

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
9/27	Planning Commission	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
9/28	ADA Committee	10:00 AM	Memorial Room and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
9/29	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
9/30	Planning Commission Special Meeting	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>



## Public Health and Safety

### **COVID-19 Response- Updated**

**New:** More than 300 people in Vermont have now died from COVID-19. Vermont passed a grim pandemic milestone this week, surpassing more than 300 coronavirus-linked deaths since the pandemic began.

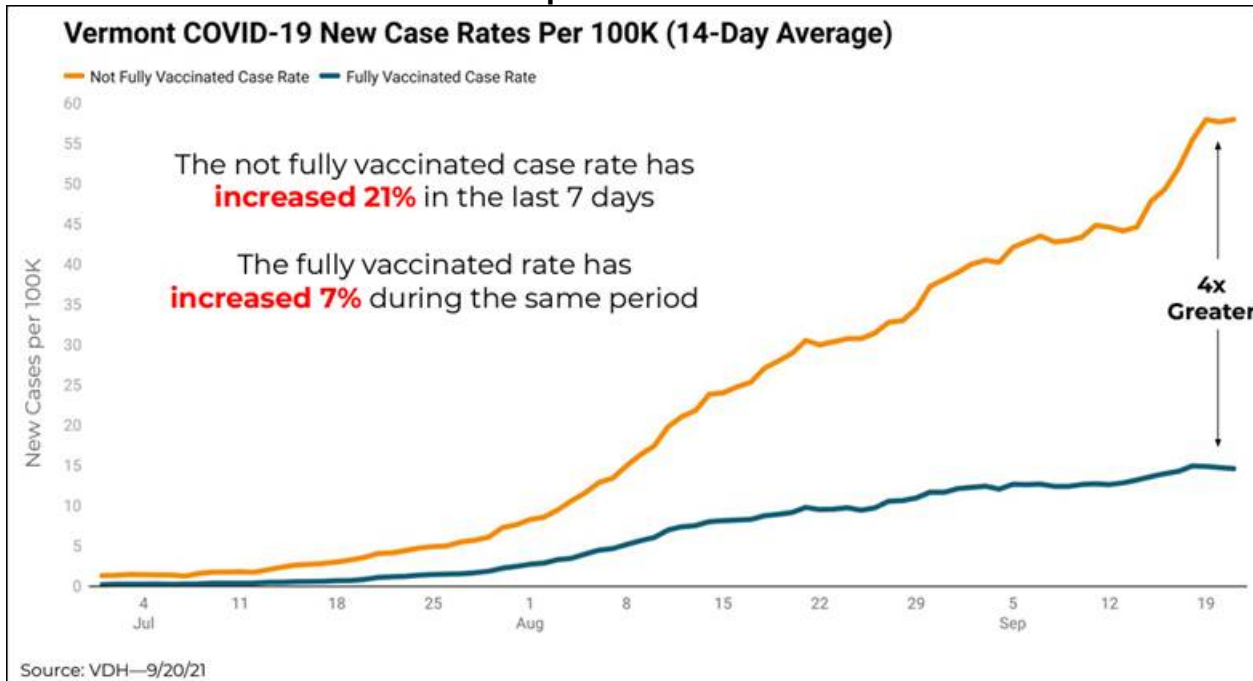
**New:** Gov. Phil Scott announced during his weekly press briefing Tuesday that he'll grant a 30-day extension for the general assistance emergency housing program.

**New:** As of yesterday, Vermonters age 80+ will be able to sign up for Pfizer booster shots starting Friday, September 24, 2021, at 8:15 a.m. Over the next week, eligibility for the additional COVID-19 vaccine will gradually be extended to those ages 65+. Appointments for booster vaccinations will open up at 8:15 a.m. on the following days for the following groups, the Governor's office said:

- Friday, Sept. 24 — 80 years and older
- Monday, Sept. 27 — 75 years and older
- Wednesday, Sept. 29 — 70 years and older
- Friday, Oct. 1 — 65 years and older

**New:** The State has updated their [weekly COVID-19 Data report](#), which continues to show that Vermont's COVID-19 cases are rising- saying that "Vermont's 7-day average increased to a new high".

They report that the COVID-19 case rate in the unvaccinated population has increased **21%** in the last 7 days, while the case rate in people who are vaccinated has increased **7%** in the same time-period.



The report states that you are almost 4x more likely to be seriously ill and hospitalized if you are unvaccinated if you get sick with COVID-19 than someone who is fully vaccinated- and that hospitalizations are increasing 2x as fast as those who are fully vaccinated.

There has also been an upswing in COVID-19 cases in the ages of 0-11 years old. Also, Vermonters 20-29 have contracted COVID-19 more than any other age group. Age does not protect you from getting symptomatic and dangerous COVID19. The CDC reports that Washington County has a [High Level of Community Transmission](#) and they recommend that everyone in Washington County should wear a mask in public, indoor settings.

It is imperative you get your vaccinations to protect yourself and others! Find an appointment [here](#). Visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) to make an appointment.

### School COVID-19 Updates:

The Agency of Education announced an extension to the length of the universal masking requirement in schools to October 4. [An updated advisory memo is available on the Agency of Education's COVID resources page.](#)

Cases in the schools are also on the rise- the elevated case counts in the community are passing to the schools.

### City of Montpelier Mask Policy Updates:

As a reminder, the City Council has implemented a mask wearing requirement for all visitors to City facilities, regardless of a person's vaccination status.



## Environmental Stewardship

### **Net Zero Action Plan Final Report**

The Net Zero Action Plan was developed for the City of Montpelier in close collaboration with several City departments, the School District, and the Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee (MEAC). The purpose of the action plan is to lay out a realistic pathway to achieving the goal of net zero energy by the year 2030 without being overly prescriptive. This action plan provides helpful information that can be used to develop the necessary strategies to dramatically reduce and eventually eliminate fossil fuel use. The final report can be found [here](#).

### **Burying the Bodies with Patrick Healy**

Our very own Patrick Healy of Green Mount Cemetery presented a course to the Vermont Municipal Clerk and Treasurer's Association at their annual conference on Thursday afternoon. Patrick is a New England Cemetery Certified Cemeterian and he explained general state laws on cemeteries as well as educated them on Green Burials, Cremations, and Home Burials.

### **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**

On Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at their regular meeting, Council approved and adopted the City's 2021 Updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The adopted LHMP has been submitted to Vermont Emergency Management, who will submit the plan for final approval by FEMA. The City will update the Council and the community when the plan has been accepted and approved by FEMA.



## Responsive and Responsible Government

### **Collective Bargaining - update**

With the approval of contracts this week, we have concluded bargaining with all four unions. We will next bargain with DPW and the two Police Unions in 2024 and Fire in 2025. We are undertaking a review of compensation for all nonunion employees as well.

### **Strategic Planning Process Continues: Updated**

The Council met this Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> to continue their discussion around priorities for their FY22-23 City Council Strategic Plan. They received a draft of overall

vision and mission statements to discuss at their next meeting, and went into depth voting for their prioritized Strategies. The top strategies were as follows:

1. Goal: Improve Community Prosperity
  - a. Goal: Actively Support Economic Development and Promote Outdoor Economic Development
2. Goal: Provide Responsible and Engaged Government
  - a. Strategy: Communicate Effectively
3. Goal: Create More Housing
  - a. Strategy: Increase Available Housing Units
4. Goal: Practice Good Environmental Stewardship
  - a. Strategy: Promote Conservation of River, Water and Land Resources
  - b. Strategy: Address Climate Change issues
5. Goal: Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure
  - a. Strategy: Address New or Improved Infrastructure Needs
  - b. Strategy: Implement Long-term DPW/Infrastructure Plans
  - c. Strategy: Continue Infrastructure Funding Strategies
6. Goal: Improve Public Health and Safety
  - a. Strategy: Address Homelessness in the community
  - b. Strategy: Provide Policing which fits Montpelier's needs and Effective Mental Health

The City's Leadership Team will continue to meet and flesh out these Strategies with proposed initiatives. The Council will prioritize the Initiatives that fall under these Goals and Strategies at their next meeting.

