

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
12/20	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/20	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/22	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/24	CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED	CLOSED	CITY HALL	CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY



Improve Public Health and Safety

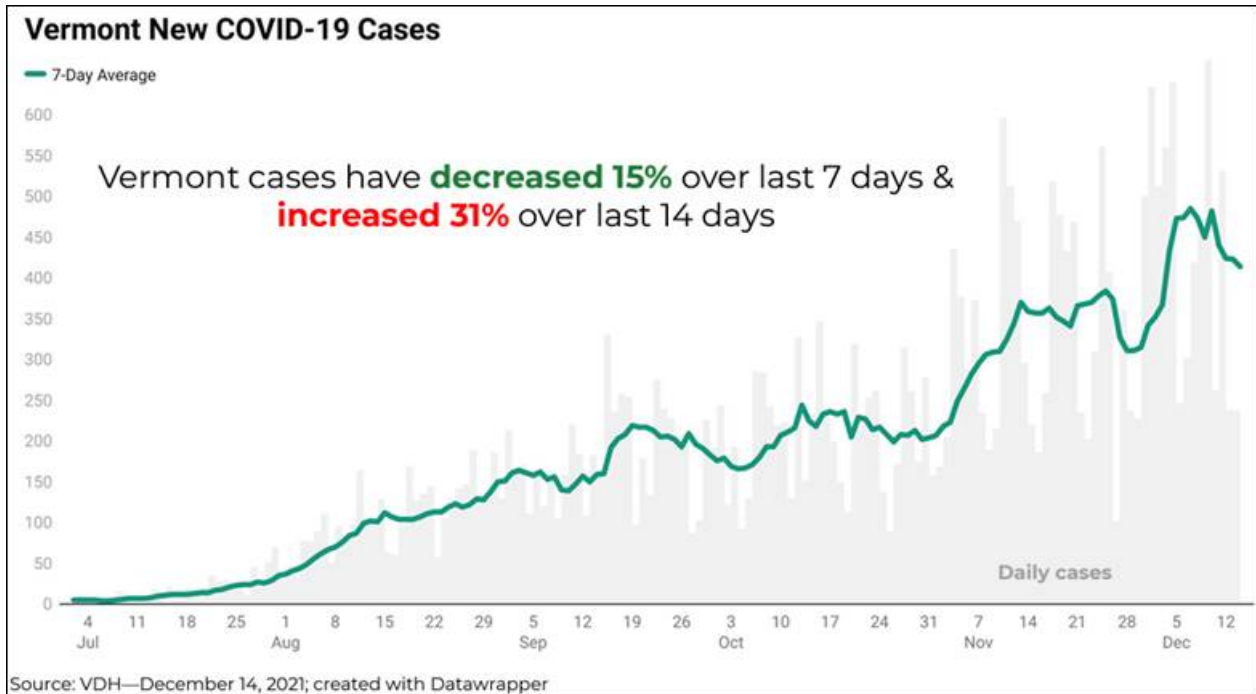
COVID-19 Response-

This week, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development made note that the unvaccinated are driving much of the problem with high case counts and hospitalizations in our State. Just 5% of Vermont adults have not yet received at least one dose of vaccine, but they make up more than 70% of hospitalizations and close to 80% of ICU admissions. Folks are very likely to gather together this holiday season, driving up the possibility of wide-spread community infections.

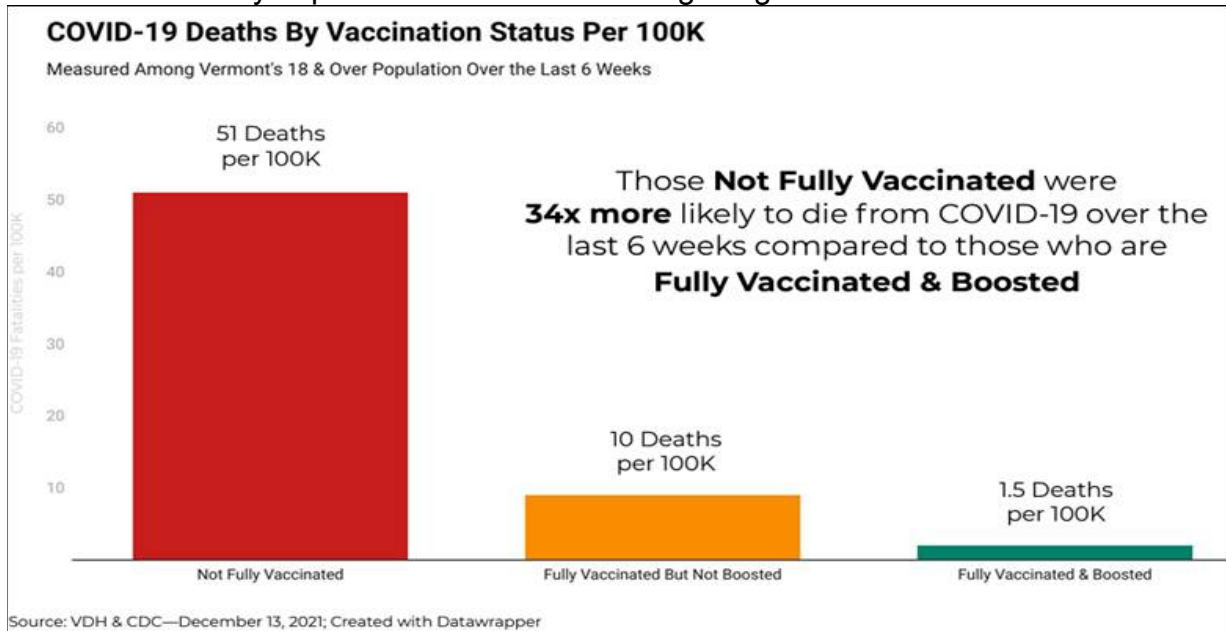
Governor Scott made similar remarks- saying “I want to reiterate how important it is for Vermonters to use common sense and take precautions as we approach the holidays, so we don’t adversely impact our ICU capacity. The number one commonsense thing you can do is [get vaccinated](#)...the best way to protect yourself and your family is still to get the vaccine”.

Update: The Montpelier City Council’s adopted mask mandate is available to read [here](#). Note that the City Council will be considering revisions to the exemptions at their December 22nd, 2021 Council meeting.

Update: The State has released their [Covid-19 Modeling report for this week](#), updated on December 14th. The report continues to show that while our cases have decreased over the last 7 days- COVID-19 cases on average are continuing to **increase** in our communities: **Vermont cases have increased 31% over last 14 days!**



The State also reported that those 'Not Fully Vaccinated' were 34x more likely to die from COVID-19 over the last 6 weeks compared to those who are 'Fully Vaccinated & Boosted'. It is very important that all who are eligible get vaccinated- it's never too late!



COVID-19 Reminders:

- COVID-19 vaccination appointments are open for children ages 5 to 11! Appointments for school-based and state-run clinics can be made at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/vaccines-children> or by calling 855-722-7878.
- **Update:** Anyone age 18 or older can get a booster shot, as long as it has been six months since your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or two months since your Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Your booster shot can be any type of vaccine. visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) to make a vaccination appointment! Or, visit the walk-in clinic at the Berlin Mall. **Sixteen and 17-year-olds are also now eligible to receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine, following FDA authorization and CDC approval.**
 - There are new pop-up Vaccination Clinics at the following local locations:
 - Dec. 18th:
 - Sip and Shop Canadian Club, 414 E Montpelier Rd, Barre, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Practice Good Environmental Stewardship



Responsible and Engaged Government

Budget

A summary of the City Manager's proposed budget was included in the 12/15 Montpelier Bridge for all to read. Meeting dates were included. The full budget book can be found at <https://city-montpelier-vt-budget-book.cleargov.com/fy2023-budget-book-v.1/2023/introduction/organization-chart>

The budget book will be updated as City Council makes formal changes to the proposal.

