

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
11/23	Planning Commission	5:30	Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Link</a>



## Public Health and Safety

### City of Montpelier Response Update Weekly Report Date November 20, 2020

In the State's press conferences this week, the Governor continued to emphasize that we, as Vermonters, need to be compliant in the mitigation guidelines to reduce the risks of COVID-19 transmission.

The Governor also had a very strong message for Vermont, saying that "real patriots serve and sacrifice for all, whether they agree with them or not. Patriots stand up and fight when our nation's health and security is threatened, and right now, our country and way of life are being attacked by this virus".

Governor Scott asks Vermonters to follow the guidelines and to avoid meeting up with other households. "I know this is hard," he says, but advises "look around you...look at the rising his hospitalizations and deaths. Think about the Vermonters we've lost" to COVID-19.

Building on the State's recommendation to not travel or gather for the Thanksgiving holiday, the [CDC has also released advisory messages urging folks to limit travel and events.](#)

**As a reminder to residents:** [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask in public starting August 1<sup>st</sup>](#), and has extended the [State of Emergency through December 15<sup>th</sup>.](#)

#### State Updates:

- [Make sure to remember the new guidelines that create new mitigation measures that include:](#)
  - Multi-household gatherings, whether inside or out, in public spaces or private, are prohibited
  - Bars and other social clubs will be closed to in-person service
  - Restaurants will remain open, but will be closed to in-person service after 10pm, but they can offer to-go service
  - Clarifications on the recent guidelines:
    - If you're in a dangerous or unhealthy situation, you can leave and take shelter with another household.
    - Individuals who live alone can gather with one other household so they can stay connected, but they need to limit contacts.
    - Outdoor fitness activities including no more than two people from different households are allowed. Distancing is still required, as well as wearing a mask.

- Schools Updates:
  - The benefits of in-person schooling is key to why keeping schools open is being prioritized by the State
  - Approximately 9500 tests or 45% of school staff in Vermont, will be completed by the end of the day today (11/20/20). The second phase of testing for school staff starts next week.
- Hospital Updates:
  - [ASH has ordered Hospitals to go back to tighter restrictions, which includes no visitors, with very limited exceptions.](#)
- Travel Updates:
  - Most of the country has cases higher than 400 per million, so as of 11/10/2020, the state is [suspending its travel map](#) and requiring a 14-day quarantine (or a 7-day quarantine and negative test) for all people coming into or returning to Vermont from out of state.
  - Public Safety Commissioner Michael Schirling says the state will be using state police, fire and safety, local and county officials, and the liquor control to conduct safety and compliance checks at places where there are often out of state travelers.
- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response:
  - Cases and Outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).
    - AHS is working with Rutland Health and Rehab to contain an outbreak there. Also managing an outbreak at Four Seasons, a residential care facility in Washington County.
  - There has been another death in Vermont due to COVID-19, bringing our total to 62 deaths. We've lost 4 more Vermonters in the last 2 weeks.
    - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here](#).

### **City Updates:**

- To comply with the new State requirements, the City is closing City Hall to the public until further guidance is issued by the State. This includes cancelling in-person Council Meetings. Appointments can still be accommodated with Departments on a case-by-case basis.
- To comply with new State Requirements, the Montpelier Senior Activity Center is suspending in-person classes and the Recreation Department will be suspending Rec Center rentals.

### **Testing Availability:**

- The State is expanding testing capacity to make sure a majority of Vermonters are within a 30 min drive to a testing site, and they are adding new contract tracers- including some Vermont National Guard members
  - New testing locations in: Burlington, Middlebury, Waterbury, Rutland and Brattleboro
- Due to increased COVID-19 activity in central Vermont, further expanded testing has been planned for our region for this and the next several weeks.

If you are symptomatic, please contact your primary care provider. The Central Vermont Medical Center has also expanded testing. To schedule an appointment, call the CVMC COVID Hotline at 802-

371-5310.