### **General Business Responses– Updates**

**9/22**

- The **restroom committee** has, indeed, not met. It would be appropriate for this committee to consider the use of City Hall and/or Transit Center restrooms and related costs for each of those options.
- **Guertin Park** structure was power-washed Tuesday and will be moved after 9/29. The remaining grounds will be cleared and cleaned once the structure is moved.
- Perceived issues with the **Guertin Park structure and the Art Installation** have been addressed and resolved.
- I met with Council Member Bate to discuss the **CVPSA public records request** that was referenced. CVPSA is the agency who needs to respond.
- A few days ago Mr. Whitaker reported to our office that he had observed what he believed to be **human feces in the so called Confluence Park area**. He was told by our office that we may need advice or assistance about biohazard handling. Both the Assistant City Manager and the Public Works Director, separately but both promptly after the report, visited the site and found no evidence of any feces. A little later Mr. Whitaker reported to the Manager's office that "someone" had removed the matter so it was no longer a problem. Two observations: 1) Mr. Whitaker said he did not know who removed the matter yet

accused the city of doing nothing. For all he knew, the city removed it. 2) No one else but Mr. Whitaker reported this, two city officials checked it out quickly, and no feces was found. It is possible that it never existed in the first place.



## Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

### **Advanced Interview Training Workshop**

This week, the Montpelier Police Department has hosted an Advanced Interview Training workshop in Montpelier with officers, deputies and investigators from police agencies throughout the state. The training was provided by Mark Anderson of Anderson Investigative Services at <https://andersoninvestigative.com/>. Mark has a wealth of knowledge and experience coming from his years of service with multiple agencies including the U.S. Department of Justice, the DOJ Inspector General, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

On behalf of MPD, we want to thank Mark and Cathy Anderson for better preparing us to provide unparalleled trauma-informed, professional law enforcement services to our community! We also want to thank the officers, investigators and deputies who attended the training and their respective agencies for the commitment to allowing them to be here. They were an outstanding group of people and we are glad to serve along side of them in service to Vermont!

### **Community Services Department- Updates/New**

#### **Community Services Department Shared Items / Collaborations**

### **Volunteers needed for Senior Center, Parks, and Recreation**

Current volunteer needs include: people with carpentry, wall-patching and painting skills, Savoy DVD archive monitors, people willing to help with Fall outdoor chores and vegetable harvesting, technology tutors, meals on wheels drivers and kitchen assistance.

### **Indoor and Outdoor Space Rentals available with Senior Center, FEAST Kitchen, Parks and Recreation**

Trying to resume pandemic-paused group meet-up or schedule a one-time special event or meeting? We have affordable indoor and outdoor spaces in many shapes and locations, some with audio-visual available. We also rent out our fully licensed commercial kitchen when not in use for FEAST senior meals production. To learn more or request space at Community Services Department facilities, visit <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/337/Facility-Rentals> or call 225-8699. Masking required indoors in all city facilities by all people at this time, regardless of vaccine status.

## Montpelier Parks & Trees Division items

### Preparing for Winter Walk

Saturday, October 16, 10:00am (rain date, 10/17)

Easy to moderate walk led by Naturalist Gail Johnson. No need to register; just show up! Meet at the New Shelter in Hubbard Park.

### Learn more about the Hubbard Park Expansion Project: Two events

We have the opportunity to add 80 acres to Hubbard Park this year. Join Parks staff and Parks Commission members to hear the details and ask questions about this exciting opportunity!

- Tuesday, October 12, 7:30pm on Zoom
- Wednesday, October 13, 5:30pm at MSAC, 58 Barre Street.
- Zoom link and more details will be posted by October 5.

### Enchanted Forest at Hubbard Park

Friday, October 29 & Saturday, October 30

Our family-friendly, enchanting event featuring a candlelit walk, art, music and more, in partnership with All Together Now, is on! Ticket sales will be online and at the Community Services office at 58 Barre Street starting by October 4. Check the website here for updates and a link to tickets soon, which sell out fast: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1188/Upcoming-Events>

### Parks Crew needs help on the FEAST Farm!

Even though summer is slowing down, veggies growing at Feast Farm are not! Please [join us for volunteer work days](#), every Wednesday morning (9am-12pm) until the season is over. We will be working on harvesting produce for the FEAST Senior Meals Program, the Montpelier Food Pantry, as well as the Montpelier-Roxbury School "Backpack Program." We'll also be preparing for winter by planting cover crops. We have tasks for folks of all ages and abilities!

Please sign up for a time slot [HERE](#). No need to stay for the whole time, but it's helpful for us to know how many people will be joining. Directions to the farm are on the spreadsheet. Feel free to email Jacqueline at [jhuettenmoser@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:jhuettenmoser@montpelier-vt.org) with questions.

### Parkapalooza Summer Concert Series continues at Hubbard Park for one more event!

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 **Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 pm**, with music beginning at 6pm. The remaining musical lineup includes:

- ◆ 9/23: Barika (rescheduled from July rain cancellation)

## Montpelier Recreation Division items

## Recreation's Annual Ski & Skate Sale

At the time of publishing, we were waiting on confirmation of a decision about whether this October event will take place or not this year. Please check our website [www.montpelier-vt.org/rec](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/rec) for updates, stop by 58 Barre Street or contact the office at 225-8699.

## Tae Kwon Do Classes for Youth & Adults!

Beginners who want to learn the art of Tae Kwon Do are welcome and encouraged to join these instructional classes offered twice a week for ten weeks with instructor Matthew Girouard. Classes are Mondays & Thursdays, 9/9-12/20 (skip 10/11, 11/25), 5:30-6:30pm at Montpelier Recreation Gym, 55 Barre Street. Fee: \$84 for residents, \$126 for non-residents. Sign up by visiting the Montpelier Recreation website or calling 225-8699. Online registration: Event code 2526A.

**Tennis Clinics (ages 6-9, 10-13) continue** Montpelier Recreation's popular youth tennis clinics return during afterschool hours this Fall! Find more information and registration forms by visiting our website at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1110/Montpelier-Youth-Sports> or calling 225-8699.

## Capital Kids Afterschool Childcare Program still has space for kids from all towns!

To learn more about our affordable, state-licensed program with subsidies and available 2:30-5:30pm throughout the school year, visit <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1186/After-School-Childcare>, call the office at 802-225-8699 or email [nmaurice@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:nmaurice@montpelier-vt.org) with questions.

## Montpelier Senior Activity Center Division items

### Osher Lifelong Learning Returns to MSAC!

#### **“Spirits” with “Banjo” Dan Lindner, Musician**

Wednesday, Sept. 29 | 1:30-3:00pm | In-person

#### **“Heart and Eyes: A Lens on the World” with Elliot Burg, Photographer**

Wednesday, October 6 | 1:30-3:00pm | In-person

Limited seating for COVID safety. Advance registration is required at: [learn.uvm.edu/olli/centralvt](http://learn.uvm.edu/olli/centralvt) or phone 802-656-5817. Price is \$8/session or \$20 for these two programs and three films Nov.-Dec. To learn more about OSHER and other Fall in-person and online programs, visit <https://learn.uvm.edu/program/osher-lifelong-learning/olli-statewide/central-vermont/>

### **Got smartphone or iPad Questions? Technology Tutor Available at MSAC!**

**Next session: Friday afternoons, October 1, 3:30-4:30**

Local high school student, Russell Clar, is available for twenty-minute appointments at

Montpelier Senior Activity Center to assist seniors with smartphone set-up, settings adjustments, email questions, Google Docs, photo-editing, or bring other questions/needs and he'll do his best to help! To reserve a slot or get your name on a future list, call the MSAC main office at 223-2518 or email [msac@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:msac@montpelier-vt.org).