Pending Legal

Ferry, et al v. City of Montpelier. Filing of multiple parties seeking to invalidate the City's non-citizen voting charter amendment. The City is represented by Attorneys Michael Tarrant, Stephen Coteus, and Kimberly Devine. City's motion to dismiss has been filed.

Appeal of Zoning Permit. Neighbors have appealed DRB approval of a permit to move a barn structure. City is represented by Attorney David Rugh. We are monitoring the case. Recent filings by appellants have challenged the validity of sections of the city's zoning ordinance.

General Business Follow Up:

12/15 –

- Agreement has been reached for use of the Transit Center after hours.
- Restrooms at City Hall are open at all times that they were pre-pandemic.
- We are working on the locked door issue.
- CVPSA is not a city agency and can choose how to run their own meetings,

12/8 –

- Guertin Park continues to be monitored and evaluated
- Records regarding PSAP were provided
- City Center records have been made available
- City allows use of equipment if groups request
- City does not encourage sleeping at Guertin Park and does not perform maintenance to accommodate that activity



Create More Housing



Improve Community Prosperity

Community Services Department Shared Info Updates/Events/Collaborations

Montpelier Community Services Divisions (Parks & Trees, Recreation & Senior Activity Center): To find information about our facilities, services and programs, visit the following linked websites/pages:

[Parks & Trees](#), [Recreation](#), [Senior Activity Center \(MSAC\)](#), [News and Announcements](#), [Special Events](#), [Hubbard Park Expansion Project](#), [Capital Kids Afterschool Childcare Program](#), [Facility Rentals](#), [FEAST Senior Meals on Wheels and Curbside Meals](#), [FEAST Farm](#), [MSAC at Home services](#), [Adult/Teen Winter Classes](#). To subscribe to the MSAC e-letter/newsletter, email a request to msac@montpelier-vt.org. To subscribe to the Parks/Farm Volunteer e-list, email a request to jhuettenmoser@montpelier-vt.org.

Facebook pages for the divisions are: [Parks & Trees](#), [Recreation](#), [MSAC](#), (and [FEAST Senior Meals](#)).

Montpelier Parks & Trees Division updates/events

Upcoming Event: Animal Signs Walk

Saturday, December 18, 10:00am (rain/snow date, 12/19) | Free | all ages

Meet at the new Shelter in Hubbard Park for an easy walk. Join Naturalist Gail Johnson and learn how to attune your eyes to find animal signs: foodscraps, woodpecker, insect and mammal holes, nests, feathers, fur, tracks, scat! (animal droppings), and the animals themselves (silhouettes or good views). Animal signs are fun to find and they tell a story. In addition, Gail will have animal signs in her pack to share. No need to register; just show up!

Hubbard Park Expansion Campaign Successful, Fundraising Continues!

Montpelier poised to add nearly 80 acres to the Central VT treasure!

Montpelier Parks issued a new [press release Monday, December 13](#), to announce that with the generous support of Union Mutual and over 200 community members, we have reached our recent goal of \$138K to complete funding for the land acquisition and will close on the property purchase today, December 17! **We are now seeking an additional \$60K in support for post-purchase aspects of bringing the new parcels into Park management** (including trail work, kiosks and benches), and as of the morning of December 17 had just about \$35K to go to meet that second target.

Onion River Outdoors for Park Expansion: 5% Day and Raffle

[Onion River Outdoors](#) is doing a benefit for the [Hubbard Park Expansion Project](#) in which **5% of all sales** on 12/17 will be donated. **BONUS:** ORO has also been selling tickets for a **RAFFLE**, too! Buy \$5 tickets (5 for \$20) between now and 12/17 for chances to win bundles of awesome ORO gear, a tent and other goodies from Patagonia, Marmot and Darn Tough, plus a 16" kids bike from Batch! Check out all the awesome selection at www.onionriver.com, and shop for your holiday gift list and your own needs and wishes on the 5% day, to support the [Project](#)! Thank you, ORO!

Montpelier Recreation Division updates/events

Recreation programs in the works

Adult Zumba and Taikwando are expected to start in January, and details about locations and schedules will be released soon.