All testing clinics noted below will be held at the **Barre Auditorium: 16 Auditorium Hill, Barre, VT 05641 from 9:00am to 3:00pm on the following dates:**

- Friday, November 20th
- Monday, November 23rd
- Tuesday, November 24th

Preregister here or call 2-1-1 for registration assistance: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested#other-testing>

### **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.
- 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.



### Sustainable Infrastructure

### **Alternate Side Parking:**

Getting the Message Out! Public Works has been posting messages on social media and on our web page informing residents of key changes, and directing readers to go the City website to look up specifics for where they typically park, whether that be during the daytime, evenings or both. Please feel free to email any questions or comments to Jasmine Benson @ [jbenson@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:jbenson@montpelier-vt.org).

### **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:

- December 2 and 9
- January 13 and 21 (Thursday). The 27<sup>th</sup> is not yet confirmed.

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

### **BUDGET New**

The leadership team held our annual “Budget Congress” yesterday. With a lot of collaboration, we developed the outline for the City Manager’s recommended budget. The Finance department will be putting the final pieces together. We are on track for formal presentation to you on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The draft was created by starting with the FY21 base general fund budget. Deducted from that was nearly \$1.3 Million in initially projected revenue downgrades. We then had to accommodate for projected FY22 expense growth, primarily in personnel but also other key areas. This created the budget gap that needs to be filled. After close review, we established a gap of \$1.5 Million (10%).

From there we looked at the FY22 expense side. Using departmental budget sheets already prepared, and preliminary work done on Capital and Equipment, we drafted a budget which completely closes the gap.

This proposal will, of course, be subject to the Council’s changes and approval. In large part it builds upon the FY21 budget mitigation plan already in place. With news of a vaccine on the horizon, we opted to emphasize project and equipment reductions rather than ongoing structural service changes.

## Positives:

- Closes the budget gap without requiring a property tax increase
- Retains all existing personnel
- Includes funding for some big pending items
- Maintains basic levels of services
- Does not use one-time funding or “gimmicky” financing

## Negatives:

- Reduces capital project funding by a substantial amount.
- Reduces equipment funding from our established level.
- Holds 6 full time positions vacant. We are not referring to them as cut since the plan is restore funding as revenues get back to “normal”.
- Operating costs are held at or slightly below FY21 levels.
- Funding for community programs is severely reduced or eliminated.

We would like the CIP committee to review the impact of the Capital and Equipment reductions. The plan is to create a restoration priority which can be implemented as revenues change.

All of this will be explained in detail in the budget materials and the 12/2 presentation.

### **12 MAIN STREET (former TKS property) update**

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 acquire it as part of the One Taylor Street/Bike Path project. The original deadline was December 1<sup>st</sup>. We have received VTrans proposal for this property and will bring it to the Council for consideration and approval on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **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.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES**

#### **MSAC Closed to Members of the Public**

As of Friday, November 13, MSAC is closed to the public until at least December 15, based on recent COVID-19 guidance from the State and City. We will be re-assessing as the local COVID-19 situation evolves. Until further

notice, no in-person classes, activities, customer service or health clinics will be possible. FEAST meal service will continue and To-Go service may have slight changes. Outdoor gatherings of non-household groups is prohibited by the State currently, and none of our drop-in groups will meet at or outside MSAC. We do have approval to continue essential one person services such as our Foot Care Clinic. Winter class plans (for January-March) may change, but registration will begin on December 7 as planned. We will announce updates in our e-letters, website, Facebook and FPF. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### **Heartfelt Thanks to MSAC Instructors, FEAST and other Volunteers, Donors and Partners**

As we approach Thanksgiving and the end of this calendar year, we reflect on all the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, lock-downs, and our slow re-opening and re-visioning. As with every year, MSAC operations, programs and services would not be possible without the generous contributions of hundreds of local community members, but this year it feels even more poignant to give thanks! Thank you to our many instructors, both volunteer and paid, who dedicate countless hours of their weeks to share their skills, passion and inspiration in support of lifelong learning and healthy aging programs. Please keep registering for their private classes as well! Thank you to our other volunteers who give their time to support FEAST Programming, to those on our Advisory Council and Committees. Those who help with registration, office work, proofing, trip planning, drop-in group facilitation, petitioning, mailing prep, tabling and so much more! In December, we will publish lists of the 2020 volunteers' names and recent donors who have given. We are also cooking up a special volunteer recognition lunch to be offered curbside on Dec. 14, since we can't bring over 100 people together inside safely. Stay tuned for you invitation and please let us know if we missed you as a volunteer. Thank you to our financial and in-kind donors who give funds and items to support affordable programming and services. Thank you, last but not least, to our organizational community partners who will be listed in our December newsletter as well! We wish everyone a safe and healthy Thanksgiving holiday!

