

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
8/2/21	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
8/3	Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee	6:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
8/4	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	City Hall Council Chambers and Via Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

COVID-19 Updates:

At the most recent press conference this week, the Governor and his team [shared data](#) that shows Vermont remains first among States in percentage of residents who have received at least a first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine, with nearly 84% of eligible Vermonters now vaccinated. However, there has been a rise of cases amongst the unvaccinated, by mid-August, the State's modeling projects at least 50 infections each day- which is why it's important to get your shots! Find an appointment [here](#).

We expect that the State will announce masking rules for Vermont public schools next week.



Environmental Stewardship

Montpelier Parks & Outdoor Recreation Survey

Montpelier Alive and the City of Montpelier Community Services Department are seeking feedback from residents that will help guide the development of parks and outdoor recreation in Montpelier for the next decade. They have released an online survey as part of a project to enhance recreational access and equity and harness outdoor recreation to boost economic development in Montpelier. The survey is available online at www.montpelieralive.org/survey.

The survey is open to anyone, regardless of town of residence, and takes about ten minutes to complete. This survey is focused on how people use Montpelier's Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities. Anyone who completes this survey can enter to win one of 20 \$25 gift certificates to Montpelier businesses.

The survey is part of a collaboration between Montpelier Parks and Montpelier Alive to develop higher quality outdoor recreation facilities that both serve residents and attract visitors to town. The project is made possible by a grant from Ten Minute Walk and the Trust for Public Land.



Responsive and Responsible Government

ARPA Funding New

We received excellent news this week that county funding for Vermont will be re-allocated to municipalities. We have not received details of the final amounts but suspect it will be close to our original funding estimates. Once we know the formal amounts we will return to the Council for consideration of use. Due to the projected length of the 8/18 meeting, I am moving discussion of the \$50,000 "on hold" until 8/25.

Collective Bargaining Update

We made very significant progress with both the Fire/EMS and DPW unions this past week. The Fire contract is in final draft and review stage. It should be ready to come to Council on either 8/18 or 8/25. DPW negotiations are down to a couple of final issues. It is possible that they could be ready for 8/25 as well. Police Supervisor and Patrol negotiations have gone well. Due to schedules, though, we won't be meeting again until 8/24 so any potential Council ratification will be in September at the earliest.

We are beginning a review of compensation for all non union employees as well.

Upcoming Council Meetings New

We will all enjoy the break until August 18th. Please note, though, that the meetings on both the 18th and 25th will be very full with some substantive issues. You may want to plan for slightly longer than usual sessions. We are still holding September 8th for Strategic Planning only.



More Housing

Homelessness New

DCF Commissioner Sean Brown will attend the next City Council meeting to discuss the State's plans and strategies regarding homelessness. It's possible that this conversation will be tied in with the encampment policy but will occur regardless of whether the policy is ready to be brought forward again on that date.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Encampment Policy Update

Conversation continues about the proposed encampment response policy which can be found on the city's website here. City Council, Parks Commissioners, and the Homelessness Task Force will be continuing to offer opportunities for public engagement and feedback at their next meetings.

City Hall Lobby Library

The City is creating a more welcoming lobby for people waiting for buses or appointments, and have now installed a community bookshelf! Folks are welcome to borrow or take a book or two, and if you have spare books you are willing to donate- there is still space left on the shelves!

Planning Commission Meeting Canceled 8.9.21

Due to vacations, the next Planning Commission meeting, originally scheduled for August 9, has been cancelled. The next regular Planning Commission meeting will resume on August 23 at 5:30PM. Their usual schedule is to meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 5:30PM. The Planning Commission continues to meet remotely with an in person option in City Council for anyone who wants to take advantage of that option. The Zoom link for meetings can be found on the Planning Commission agendas on the City website calendar.

Community Services Department Updates

American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Senior Center | Saturday, August 7, 9am-2pm | at 58 Barre Street.

Appointment reservations are low, so please help spread the word! Interested blood donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "Montpelier" to schedule an appointment. (Don't contact the senior center to set up appointments.)

Community Dance Lab with Alana Phinney, August 10 & 17, 9:00-10:30am

This is open to the general public age 9+, and costs just \$15 for MSAC members or \$30 for non-members, with financial aid is available. [Click here for MSAC's registration form](#) and options for many more classes, too, or call 223-2518 with questions. In this two-day workshop on the State House Lawn, accessible to all bodies and abilities, we will use movement as our primary language and co-create a new dance! We will use improvisation to generate ideas, choice-making, discovering connection, and a sense of belonging in our new group. We will be a playful dancing ensemble for the time we are together and create a new collective story! And, in the end, we'll all have a dance we can take with us and 'share forward' with friends and family! Folding chairs will be available for those who prefer or need to dance seated. Age 12 and under requires adult accompaniment. To learn more about Alana and Park Dancing: <https://www.alanarancourtphinney.com/park-dancing>.

Free Weekly Drop-in Groups Galore!

Along with pre-registered class series, over a dozen drop-in groups have already resumed in-person at the Senior Center at 58 Barre Street and/or outside, while others continue online. See descriptions on Senior Center website [here](#), and contact the office if you have questions. These free activities are open to the general public and include:

- **Walks with Joan**, Mondays, 9:15am, location varies. (Email barrettsvt@gmail.com to get on the list for notification of meetup location each week).
- **Ad-hoc Writers**, Monday nights online. (To get more information about times and zoom link, contact hugo@liepmann.us.)
- **Swingin' Over Sixty Band**, Tuesdays, 10am-12pm, re-start date at MSAC TBD, currently practicing off-site.
- **Trash Tramps**, Tuesdays, 2pm, meet in MSAC Courtyard 1:45pm. (Email saddleshoes2@gmail.com to get on the notification list.)
- **Photography Club Walks with Linda**, Wednesdays, 9am, meet outside MSAC. (Email paragraphics@pshift.com to get on the notification list).
- **Crafters Groups**, Wednesdays 12-2:30pm at MSAC; 5-7pm at Hubbard Park New Shelter with Notion Crafts.
- **Italian Group**, Tuesdays 1:15-2:30 pm at MSAC. (Interested? Email stevecbailey@gmail.com to learn more.)
- **Rainbow Umbrella Group**, Biweekly Wednesdays, 5:30-7pm (For information including upcoming dates and links, email womendiscuss@gmail.com.)
- **Book Discussion Group**, 2nd Thursdays, 5-6pm, online (skipping August, September title is *Braiding Sweet Grass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. (Interested?

Please call Barbara Dall at 229-4870.)

- **Montpelier Ukulele Players**, biweekly Thursday nights, 6:15-7:30pm, incl. 8/5, at MSAC. (Email barrettsvt@gmail.com to get on the notification list.)
- **Elders Together**, Monday, August 16, 1-2:30pm at MSAC. (Email maryalicebisbee@gmail.com or call 223-8140 for more information, to RSVP and request carpooling.)
- **Mah Johng**, Mondays, 12-3pm; Fridays, 10am-3pm
- **Bridge**, Thursdays, 12:30-3:45pm
- **Scrabble & other table-games**, Tuesdays, 1-3pm
- **Show & Tell**, Fridays, 12:45pm

FEAST Farm Camp

August 9—13 | 9 am—1 pm | The Community Services Department invites kids ages 7-10 to join us in growing food for our neighbors. Together we will immerse ourselves in the daily cycles of farming for a one-week session. During the week, we will plant, harvest, and taste our way through the farm. We'll also explore the surrounding ecosystem, and discover the biodiversity that helps support the food we eat. To learn more about the FEAST Farm, click [here](#). To find Camp Registration Form, click [here](#).

Parkapalooza Summer Concert Series continues at Hubbard Park!

The City of Montpelier's Community Services Department invites all to Parkapalooza, Hubbard Park's Free Summer Concert Series. This family-friendly, outdoor concert series is held at the Tuning Forks Stage in Hubbard Park and features live music from talented local and regional bands. The events are held **every Thursday from 5:30-7:30 pm for five more weeks**, with music beginning at 6pm. The musical lineup includes:

- ◆ 8/5: Nina Sklar and the Weather Birds
- ◆ 8/12: High Summer
- ◆ 8/19: Patti Casey and the Wicked Fine Players
- ◆ TO be rescheduled: Barika & Sabouyouma (cancelled 7/8 & 7/29 due to weather)

Each event also features the Park's 100' long slip 'n slide (weather permitting), and plenty of space to roam and play outside in Hubbard Park. Parking is inside Hubbard Park, accessible via Winter St., Spring St., or Corse St. in Montpelier. Concert-goers are encouraged to walk or carpool when possible. The events are offered free to the community, but donations will be accepted at various locations! This year's Parkapalooza is BYO everything, so bring whatever food and drink you need to keep yourself satisfied and consider these as "carry-in, carry-out" Park events.

Parkapalooza sponsorship is by the following local businesses: **Presenting Sponsors:** Caledonia Spirits Distillery, Community National Bank, Hunger Mountain Co-op, Isham-Berwick Insurance, Vermont State Employees Credit Union. **Supporting Sponsors:** AroMed, Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Montpelier Construction, Noyle Johnson Group, Onion River Outdoors, Sarducci's Restaurant, Union Mutual Insurance and Vermont Compost.

[Montpelier City Pool](#) Passes and Swim Lessons are still on sale, and next week is the start of next session of swim lessons!

Daily Pool pass prices, schedules, FAQs and closure announcements can be found on

the [Pool webpage](#) or by reaching out to the Recreation Department at 802-225-8699 or email nmaurice@montpelier-vt.org.

MSAC is Hiring: Apply now for a September start Americorps position: Aging in Place Coordinator

The position improves quality of life for area older adults by (1) participating in development for the newly established MSAC at Home program, based on the “Village” models successful in other communities around the state and country (2) assisting MSAC’s thriving FEAST Senior Meals Program, and (3) assisting seniors in accessing technology through development of MSAC’s new tech-device lending library. You can find all the details and application instructions at: <http://bit.ly/36FBTzm>. Please spread the word about this great position offering professional development, a stipend, rental subsidy, and the chance to serve the community in vital ways!

FEAST Senior Meals Program of MSAC:

Eat Inside with Us!

All are welcome to pick up a Curbside meal on Tuesdays and Fridays to eat inside with us. Not only do we have the opportunity to eat inside together again, but there are wonderful volunteers supporting us, including the youth serving at the FEAST Farm through the Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps, as well as favorite volunteers from times past: Jeanne Felmly, Cathy White, Tina Muncy, Laura Morse, Finbar and more! Simply pickup your meal outside or inside between 12 and 12:30, and come sit down with us. Volunteers will be on hand to offer you water and collect your silverware. Enjoy your meal AND each other’s company again! 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 [here](#). Suggested donations are \$5-\$10, and the fee is \$7-10 if you’re under age 60. Please call to make your reservation: 262-6288 or email us at: feast@montpelier-vt.org. Reservations are not required to get meals.

Social Media Volunteer for FEAST

Do you have some extra time on your hands and some skill with writing? FEAST is looking for some help with managing our Facebook page. If you are interested, please reach out to Sarah Lipton at 262-6288.

Volunteer for FEAST

As we ramp back up to serving meals inside and delivering daily hot meals, we are going to need a lot more help again. If you or someone you know is interested in helping us bring nutritious, delicious meals to seniors who need them, please let us know by calling or emailing us: 802-262-6288, feast@montpelier-vt.org. We are seeking the following:

- Meals on Wheels Drivers
- FEAST Curbside Picnic Volunteers
- FEAST Special Events Volunteers
- FEAST Farm Support

Meals on Wheels is available to Montpelier and Berlin residents over 60 who need it. Our fabulous volunteers deliver a bulk pack of locally prepared frozen meals once a week, and we work to offer pandemic-safe social engagement and nutrition education too. There is no charge for meals, but donations are gladly accepted. If you or someone you know would benefit from receiving our delicious and nutritious meals on wheels, just call us at the FEAST office: 262-6288 or email us at: feast@montpelier-vt.org.



Sustainable Infrastructure

Public Restrooms update

The Council has appointed a special committee to look at this issue and make recommendations. Assistant City Manager Cameron Niedermayer will be the staff for this committee.



Thoughtfully Planned Built Environment

Guertin Park, 12-16 Main Street Long Term Use Update

As discussed at the last Council meeting, the Guertin Park structure will be moved to 12-16 Main Street as soon as feasible, currently planned for the week of August 9th. Other Art installations will be placed in this area as well.

Conversation about the longer term uses of this property will be held later this fall.



Employment and Personnel Announcements

Montpelier Senior Activity Center Director Hiring

After receiving eight qualified applications, the hiring committee had narrowed down the selection and interviewed two finalists. Both finalists are returning to interview with the Montpelier Senior Activity Center Advisory Council and the City's Leadership Team next week. More information on this hiring process will be shared soon!

Municipal Job Openings:

- **Police Department- Patrol Officers:** The Patrol Officer is responsible for the efficient performance of required duties in conformance with the laws and the Department's rules, regulations and policies. Duties shall consist of, but are not necessarily limited to, a number of general police responsibilities necessarily

necessary to the stability and safety of the community. For applications and more information, click [here](#) or email recruiting@montpelier-vt.org.

- **Staff Accountant:** The professional in this position will be responsible for accounts payable and receivable functions, construction project accounting, grant management as well as submission of state and federal fund reimbursement requests for more information click [here](#).
- **Emergency Services Dispatcher/Clerk:** This full-time career position involves the appropriate call handling of both emergency and non-emergency requests for police, fire, and emergency medical services, and determining the nature and urgency of those calls. For more information click [here](#).
- **Seasonal Park/Recreation Maintenance Staff.** Mowing, driving tractors, maintaining sports fields, keeping parks and facilities clean. This is a busy, hands-on physical job that requires some heavy lifting and being on your feet for long periods of time. Visit <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/869/Employment> for more information about the positions available and how to apply. Or call 225-8699, 9am-4pm to inquire.
- **PAID lifeguard, seasonal maintenance and other positions** are available – preferred deadline for applications is ASAP to help us prepare for our early July opening. Learn more at the Rec website employment page: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/869/Employment>



Reminders

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 see City Council Meetings: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council>
- Click here for Live Stream: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>

Thank you,

William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

8/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness (possibly encampment policy) • VEIC Net Zero Report • Social Economic Justice Committee Report • Traffic Calming (MTIC) • District Heat Rates - consent 	8/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Committee Report • Stormwater Utility discussion • Stormwater Master Plan • Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Update • ARPA Funds • 4th Quarter Strategic Plan Update • Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan
9/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Session 	9/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Agenda • Adopt Strategic Plan • Economic Development? • 12-16 Main Street Update? • Rec Center Update
10/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st quarter financials • FY23 Budget Process 	10/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Season meeting calendar

? = Date is tentative, may shift to a different date

PENDING ITEMS

CVPSA Report

Park Land Purchase

MAPA for Zoning – joint meeting with Planning Commission and DRB

Conduit Policy

Housing Task Force Report follow up

WRRF Dryer Update

City Master Plan