Downtown Skating Rink to Return being set up on Statehouse Lawn!

The State of Vermont / Capitol Complex have granted permission to install Montpelier Recreation's portable skating rink on the lawn of the State House again this winter. Rec Director Arne McMullen has been hard at work leading assembly of the rink, a multi-day process. Once the rink is ready for public use, we'll announce it on the Rec website and Facebook. This is a free facility offering for the community and we hope it is enjoyed this winter!

Montpelier Senior Activity Center Division updates/events

Senior Activity Center installs new drinking water fountains and kitchen equipment

Thanks to a grant from the State of VT Buildings and General Services Facility Grant Program, MSAC staff have been managing contractor installation of new, accessible drinking water fountains in the 58 Barre Street lobby and on the 2nd floor near the elevator. The new fountains will allow attendees to easily fill up water bottles and stay hydrated during their activities. There's also a new convection oven going in at the FEAST kitchen, due in part to community member financial support, and some electrical work in the kitchen to better accommodate the appliances in use to produce FEAST meals.

MSAC invites community support of Healthy Aging & Lifelong Learning; All donations are tax-deductible!

The community is invited to support the annual fundraising appeal of the Senior Activity Center by visiting the website at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/msac-donate>. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made by mailing a check to or dropping it off at 58 Barre Street, or by using credit/debit card online. This year's appeal, as always, is budgeted to help support programs, services and the FEAST Senior Meals program.

Volunteer Event a success on 12/9-10; Volunteer Recruitment continues for Community Services Department

On December 9 & 10, the Senior Activity Center's FEAST and MSAC at Home staff offered two recruitment and training sessions to the public, which were well-attended by newly interested volunteers and some returning to service from before the pandemic. Maddie Sholar, Kim Myers and Sarah Lipton shared slides and examples to illustrate available roles, and Chef Shalonda James distributed fresh cookies for volunteers to take home – Yum!

If you or someone you know is interested in helping bring nutritious, delicious meals to seniors who need them, please call or email: 802-262-6288, feast@montpelier-vt.org. FEAST Seeks the following: Kitchen volunteers, dishwashers and Meals on Wheels drivers. Interested in helping with indoor or outdoor chores, tech training, social visits or other "Village" services? Call 802-262-6287 or email msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org. Do you or a friend/family member have skills and time to give to support Senior Center, Parks & Recreation communications efforts in print or social media? Call 262-262-6284.



Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure



Employment and Personnel Announcements

Municipal Job Openings

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 necessarily necessary to the stability and safety of the community. For applications and more information, click [here](#) or email 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.**
- **City Assessor:** The City of Montpelier, Vermont (population 8,000), seeks qualified candidates for the position of City Assessor. This position directs the operations of the Assessor's Office and the inspection and valuation of 2,900 real and 500 personal property accounts in the City. The Assessor is responsible for all of the assessing functions of the City including appraisal and assessment of all properties, defense of values, maintenance of the City's parcel maps and other lists. The Assessor leads field functions in inspecting and valuing residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Work is performed under the administrative direction of the City Manager and in accordance with state statutes. The Assessor will be responsible for overseeing the contracted city-wide reappraisal in which all property in the City of Montpelier will be reappraised for the 2023 Grand List. Work on this initiative has begun as of October 2021. A minimum of 5 years of experience as a lister/assessor, or equivalent experience and education, is desired as well as a thorough knowledge of appraisal methodology, State laws pertaining to appraisal and assessing of property, the Current Use Program, and rules and procedures regarding maintenance of the City's Grand List. Knowledge of State mapping requirements and updating of the City parcel maps is also required. If interested, please submit your resume and letter of interest to City Manager Bill Fraser at wfraser@montpelier-vt.org or by mail at City of Montpelier, City Hall, 39 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. **This position is open until filled.**



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. 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>
- Or stream via ORCA's YouTube channel during meetings here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/orcamedia>

City-wide Reappraisal Property Inspections Have Begun!

We have begun the process of a city-wide reappraisal of all real property. Representatives from the New England Municipal Consultants will visit each property in the city to gather data. The inspection process will start in late 2021 and continue through the spring of 2023. NEMC will mail notices to property owners in advance of conducting inspections.

Stump Dump:

Need to get rid of lawn debris, stumps, and branches? The City 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!

Trash Receptacles:

As a resident of Montpelier, are you wondering about the best area to place a trash receptacle for trash pickup? Please, always, place trash receptacles for pick up at the corner of the driveway, behind the sidewalk. If you do not have a sidewalk on your street, please place receptacles on the corner of the drive, in the street closest to the curb. (Not obstructing traffic). Please do not place receptacles within the sidewalk. Questions? Please contact Jasmine Benson with DPW at 802-223-9508.

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Review • Meet with Legislative Delegation • Amend Mask Rule • Homelessness Task Force • CJC CAB appt • Election update • Elect Parliamentarian 	1/5/22	Budget Workshop ONLY
1/12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First PH on Budget • First PH on Warning • First PH on Bonds • Audit Report 	1/20/22 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd PH/Budget Adoption • 2nd PH on Warning/Adoption • Consideration of Petitions • Bond Necessity Resolutions

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask Mandate extension • Strategic Plan Update
2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CJC Introduction • Police Committee Follow Up • City Manager Review and Contract • Mask Mandate extension 	2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd PH on Bonds • Parklet Ordinance
3/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Meeting Election 	3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational Meeting • Elect Officers • Rules of Procedure • Ethics Policy • Committee Assignments • Extend Mask Mandate

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

CURRENT PENDING ITEMS

Conduit Policy
Housing Task Force Report follow up
Zoning revisions – likely in March
City Master Plan
12-16 Main St. site planning

From Strategic Plan for future agendas:

Economic Development – Strategic Plan, TIF, Tax Stabilization
Workforce Development program
City Committee recruitment/stipends (also with budget)

- ✓ Coordination with CAN –11/17

Equity Action Plan recommendations
Planning Department exercises

- ✓ PFAS Alternatives – 11/17

Stormwater Utility
Homelessness Plan

- ✓ Police Review Committee recommendations - started on 11/10, to be continued on 2/9

Mutual Aid Issues with Middlesex and Berlin
Update Barriers to Housing Study

From Strategic Plan for Budget Discussion:

- ✓ Confluence Park Funding – in proposed bond
- ✓ Dam Removal Study – in Capital Reserve funding
- ✓ Early Childcare Feasibility Study – included with work on new Rec Center
 - Economic Development Funding - \$50,000 in budget, not full \$100,000

- ✓ Website improvement/Communications platforms – upgrade in budget, communications in ARPA2
- ✓ Fund ADA transition plan items – In CIP
- ✓ Fully Staff city departments – in budget
- ✓ Housing Trust Fund – fully funded at \$110,000 in budget
- ✓ Housing and Services Hub – funded in ARPA 2
- ✓ Net Zero Plan recommendations –first project in proposed bond
- ✓ Implementing Green Print – trail project in budge
- ✓ Construct Public Restrooms – funded in ARPA 2
- ✓ Recreation Building – proposed bond to purchase property
 - Fund Capital Plan – funding increased from FY22 but not back to target levels
- ✓ Maintain 70 PCI on streets – target funding included in CIP and Capital Reserve
 - Expand Peer Support and Social Worker capacity – 0.5 FTE expansion proposed, 1.0 FTE left unfunded
- ✓ Implement CIT program – Included in Police budget
- ✓ Implement Police Review recommendations – body worn cameras in CIP, many other recommendations in police budget
 - Implement Televate communications infrastructure plan – Funding approved in FY22 held over for use with potential build out of all or some of this plan

From Strategic Plan for Staff Action:

Rec & Parks as Economic Driver

Expand hours of childcare program

Work with developers for more housing

Support Christ Church housing project

2022 VHCB grant application for housing and services hub

Complete projects included in budget

Expand CJC support to MPD

Protect Berlin Pond Watershed