### **Thanksgiving Day Phone and Video Gatherings to Share the Day Despite the Pandemic!**

Thursday, November 26 | Three times

We know Thanksgiving is going to be challenging this year as gathering in person is not possible for many. Join our group phone and video gatherings with MSAC staff, volunteers and friends to help beat the loneliness of the day that many are anticipating this Thanksgiving. Join any or all of our three options! Tell others about it! All ages, all towns welcome!

- 10:00-10:30 am with Sarah Lipton, FEAST Manager
- 12:30-1:00 pm with Andrew Gribbin, AmeriCorps Member
- 5:00-6:00 pm with Janna Clar, MSAC Director

To get the special call-in phone number or video link, contact us by Wednesday afternoon, 11/25 at 262- 2688 or email [feast@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:feast@montpelier-vt.org).

### **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 donations 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 November menu available on website.

**Tuesday, Nov. 24:** Roast Turkey, stuffing, green beans & cranberry sauce

**Friday, Nov. 27:** no meal, closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

### **FEAST To-Go Updates**

Seniors 60+, we are so pleased to continue to offer our Tuesday and Friday FEAST To-Go pickup meal and going to be shifting to Curbside Pickup at the side entrance starting Tuesday, November 24th. We'll have signs to remind you where to go. You can see our menu on our website. Please call to make your reservation: 262-6288 *Reminder, no meal Friday, November 27th.*

### **FEAST Celebrates the Arts**

In collaboration with senior artists, we are thrilled to unveil a series of artistic expressions representing the FEAST. As the weather cools, the pandemic still rules, and we are working hard to support our isolated community members,

we wanted to bring a celebration of community, warmth, nourishment, harvest and richness right to you. You may now view the slideshow on our website: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1134/Now-Showing-in-MSACs-Art-Gallery>.

**Introducing “MyRide”**

Green Mountain Transit, Sustainable Montpelier Coalition, VTrans, and a number of other community partners, are launching a new pilot project in Montpelier and we at MSAC think it’s important to let as many folks know about it as possible. “MyRide” by GMT, unlike the current fixed route bus service, allows you to book a ride from your location straight to your destination. Your ride, your way. In an effort to help passengers transition to the new service, they are currently gathering information in an online survey – survey ends Nov. 23. Click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6sk2xlb> to participate. If you would prefer to take the survey over the phone, please call 802-272-1195 Monday- Friday between 10:00 am-3:00 pm until November 23.

Feast Farm is a collaborative project located in central Vermont. The farm is a partnership among the City of Montpelier Community Services divisions: Parks, Recreation, and the Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC). In the spring of 2020, we established Feast Farm to grow food for MSAC’s FEAST meals program. Our vision for this project is two-fold. First, we endeavor to provide nutritious, local food to our elderly population. Second, we aim to provide meaningful volunteer and work experiences to folks of all ages while educating them about sustainable agriculture. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, it feels all the more important to invest in growing local food and providing for the health of our most vulnerable neighbors. Please consider donating!!!! <https://donate.seedmoney.org/4892/feast-farm>

**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,

City Manager



William Fraser

**Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)**

12/2	Budget COVID-19 Update GMT – micro transit “My Ride” CFMAS – dispatch project Guertin Park 12 Main Street Confluence Park Grant Application	12/9	Budget COVID-19 Update Housing Initiatives Update
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1/6/21	Budget Workshop	1/13/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter budget status COVID-19 Update
1/21/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions COVID-19 Update	2/10/21	City Manager Review COVID-19 Update
2/24/21	COVID-19 Update	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 provided in November

Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates