

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
1/8/21	Local Hazard Mitigation Committee	9:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/11/21	Planning Commission	12:00 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/11/21	Police Review Committee	4:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/11/21	Recreation Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/12/21	Community Advisory Board	5:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/12/21	Historic Preservation Commission	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
1/13/21	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Weekly Report

As of January 8, 2021

At the date of writing, there have been 156 total deaths in Vermont from COVID-19. These are real people: our friends, neighbors, and family, their lives matter and we can't stop trying to stop the spread to prevent more deaths! Health Commissioner Dr. Levine has discussed data about COVID-19 deaths in Vermont, which have been almost exclusively among those age 60 and older. He also noted that 40% of people with COVID-19 have a pre-existing chronic condition, some having two or more such conditions. It's important that we all follow the health and safety guidelines to prevent folks we know and who are at the highest risk from getting ill. Dr. Levine also discussed that there is a new strain of the COVID-19 virus that is more easily transmitted, originally identified in the UK, is being found as close to Vermont as upstate New York. Dr. Levine says that he fully expects that we will see this variant in our State. For all of these reasons, it is imperative that Vermonters redouble our efforts at mitigation to prevent more spread.

State Updates:

- **As a reminder to residents:** [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask in public starting August 1st](#), and has extended the [State of Emergency through January 15th](#).
- [Make sure to remember the new guidelines that prohibit:](#) Multi-household gatherings, whether inside or out, in public spaces or private.
 - The temporary change to the gathering guidance, which allowed 2 households to gather through January 2nd, 2021 has ended.

- Vermonters may resume [outdoor activities](#) with those outside of their household, as long as physical distancing, masking and other precautions are observed.
- Vaccine Updates
 - The State's Vaccine Distribution Plan and further information can be found here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/vermont-covid-19-vaccine-planning>
 - By the end of January, everyone in Phase 1A should have received at least the first dose of the vaccine, with many having received second doses
 - The second Phase is being finalized, but will include those over 75 years of age.
 - Then priority goes to those 65-74 years of age
 - Then priority goes to younger folks with pre-existing higher-risk conditions that may include heart disease, emphysema, COPD, cancers, kidney diseases or immunized suppressive folks. More information will be shared soon.
 - Dr. Levine asked that Vermonters should not call the state or their PCPs to "get in line" or to get more information regarding vaccines. Dr. Levine says that "we're not at that stage yet" and that more information on the roll-out will be forthcoming.
- Schools Updates:
 - Governor Scott announced youth sports may resume with no-contact practices. Effective December 26th, school-based and youth recreational programs may begin practices with individual skills, strength and conditioning. [The Agency of Education has released full guidance for school-based sports.](#)
 - Education Secretary Dan French has stated that the Agency of Education expects schools to start beginning "recovery work" this spring, to help students get back on track with their curriculums. The Secretary stated that most VT schools may be able to return to "mostly full in-person instruction after April vacation."
- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response:
 - Cases and Outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard.](#)
 - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here.](#) Note that the Regional Positivity Rate is trending upwards.
 - Outbreak Update:
 - [Addison County has an outbreak totaling 80 cases related to 3 separate services at a church.](#)
 - There have been 9 known cases related to folks at ski areas, a majority of whom are employees of those ski areas.
 - Dr. Levine gave a reminder that Levine says anyone who traveled to Washington this week needs to quarantine.
- Mental Health Support & Food Access
 - The State shared some resources to assist folks in seeking help for any mental distress, or in need of mental health care. Resources can be accessed through calling 2-1-1 or via the [State's website for COVID-19 support.](#)

- If you need help accessing food, there are also many resources on the State and Local level. Please call 2-1-1 or access [WIC](#), [Hunger Free Vermont](#), [3SquaresVT](#), or other resources outlined via Hunger Free Vermont [COVID-19 response](#).
 - There are also local agencies hosting food access programs such as: the [Vermont Foodbank](#), [Everyone Eats](#), and the [Montpelier Food Pantry](#).
- VTAlert:
 - VTAlert is now offering COVID-19 updates
 - Folks can sign up at the [VTAlert website](#).

City Updates:

- At this time, all consenting Fire/EMS City Staff have received their first round of vaccines.
- No service changes: the City is still complying with the new State requirements by 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.
- A new porta-john has been added, with support from Just Basics and the State, at the State Visitor Center Parking Lot: 134 State St, Montpelier, VT 05602

Testing Availability:

- The Central Vermont Medical Center has expanded testing. To schedule an appointment, call the CVMC COVID Hotline at 802-371-5310.
- The state is encouraging Vermonters to get tested, even without symptoms. Health Commissioner Dr. Levine has asked Vermonters who were in close contact (if you gathered!) with anyone outside their households over the holiday break to get tested ASAP.
- **Testing dates/locations and preregistration found here or call 2-1-1 for registration assistance:** <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>
- **This includes one upcoming Montpelier testing Date:**
 - January 14th, 2021: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm at 134 State St., in the parking lot



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.

STREET DIVISION:

Our Street Division crew's main focus this week was winter operations, plowing streets and sidewalks, daytime snow removal around our city schools and narrow side streets. On Wednesday January 6th, our staff from all different divisions began night time snow removal in the downtown areas.

WATER/SEWER DIVISION:

The water/sewer spent most the week on repairing hydrants that were broken during plowing operations and helped with snow removal in the downtown area. We also did the ¼ water meter readings as well as completing the missed list. Staff also completed the water line extension to the Murray Hill Homeowner's Association and will be pressure testing the new system at the end of this week.

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY :

Our year ended meeting all state and Federal compliance standards for public drinking water facilities as expected.

We have just completed all of our first quarter testing along with all monthly required testing as of Wednesday January 6th.

Water system daily water use/flows continue to remain much lower than normal with the lower daytime population in the city due to the pandemic.

Facility maintenance and operational work is on schedule.

WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY:

The plant upgrade is now approximately 95% complete. The primary remaining work item is the upgrade to the Ultraviolet Disinfection System. The methane boiler, flare and waste screening unit are scheduled for startup over the new two weeks. The Facility is scheduled to begin receiving high strength waste at the end of the January.

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 Update

Montpelier City Council will hold **regular** meetings on the following dates:

- January 13 and 21 (Thursday). A meeting on the 27th is not anticipated.

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

The first Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meeting was held this week to help facilitate the City updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The old plan is available here for review:

<https://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Montpelier-Mitigation-Plan-Adopted-Dec-2014.pdf>

The process kicks off with reviewing the 2015 plan and updating it to capture what mitigation work has been done. Then the plan will start to look at what hazards still exist in the Montpelier area, and what new hazards may need to be added. The City will be aiming for robust community engagement around this process- so be on the lookout for an upcoming survey to poll residents on what hazards they feel should be a priority for mitigation!

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 Lobby Currently Locked

Due to COVID 19 the Police Department's front lobby is currently locked. We ask that anyone needing police assistance to please contact MPD by telephone at 802-223-3445. If you are in person at the police department, please ring the front intercom and a dispatcher will speak directly to you. If you need an officer, an officer will come to the front of the police department to meet with you and assist you.

Policing & Mental Health **NEW**

Zoom Event: Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 7pm. The second in the League of Women Voters program series, "Policing and Mental Health" will address how police interact with people in a mental health crisis, from the perspective of law enforcement, victims, and legal advocacy. Discussion will include police training and other policing reform approaches that can help mitigate overreaction and unnecessary violence.

Moderated by League member Madeline Motta, panelists are:

Brian Peete, Chief of Police, Montpelier

A.J. Ruben, Supervising Attorney at Disability Rights Vermont

Karim Chapman, of Psychiatric Survivors

Register in advance for this Zoom program:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcO2qrTMvE9BSTp9I7TXtcb8pv7kRG89R>

Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force The Montpelier Police Department has become an affiliate agency of the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (VT-ICAC). VT-ICAC works to prevent the victimization and exploitation of children through the use of computers, technology or the internet.

Community Feedback Wanted MPD is working to implement a trial period of a community feedback system called Officer Survey. For approximately one month, MPD will evaluate the Officer Survey platform which will allow for community members to provide feedback to the department about interactions with officers. Officers will have survey cards that can be provided to individuals after interactions or calls for service. For more information on Officer Survey, please visit <https://www.officersurvey.com/company>.

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 months, 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 or contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

Montpelier Senior Activity Center, City Memo 1-7-21

Parks Winter Trails

The Parks & Trees Department collaborates with Onion River Nordic Ski Club, the North Branch Nature Center, and a number of other groups to maintain winter trails throughout the city. We update our trail conditions every morning on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MontpelierParks. Our Winter Trails Map can be found on the Parks web page at <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/211/Park-Maps>. Trail conditions this week are pretty good despite the thin snow cover, with open areas being in particularly good shape. If you're interested in local skiing, please check out these resources and consider joining the Onion River Nordic Ski Club.

Community Services Explores Intergenerational and Outdoor Programming

Watch for more announcements this winter about the collaborative work among MSAC, Recreation, Parks & Trees, and Public Schools! We look forward to bringing the community more intergenerational activities and to increasing the use of our beautiful public outdoor spaces, during and after the pandemic! In support of that effort, we have created a joint CS Program Committee, separate from the MSAC Program Committee. If you have ideas to share or want to get involved, contact Janna, Nick or Jac!

MSAC's [January 2021 Active Times Newsletter](#) is available to read online.

The issue includes a staff profile about Harry Divack, a list of recent donors and fundraising updates, a list of 2020 volunteers, events and other announcements from MSAC, the City and many community partners, fuel & food assistance, resource information, the launch of Sarah Lipton's first book, FEAST and Farm menu & updates, a new recipe from Chef Mike, our weekly calendar, MSAC funding updates and more! Click on the link above to open up the full newsletter.

To be added to our weekly e-list, send a request to MSAC@montpelier-vt.org. To receive the monthly newsletter as a hard copy, join as a member (anyone age 50+) and request our USPS option, or request a hard copy be left for you at our side door (anyone)!

MSAC Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, January 11 | 1:30—3pm| via Zoom

Agenda items will include: Wellness calls update, winter registration update; budget update, Fund-raising and Finance Committee reports. Draft minutes for November 16 meeting and next agenda are posted on [MSAC's Advisory Council page](#). To receive the Zoom link email msac@montpelier-vt.org.

“How to Use Zoom” Free Training

Tuesday, Jan. 12 | 2:30—3:30 pm

Have you heard about Zoom but felt nervous or resistant to try it out? Have you had a frustrating time with it, or been using it and want to learn tips to improve your experience? MSAC Americorps member, Andrew Gribbin, will cover: turning your video and microphone on and off, changing your views and user-name, using the Chat function, Zoom etiquette and more. There will be time to practice and ask questions. To register, or learn about Zooming with your phone only, call Andrew at 262-6287 or email msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org.

Winter Class Registration (for January-March programs) continues. You can find the Winter Program Guide and Registration forms you need [here!](#)

- Most of our affordable, diverse classes are open to younger members of the public - spread the word!
- **21 winter classes have recently or will soon start online**, and several may pivot to in-person if State COVID guidance allows after January 15.
- **Not familiar with Zoom yet, frustrated, or nervous?** Don't worry, we've got you covered: call Andrew at 262-6287 for individualized help or check out our January 12 FREE training!

A Note from National Life about Do Good Cupboard - Your Help Needed!

Our Do Good Cupboard has been providing our neighbors with food and necessities but lately with the increased need, it can't keep up with demand. If you happen to have some extra, unexpired mac and cheese, dried soup and/or beans, peanut butter, protein bars, feminine hygiene products, or diapers that you'd like to leave in the cupboard for others to take, wonderful! The Cupboard is right outside MSAC. Thank you!

FEAST Senior Nutrition Program

FEAST TO-GO: Tuesdays & Fridays, 12-12:30 pm, served at 58 Barre St. Seniors 60+, drive up to the side door of MSAC every Tuesday and Friday to receive your delicious, hot FEAST To-Go takeout meal. We have shifted to Curbside Pickup for your safety and ease. We'll have signs to remind you where to go. You can see our menu on our website. Please try to RSVP in advance so we know to expect you: 262-6288 or FEAST@montpelier-vt.org.

FEAST To Go January Menu for Tuesdays/Fridays, [click here](#).

FEAST at Home (Meals on Wheels): 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 call the office to be connected to our robust (and yummy!) program. Call 262-6288 or email FEAST@montpelier-vt.org.

FEAST Recipe Corner

When we asked Chef Mike to supply us with a warming winter recipe for January, he immediately thought of his favorite beef stew: Beef Bourguignon. Find the recipe here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1201/Something-for-the-Kitchen>. All of the ingredients can be sourced locally, and we encourage you to make or find someone to make this dish for you this season! If you have a

favorite recipe you would like to feature, send it to us at FEAST@montpelier-vt.org.

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*)

1/13/21	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 nd quarter budget status Award 10 Year Net Zero Contract Retail Cannabis Ballot Item ACCD Better Places Grant	1/21/21 Thursday	Audit Report Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions Review 2 nd quarter strategic plan status Community Fund Board Presentation
2/10/21	Utility Budgets Zoning Amendments City Manager Review MDC/Economic Development Recommendation - tentative	2/24/21	Utility Budgets
3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election	3/10/21	Organizational Meeting Rules of Procedure Ethics Policy Committee Assignments WRRF presentation

REPORTS DUE:

Universal Recycling Law – Periodic updates

MDC/MA Partnerships – Periodic updates

Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates