

4/22, the Montpelier City Council continued suspension of all Task Force, Committee, and Advisory Board meetings that are not required by law, through June 30th.

Mon., June 29 th	American Red Cross Blood Drive	9:00 AM	City Hall & Montpelier Fire Department
Tue., June 30 th	Community Advisory Board	5:00 PM	Click HERE for Agenda and Zoom Access
Wed., July 1 st	Chief of Police Swearing-In Ceremony	9:00 AM	City Hall, 39 Main St., Montpelier, VT 05602
Wed., July 8 th	Regular City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Location and Zoom Access TBA



Public Health and Safety

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CITY OF MONTPELIER RESPONSE UPDATE

This week, we hope that all our residents had a safe and happy Summer Solstice, enjoyed celebrating Juneteenth, and are looking forward to celebrating July 4th in a safe way! We know that this ongoing Coronavirus situation remains stressful and it is draining to keep up with all the changes. However, please remember, as you get out and enjoy the summer weather, remember that the Coronavirus is still a very present health threat. We want to remind residents to continue practicing 6 ft. physical distancing, wearing masks when they go outside, and to choose activities that keep them away from others. Remember- if we all take appropriate mitigation steps, we can start to make strides moving our community forward safely!

We want to share updates on the City's actions to keep residents and employees safe and healthy:

State Updates:

- **June 19, 2020:** The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following updates:
 - **Effective June 26, 2020:** restaurants, arts, culture, and entertainment venues can go from 25% to 50% capacity- the cap for indoor establishments is at 75 people and outdoor operations at 150 people, or 50% of their total capacity — whichever is less
- **June 24, 2020:** The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following updates:
 - Vermonters have one of the lowest Census response rates in the country; we currently rank 47th. Governor Scott asked Vermonters to fill out the Census forms so VT gets all the federal Covid-19 relief funding that it can. Having a complete count of our State is very important! The [Link to the Census 2020 can be found here](#) or you can take the Census by phone by calling 844-330-2020.
 - **Vermont State Parks open Friday June 26th** with day-use activities, tents, RV sites and lean-to camping. There is an online reservation system, available here.
 - COVID-19 Outbreaks: There has been an outbreak in the Fair Haven region, with 12 cases connected to an employer- employee testing is still ongoing. The state is going to offer more testing opportunities in the Rutland area

- **June 26, 2020:** The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following updates:
 - Vermont has expanded the map of counties where residents can travel directly to Vermont without quarantine requirements:
 - [Beginning July 1 2020](#), counties that meet Vermont's case threshold from Pennsylvania, Washington DC, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia can travel directly to Vermont without quarantine requirements. This is a County by County threshold, and does not include those full states. This does not mean folks are free to fly or bus here without quarantining, this regulation is only in place if folks drive to Vermont.
 - Outbreak Updates:
 - Winooski/Burlington Outbreak: Currently is at 115 cases
 - Fairhaven Outbreak: Currently at 12 confirmed cases with no hospitalizations, and more testing is happening today,
 - New Health Related Information:
 - Coming from the CDC, there is a new list of those who may be at higher risk for serious symptoms of COVID19: Obesity, chronic kidney disease, sickle cell disease, asthma, stroke, hypertension, dementia and other neurological conditions, liver disease, having a smoking or vaping habit, and possibly pregnancy.

General City Updates:

- Recreation Updates:
 - City summer [Capital Kids Day Camp](#) opened this Monday, June 22nd
 - The Pool Pavilion is open for renters, with a 'pack it in, pack it out' policy regarding trash, and with the understanding that there is not Recreation staff available to maintain it to its fullest extent
- City Hall Reopening:
 - The City Phase I Reopening Plan was approved by City Council Wednesday June 10th. The plan is still subject to change in response to updates in State guidance. **City staff is preparing to open the City Hall building to appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting July 2nd**. The porta-johns behind City Hall and the Senior Center will remain until we are able to open City Hall full-time.

City Council's Mask Ordinance:

- City Council adopted an [Emergency Order](#) requiring the wearing of masks inside public Montpelier business establishments that went into effect Thursday June 4th.
 - This Order shall remain in effect until the Montpelier City Council amends, rescinds, or suspends this Order or until the Governor declares an end to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Vermont, whichever occurs first, which is currently **July 15th**, unless the Governor amends that order.
- Masks have been donated for businesses and the general public and are currently being stored at Splash Naturals, 68 Main St, Montpelier, VT 05602.

Regional Aid Groups Update:

- The City is maintaining a list of situational updates and regional resources for those who may need them on the COVID-19 Response page on the website here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1155/Coronavirus-Response>
- The Community Call Center is still functioning:

- Community Call Center hours will be 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, open weekdays. You may call or text (802) 636-2025.
- The Capital Area Neighborhoods (CAN) contact information:
 - MontpelierCAN@gmail.com and (802) 828-7375

Open Meal Sites and their locations are being tracked and posted on the Montpelier Mutual Aid website: www.MontpelierMutualAid.org



Responsive and Responsible Government

POLICE CHIEF

Swearing-In Ceremony for Chief Brian Peete will be this Wednesday, July 1 at 9 AM. The event will take place outdoors in front of City Hall. This is weather permitting. If weather does not cooperate, the event will be moved indoors to the Memorial Room and Council Chambers.

TEMPORARY PARKLET APPROVALS

City Council has enacted a temporary parklet ordinance for the purpose of providing additional business expansion opportunities during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Temporary Parklet Application](#) (All applications will be submitted to the City Manager's Office at jlamb@montpelier-vt.org)
- [Temporary Parklet Ordinance](#)

This temporary ordinance is in place through October 25, 2020.

Approved Temporary Parklets:

The North Branch Café
Three Penny Taproom

PLANNING DEPARTMENT SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Planning Department would like to update everyone on the revised summer schedule. The lower level of City Hall is still closed to the public for the foreseeable future but the office is still open remotely.

- Audra Brown is the Planning and Zoning Assistant and is working remotely therefore the best way to reach her is via email at abrown@montpelier-vt.org. She can also be reached by calling 223-9506 and leaving a message on her voicemail (which will get forwarded to her). She can help with all your smaller projects like decks and sheds. Audra is only working about 10-16 hours per week due to the covid budget cuts.
- Meredith Crandall is the Planning and Zoning Administrator and she continues to work her usual 32 hour per week schedule of Monday to Thursday. She can help with some of your larger projects like commercial developments. She can best be reached at mcrandall@montpelier-vt.org.
- Chris Lumbra is the Building Inspector and he is just returned to work from furlough last week. He will be working Tuesday to Friday going forward and again, due to workloads, email works best to reach him at clumbra@montpelier-vt.org.
- Kevin Casey is our Community Development Specialist but he will remain in furlough until at least August 1 due to covid cuts. Any requests for Kevin should be sent to Mike Miller as he is covering his responsibilities for now.

- Mike Miller is the Director and continues to work full time (40 hours), mostly remotely, but will be in the office twice a week on Mondays and Fridays. He can be reached at mmiller@montpelier-vt.org or leave a message at 262-6269.

If you have projects you are considering, it is best to start with a quick email to Audra who can review your request, get you the correct forms, and to let you know what permits you need. Give her your address and a brief description and she will address them in the order they come in. Thank you for all your patience and support. We look forward to the day we can all get back to work as a team to provide the best service for you all.

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING JULY 13TH

The Planning Commission would like everyone to be aware of a public hearing on July 13th to amend the zoning bylaws (technically known as the Unified Development Regulations). There will be two proposals under consideration. Both can be found at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1112/Zoning---Design-Review-Proposal>

- The first is the continuation of the adoption of the revised Design Review regulations that many of you commented on over the winter. This includes a complete change to the rules (found in section 2201) to add clear guidelines and standards in order to make decisions legally defensible; to set rules to be consistent with National Park Service Rehabilitation Standards; to make more flexible standards (versus the current standards) with clear exemptions for the Administrative Officer to review; and to adjust the boundaries of the overlay district in places to better follow neighborhood boundaries. Those rules were ready to go when Covid hit and we had to put everything on hold. We now feel comfortable enough to put that out for public hearing via Zoom with an in person option by appointment (we will set up a computer in the Council Chambers with a Zoom meeting connection). All of the written comments or questions can be sent to mmiller@montpelier-vt.org.
- The second proposal is a request from a property owner to rezone the properties on the corner of Pioneer Street and River Street from Riverfront to Eastern Gateway. These parcels include Lazerwash, the self-store units, and some office and retail establishments. Some of the uses and structures are now non-conforming due to the zoning changes in 2018 and the uses better match those allowed under Eastern Gateway (the adjacent zoning district). The question for the planning commission and the public is whether we keep the zoning the same (and prohibit expansions of those non-conforming uses and structures) in order to force changes over time to this area or do we adjust the zoning to make them conforming and thereby allow for expansion of some uses and structures. Again, send any questions or comments to Mike Miller at mmiller@montpelier-vt.org.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

FLAG POLICY

A revised policy based on this week's discussion will be on next week's agenda.

FIVE HOME FARM WAY

Chief Gowans is arranging an inspection with the State's structural engineer.

MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Representatives Hooper and Kitzmiller, and Senators Cummings, Perchlik, and Pollina have been invited to the July 8th

meeting.

WEEKLY REPORT

The link to this weekly report is being posted to Front Porch Forum and Facebook which is a new practice.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The completed 2020 Strategic Plan document can be found at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/6879/2020-2021-Strategic-Plan-Brochure?bidId=>

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Day Camp is off to a good start despite lower numbers due to COVID-19. The Day Camp Staff are doing a great job keeping the participants engaged in activities throughout the day while practicing social distancing. We have room in day camp, tennis camp, and Ultimate Frisbee for new enrollments. Please spread the word. We are also getting most of the major areas of our facilities mowed so the public can get out and social distance while recreating. We will have some sports groups starting games next week following the Governors guidelines on outdoor sports.

MONTPELIER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER REPORT

Chest Freezer (in great condition) needed at Senior Center

Our FEAST senior meal program may need one more chest freezer in great condition and relatively new. Do you or someone you know have one not being used that you could lend or give to MSAC? Donations to MSAC are tax-deductible. Contact Jessica Sanderson if you can help out; potential donations must be vetted prior to pick-up/drop-off. jsanderson@montpelier-vt.org, or call 262-6288.



Sustainable Infrastructure

DON'T FLUSH THAT

Due to the public health crisis, not only is our city seeing a shortage on toilet paper, but many communities are as well. Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone what should NOT be flushed. Flushing items listed below could cause sewer blockages, in which could cause plugged and overflowing toilets, poorly draining sinks and showers, raw sewage backing up through floor drains, manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters, health hazards and nuisance odors, increases in the City's maintenance costs and costly maintenance and repair bills for YOU.

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



William Fraser
City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)

6/24	City Council Agenda and Documents available online HERE City Council meeting recorded by ORCA Media, available HERE	7/8	COVID-19 Legislative Delegation Stormwater Master Plan Tax Stabilization Plan Flag Policy Personnel Plan VCFA - Homelessness Set Tax Rate (consent) Mowatt/TKS?
7/22	No meeting	8/12	Equity Action Plan implementation Design Review Ellison Project/TIF COVID-19
8/26	Community Policing COVID-19	9/9	Net Zero 2030 Plan COVID-19
9/23	New Budget Process Special Election Warning (if needed) COVID-19	10/14	Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 1 st quarter Budget status
10/28	Legislative Priorities 2021	11/11	(Veteran's Day– may need to change date) Childcare Option Study
11/25	(Thanksgiving Eve – may need to change date)	12/9	Implement Housing Initiatives Budget
12/23	(near Christmas, may need to change date) Budget	1/13/21	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 nd quarter budget status
1/27/21	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing	2/10/21	City Manager Review
2/24/21		3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election

REPORTS DUE:

- Universal Recycling Law – Periodic updates
- MDC/MA Partnerships – Periodic updates
- Protect, Maintain and Improve Built Infrastructure – Update in October
- Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates