Improve Public Health and Safety

COVID-19 Response

Update: The State is no longer releasing COVID-19 Modeling Reports, but will be using the COVID-19 Surveillance Report as their key public facing COVID data document. Here is the most recent Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report for May 18th 2022.

According to their data, Vermont still has HIGH levels of COVID cases and so does Washington County, according to the CDC. There are three reported outbreaks of cases in Washington County active now, really reminding us that we all need to continue to take steps to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy!

COVID-19 Reminders:

- It is now recommended that those age 50+ or those who are immunocompromised age 12+ receive a second booster dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. The FDA’s guidance can be found here. Find vaccination clinics here, or call your preferred pharmacy.
- The health department now recommends that people who test positive isolate for five days, with the caveat that if you still have symptoms after completing isolation, you might choose to take extra precautions such as wearing a mask, which helps protect you and the people around you from getting or spreading COVID-19. More information can be found here: https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/symptoms-sickness
- Keep up to date with CDC Recommendations! You can find the CDC’s updates regarding COVID-19 on their website here. They have released an updated chart regarding their quarantine and isolation guidelines here.
Practice Good Environmental Stewardship

**District Heat**
Our Letter of Intent was received by the Northern Borders Regional Commission and we’ve been asked to complete a full application for the grant funding. The District Heat project focus is proposed to add a new ‘snow melt’ site using District Heat and adding new hook ups for customers. The full grant is due by June 3rd, and an application draft will be on the Council’s agenda for approval at their May 25th meeting.

Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

**Community Surveys and Outreach**
We are continuing to meet with our partners at Polco about outreach efforts. Thank you to Council for approving questions and giving feedback on what priorities Council has regarding the formal survey. We will communicate timeline updates as they occur and formal outreach strategies are being developed now.

**Pending Legal**
- *Appeal of Zoning Permit.* Neighbors have appealed DRB approval of a permit to move a barn structure. City is represented by Attorney David Rugh. We are monitoring the case. Recent filings by appellants have challenged the validity of sections of the city’s zoning ordinance.

- *Abdo Banfield v. City of Montpelier.* Appeal of DRB determination upholding decision of the Zoning Administrator. City is represented by Attorney David Rugh.

- *Ferry et al v. City of Montpelier.* The Superior Court dismissed the suit challenging the legality of the city’s non—citizen voting provision but upheld the plaintiff’s standing to raise the issue/. The plaintiffs have now appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. The City is likely to file a cross appeal challenging the standing decision.

Create More Housing
Recreation Staffing Update: Potential Impacts to the Pool NEw
The Montpelier Recreation Department is in urgent need of more summer lifeguards! Without bringing 8-10 more individuals on as lifeguards, the City may not have enough staffing to open the pool with its typical schedule. Not having enough lifeguards to safely staff the pool means we would need to reduce hours and/or limit the amount of the pool that can be used at one time- closing half of it at a time to public access. More lifeguards means a more normal schedule and the City is actively trying to recruit more staff. We have advertised through the schools, via the paper, and all social media.

Applications can be completed online at this link https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx?JobID=71 to the City’s job portal, or you can email the Rec Director Arne McMullen directly at amcmullen@montpelier-vt.org. Our pool staff jobs have flexible schedule, start pay at $13+ an hour, and reimburse for trainings and certifications!

Summer Camps in Need of Staffing: Potential Impacts to Camp Schedules NEw
The Recreation and Parks Departments both run summer camps, and both programs require full staffing to keep children safe! Each camp program operates with a ratio of adults to children set through best practice and licensing requirements. We are currently facing a shortage in camp counselors and educators, particularly in our FEAST Farm Camp and Summer Rec Camp. If we are unable to hire an appropriate amount of counselors for the summer, we may need to reduce camp sizes or cancel programs. Counselor and educator positions start between $13.50-$18 an hour.

More counselors means a more robust and set summer camp schedule- so if you are interested, please reach out! Applications can be completed online at this link https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx to the City’s job portal. You will find all camp related jobs under the “Community Services Department” section of the Montpelier job’s webpage.

Community Services Department Shared Info Updates/Events/Collaborations

Recreation’s Capital Kids Summer Day Camp Registration is open
Click here for info and registration form, which includes options for signing up for FEAST Farm Camp as well. The Community Services / Recreation office is also processing registration for Mountaineers baseball camp again this year.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center News & Updates:

Fundraising Updates:
MSAC recently received a total of $7,600 from the Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) in the form of three ARPA funded grant awards that will support: the new FEAST Farm Stand that will open in front of MSAC in mid-June (focused on offering $1/a piece produce from the FEAST Farm for older adults); necessary new kitchen equipment (a warming box to ensure hot meals go out hot, and the electrical work to install it); and
financing to support the purchase of Village Database software to assist with the MSAC at Home program serving older adults with a little help from the community for chores. Thank you so much to our important community partner, CVCOA!

Community Services New Staff: NEW
On May 16th, the CS Team was thrilled to welcome Matt Wilson to the position of Communications and Development Coordinator! Matt is coming to us with a robust background in sustainability and communications and is ready to hit the ground running. He is already hard at work on a new Newsletter for MSAC, mapping out a communications and marketing strategy, and many other tasks. Please join us in welcoming Matt! (mwilson@montpelier-vt.org)

With the upcoming departure of Harry Divack, the team is hard at work ensuring a smooth transition by systematically redesigning everything. We’ll miss Harry!

EVENTS at MSAC:
We All Have Different Brains Lecture with Mel Houser, Ph.D
Held at Montpelier Senior Activity Center
Call to register: 802-223-2518
Wednesday, May 25 @ 1pm

Veterans Recognition Curbside Luncheon
Held at Montpelier Senior Activity Center
Drive thru pick-up meal
Call to order meal: 223-2518 – Order by Friday, May 20th!
Friday, May 27 @ 12pm

Director’s Tea with Sarah Lipton
Held at Montpelier Senior Activity Center
Call to register: 802-223-2518
Tuesday, May 31, 11am
Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure

**Water/Sewer:**
The City of Montpelier’s Water/Sewer Division has been working on replacing water meters and MXU’s (electronic readers) that are not obtaining proper readings. These readings have come up on a zero consumption list. Our crew repaired 17 meters last week and are scheduled to repair 15 next week. The city's vactor has been out working on storm drains on Berlin Street throughout the week.

**Streets:**
Our crews within the Street Division have been out early sweeping the downtown streets. The city’s flower pots were put out and flowers are schedule to arrive on or around May 26th as well as DPW installing a few bike racks on meters in the downtown area.

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**Employment and Personnel Announcements**

**Employee Work Anniversaries for May!**
Here is everyone hired in a past May, and their tenure with the City! Thank you everyone for your hard work and dedication!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hire Date</th>
<th>2022 Service Anniversary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meredith Crandall</td>
<td>5/1/2018</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Larrabee</td>
<td>5/4/2004</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Christman</td>
<td>5/5/2008</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Yaeger</td>
<td>5/6/2014</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Peterson</td>
<td>5/7/2018</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Miller</td>
<td>5/19/2014</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annette King</td>
<td>5/22/2001</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Gray</td>
<td>5/24/2011</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cara Barbero</td>
<td>5/24/2018</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Marineau</td>
<td>5/27/2008</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Bresette</td>
<td>5/30/2006</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
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**Municipal Job Openings**

Visit the City website for more information: [https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx)

**FT Police Department- Patrol Officers** For applications and more information, click here or email recruiting@montpelier-vt.org. We have one more open officer position.
Seasonal Recreation Positions: Day Camp, Pool Clerk, Lifeguards, and Pool Director for Spring-Summer 2022

Seasonal Park/Recreation Maintenance Staff: Spring-Summer-Fall
Mowing, driving tractors, maintaining sports fields, keeping parks and facilities clean. Call 225-8699, 9am-4pm to inquire.

Summer Pool Lifeguards and Pool Clerks: Staff will start work June 11 - August 21. There will be pre-season training prior to the start of the pool season. Training dates to be announced. Applicants who do not hold a current Lifeguard certification could be accepted contingent on successful completion of a lifeguard course prior to the pool opening date, and reimbursement would be paid at end of season. Email amcmullen2@montpelier-vt.org for more information.

Pt Emergency Services Dispatcher/Clerk: The Montpelier Police Department is seeking applications for the position of Emergency Dispatcher/Clerk. This part-time career position involves the appropriate call handling of both emergency and non-emergency requests for police, fire, and emergency medical services, and determining the nature and urgency of those calls.

FT Streets Maintenance Worker Truck Driver, Level 1: The person filling this position will work with a streets crew performing skilled work in winter operations, construction, maintenance and repair of streets, drainage culverts, sidewalks, signage, and other appurtenances in the City Right of Way.

FT Water/Sewer Truck Driver Level 1: The person filling this position will work with a water and sewer crew performing skilled work in the construction, maintenance and repair of water distribution, raw water distribution, wastewater collection and wastewater transmission systems.

Reminders

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. 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.

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 see City Council Meetings: https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council
- Click here for Live Stream: https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events

City-wide Reappraisal Property Inspections Continue!
We have begun the process of a city-wide reappraisal of all real property.
Representatives from the New England Municipal Consultants will visit each property in the city to gather data. The inspection process will start in late 2021 and continue through the spring of 2023. NEMC will mail notices to property owners in advance of conducting inspections.

**Stump Dump:**
Need to get rid of lawn debris, stumps, and branches? The City Stump Dump is open! Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please call the City Garage at 802-223-9510 before going to dump to approve of your items!

**Trash Receptacles:**
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 please receptacles within the sidewalk. Questions? Please contact Jasmine Benson with DPW at 802-223-9508.

Thank you,

William Fraser, City Manager

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### Upcoming Agenda Items *(TENTATIVE) (bold for date required)*

| 5/25 | • Consent Agenda  
|      |   o Raised Bed Project at 12-16 Main St Approval  
|      |   o Northern Borders Grant Application  
|      | • USDA Grant Public Hearing  
|      | • WRRF- Air Quality Updates  
|      | • Elks Club Funding/RFP  
|      | • Home Energy Ordinance  
|      | • Public Records Fee Policy |

| 6/8 | • Water/Sewer Fund Budgets  
|     | • Water/Sewer Rates  
|     | • A&R Leachate Update?  
|     | • GMT Transit Presentation  
|     | • District Heat Update  
|     | • Zoning Fee Schedule  
<p>|     | • PRC-Officer Recruitment Standards Recommendation Discussion |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Tentative Topic(s)</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| May    | VRC Confluence Park Presentation, Stipend Implementation Plan,
|        | Recommendation (from SEJAC) Public Restrooms/ District Heat (end of
<p>|        | heating-season wrap up)                                                          |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Economic Development – Strategic Plan, TIF, Tax Stabilization Updates/ <strong>Workforce Development program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Creative Discourse Recommendations Status Update</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Website Updates / Capital Area Neighborhoods Presentation/ Stormwater Utility Updates (tentative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td><strong>Economic Development Strategic Plan Contract (Launch) / Strat Planning/ Accomplishments and Future Plans for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development / Parks Commission Survey/Review Community Survey results</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Strat Planning, City Master Plan (Fall/Winter 2022)/ <strong>Mutual Aid Issues with Middlesex and Berlin</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>ADA Transition Projects/ Net Zero Projects Update/ FEAST Program Updates/ <strong>BUDGET</strong>/ PFAS Updates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td><strong>BUDGET</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Topics Pending Scheduling:**
- Homelessness Plan – Homelessness Task Force
- Update Barriers to Housing Study – Housing Task Force
- May be removed from list