

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
10/19	Design Review Committee	7:00	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
10/19	Recreation Department Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
10/19	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
10/20	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Hubbard Park Old Shelter	Agenda
10/20	Historic Preservation Commission	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
10/20	Energy Advisory Committee	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
10/21	Conservation Commission	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda
10/22	Social & Economic Justice Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda nd Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

City of Montpelier Response Update

Weekly Report Date October 16th

With the uptick in cases in the Montpelier region, it's more important than ever to reemphasize the importance of following COVID-19 safety guidelines, washing your hands, and masking up! It is up to all of us to protect one-another from this virus.

The State has also recommended that Vermonters get their flu shots to ensure flu cases stay down to make sure that our hospital capacity stays available for those who may need COVID-19 treatment throughout the rest of the fall and into the winter.

As a reminder to residents: [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask in public starting August 1st.](#)

Weekly State Updates:

- [Governor Scott Extends State Of Emergency To November 15](#)
 - In addition to helping the state manage the public health risks, the State of Emergency keeps supports in place to mitigate economic hardship resulting from the pandemic. These protections include expanded housing and meal delivery systems, expanded eligibility for unemployment insurance, resources for businesses and federal emergency funding.
- Training for Vermonters Impacted by Covid-19 through the Community College of Vermont
 - The Community College of Vermont announced free college courses and training for the next 2 months to Vermonters whose work and household situations have changed due to COVID19.
 - Please visit www.vsc.edu/Vtworkers for more information and to sign up for classes
- Health Updates:
 - Cases within Schools
 - Union Elementary in Montpelier has had 2 identified cases. This is the State's first in-school transmission.
 - Regional Update:
 - The outbreak associated with hockey and broomball teams in Montpelier is up to 18 cases. The cases are within players and their close contacts.
 - Testing will be available in Barre this Saturday (Oct. 17th). People can register for the pop-up clinic at www.healthvermont.gov/covid19-testing
 - The State is only recommending those associated with the outbreak- such as those associated with the Civic Center or these specific sports teams.
 - Current case counts can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).
- Travel Update:
 - The State discussed safe holiday travel, noting that there are not many 'green' counties outside of Vermont to travel to and from without quarantining. They encouraged all Vermonters to not let their guard down, and to work hard to travel safely and follow the guidelines. See the updated [cross state travel map](#) for more information.
- Long Term Care Guidance Updates:
 - Indoor visitation will be allowed in counties where the positivity rate is low, as federal rules outline. For counties with higher case counts, only outdoor visitation and compassionate visitation will be allowed. And if there is a case in the facility, visitation will be halted.COVID-19
- Simpler PPP Forgiveness for \$50K Loans or Less
 - The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\) has released a simpler loan forgiveness application](#) for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$50,000 or less.

City Updates:

- City Hall will be open for the public during regular Council Meetings. The public will be able to interact with the Zoom Council Meetings in the Council Chambers. Masks or a face shield and social distancing will be required inside City Hall. Masks will be on-hand with City Staff if members of the public do not have any available to them.
- Halloween Recommendations:
 - The Montpelier Mayor, City Council, and City Manager recommend that residents refrain from Halloween Trick or Treating this year. Recent COVID 19 outbreaks in the City are a reminder that the pandemic continues and that Montpelier is as vulnerable as any other area. Neither the City nor Montpelier Alive will be sponsoring or holding any organized Halloween activities such as downtown trick or treating or the Recreation center party.
 - The City does not have internal public health expertise and so has been relying on the Vermont Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for public health guidelines since the beginning of the pandemic. The State has not taken any official position with regard to trick or treating, but the CDC has released guides for low- moderate- and high-risk activities. People who choose to celebrate Halloween should understand the risks and are advised to follow guidelines [from the CDC.](#)



Regional Aid Groups Update:

Community Meal Information:

- Weekday dinners, M-F, will be available at Another Way at 125 Barre Street between 5-6 PM.
- Weekday lunches will be available at the current Sunrise Wellness Center at 157 Barre Street between 12:30-2:30.
- Weekend lunches will be available in front of the soon-to-be-opened Sunrise Wellness Center at 34 Barre Street from 12:30-2:30 PM.

Donations Requested:

- Another Way, a community drop-in center located at 125 Barre Street, seeks clean camping gear in usable condition for distribution to folks in our community experiencing homelessness. At this time they are accepting donations of Tarps, Tents, Sleeping Bags & Pads, and Backpacks. Sundry items such as tent stakes, para-cord, waterproofing sealant, flashlights & headlamps are also welcome.
 - Another Way is not able to accept clothing of any kind currently.
 - Please contact Another Way prior to donating by either calling 802-229-0920 or emailing janell@anotherwayvt.org to schedule a drop off.



Sustainable Infrastructure

Pump Track Ribbon Cutting Monday 10/19 at 4pm

Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA) and Montpelier Parks are excited to announce the ribbon cutting for the new "Pump Track" in the North Branch Park. Join us for this family friendly ribbon cutting, and bring your bikes! Location is at the end of Cummings St., near the southern trailhead into the North Branch Park.

What is a pump track? It's a bike park for kids! Wikipedia says "A pump track is a circuit of rollers, banked turns and features designed to be ridden completely by riders "pumping"—generating momentum by up and down body movements, instead of pedaling or pushing."

Along the newly opened mountain bike trails and downtown bike path segment, this is a great addition to the cycling opportunities in Montpelier. These are some of the products of a former Council goal to make Montpelier a biking destination.

DPW Street & Water/Sewer Divisions:

Department of Public Works Street Division

The Water/Sewer Division has spent all of this week continuing on N College Street installing the water main. This project will continue through all of next week.

The streets division has spent this week prepping for pavement on Clarendon Ave, patching potholes, street sweeping, leaf pickup, and assisting on the N College Project. Next week crews will likely begin removing pavement on Cummings Streets as we will be converting this street to gravel for the duration of the winter.

Alternate Side Parking

City Council approved the new Alternate Side Parking on October 14th, 2020. Be on the lookout for the following flyers around the city as well as on Vehicles.



City of Montpelier
Winter Parking Regulations

Alternate Side Parking November 15th – April 1st

Things to know to avoid a ticket or tow:

- Every day, Alternate Side Parking is in effect City-wide from 12AM-5PM.
- Beginning at 12:00AM all cars must be parked on the correct side of the street as indicated by building numbers for the appropriate numbered calendar day.
- An exception is in the downtown metered zone. Parking is allowed on both sides of the street 7AM – 11:59PM. But, from 12AM to 7AM No parking is allowed in these areas.
- If parking on-street OVERNIGHT move your vehicle to the opposite side of the street between 5PM- 11:59PM. When you wake up in the morning you will be parked correctly.

Unless parking is prohibited:

On EVEN calendar days, park on the even numbered side of the street.
On ODD calendar days, park on the odd numbered side of the street.



Maps and parking tables are found on the City Manager page of the City's website.
Questions? Send them to: Jasmine Benson - jbenson@montpelier-vt.org

Our Street Division will also be producing new street signs for the Alternate Side Parking. These signs will begin being placed throughout the city within a week. Please see an example of the sign below:



Please feel free to email any questions or comments to Jasmine Benson @ jbenson@montpelier-vt.org. Every Friday beginning October 23rd, 2020 the Department of Public Works will be posting a Question and Answer within the weekly report as well as on social media. This post will contain questions from the public.

The Council asked about the number of tickets issued and tows required during winter parking bans. Here is the data from the last three years:

2018

591 winter ban tickets issued
17 “tag and tow” events called by DPW
238 vehicles were identified to be towed (unknown exact number towed as some move and some the tow company runs out of time to get)

2019

511 winter ban tickets issued

22 “tag and tow” events called by DPW

295 vehicles were identified to be towed (unknown exact number towed as some move and some the tow company runs out of time get)

2020

197 winter ban tickets issued

5 “tag and tow” events called by DPW

67 vehicles were identified to be towed (unknown exact number towed as some move and some the tow company runs out of time get)

Bike Path:

The tree board and parks division will be planting trees from their nursery either late this week or early next.

Work on the new bike path rail crossings will resume next week with path closures expected. They'll finish the crossing at the end of Old Country Club Rd and then move to the crossing near Gin Lane. No work planned until Monday.

Completion of the bike path section from Main Street to the new bridge, along with landscaping the accompanying parcels is still expected to be completed before snow falls this year.

Street paving:

The street paving contract for FY21 was approved at the last City Council meeting. Pike Industries is the contractor and they will be paving the following areas: the eastbound lane along Memorial Drive between National Life Drive and Taylor Street, Clarendon Avenue, Jordon Street, and Redstone Avenue. The work will begin next week and will continue through the following.

Taylor Street:

All of the curbing along Taylor Street has been installed. Sidewalks will be poured over the next two weeks.

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. ***The Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone about what should NOT be flushed.*** Flushing the items listed below could cause sewer blockages, which could cause plugged and overflowing toilets, poorly draining sinks and showers, raw sewage backing up through floor drains and/or manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters, health hazards and nuisance odors, and this could result in increases in the City's maintenance costs and costly repair bills for involved residents.

The following items should NOT be flushed!

- 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



Responsive and Responsible Government

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

To avoid conflicts with holidays, the Council will hold **regular** meetings on the following dates:

- November 4 and 18
- December 2 and 9
- January 13 and 21 (Thursday). The 27th is not yet confirmed.

Additional dates for **budget workshops** may be added including one between December 9 and 31 and another one on January 6th.

TEMPORARY PARKLET APPROVALS

As per ordinance, parklets must be removed by October 25.

Although the terms of the temporary ordinance were originally intended for 2020 only, we may wish to revisit this in early 2021 to determine whether conditions warrant an extension.

12 MAIN STREET (former TKS property)

As we know, the City needs to make a decision about whether to purchase this property for the \$134,000 of federal funding that was spent to to acquire it as part of the One Taylor Street/Bike Path project. We have made a proposal to VTrans for this purpose and will bring the issue to the Council when we have received a response. It was originally scheduled for this next meeting.

Assessor's Office

- New GIS map link on Assessor's Page of City website. Entitled "Montpelier GIS Link". It has all of the features of the existing Interactive Parcel Maps, which it will be replacing, and many new features.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Police Department modified lobby opening

The Montpelier Police Department's front lobby will remain locked, but available once again for prescription drug drop offs. Residents are asked to ring the front door buzzer to speak with dispatch and to wear a mask when entering the building. Anyone showing any signs of sickness is asked to stay away from the building and only one person will be allowed in the lobby at a time. The Department will also be hosting a DEA drug take back day on October 24, 2020 between 10am-2pm.

POLICE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The following has been advertised with an application deadline of October 22nd for council consideration on the 28th. We have received 11 applications

The City of Montpelier seeks interested residents to serve on a Police Review Committee. The number of members and length of terms has yet to be determined. The City Council has charged the committee with the following work:

- 1) Review the historic functions of Montpelier police department;
- 2) Review modern policing trends and practices, such as those embodied in the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and other reference materials;
- 3) Meet with community stakeholders for feedback on the role and function of the Montpelier Police Department. (list of stakeholders will be provided but can be expanded)
- 4) Review existing historic law enforcement data for trends, significant issues, and other observations or conclusions that are relevant to current and future planning and funding of the Montpelier Police Department. (list of data will be provided but can be expanded)
- 5) Review and analyze the functions of the Montpelier Police Department, its existing policies, and help create the Department's current strategic plan
- 6) Compile the information into a report to be delivered to the City Council by June 30, 2021. The report will include recommendations for this committee's future charge and function.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Council Member Jay Erickson was appointed to represent the City Council on the School Board's review committee. I will be speaking with Board Chair Jim Murphy today about the appropriate Police representation.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

Farewell to NCCC Americorps Team

Our community is eternally grateful to the 8 young people who have been working hard in our community for the last 8 weeks. This Friday, 10/16 marks the end of their term here. They'll leave a lasting impact on our community, some of their major accomplishments include:

- Putting a roof on the stage in Hubbard Park
- Pouring a foundation for a new moldering privy in Hubbard Park
- Working with our City Arborist on a number of important tree care projects around town
- Growing food for MSAC's FEAST Program at the FEAST Farm
- Helping to set up and run the Enchanted Forest event in Hubbard Park
- Putting up a new fence around the North Branch Community Garden and Tree Nursery
- Putting up a hoop house for our community firewood program
- Trail work in Hubbard Park & the North Branch Park
- Gleaning with Community Harvest for the local food bank
- Pulling invasive plants in our parks
- Planting trees in our riparian areas

We are also grateful to the Trinity Church for hosting the crew at the McKenzie House in Berlin during their time here.

MSAC Village Offering Raking, Wood stacking and other Outdoor Chore Help this Fall and Recruiting Volunteers

Have any leaves that need to be raked, wood that needs stacking, or a garden to be put to bed? If you're a Montpelier resident, let MSAC know! As part of an initiative to create a Village model here in Montpelier, we are pleased to announce the offering of assistance with outdoor chores in the month of October! If you – or your Montpelier friends, family, or neighbors – need any assistance with an outdoor to-do list, we are here to help. Contact AmeriCorps member Andrew Gribbin at 262-6287 or at msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org to learn more about this new initiative and to register for the services today. We hope to see you – socially distanced – in your yard soon! Additionally, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to lend their time in support of this project. Please contact Andrew Gribbin to learn more about ways to assist or to register as a volunteer.

Community Wellness Calls

MSAC is seeking volunteers for our latest initiative aimed at supporting older adults in our region: making wellness calls. Volunteers can sign up to make either one initial call to MSAC members or continue to check-in on an ongoing basis. No experience whatsoever is required and the callers can make the calls from their own residence on their own time. A virtual training and general script will be provided to assist callers in this important outreach effort. Contact VHCB AmeriCorps member Andrew Gribbin at (802) 262-6287 or msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org to learn more about this opportunity or to sign up today.

FEAST Together Distantly w/MSAC Staff via our first-ever Conference Call

Friday, Oct. 16 | 12:30 - 1:15 pm | via phone

Join MSAC Staff (Director, Janna Clar, FEAST Manager, Sarah Lipton and/or new AmeriCorps Aging in Place Coordinator Andrew Gribbin) and other MSAC members for lunch together over the phone. You'll be able to ask questions, get answers and spend some time with friends, old and new! Email Harry at msac@montpelier-vt.org or call 223-2518, preferably a day or more in advance to receive a phone number to call in. Help from Chet is available if you're new to a

conference call; just ask!

MSAC Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, Oct. 19 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm | via Zoom

The agenda will include Wellness Call Project Update, membership and Annual meeting options, committee reports and Village update. All members are welcome. To get the zoom link, email msac@montpelier-vt.org. The agenda and Sept. 21 minutes are both posted on our website's Advisory Council page: www.montpelier-vt.org/369/MSAC-Advisory-Council.

Come Visit the FEAST Farm!

Monday, Oct. 19 | 10:00-11:00 am | 5 Home Farm Way

Did you know that the FEAST programs have been supported all summer long (and into Fall now) by fresh produce planted, grown, and harvested from a city-maintained farm here in Montpelier? The Montpelier Parks Department, along with hard-working volunteers, have worked tirelessly since April to transform a plot of land at the confluence of the Stevens Branch and Winooski rivers into productive farmland that has generated healthy – and delicious – food used to support both the FEAST at Home and FEAST to Go programs. As the growing season comes to an end, now is the perfect time to catch up on all they have accomplished and see the farm that has put food on many a plate these past six-months. Join us for an inaugural visit to the FEAST farm to celebrate the harvest and enjoy the grounds that have contributed so much to the FEAST program this past year. Plus enjoy a tasty treat along the way! Contact the FEAST office at 262-6288 or email feast@montpelier-vt.org to learn more, and keep an eye out for additional details coming soon!

FEAST Senior Meals To Go! Served outside Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:00-12:30

Pick-up in our beautifully landscaped courtyard in front of 58 Barre Street. Requires mask-wearing and six feet distancing in line. **Meals for age 60+**, by suggested donation of \$5 – 10 with completed Annual Nutritional Survey; **Under 60**, fee of \$7-10. Reservations appreciated, and/or request vegetarian by calling **262-6288** by the previous day. All meals include milk. Next week's menu below. Full October menu available on website.

- **Tuesday, 10/20:** Slow-cooked BBQ Pork Shoulder, Mac & Cheese, and Coleslaw
- **Friday, 10/23:** Seared Chicken Breast with Basil Tomato Caper Relish

Optional Event: 12:30-1:15: FEAST Together via Zoom; RSVP by October 22

FEAST Together Distantly w/MSAC Staff on Zoom Video or Phone

Friday, October 23 | 12:30 - 1:15 pm | Zoom

Join MSAC Staff (Director, Janna Clar, FEAST Manager, Sarah Lipton and/or new AmeriCorps Aging in Place Coordinator Andrew Gribbin) and other MSAC members for lunch and visiting. Spend some time with friends, old and new! Email Harry at msac@montpelier-vt.org or call 223-2518, preferably a day or more in advance to receive Zoom link. Help from Chet is available if you're new to Zoom; just ask!

FEAST Together Inside!

Tuesday, Oct. 27 | 12:00 - 1:30 pm | MSAC Community Room

FEAST Together in-person with us again! Registration required so we can host you at one of 3 different seatings (12 pm, 12:30 pm, and 1 pm). Chef Mike will be preparing a delicious Tuscan style chicken with olives and nuts, white bean salad and assorted local vegetables.

FEAST at Home

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 give us a call at 262-6288 to be connected to our meals on wheels program.

Central Vermont Showing up for Racial Justice: Bystander Training

Please join us for a [FREE 2 hour training on Bystander Intervention](#) -- how to show up and step in when you see acts of racism in your community.

When: Wednesday, October 21, 5:30-7:30pm via Zoom

Click this link to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvc-qhpzsuGdYeD2_zmfzfhcwJULHmcgar

This training is a collaboration with the [Vermont Human Rights Commission](#), the [Peace and Justice Center](#), and Central VT SURJ. Learn about the tools needed to effectively intervene as a bystander and reflect on the specific tactics that work and what you need more of, and find where you can continuously engage in this work.

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*)

10/28	1 st Quarter Strategic Plan Update Legislative Agenda Infrastructure Update Guertin Park Police Committee Appointments
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	SRO discussion? 12 Main St. ? COVID-19 Update		
11/4	Childcare Option Update Meet with Legislators (tentative) COVID-19 Update 12 Main Street Property	11/18	COVID-19 Update
12/2	Housing Initiatives Update Budget COVID-19 Update	12/9	Budget COVID-19 Update
1/6/21	Budget Workshop	1/13/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 nd quarter budget status
1/21/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions	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