

| Date | Committee | Time | Location | Links |
|------|---------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 3/29 | Public Art Commission | 5:00 PM | Zoom | Agenda and Zoom Link |
| 3/31 | Social & Economic Justice | 8:30 AM | Zoom | Agenda and Zoom Link |
| 3/31 | Homelessness Task Force | 11:30 AM | Zoom | Agenda and Zoom Link |
| 4/1 | Tree Board Meeting | 5:30 PM | Zoom | Agenda and Zoom Link |



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Weekly Report:

As of this week: over 189,450 people in Vermont have been vaccinated, including 100,000 who have gotten both doses. However, as we turn this vaccination corner- it's been a full year since the first deaths in Vermont attributed to COVID-19 occurred, and 224 other Vermonters have died since then. AS of this report- 26 people are in the hospital due to COVID-19, and 4 of those folks are in the ICU. Even in Washington County- there has been 62 new cases in the last 2 weeks. These cases are our friends, family, and neighbors! We all need to continue to wear masks, stay distant, wash our hands, and avoid crowded spaces to ensure there is no further loss of life.

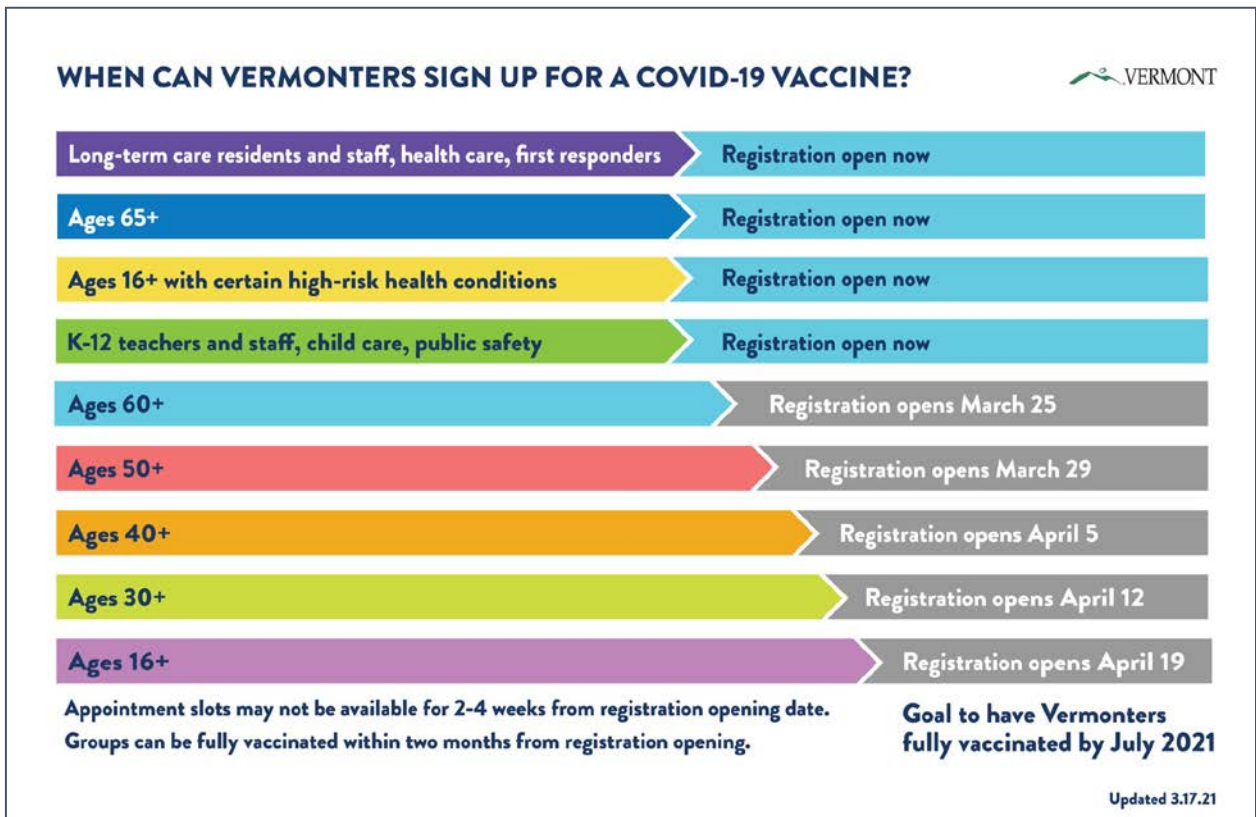
From the State regarding the Vaccine Appointment Website:

- More than 11,200 Vermonters age 60 and older made appointments for COVID-19 vaccine through the state registration system yesterday, March 25th, the first day the age group became eligible. The system experienced some technical problems, leading to some people being scheduled for testing appointments instead of vaccine appointments. The issue was resolved by mid-morning and the Health Department has reached out to those impacted. Folks affected can also log into their account make sure they have the appointment they want. Vaccine appointments have a "needle" icon on the left side. If needed, you can cancel any incorrect appointments and reschedule. Anyone who needs assistance can also call 855-722-7878.

Overall State Updates:

- Updates to the Be Smart, Stay Safe Order:

- The Governor announced [updates to COVID-19 guidance](#) for bars and social clubs. Effective March 24th, establishments will be able to follow the [restaurant guidance](#), which will allow them to reopen within current restrictions. These include operating at 50% capacity, requiring patrons be seated at tables with a maximum of six per table, six feet of distance between parties, masking and more. Municipalities will be able to place more restrictions on these establishments in their jurisdictions.
- Vaccine Updates
 - Starting Thursday, March 25th, Vermonters age 60+ will become eligible to get the vaccine.
 - On March 29th, those age 50+. On April 5th, those aged 40+. On April 12th, those aged 30+. On April 19th, anyone 16+ can schedule their vaccine.



- COVID-19 vaccine registration is available through both the website and the phone number (links below):
 - Sign up for COVID-19 vaccine appointments at HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine or by calling (855) 722-7878
 - Appointments are needed, no walk-ins will be accepted.

- There is a new call center for home-bound Vermonters to call to get an appointment for a vaccine via a home-visit. The number is: **833-722-0860**
 - Vaccination updates can be found via the [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)
- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response Updates:
 - Case count and outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).
 - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here](#).
 - The weekly summary report on cases can be found [here](#), which this week focuses on Close Contacts and cases between March 5, 2020 – March 24, 2021
 - [The Department of Health has confirmed](#) that genomic sequencing of COVID-19 specimens has now identified two of the variants of concern circulating in the U.S. as being present in Vermont. Recent lab results now show the B.1.429 strain, first identified in California, is also in Vermont, in addition to the B.1.1.7 variant.
- Business/Economic Updates:
 - The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) has launched a landing page for the [Shuttered Venue Operators Grant \(SVOG\) application portal](#) in anticipation of opening applications for the critical economic relief program on Thursday, April 8th.
 - Prior to the official SVOG application opening, the SBA will host a [national informational webinar](#) to highlight the application process for potential eligible entities on Tuesday, March 30th from 2:30pm to 4:00pm.
 - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced [extended deferment periods](#) for all disaster loans, including the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, until 2022.
- Reminder: 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 or someone you know is in crisis or needs emotional support, help is available 24/7:
 - Call your [local mental health crisis line](#).
 - Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the [Crisis Text Line](#).
 - Call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at 1-800-273-8255. For more info, visit [healthvermont.gov/suicide](#).

- Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at [VT Helplink](#).
 - Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at [COVID Support VT](#).
- 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](#).
- Reminder: Gathering Guidelines
 - People who are [fully vaccinated](#) may gather with other people who are vaccinated. Two unvaccinated people or households may gather at a time. Read [gathering guidelines](#). Masking, distancing, capacity limits, and other mitigation guidelines remain in place. [Read the full guidance updates here](#).
- Reminder: Travel and Quarantine Guidelines
 - Effective February 23rd, those who are fully vaccinated (meaning two weeks after their second dose), will not need to quarantine after traveling. More information can be found here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>
 - New Quarantine requirements have been outlined in [this updated chart](#).
- Reminder: Federal Stimulus Legislation Update
 - From the just-passed Federal COVID-19 relief legislation, most folks will be receiving \$1,400 for all individuals in a household, including dependents and children. The child tax credit will be increased to \$3,000 for kids over the age of 6 and \$3,600 for kids under the age of 6.
 - Unemployment benefits will be extended until September, with an additional \$300 weekly supplement to the normal Unemployment Benefits. There will also be a tax deduction for these benefits, up to a set amount, that people received in 2020.

COVID Testing Availability:

- **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>

- Upcoming Montpelier Testing Dates:
 - 04/01 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. (parking lot)
 - 04/08 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. (parking lot)



Environmental Stewardship

PFAS

The Attorney General's office reports that they currently have two active lawsuits filed against manufacturers of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Both cases were filed in June of 2019. They are seeking damages for losses relating to degradation of natural resources which could result in funds for cleanup, treatment, or removal. Both cases are currently independent but one has been consolidated with other similar cases in federal court for purposes of discovery, etc. They do not have a timetable for resolution. Additionally, the Agency of Natural Resources is preparing regulations. It's not known when that process will begin.



Responsive and Responsible Government

FEDERAL FUNDING

City staff is creating a summary of potential uses for the incoming \$2.158M in federal funds. Items fall into certain categories:

- Projects and equipment which were deferred as a result of the FY20 and FY21 budget mitigation plans to address the sudden revenue losses.
- Projects and equipment which were not funding in the FY22 budget due to projected revenue shortfalls.
- Major projects in development which exceed the annual capital plan and would normally require bonding and/or multiple funding sources.
- Current projects facing budget constraints.
- New projects and economic initiatives which have been proposed in the last year or less.

We are focusing on the major projects group as having the most potential for the earmark application. Those are the furthest along in design and have the most immediate benefit, of course they tend to be the most expensive as well. Our top priority project internally is East State Street which includes a new water line, new sewer line, the environmental benefits of a new storm water system and sewer overflow reduction. It will also result in a new rebuilt and repaved street and sidewalks. It's a \$7 Million project in all. Earmark funds could go a long way to move this along.

We will bring the full list to the council for your consideration at one of the April meetings with recommended priorities and comments on funding eligibility.



More Housing

City of Montpelier to proclaim the month of April 2021 to be Fair Housing Month in Montpelier, and the City Council urges all individuals, agencies, and institutions—public and private—to contribute to the observance by continuing our efforts to eliminate housing discrimination in our community and to increase housing opportunities for all.

The City Manager's office continues to work regularly on two potential private housing projects in Montpelier. One may require use of TIF for infrastructure.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Drug related arrest

On Thursday, March 25, 2021 the Montpelier Police Department executed a search warrant at 34 Main Street in the City of Montpelier, Vermont as a result of a lengthy investigation into the sale of cocaine, heroin and fentanyl in the area. Ashley M Dragotta (33) of Montpelier, Vermont was arrested for one (1) count of possession of heroin, three (3) counts of the sale of cocaine, one (1) count for the selling of regulated drugs in a dwelling and one (1) count for possession of fentanyl. Dragotta was cited to appear in Washington County Superior Court Criminal Division on March 26, 2021 at 08:30AM. The investigation is ongoing and no additional details are available at this time.

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)

The Montpelier Police Department will be working with all Washington County police departments, the Washington County State Attorney's Office, Washington County Mental Health Services, the Central Vermont Medical Center, and mental health peers and advocacy organizations to establish a Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Program. CIT is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families, and other advocates. It is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training to help persons with mental disorders and/or addictions access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness-related behaviors. It promotes officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis¹. I would like to invite you to attend a virtual town hall to discuss CIT. We can also talk about any other topics or concerns you may have regarding the Montpelier Police Department's efforts in servicing our community.

The scheduled virtual town hall times are:

¹ [https://www.citinternational.org/What-is-](https://www.citinternational.org/What-is-CIT#:~:text=The%20Crisis%20Intervention%20Team%20(CIT,their%20families%2C%20and%20other%20advocates.&text=It%20also%20promotes%20officer%20safety,of%20the%20individual%20in%20crisis.)

[CIT#:~:text=The%20Crisis%20Intervention%20Team%20\(CIT,their%20families%2C%20and%20other%20advocates.&text=It%20also%20promotes%20officer%20safety,of%20the%20individual%20in%20crisis.](https://www.citinternational.org/What-is-CIT#:~:text=The%20Crisis%20Intervention%20Team%20(CIT,their%20families%2C%20and%20other%20advocates.&text=It%20also%20promotes%20officer%20safety,of%20the%20individual%20in%20crisis.)

April 2, 2021 (Friday) 12 noon

<https://zoom.us/j/96573266941?pwd=TVFtdTJzZ01zTHILbnQrcFdObjREUT09>

Meeting ID: 965 7326 6941

Passcode: 933390

One tap mobile: (929)-205-6099

April 7, 2021 (Wednesday) 5pm

<https://zoom.us/j/97499267876?pwd=eTVqZDNRS0hzcDAwVmhQTFAvMlpFUT09>

Meeting ID: 974 9926 7876

Passcode: 693703

One tap mobile: (929)-205-6099

April 10, 2021 (Saturday) 12 noon

<https://zoom.us/j/99992663998?pwd=cmR6bWR6WWUxQ2ISYXhTRE1ITzk2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 999 9266 3998

Passcode: 091480

One tap mobile: (929)-205-6099

If you cannot make these dates and times, and would still like to learn more about CIT, please feel to reach out to me directly via email at bpete@montpelier-vt.org or phone at 802-223-3445.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

MSAC's March for Meals Benefit Series: One last event; registration still open!

March is National Meals on Wheels Awareness Month! To raise awareness and funds for our essential FEAST Senior Meals Program, which operates Meals on Wheels and Curbside Meals for seniors, we cooked up an enticing menu of TEN diverse, affordable, and pandemic-safe offerings - *9 online, 1 curbside dinner* – which have been enjoyed from the comforts of your own home. Online events are by donation. Next week we will report on the results of the entire March for Meals series, including our sold-out Lasagna Curbside Pickup meal on March 25. Thanks to all supporters, including our lead sponsor Hunger Mountain Co-op! **Monday is our final event!**

Mixed Level Pilates Class Shannon Hepburn

Monday, March 29 | 12:00—1:00 pm | Zoom

This low-impact mixed level Pilates mat class emphasizes core engagement, precision of movement, breath, and flow. A regular Pilates practice develops healthy postural patterns and increases all over strength and flexibility. The only equipment needed is a yoga/exercise mat. Participants of all ages and abilities welcome. [Register here.](#)

Upcoming FEAST Nutrition Education Event: Healthy Eating on a Budget

Tuesday March 30 | 12:00 pm

We all know how hard it is to eat on a budget, but we also know how important it is to eat healthfully. Join Registered Dietician Brigitte Harton for this online exploration into how to harness nutrition while also respecting our economic limitations. Plan to be online for an hour, and feel free to bring your questions. Free of Charge, but

Registration required, just call the FEAST Office: 802-262-6288.

You're invited: Older Vermonters Caucus weekly meetings, Wednesdays at 12pm: Senior Centers will be the featured topic on March 31 (Rescheduled from March 24)

The caucus is organized by Representatives Noyes and Wood of the House Human Services Committee. Each meeting hosts a guest presenter on a topic pertaining to older Vermonters and is an opportunity for caucus members to voice their opinions, ideas, and issues. **MSAC Director, Janna Clar, will be a guest next week**, speaking as one of two co-chairs of Vermont Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers to discuss emerging developments and challenges of the state's vital centers and services. This is a platform that cares greatly about Vermonters and all are welcome. Public participation is very much encouraged! If you would like to engage with the caucus, you can watch our previous meetings on YouTube as well as catch them live each week at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfA1g7IQ0QfRSYGh6PPqkFg>. Comment your questions and we will do our best to raise them during the meeting! For more information please feel free to email brian.s.anderson@uvm.edu.

MSAC Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, April 1 | 2:00-3:00 pm | Zoom

Agenda will be focused on the recently drafted State guidelines on re-opening senior centers, questions and input from members as the staff team makes plans for MSAC. To receive the Zoom link or phone number, contact msac@montpelier-vt.org or call 223-2518 well in advance of the meeting.

Spring classes for Adults and Youth: Ten reasons to enroll in MSAC's 31 online, affordable, diverse weekly classes

31 different class series in Arts, Humanities and Movement/Wellness (most open to younger people, too!) start the week of April 5, but several start later in the month, and many still have a lot of space, including these:

- Food as Medicine Fundamentals
- Painting at all Levels
- Rug Hooking
- Opera III: The 20th & 21st Centuries
- A Pro-Active Guide to Estate Planning
- Great Decisions
- Creating & Remaking Poems
- Creative Writing (Tuesday)
- Moving into Stillness: Yoga & Meditation
- Chair Yoga
- Gentle & Restorative Yoga
- Somatic Movement Series
- Tai Chi Fundamentals
- Qi Gong

Won't you consider signing up or encouraging a friend? Here are just ten of the countless reasons to consider MSAC's spring classes (registration at: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/751/Classes>).

- 1) Opportunities to meet and connect with new people and old friends to reduce social isolation!

- 2) Fabulous, thoughtful instructors with impressive expertise!
- 3) Lifelong learning and mental stimulation to keep our minds and spirits flexible!
- 4) Regular physical activity helps prevent and combat chronic illness!
- 5) Free Zoom training and other technology assistance are available!
- 6) MSAC offers something for everyone –diverse options across the Arts, Humanities and Wellness/Movement categories!
- 7) Affordable prices well below market value!
- 8) Financial aid available to all adults age 50+!
- 9) Membership is half-off in spring quarter for new members joining for the first time!
- 10) No need to struggle for parking or worry about transportation on muddy roads to get to class!

Again, registration at: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/751/Classes>. **(Hard copy forms available** at MSAC side door vestibule; several payment options).

Food Security in Montpelier & Beyond

FEAST Senior Meals program is honored to be part of the food security puzzle for Montpelier area seniors, and very pleased to have the delicious food by Good Taste Catering to offer. If, however, you know of others who are facing food insecurity, please direct them to this extremely helpful resource, which outlines all times, dates and locations for free meals and other food resources: <https://rb.gy/dncdbl>.

FEAST Love Fest - In Case You Missed It!

Montpelier's FEAST Senior Meals Program offers more than just delicious, nutritious meals, we offer love and engagement!

Enjoy this little spotlight on love from two FEAST friends: music with local singer/fiddler, Katie Trautz (former MSAC instructor, and founder of Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture) and poetry with local poet, Scudder Parker (a FEAST volunteer).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0sLfVV-0yw>.

FEAST Curbside 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 call to make your reservation: 262-6288 or email us at: feast@montpelier-vt.org.

FEAST To Go March 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.

Nordic Trails Closed:

It was a glorious year for Nordic Trails in and around Montpelier, but unfortunately those days have come to an end. All of the trails on either side of North Street are on private property and are not open to the public outside of ski season, so please do not walk in these areas.

Thanks so much to everyone who made these trails possible this winter, especially to the landowners for your generosity and to Onion River Nordic for your dedication to sharing your passion for skiing with the next generation.

Mud Season in the Parks!

It is still ice season in the parks, with a mud in the forecast. We don't close our parks in mud season like many trails, but we ask that you adhere to these basic guidelines:

- When you see a muddy trail, the best thing to do is turn around.
- If you must go forward, please walk **THROUGH** the mud and not around it.
- Do not make new trails through dry areas, or widen trails by going around muddy spots.

We're really happy to provide a place for people to recreate during mud season, and these steps (no pun intended) help us keep maintenance down. The best places to walk right now are on solid-surface gravel roads like the Stone Tower Path, 7 Fireplaces Rd., North Branch River Path, Siboinebi Path through town, and on the Hubbard Park Roads, which are closed to cars right now.



Legislative Updates

Legislative Testimony

The City is sometimes asked to provide testimony on certain bills or topics for the legislature. The most recent testimony information can be found below:

*For more detail on what pending bills the City is monitoring, please see the attached Legislative Agenda and Tracking Document at the end of this report

| <u>City Staff Providing Testimony</u> | <u>Bill or Testimony Topic</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Chief Peete, MPD | H. 133 | In summarizing the Bill, it has already been passed in previous sessions for police to take firearms for emergency relief from abuse orders from a judge. The addition to the law looks to only clarify the language that judges can order a defendant to relinquish weapons if it is found to be necessary. | Written feedback given. -PDs will enforce the laws as they are already on the books -Concerns I have for storing and maintaining the weapons (space and money) |
| Chief Peete, MPD | H. 183 Section 4 | It will be Section 4: Data Collection efforts for sexual violence cases throughout the state. | |
| Chief Peete, MPD | US Legislature regarding Crisis | There is proposed legislation to implement community resources to | It is not confirmed if he'll be chosen to testify, but |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| | response in law enforcement | respond to mental health crisis calls with police as a secondary. The legislation is through: U.S. Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (IL) U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (NV) | his name has been forwarded up. |
| Chief Peete, MPD | Senate Institutions in regards to MOU Capital Grounds Policing | | |
| Mike Miller, Planning | Request for Legislative Support | Looking for support from VPA members who are making recommendations regarding affordable and efficient housing for Vermonters at or below median household income | Consistent with our strategic plan with more housing, thoughtfully planned built environment and environmental stewardship. |
| Jana Clar, MSAC | Request for testimony and support | Support for Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) legislative priorities | Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older Vermonters Nutrition and Meals - Home and community –based provider increases/workforce development - Long-term care policies |



Sustainable Infrastructure

FY22 Pavement Markings and Crack Sealing:

Both of these projects are currently out to bid. The bid opening dates are schedule for March 26th, 2021 and April 6th respectfully.

Street Sweeping and Winter Cleanup:

The favorable spring weather has allowed for street sweeping to get an early start this year. The sweeper will be out and cleaning City streets with a focus on areas of heavy debris accumulation and streets that are still subject to the alternate side parking.

Water Leak Patching:

Crews have been out patching areas from the recent water leaks. Typically at time of year, since the pavement plants are not yet open crews would have to utilize either cold patch or fill in the hole with material until the plants open. With the addition of the asphalt recycler and hot box to our City's fleet of equipment, crews have been able to make permanent repairs to water leak that in prior years we would not have been able

to make at this time.

Water Pump Replacement at WTP:

The water treatment plant was been working with a vendor to rebuild an old pump at the water plant. Due to COVID there had been delays in the equipment arriving, but they are now at the plant the rebuild is underway.

State Street Sewer Sag:

The City has partnered with Dufresne Group to design this project. The project will consist of installing new sewer pipe on a portion of State Street between Taylor Street and the DMV. In addition there is a storm component which will aim to reduce the amount of storm water entering the City's sewer system, which is outlined the City's Long Term Control Plan. The design plans will be finalized by April 23rd, at which point the City will bid the project.

Main Street Water Line:

The City has partnered with Dufresne Group to design & permit this project. This project entails replacing the existing undersized water main along Main Street from Jay to Liberty with a new 12" main. Construction is anticipated to occur this between June and August of 2021.

Cumming Street Water Line and Street Reconstruction:

The City is working to design and permit the water replacement and street reconstruction project along Cummings Street. Once all permits have been received DPW will begin the construction which is currently slated for early June.

East State Street Reconstruction Project:

The City has partnered with Green Mountain Engineering (GME) to begin preliminary design for the East State Street reconstruction project. This summer City staff will be working with GME to gather utility information and to survey the project with construction anticipated for the summer of 2022.

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.

PARKING GARAGE/HOTEL PROJECT

This project remains in litigation. Motions have been filed about the Hotel Act 250 appeal. Discovery will proceed soon. Trial is expected for the fall. The project budget is being updated. Council will be briefed on the budget, design, and litigation on April 14th.



Thoughtfully Planned Built Environment

Parklets

The City Council has enacted the temporary parklet ordinance which was in place last summer and expired on October 25, 2020. This will allow restaurants and merchants to take advantage of the same relaxed standards this summer as it appears that COVID restrictions will continue. The second, and final reading took place at the March 10, 2021 City Council Meeting. The new ordinance will be effective from April 1, 2021 through November 2, 2021. The application process will begin shortly. You can find the parklet application on the city's website [here](#).

Economic Development

Given the news about the Montpelier Development Corporation, the City Manager and staff will be reviewing alternatives. We expect to provide a summary and recommendation for the future at a Council meeting in May.



We're Hiring!

Municipal Job Openings:

- Afterschool Age Childcare Director. More information can be [here](#).
- Staff Accountant. More information can be [here](#).
- Vista Member for Montpelier Senior Activity Center. More information can be [here](#).
- Emergency Services Dispatcher/Clerk. More information can be [here](#).
- Water/Sewer Mechanic Truck Driver, Level 1. More information can be [here](#).
- Vista Member for Montpelier Recreation Department. More information can be [here](#).



Reminders

DON'T FLUSH THAT

The 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

Montpelier, Vermont, Partners with ParkMobile to Offer Contactless Parking

Payments Residents and visitors can now easily pay for parking from their mobile device through ParkMobile! ParkMobile is the #1 parking app in the U.S., and has a new partnership going live with our City, enabling residents and visitors to pay for parking on their mobile device. The ParkMobile app is now available at more than 600 on and off-street spaces throughout the city.

ParkMobile is available for both iPhone and Android devices. To pay for parking with the ParkMobile app, a user enters the zone number posted on the stickers and signs around the meters. The user then selects the amount of time needed and touches the "Start Parking" button to begin the session. The user can then extend the time of the parking session right from the app without having to go back to the meter. We are excited to add this to our parking options!

Other payment options, such as coins and credit cards, will still be accepted.

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 month, 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.

City Hall Outdoor Wi-Fi Hotspot

The City of Montpelier, through the Department of Public Service (PSD) Wi-Fi Hot Spot Program has installed a public Wi-Fi outside the City Hall Building (39 Main Street Montpelier).

This PSD sponsored project is in response to the widespread closure of facilities due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which has significantly limited folks' ability to access free and reliable internet. The need for access to a reliable internet connections for healthcare, education, and government services has grown exponentially while existing public access points have become suddenly unavailable due to social distancing requirements. Vermont PSD has assisted the City in addressing this emergency gap in available public Wi-Fi by contracting for the rapid installation of a commercial-grade outdoor Wireless Access Point. They have installed 190 hotspots throughout the State

as part of this program. Montpelier is pleased to have been included.

The City Hall Wi-Fi site is accessible at all hours from a parked vehicle on the road or in-person in the courtyard in front of City Hall and the parking lot to the immediate right of the building. As a COVID-19 safety precaution, the City discourages users from congregating outside. The Wi-Fi name is “**Montpelier Hotspot**” and you should be able to connect without a password.

You can track all the State Vermont Public Wi-Fi sites here: [Wi-Fi Hotspot Map](#)

Leadership Team Agenda:

The City’s Leadership Team, which consists of Department Heads and some other key staff, conduct a monthly meeting to address issues or topics which are too complex to be handled in regular staff meetings. This past week the team selected the topics for this coming year, I thought you might be interested in knowing what the group has chosen.

| | | |
|------|-----------|---|
| 2021 | April | 20-21 Strategic Plan Updates |
| | May | Outdoor Recreation as an Economic Destination |
| | June | Outdoor Activity |
| | July | 20-21 Strategic Plan Updates |
| | August | Leadership Philosophy |
| | September | Equity Plan from Creative Discourse & Work |
| | October | 2022-2023 Strategic Planning |
| | November | Budget Congress |
| | December | COOP Plans/Hazardous Mitigation Planning |
| 2022 | January | Strategic Plan & Budget Updates |
| | February | Aging-friendly Communities |
| | March | Choosing Leadership Meeting Topics |

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*)

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|------|--|------|---|
| 4/14 | 3 rd quarter financials Hotel/Garage Project update E-911 Road Naming 1 st Reading Update on Summer pool use Homelessness Task Force Committee Assignments Community Fund award? Above & Beyond Award | 4/28 | 3 rd quarter Strategic Plan update E-911 Road Naming 2 nd reading Strategic Planning Update Work Winter Operations Review Federal Funds Plan? Summer Meeting Schedule Home Energy Labeling Ordinance 2 nd reading |
| 5/12 | FY23 Budget Process Economic Development? | 5/26 | Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan approval |
| 6/9 | Utility Rates Stormwater Utility Water/Sewer Master Plan District Heat Rates | 6/23 | Tax Rate Fund Reserves |
| 7/14 | Police Committee Report? | 7/28 | Social Economic Justice Committee Report? |

PENDING ITEMS

CVPSA Report

2021 CITY OF MONTPELIER LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

On the whole, the City of Montpelier requests that policymakers:

- Support legislation that grants cities and towns greater flexibility.
- Support legislation that provides funding to cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that removes authority from cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or directly or indirectly shifts costs to cities and towns.

In order to help fulfill its commitments to its residents, the City of Montpelier calls on the legislative delegation to support the following policies:

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Advocate for the safe return to work of State employees in local office buildings
- Advocate and support direct municipal funding that protects Cities and Towns from financial disaster during the COVID crisis
- Allow a delay in reappraisal requirements or a return to the 80% threshold

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>H.48</u></p> | <p>The General Assembly finds that the continued spread of COVID-19 in the State of Vermont has the potential to jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of Vermonters voting in their 2021 annual municipal meetings. These meetings include annual town meetings, which are required by general law to be held on the first Tuesday of March; annual school district meetings, which are generally required to be held between the months of February and June; and other municipal annual meetings with meeting dates controlled by charter</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>S.9</u></p> | <p>An act relating to extending certain workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19</p> |

COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

- Support the general statutory authority to adopt local option taxes

- Support programs and initiatives that spur locally driven, right-sized economic growth, especially programs like TIF, that provide infrastructure improvements to support that growth

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| <u>H.152</u> | Would establish an education property tax yield for homesteads and the non-homestead property tax rate |
| <u>H.159</u> | Would create a Better Places Program to support projects that create, activate, or revitalize communities and public spaces. |

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Continue funding Microtransit opportunities
- Advocate for global warming solutions and for any opportunities that support ecological protection, the reduction of PFAS, net zero goals, and conservation of our natural resources
- Support expanding the Net Metering limit for municipalities or Montpelier specifically

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| <u>H.100</u> | An act relating to electric bicycles |
| <u>H.123</u> | Would create a vehicle miles traveled tax applicable plug-in electric Vehicles |
| <u>H.144</u> | An Act relating to requiring inspection of wastewater systems |
| <u>H.94</u> | An act relating to transportation initiatives to reduce carbon emissions |
| <u>S.44</u> | Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a Vermont Green New Deal to invest in actions that curb climate change. The Vermont Climate Council would implement and oversee the Vermont Green New Deal to fund energy conservation programs, prioritizing weatherization, renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, and the use of electric vehicles. This bill would also create a new income tax surcharge on high incomes that would be deposited into a Vermont Green New Deal Fund to be administered by the State Treasurer |

INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, & WELCOMING CITY

- Advocate for any opportunity for additional Human Services funding for supporting those experiencing homelessness

- Support funding for public restrooms to serve all people using State and City facilities

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| <u>H.134</u> | An act relating to paid family and medical leave insurance |
| <u>H.139</u> | Would include employer contributions to health insurance in the amount of wages used to determine an injured worker's weekly benefit and to prohibit an employer from terminating an employee because the employee is absent from work while the employee is receiving temporary total disability benefits |
| <u>S.55</u> | An Act relating to paid vacation leave |
| <u>H.93</u> | An act relating to establishing a homeless bill of rights and prohibiting discrimination against people without homes |

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Continue funding for a Social Worker to support Barre City and Montpelier's Police Departments
- Focus on moving towards a regional public safety model and look critically at public safety cellular provider coverage

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| <u>H.1</u> | An act relating to mental health insurance benefits |
| <u>H. 109</u> | An act relating to parking ticket enforcement |
| <u>H.126</u> | Would establish a pedestrian safety pilot program, allow municipalities to seasonally install pedestrian crossing signs in crosswalks, allow municipalities to lower certain speed limits on state highways, and express the intent that the Traffic Committee should not increase the speed limit on a state highway in response to a municipality's request that it be lowered |
| <u>H.145</u> | Would amend the standards for law enforcement use of force to make clarifying changes and prevent the use of hindsight in evaluating law enforcement conduct and narrow the definition of prohibited restraints |

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| <u>S.19</u> | An act relating to a climate change response plan and regional planning commission involvement in identifying health care-related needs |
| <u>S.30</u> | An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms at childcare facilities, hospitals, and certain public buildings |
| <u>S.40</u> | An act relating to the use of colored signal lamps on fire department and emergency medical service vehicles |
| <u>EO-01-21</u> | <p>This Executive Order creates the Agency of Public Safety, effective April 15, 2021. The executive order cites the Department of Public Safety's ten-point strategy, which includes accelerating the organization of state law enforcement operations, modernizing data collection, expanding crisis response, enhancing the development of model policies and community oversight models, and addressing issues in training and dispatch. The new agency, headed by a secretary and deputy secretary, would include a Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management, a Department of Law Enforcement, and a Division of Support Services. The Criminal Justice Council, Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division, and the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board would be added to the agency in July. VLCT fully supports EO-01-21, an order that will affect local governments and law enforcement agencies. Last November, the VLCT Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the proposal to move the Vermont Police Academy to the Department of Public Safety.</p> |

RESPONSIVE & RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

- Support decision-making at the local level that recognizes the capacity of local officials and voters to govern themselves on issues of local import, including streamlined adoption and full implementation of municipal charters
- Approve any pending and future recommended charter changes
- Support legislation allowing removal of "red line" deed restrictions
- Support legislation consistent with the City's Adopted Strategic Plan <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/7156/2020-2021-Strategic-Plan-Brochure-with-full-Work-Plans?bidId=>

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| <u>H.82</u> | An act relating to allowing municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovative rates and services |
| <u>H.154</u> | Would deem a municipal office vacant whenever a municipal officer fails to take a required oath of office within one week of election or appointment. |

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| <u>H.164</u> | Would require a town to vote to allow the operation of any type of licensed cannabis establishment prior to such an establishment operating within the town. |
| <u>S.14</u> | An act relating to deed restrictions and housing density |
| <u>S.15</u> | An act relating to correcting defective ballots |
| <u>S.25</u> | An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis regulation procedures |
| <u>S.50</u> | An act relating to ranked choice voting |

STAFF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Police Department:

- Monitor the implementation of S. 124 and S. 119 to ensure any mandates are implemented in ways that do not adversely affect MPD policies. MPD policies based on National, evidence-based best practices, and 21st Century Policing recommendations.
- Monitor amendments made to H.133 An act relating to emergency relief from abuse orders and relinquishment of 11 firearms
- Work with the Vermont Police Association and Vermont Chiefs of Police to represent the Montpelier Police Department interests. These interests include advocating for policies that reflect community partnerships, accountability and transparency, officer safety and wellness. It also includes expressing concern for policies and procedures that may compromise officer safety.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center:

- Support legislation promoting investment in technology and broadband equity and access for all Vermonters, especially Older Vermonters, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of encouraging Telehealth and Social Connection.
- Support legislation consistent with priorities and principles of the Older Vermonters Act: Act 156 (passed in 2020)
- Support legislation that provides direct and robust funding to senior centers and senior meal sites as they fulfill important state and federal priorities and goals for increasing socialization, reducing isolation, providing evidence-based exercise and Fall Prevention programs, and more.
- Support legislation that allocates part of VT's federal Older Americans Act funding (especially Title 3B funds) directly to senior centers and

community organizations who provide services such as wellness programs, exercise classes, tax clinics, foot care clinics and more.

- Support legislation for Long Term Care Medicaid Waiver coverage for meals on wheels funding
- Support legislation advancing affordable housing for older adults and people with disabilities
- Support legislation protecting and promoting renters' rights
- Attend the Older Vermonters Caucus when scheduled again
- Enhance communication with advocates representing organizations that support older adults, including VT Association for Senior Centers and Meal Providers, Community of VT Elders, and VT Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Planning & Development:

- Track Act 250 exemptions for designated areas and tracking any proposed housing bills.

Community Justice Center:

- The Justice Reinvestment II (S.338, Act 148) may result in increased referrals without increased funding.
- Update statutory language so it reflects the reality of the programs and services CJsCs provide.

Clerk: Continue to participate in the process of developing and supporting a broad election procedures bill (no bill number yet available)