### **The Anti-Inflammatory Diet**

with Lisa Mase | on Zoom | 1 Tuesday, 10/5 | 1:30pm - 3:00pm | Open to public | Ages 15+ | \$20 member / \$25 public

We will explore the common causes of inflammation and learn which foods are best for reducing and eliminating it. We will prepare and sample anti-inflammatory recipes and leave with inspiration for healthy cooking. Sign up at MSAC or online at

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/751/Classes>.

### **VT Home Energy Profile Clinics**

Friday, Oct. 8 OR Oct. 22 | 4:00-5:30pm | Free | in-person at 58 Barre Street

Mayor Anne Watson and the Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee, together with Efficiency VT and the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership, bring you this free clinic from MSAC's Community Room. The clinic will be most effective if you bring your own laptop or other device.

The VT Home Energy Profile is a useful tool to help homeowners assess the energy efficiency of their own home. It's generated either by answering questions about the home or by entering utility bill information. In the end, there are some recommendations to homeowners about next steps they may take to make their home more efficient. This workshop will assist attendees in filling out survey questions to get a VT Home Energy Profile for their homes, making sure it makes sense and is done correctly. To learn more:

<https://www.netzeromontpelier.org/home-energy-information-ordinance>

To pre-register and receive electronic resources via email in advance, email [msac@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:msac@montpelier-vt.org) or call 802-223-2518 by the Wednesday prior to each event (10/6, 10/20), indicating the date you will attend and your mailing address or email address for materials distribution before or after clinics.

### **38 weekly Adult and Youth Fall Classes with Montpelier Senior Activity Center: Register Now!**

38 classes begin in-person and online the week of September 27. See newsletter, <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/751/Classes>, stop by 58 Barre Street or call 223-2518 for details! Featured classes include Film Appreciation with Rick Winston, Opera Appreciation with Erik Nielsen, Pastels with Jeneane Lunn, Great Decisions Current Events, Moving for Parkinson's & Other Neuro-Movement Challenges, and a new Slow Jam Drop-in group for Music-making. You'll also find a dozen yoga classes in various levels, five series of our popular Bone Builders, Qigong, Tai Chi, Painting, Drawing, Digital Photography, Writing, Poetry workshop, Pilates, Somatic Movement, Anti-Inflammatory Nutrition Workshop and more!



## **FEAST Veggie Fiesta: You are Invited to Volunteer in the Kitchen!**

Montpelier's FEAST Farm has grown above and beyond...and the Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) is seeking volunteers to help us process the beautiful produce so we can use it this fall and winter to incorporate into our FEAST Senior Meals. Join us for 1.5+ hours, and enjoy kitchen camaraderie and a special Mediterranean lunch prepared for you by our lead kitchen volunteer, a chef from Tunisia! Volunteer Fiestas will take place in the beautiful MSAC Kitchen (58 Barre St, Montpelier) on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 – 12:30pm. If you are interested, please RSVP with your available date(s) by clicking on our [signup sheet here](#). Alternately, email [feast@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:feast@montpelier-vt.org) or call 262-6288 to learn about volunteering in other ways with FEAST now or later this Fall.

**Slow Jam Drop-in Group for Music-making, with experienced musicians** | at MSAC Community Room | Biweekly Thursdays, starts 9/30 | 6:00- 8:00pm| Open to public | Age 14+ | Suggested donation: \$5 per session

MSAC will offer a "Slow Jam" on an every other Thursday basis starting on Thursday, 9/30, 6-8pm. The purpose of the Slow Jam format is to get the players familiar with the jam protocols associated with traditional and Celtic music as well as build confidence to participate in other jams. The session will start with a short instruction followed by playing familiar tunes at a slower than normal tempo and focus on playing by ear once the key of the song is announced. All acoustic instruments are welcome (no amplification please). Local musicians experienced in the jamming will lead the group. All ages and levels of playing are welcome to participate. These sessions are meant for beginning and intermediate level players with some basic familiarity with their instruments and will not include in-depth instrument instruction. These sessions focus on fun and learning. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for each session that you attend to help support MSAC and the local musician leaders. No one is turned away for inability to contribute. Registration is encouraged but not necessary. <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/6634/Fall-2021-MSAC-Class-Reg-Form?bidId=>

### **FEAST Senior Meals Program of MSAC:**

#### **FEAST NEWS**

We are thrilled to welcome Kim Myers as our new FEAST Program Manager and will be settling her in her new role over the coming weeks. We are also extremely happy to welcome Albert Sabatini in as our future Kitchen Manager/Chef – he'll be starting with us at the end of October. To accommodate our re-vamping of the kitchen, we are very pleased to be partnering with Capstone Community Action's Community Kitchen Academy who will produce our FEAST meals for the month of October. In November we will be re-opening our kitchen and at that point will go back to daily hot meal delivery. Thanks for all the support and patience as we navigate this redesign of our program!

### **FEAST Curbside Pick-up Meals**

All seniors are welcome to pick up a Curbside meal on Tuesdays and Fridays. Simply pickup your meal outside between 12 and 12:30. 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](mailto:feast@montpelier-vt.org). Reservations are not required to get meals.

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

### **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](mailto:feast@montpelier-vt.org). We are seeking the following: Meals on Wheels Drivers, FEAST Curbside Picnic Volunteers, FEAST Special Events Volunteers, FEAST Farm Support

### **Thank you, Good Taste Catering**

We are grateful for our FEAST Seniors Meals Program partnership with Good Taste Catering that began way back in 2013 and continued until the end of our final contract on September 30, 2021. Justin, Mike, other staff and volunteers they supervised produced over 100,000 nutritious meals for local seniors, took great care of our kitchen facility, trained countless people in food service, and brought smiles to many!

As both MSAC/FEAST and Good Taste Catering evolve in 2021, we wish Good Taste all the best with their new ventures at VT College of Fine Arts kitchen and in helping address food security in the years to come!



## **Sustainable Infrastructure**

No updates for this week.



## **Thoughtfully Planned Built Environment**

### **Guertin Park Gazebo Relocation: Updated**

The Park's team has power washed the Guertin Park gazebo early this week. Thank you team for the work! The City's zoning permits for relocating the Guertin Park structure were approved September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This puts us moving it on or after

September 29<sup>th</sup>. Parks and DPW had new ideas for the location of the gazebo on the 12/16 Main St. lot to better sit with the newly installed public art at 16 Main St.. Staff may ask the DRC to approve amendments to the site plan at their first October meeting, and will communicate with Council if that occurs.



## Employment and Personnel Announcements

### **Municipal Job Openings- Updates:**

Visit the City website for more information: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx>

- **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 necessary to the stability and safety of the community. For applications and more information, click [here](#) or email [recruiting@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:recruiting@montpelier-vt.org). **We have two more open officer positions.**
- **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](#). **There is one vacant position.**



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

### **ORCA MEDIA**

ORCA Media supports the City of Montpelier by live streaming videos to local TV and on YouTube. Recently, Comcast changed the government channel to 1085.

- Click here to 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*)

10/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Committee Report</li> <li>• Homelessness Task Force</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financials</li> <li>• FY23 Budget Process</li> <li>• ARPA Fund Use</li> <li>• Strategic Plan</li> </ul>	10/19 or 10/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential joint meeting with Barre City to receive CVPSA Televate report</li> </ul>
10/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holiday Season meeting calendar</li> <li>• Legislative Agenda</li> <li>• DID presentation</li> <li>• Strategic Plan Completion</li> <li>• 12-16 Main Street Update?</li> </ul>	11/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rec Center Update?</li> </ul>
11/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WRRF Dryer Update</li> </ul>	12/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present Budget</li> </ul>
12/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Review</li> </ul>	12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Review</li> </ul>

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

### **PENDING ITEMS**

Conduit Policy

Housing Task Force Report follow up

City Master Plan