mud season, and these steps (no pun intended) help us keep maintenance down. The best places to walk right now are on solid-surface gravel roads like the Stone Tower Path, 7 Fireplaces Rd., North Branch River Path, Siboinebi Path through town, and on the Hubbard Park Roads, which are closed to cars right now.



Legislative Updates

Legislative Testimony

The City is sometimes asked to provide testimony on certain bills or topics for the legislature. The most recent testimony information can be found below:

*For more detail on what pending bills the City is monitoring, please see the attached Legislative Agenda and Tracking Document at the end of this report

<u>City Staff Providing Testimony</u>	<u>Bill or Testimony Topic</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Chief Peete, MPD	H. 133	In summarizing the Bill, it has already been passed in previous sessions for police to take firearms for emergency relief from abuse orders from a judge. The addition to the law looks to only clarify the language that judges can order a defendant to relinquish weapons if it is found to be necessary.	Written feedback given. -PDs will enforce the laws as they are already on the books -Concerns I have for storing and maintaining the weapons (space and money)
Chief Peete, MPD	H. 183 Section 4	It will be Section 4: Data Collection efforts for sexual violence cases throughout the state.	
Chief Peete, MPD	US Legislature regarding Crisis response in law enforcement	There is proposed legislation to implement community resources to respond to mental health crisis calls with police as a secondary. The legislation is through: U.S. Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (IL) U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)	It is not confirmed if he'll be chosen to testify, but his name has been forwarded up.
Chief Peete,	Senate		

MPD	Institutions in regards to MOU Capital Grounds Policing		
Mike Miller, Planning	Request for Legislative Support	Looking for support from VPA members who are making recommendations regarding affordable and efficient housing for Vermonters at or below median household income	Consistent with our strategic plan with more housing, thoughtfully planned built environment and environmental stewardship.
Jana Clar, MSAC	Request for testimony and support	Support for Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) legislative priorities	Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older Vermonters Nutrition and Meals - Home and community –based provider increases/workforce development - Long-term care policies



Sustainable Infrastructure

DPW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION:



Meet an employee of our Water/Sewer Division: James Richardson. James was born and raised in Worcester, VT, and graduated from U32 in 2002. He now lives happily in Calais, VT with his wife, Mindi, 8 year old son Colton and their pup Trigger. On James free time, he enjoys hunting and fishing. James is the lead pipe tech for the Water/Sewer Division. He's been employed with the City of Montpelier and in his position for 3 years. Not only is James the lead pipe tech, but he's also is on the salt/plow crew within the Streets Division during the winter months. We asked James what his favorite specialty within his job was, and he answered "fusing pipes together, during repairs of current or new water/sewer pipes". Pipe fusion consists of using heat and pressure to join pipe segments to for a single seamless system. James is pictured here fixing a water leak in the City.

STUMP DUMP:

Need to get rid of lawn debris, stumps and branches? City of Montpelier Stump Dump is open!! Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please call the City Garage at 802-223-9510 before going to dump to approve of your items!

FY22 Pavement Markings and Crack Sealing:

Both of these projects are currently out to bid. The bid opening dates are schedule for March 26th, 2021 and April 6th respectfully.

Street Sweeping and Winter Cleanup:

The favorable spring weather has allowed for street sweeping to get an early start this year. The sweeper will be out and cleaning City streets with a focus on areas of heavy debris accumulation and streets that are still subject to the alternate side parking.

State Street Sewer Sag:

The City has partnered with Dufresne Group to design this project. The project will consist of installing new sewer pipe on a portion of State Street between Taylor Street and the DMV. In addition there is a storm component which will aim to reduce the amount of storm water entering the City's sewer system, which is outlined the City's Long Term Control Plan. The design plans will be finalized by April 23rd, at which point the City will bid the project.

Main Street Water Line:

The City has partnered with Dufresne Group to design & permit this project. This project entails replacing the existing undersized water main along Main Street from Jay to Liberty with a new 12" main. Construction is anticipated to occur this between June and August of 2021.

Cumming Street Water Line and Street Reconstruction:

The City is working to design and permit the water replacement and street reconstruction project along Cummings Street. Once all permits have been received DPW will begin the construction which is currently slated for early June.

East State Street Reconstruction Project:

The City has partnered with Green Mountain Engineering (GME) to begin preliminary design for the East State Street reconstruction project. This summer City staff will be working with GME to gather utility information and to survey the project with construction anticipated for the summer of 2022.

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 please receptacles within the sidewalk.

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



Thoughtfully Planned Built Environment

Parklets

The City Council has enacted the temporary parklet ordinance which was in place last summer and expired on October 25, 2020. This will allow restaurants and merchants to take advantage of the same relaxed standards this summer as it appears that COVID restrictions will continue. The second, and final reading took place at the March 10, 2021 City Council Meeting. The new ordinance will be effective from April 1, 2021 through November 2, 2021. The application process will begin shortly. You can find the parklet application on the city's website [here](#).

Economic Development

Given the news about the Montpelier Development Corporation, the City Manager and staff will be reviewing alternatives. We expect to provide a summary and recommendation for the future at a Council meeting in May.



City Employment Announcements

Municipal Job Openings:

- Afterschool Age Childcare Director. More information can be [here](#).
- Staff Accountant. More information can be [here](#).
- Vista Member for Montpelier Senior Activity Center. More information can be [here](#).
- Emergency Services Dispatcher/Clerk. More information can be [here](#).
- Water/Sewer Mechanic Truck Driver, Level 1. More information can be [here](#).
- Vista Member for Montpelier Recreation Department. More information can be [here](#).



Reminders

DON'T FLUSH THAT

The Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone what should NOT be flushed. Flushing items listed below could cause sewer blockages, in which could cause plugged and overflowing toilets, poorly draining sinks and showers, raw sewage backing up through floor drains, manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters, health hazards and nuisance odors, increases in the City's maintenance costs and costly maintenance and repair bills for YOU.

- 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 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.

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.

City Hall Outdoor Wi-Fi Hotspot

The City of Montpelier, through the Department of Public Service (PSD) Wi-Fi Hot Spot Program has installed a 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](#)

Leadership Team Agenda:

The City’s Leadership Team, which consists of Department Heads and some other key staff, conduct a monthly meeting to address issues or topics which are too complex to be handled in regular staff meetings. This past week the team selected the topics for this coming year, I thought you might be interested in knowing what the group has chosen.

2021	April	20-21 Strategic Plan Updates
	May	Outdoor Recreation as an Economic Destination
	June	Outdoor Activity
	July	20-21 Strategic Plan Updates
	August	Leadership Philosophy
	September	Equity Plan from Creative Discourse & Work
	October	2022-2023 Strategic Planning
	November	Budget Congress
	December	COOP Plans/Hazardous Mitigation Planning
2022	January	Strategic Plan & Budget Updates
	February	Aging-friendly Communities
	March	Choosing Leadership Meeting Topics

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,



William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

4/14	3 rd quarter financials Hotel/Garage Project update E-911 Road Naming 1 st Reading Update on Summer pool use Homelessness Task Force Committee Assignments Community Fund award? Above & Beyond Award	4/28	3 rd quarter Strategic Plan update E-911 Road Naming 2 nd reading Strategic Planning Update Work Winter Operations Review Federal Funds Plan? Summer Meeting Schedule Home Energy Labeling Ordinance 2 nd reading
5/12	FY23 Budget Process Economic Development?	5/26	Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan approval
6/9	Utility Rates Stormwater Utility Water/Sewer Master Plan District Heat Rates	6/23	Tax Rate Fund Reserves
7/14	Police Committee Report?	7/28	Social Economic Justice Committee Report?

PENDING ITEMS

CVPSA Report

2021 CITY OF MONTPELIER LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

On the whole, the City of Montpelier requests that policymakers:

- Support legislation that grants cities and towns greater flexibility.
- Support legislation that provides funding to cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that removes authority from cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or directly or indirectly shifts costs to cities and towns.

In order to help fulfill its commitments to its residents, the City of Montpelier calls on the legislative delegation to support the following policies:

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Advocate for the safe return to work of State employees in local office buildings
- Advocate and support direct municipal funding that protects Cities and Towns from financial disaster during the COVID crisis
- Allow a delay in reappraisal requirements or a return to the 80% threshold

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>H.48</u></p>	<p>The General Assembly finds that the continued spread of COVID-19 in the State of Vermont has the potential to jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of Vermonters voting in their 2021 annual municipal meetings. These meetings include annual town meetings, which are required by general law to be held on the first Tuesday of March; annual school district meetings, which are generally required to be held between the months of February and June; and other municipal annual meetings with meeting dates controlled by charter</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>S.9</u></p>	<p>An act relating to extending certain workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19</p>

COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

- Support the general statutory authority to adopt local option taxes

- Support programs and initiatives that spur locally driven, right-sized economic growth, especially programs like TIF, that provide infrastructure improvements to support that growth

<u>H.152</u>	Would establish an education property tax yield for homesteads and the non-homestead property tax rate
<u>H.159</u>	Would create a Better Places Program to support projects that create, activate, or revitalize communities and public spaces.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Continue funding Microtransit opportunities
- Advocate for global warming solutions and for any opportunities that support ecological protection, the reduction of PFAS, net zero goals, and conservation of our natural resources
- Support expanding the Net Metering limit for municipalities or Montpelier specifically

<u>H.100</u>	An act relating to electric bicycles
<u>H.123</u>	Would create a vehicle miles traveled tax applicable plug-in electric Vehicles
<u>H.144</u>	An Act relating to requiring inspection of wastewater systems
<u>H.94</u>	An act relating to transportation initiatives to reduce carbon emissions
<u>S.44</u>	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a Vermont Green New Deal to invest in actions that curb climate change. The Vermont Climate Council would implement and oversee the Vermont Green New Deal to fund energy conservation programs, prioritizing weatherization, renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, and the use of electric vehicles. This bill would also create a new income tax surcharge on high incomes that would be deposited into a Vermont Green New Deal Fund to be administered by the State Treasurer

INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, & WELCOMING CITY

- Advocate for any opportunity for additional Human Services funding for supporting those experiencing homelessness

- Support funding for public restrooms to serve all people using State and City facilities

<u>H.134</u>	An act relating to paid family and medical leave insurance
<u>H.139</u>	Would include employer contributions to health insurance in the amount of wages used to determine an injured worker's weekly benefit and to prohibit an employer from terminating an employee because the employee is absent from work while the employee is receiving temporary total disability benefits
<u>S.55</u>	An Act relating to paid vacation leave
<u>H.93</u>	An act relating to establishing a homeless bill of rights and prohibiting discrimination against people without homes

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Continue funding for a Social Worker to support Barre City and Montpelier's Police Departments
- Focus on moving towards a regional public safety model and look critically at public safety cellular provider coverage

<u>H.1</u>	An act relating to mental health insurance benefits
<u>H. 109</u>	An act relating to parking ticket enforcement
<u>H.126</u>	Would establish a pedestrian safety pilot program, allow municipalities to seasonally install pedestrian crossing signs in crosswalks, allow municipalities to lower certain speed limits on state highways, and express the intent that the Traffic Committee should not increase the speed limit on a state highway in response to a municipality's request that it be lowered
<u>H.145</u>	Would amend the standards for law enforcement use of force to make clarifying changes and prevent the use of hindsight in evaluating law enforcement conduct and narrow the definition of prohibited restraints

<u>S.19</u>	An act relating to a climate change response plan and regional planning commission involvement in identifying health care-related needs
<u>S.30</u>	An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms at childcare facilities, hospitals, and certain public buildings
<u>S.40</u>	An act relating to the use of colored signal lamps on fire department and emergency medical service vehicles
<u>EO-01-21</u>	<p>This Executive Order creates the Agency of Public Safety, effective April 15, 2021. The executive order cites the Department of Public Safety's ten-point strategy, which includes accelerating the organization of state law enforcement operations, modernizing data collection, expanding crisis response, enhancing the development of model policies and community oversight models, and addressing issues in training and dispatch. The new agency, headed by a secretary and deputy secretary, would include a Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management, a Department of Law Enforcement, and a Division of Support Services. The Criminal Justice Council, Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division, and the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board would be added to the agency in July. VLCT fully supports EO-01-21, an order that will affect local governments and law enforcement agencies. Last November, the VLCT Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the proposal to move the Vermont Police Academy to the Department of Public Safety.</p>

RESPONSIVE & RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

- Support decision-making at the local level that recognizes the capacity of local officials and voters to govern themselves on issues of local import, including streamlined adoption and full implementation of municipal charters
- Approve any pending and future recommended charter changes
- Support legislation allowing removal of "red line" deed restrictions
- Support legislation consistent with the City's Adopted Strategic Plan <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/7156/2020-2021-Strategic-Plan-Brochure-with-full-Work-Plans?bidId=>

<u>H.82</u>	An act relating to allowing municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovative rates and services
<u>H.154</u>	Would deem a municipal office vacant whenever a municipal officer fails to take a required oath of office within one week of election or appointment.

<u>H.164</u>	Would require a town to vote to allow the operation of any type of licensed cannabis establishment prior to such an establishment operating within the town.
<u>S.14</u>	An act relating to deed restrictions and housing density
<u>S.15</u>	An act relating to correcting defective ballots
<u>S.25</u>	An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis regulation procedures
<u>S.50</u>	An act relating to ranked choice voting

STAFF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Police Department:

- Monitor the implementation of S. 124 and S. 119 to ensure any mandates are implemented in ways that do not adversely affect MPD policies. MPD policies based on National, evidence-based best practices, and 21st Century Policing recommendations.
- Monitor amendments made to H.133 An act relating to emergency relief from abuse orders and relinquishment of 11 firearms
- Work with the Vermont Police Association and Vermont Chiefs of Police to represent the Montpelier Police Department interests. These interests include advocating for policies that reflect community partnerships, accountability and transparency, officer safety and wellness. It also includes expressing concern for policies and procedures that may compromise officer safety.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center:

- Support legislation promoting investment in technology and broadband equity and access for all Vermonters, especially Older Vermonters, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of encouraging Telehealth and Social Connection.
- Support legislation consistent with priorities and principles of the Older Vermonters Act: Act 156 (passed in 2020)
- Support legislation that provides direct and robust funding to senior centers and senior meal sites as they fulfill important state and federal priorities and goals for increasing socialization, reducing isolation, providing evidence-based exercise and Fall Prevention programs, and more.
- Support legislation that allocates part of VT's federal Older Americans Act funding (especially Title 3B funds) directly to senior centers and

community organizations who provide services such as wellness programs, exercise classes, tax clinics, foot care clinics and more.

- Support legislation for Long Term Care Medicaid Waiver coverage for meals on wheels funding
- Support legislation advancing affordable housing for older adults and people with disabilities
- Support legislation protecting and promoting renters' rights
- Attend the Older Vermonters Caucus when scheduled again
- Enhance communication with advocates representing organizations that support older adults, including VT Association for Senior Centers and Meal Providers, Community of VT Elders, and VT Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Planning & Development:

- Track Act 250 exemptions for designated areas and tracking any proposed housing bills.

Community Justice Center:

- The Justice Reinvestment II (S.338, Act 148) may result in increased referrals without increased funding.
- Update statutory language so it reflects the reality of the programs and services CJsCs provide.

Clerk: Continue to participate in the process of developing and supporting a broad election procedures bill (no bill number yet available)