

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
4/12	Cemetery Commission	12:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/12	Recreation Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/12	Planning Commission Meeting	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/13	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/14	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/14	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/14	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/15	Housing Task Force	5:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
4/16	Energy Efficiency Working Group	11:00 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates

This week, the Governor announced his “Vermont Forward Plan” which serves as the State’s roadmap towards reopening the “economy, cross state travel, and events and gatherings in the months ahead”. The plan, which will roll out in steps, can be found [here](#). The Vermont Forward Plan will use vaccination rates as the milestones to transitioning through the steps. The State has put out the following graphic that aims to simply outline the process:



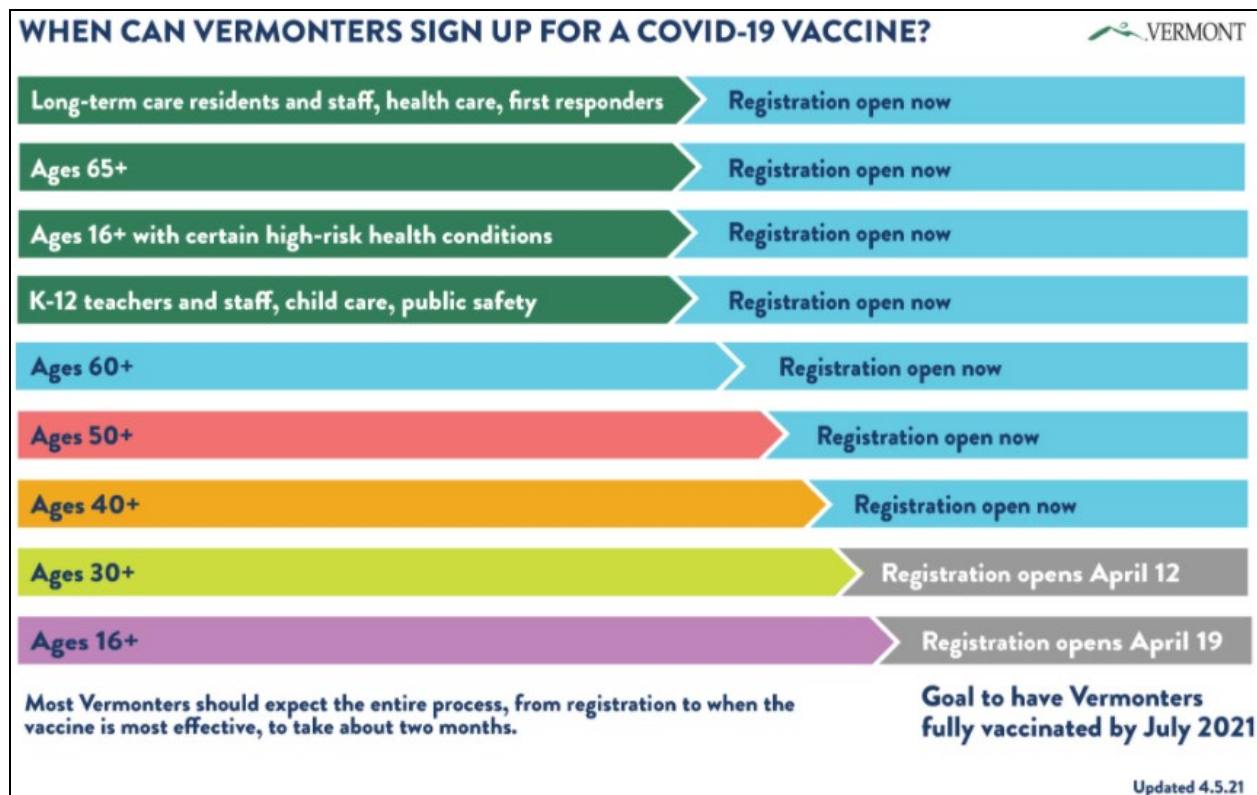
Remember, even with these new opening processes in place, there are more contagious strains of COVID-19 in Vermont, and there are still a high number of cases in our region! Make sure that you are still wearing masks, staying distant, washing your hands, and avoiding crowded spaces to ensure there is no further infection or loss of life. This reopening plan does not work unless we work together to stop the spread of the virus!

Overall State Updates:

The Governor also announced his priorities for the American Rescue Package funding, which will bring more than a billion dollars to Vermont. Governor Scott stated that his priorities will be spending around \$250 million on expanding broadband, \$250 million on affordable housing, \$200 million investing in addressing climate change by reducing carbon emissions, and an investment of \$170 million to clean waterways.

Governor Scott had Senator Sanders in attendance at this week's Friday press conference, discussing the American Rescue Package funding that addresses the needs of children. Senator Sanders stated that summer and afterschool programs are going to be receiving triple federal funding over the next 3 years, which he stated was \$71 million dollars for Vermont programs above the normal funding levels. This money will primarily go to school districts, and it will be up to the school system to spend it in creative ways.

- Vaccine Updates
 - Please check the [Public Health Vermont website](https://www.vermont.gov/public-health) for any questions about getting the COVID-19 vaccine



- 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.

- If you're home bound you can call 833-722-0860 M-F from 8:30-4:30 to make an appointment.
 - Vaccination updates can be found via the [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)
 - [Shaws, Rite Aid, and Price Chopper joining the other locations that will now be administering vaccines](#)
- Travel and Quarantine Guideline Updates
 - As part of Vermont's phased reopening plan, there is new travel guidance, effective April 9, 2021.
 - Unvaccinated Vermonters who have traveled outside the state must be tested within 3 days of returning to Vermont. [Learn more.](#)
 - Unvaccinated people planning to visit Vermont must have a COVID-19 test within 3 days before arriving in Vermont. [Learn more.](#)
 - Rules for international travel are different. [Learn more.](#)
 - Masks are required in public spaces in Vermont.
- 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: [The April 6th presentation can be found here.](#)
 - The weekly summary report on cases can be found [here](#), which this week focuses Age Rate Changes in cases between March 5, 2020 – April 7, 2021
- New Federal Financial Assistance Program for Families who have Lost a Family Member to COVID-19:
 - Beginning April 12th, as part of the federal emergency relief package, financial assistance will be available for families who have lost a family member due to COVID-19.
 - Funeral expenses up to \$9,000 can be reimbursed. Those who have lost more than 1 family member may qualify for more than \$30,000 in reimbursement. Call the Federal emergency hotline to sign up: 844-684-6333

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:
 - [04/15 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. \(parking lot\)](#)
 - [04/22 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. \(parking lot\)](#)

COVID-19 Reminders:

- 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. [Read the full guidance updates here](#).

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.



Environmental Stewardship

NO BURN ORDER

The fire department has issued a no outside burn order until further notice. With the recent dry conditions it is currently unsafe for any outdoor burning. We expect this order to be in place until at least late next week. Any questions or concerns please call Fire Chief Robert Gowans. rgowans@montpelier-vt.org 802-371-9633.



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.

Additionally, direct applications for earmarked funds were made for the following:

1. East State St.: preliminary and final design
2. State St. Sewer & CSO Construction
3. WRRF Phase 2 Construction
4. Rec Center Renovations
5. Confluence Park
6. Public Access Restrooms
7. Cemetery Chapel Building Repairs



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 and Planning & Development Department continue to work regularly on two potential private housing projects in Montpelier. One 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.

(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.))

The scheduled virtual town hall times are:

April 10, 2021 (Saturday) 12 noon

<https://zoom.us/j/99992663998?pwd=cmR6bWR6WWUxQ2lSYXhTRE1ITzk2Zz09>

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.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

Montpelier Parks Awarded Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant:

The City of Montpelier's Parks Department was awarded a grant for \$46,070 from Vermont's Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) for the purpose of building a universally accessible trail in Hubbard Park. This project was identified on the City's ADA Transition Plan as a high priority, and we're very excited to be awarded this funding that will make this trail a reality.

Winter Trails Areas Not Open to Public Access:

Many of the winter trails we groom for skiing are on private property, and those areas are not open to the public outside of winter. We're asking people to please refrain from walking in these areas, especially the Sparrow Farm Field and other areas on either side of North St. We had a wonderful ski season this year, and our hopes to repeat it next year depend on maintaining positive relationships with landowners. Staying off these areas in the non-winter months is an important part of respecting their wishes. Luckily, winter will be here again before we know it!

April is National Volunteer Month!

And MSAC runs on volunteers. From those serving on the Advisory Council to those delivering FEAST Meals on Wheels to our homebound neighbors, without the generosity of these individuals giving their time, energy and expertise, MSAC wouldn't be able to do a fraction of what it does. Especially this past year, when required to pivot to new, pandemic-safe procedures in a short period of time, hundreds of folks have stepped up, and we really can't express our gratitude enough to all of them!

According to The Independent Sector, in 2020 volunteers were valued at a rate of \$27.20 per hour. In the past

year, MSAC had roughly 220 volunteers—from those who volunteer once to those who volunteer regularly. For each volunteer who serves an hour per week, the value is over \$1,400, and many volunteer multiple hours per week. For our estimated 10,000 hours of volunteerism per year, that's well over \$272,000 worth of time donated in a single year!

In no particular order, a non-comprehensive list of the folks who volunteered this past year include:

Advisory Council members	March for Meals presenters
Fundraising Committee members	Drop-in group facilitators
Program Committee members	Class instructors
Finance Committee members	Wellness callers
Annual Survey creators	Mailing/newsletter volunteers
FEAST Meals on Wheels drivers	Document proof-readers/editors
Kitchen and dishwashing help	Technology assistants/tutors
FEAST Curbside Pick-up Meal distributors	Outdoor chore volunteers

MSAC will be creating a comprehensive list of all the individuals who volunteered this past year in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

“How to Use Zoom” Free Trainings

How to Use Zoom - 101

Tuesday, April 13 | 1—2 pm

Join MSAC's AmeriCorps member Andrew Gribbin to learn the fundamentals of Zoom. Topics will include an overview of Zoom functions, including using the mute/ unmute buttons, turning your video on/off, using the chat function, and more. Whether you've never been on Zoom or would like a chance to practice the fundamentals, this training is for you! Contact Andrew at 262- 6287 or email msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org to register.

How to Use Zoom - 201

Thursday, April 29 | 10—11 am

Have you been on Zoom enough to know the basics but want to learn more? Join MSAC's AmeriCorps member Andrew Gribbin to take the next step in your Zoom knowledge. This training will discuss how to schedule your own Zoom meeting, how to use the screen share function, save the chat notes, and more. Contact Andrew at 262-6287 or email msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org to register for this new training designed to enhance your understanding of Zoom beyond the basics.

Poetry & Music are Sprouting!

Poetry Reading and Music with Scudder Parker and D. Davis

Friday, April 16 | 1:00—2:00 pm | online | Free

Please join us! Scudder Parker, poet and author of *Safe as Lightning*, his award-winning first volume, and D. Davis, composer and performer, from his album *Hopeful*, will present together for your listening enjoyment. It's been a long winter...and an even longer year of pandemic. But Spring is coming, and we hope COVID is on the run. Let's celebrate an hour of verse and music with our local artists. To sign up and get the Zoom link or phone number to call, contact msac@montpelier-vt.org or call 223- 2518. Free and open to all!

New FEAST Brochure!

FEAST Senior Meals has a new brochure! Please [click here](#) to view, download and share with anyone in your world who needs to know more about the FEAST Senior Meals program. Thank you for helping us spread the word and ensure that you are part of the food-solution for the seniors in your life!

Recipe from FEAST Kitchen Available

Willow Barbero from the FEAST Kitchen decided to offer us a light, refreshing spring salad recipe this month: **Farro Salad**. All of the ingredients can be sourced locally, and we encourage you to make this dish this season! [Click here](#) to see recipe.

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.



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

City Staff Providing Testimony	Bill or Testimony Topic	Description	Notes
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, MPD	Senate 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

HOTEL/GARAGE PROJECT

As you know, we received word last week that Hilton was withdrawing their sponsorship of the proposed Hampton Inn/Parking Garage project. We are evaluating the impact of that decision and carefully looking at all options for how to proceed next.

Cummings Street Reconstruction & Main Street Water Line Replacement:

DPW received the preliminary engineering design from the consultant. Staff is reviewing the design/permitting documents to submit to the State of Vermont for approval. Currently anticipating construction starting in June/July.

State Street Sewer and Drainage Project:

Staff has received the preliminary engineering design for this project. City staff is working with the engineering consultant to perform smoke testing this week and help finalize the design plans. Once this project has completed final design, we will be advertising for bids. The responsible employer ordinance will be incorporated within this project.

Crack Sealing:

Bids were opened for City crack sealing with Indus being the low bidder. This project is on the consent agenda for Council approval on 4/14. Start date is unknown at this time.

Pavement Markings:

Bids were opened for City wide pavement markings with Fresh Coat being the low bidder. This work is anticipated to occur in May and be completed by mid-June.

Streets Division:

This week in the streets division crews spent time sweeping City sidewalks and streets, grading dirt roads, cleaning dirt and debris from the road shoulders, painting stop bars, and performing catch basin cleaning. Next week all of the same work will continue, along with putting out the "Yield to pedestrian" signs in the crosswalks and installing the downtown benches and other amenities.

Water/Sewer Division:

This week in the water/sewer division crews spent time finishing up the restoration on Murray Hill, cleaned sewer manholes and catch basins, and addressed water meter issues.

Hydrant Flushing:

Next week the water/sewer division will begin flushing City fire hydrants. In the event that you experience dirt water, leave a cold water faucet running until the line clears. Work is anticipated to take 2-3 weeks to complete.

Pavement Patching of Water Leaks:

Over the past few weeks several holes in the pavement have occurred from water leaks. The asphalt plant will be opening on 4/19/2021. Once the plant opens, crews will be working on addressing all of the pavement patching needs that are outstanding.

Water Resource Recovery Facility Upgrade:

A substantial completion punch list has been provided to the contractor those items are being addressed. This week the new Ultra-Violet disinfection channel gates were installed. The project is anticipated to be completed towards the end of the month.

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!



Thoughtfully Planned Built Environment

Parklets

You can find the parklet application on the city's website [here](#).

Permits have been granted to Three Penny Taproom, Positive Pie, and J. Morgans. Two more applications are pending and should have action by tomorrow.

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.



Employment and Personnel Announcements

January and February 2021 continued the success of the City's "Above & Beyond" Employee Recognition Award program. To explain the program briefly, the Above & Beyond program awards a \$50 bonus to an individual City employee that has demonstrated exceptional dedication in upholding the City's values while exhibiting exemplary behavior and going 'above and beyond' in their position.

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

We are finishing going through the small backlog of nominations, and are presenting both January and February 2021 recipients: Geoff Wilson & Paul Grant.

Geoff Wilson

Geoff Wilson, our Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator in our DPW Department, has been working for the City for coming up to 25 years. His nominator discussed how Geoff leads by example, and that he takes huge pride in his job. He always keeps resident safety at the forefront of his mind, which is why he's been nominated for the A&B Award. His nominator highlighted that in the face of COVID-19, he went above and beyond in setting up a new split shift system for the Water Plant to ensure operator continuity and safety. Geoff was thanked for being such a great example for his team, and for putting care for people first in all he does.

Paul Grant

Paul Grant, a truck driver for our DPW Streets Division, and was nominated twice! Both nominations highlighted Paul's dedication to plowing the sidewalks through this difficult winter with a smile on his face. His nominators also discussed how Paul is often asked to go above and beyond his job description by working across divisions without complaint-mentioning that he has recently needed to help out overnight with our Water/Sewer divisions to address water leaks.

Geoff and Paul's commitment and dedication to the City and the residents of Montpelier is commendable. Thank you to Geoff and Paul, this month and always!

Municipal Job Openings:

- Afterschool Age Childcare Director. 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 | • Diapers | liquid) |
| • Baby wipes | • Cat litter | • Bandages |
| • Moist towelettes | • Cigarette butts | • Cotton balls |
| • Cosmetics and cosmetic wipes | • Dental floss | • Food scrapes |
| • Cloth or paper napkins | • Latex gloves | • Swiffer pads |
| • Shop towels | • Hypodermic needles | • Plastic of any kind |
| • Condoms | • Facial tissues | |
| • Tampons and pads | • Fats, oils or grease | |
| | • Clothing or rags | |
| | • Medications (pills or | |

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.</p> <p>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
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<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 CJs provide.

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