

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# UPDATE from the City Manager for Thursday, March 19, 2020

*Happy First Day of Spring!*

- **Yard waste pickups have also begun** but may be limited by the availability of workers and trucks.
- **Consider volunteering for the City's [Adopt-A-Spot Program](#)** -- a great family project you can do while staying 6 feet part.

**Creative solutions for the situation we find ourselves in:**



### ***Love will find a way... Drive-up Marriage License***

*As you can see by the smile on this citizen's face, the City (Deputy City Clerk Valerie French) made a special effort to connect man and marriage license, even though City Hall is closed to the public. We're all looking for solutions and work-arounds. Let us know what you find as you encounter "City meets COVID-19."*

**NH DMV has extended the expiration date for temporary motor vehicle plates and licenses.** All temporary plates issued after March 1, 2020 are now valid through April 30, 2020. For information about how vehicle registration works in NH, [click here](#). City residents can [renew their registrations online here](#). **State drivers' licenses and ID cards set to expire can be extended by phone for 6 months.** Call 603-227-4020 to pay for and complete the extension.

-----

**Food stores are operating normally** and receiving shipments daily (although some products are in short supply at their distributors). For a list of food stores and pharmacies who offer delivery, [click here](#).

- Market Basket Portsmouth locations Seniors-Only Shopping Hours, Tues-Thurs (available 3/19), 5:30-7 AM for those aged 60+.

**For the latest list of Portsmouth restaurant/food takeout, pickup and delivery options,** [click here](#). Note that restaurants with on-premise liquor licenses can now sell beer/wine with takeout food orders.

**The Farmers Markets** are cancelled, but many participants are offering direct food sales from their farms. [Click here for the Seacoast Local directory of these resources.](#)

-----  
The City's Economic Development Department suggests the following resources that might be of use: one for [business and industry issues](#) and the other regarding [employment law](#).

**The NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA)** has started [this page](#) to keep employees and businesses update. It includes links to [New Hampshire Employment Security](#) and available services. Individuals will need to file for unemployment each week of temporary unemployment and this can and should be [done online here](#) or by calling 603-271-7700.

### **The Small Business Administration (SBA) Coronavirus Disaster Relief Lending Program**

**Loans for up to \$2 million** can be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.

**Eligibility:** small businesses without credit available elsewhere. Interest rate 3.75% (non-profits, 2.75%).

**Repayment:** To keep payments affordable, loan repayment options up to a maximum of 30 years.

**Get a head-start** as the program is being authorized by following these steps:

1. Go to: [sba.gov/disaster](#)
2. Find the section specific to the Coronavirus Disaster Relief Lending program.
3. Create an account and upload your information so that once the formal declaration is processed by SBA, yours will one of the first applications to be considered.

For information about the stores, businesses and restaurants that are open, go to the [Chamber Collaborative's GoPortsmouthNH.com website](#).

For information about business assistance resources, go to the [Chamber Collaborative's COVID-19 website page](#).

**Local businesses have also put together the following resources:**

- [Information about which businesses are still operating](#), doing web programming, etc.
- Website to [support local businesses through the purchase of giftcards](#) for use later
- [Women-owned Business Support Group for NH and Maine](#)

-----  
**Public utilities Eversource, Unitil and Liberty Utilities -- and the City Department of Public Works Water & Sewer Divisions -- have suspended all disconnect orders and/or late fees. An Executive Order from Governor Sununu prohibits all evictions and foreclosures until at least April 1, 2020.**

**Residents in Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, Newington or Greenland who require assistance** should contact the City's Welfare Department. Call 603-610-7267 or email [WFDept@CityofPortsmouth.com](mailto:WFDept@CityofPortsmouth.com)

**Downtown Parking is free through March 31, 2020. On-street and public garage parking fees are suspended at all City parking meters.**

**Portsmouth Public Schools continues to provide all students with daily breakfast and lunch.** Parents can pick food up at Portsmouth High School (cafeteria door #18) between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. School buses are delivering food between 11:00 and 11:45 a.m. each day, Monday through Friday, to the following five pickup locations:

- Wamesit/Ledgewood
- Beechstone White Cedar
- Gosling Recreation Center/ Oriental Gardens (Mr. Bubbles)
- Osprey Landing (at mailboxes)

- Patriots Park

**All municipal buildings and facilities, schools and the Portsmouth Public Library are closed to the public.** But services are staffed according to staggered work schedules to minimize the number of people in the same place at the same time.

- **City Hall is closed to the public.** A skeleton staff will be in place to answer the phone and perform City business. Residents are asked to use the City's [online services](#) to process their water bills, parking tickets, taxes, fees, fines, permits, etc.
- **Fire Department** has suspended scheduled fire protection inspections and the issuing of any burn permits. If you have a Class 1 or 2 permit (backyard, etc.) the permit expiration is extended to June 1, 2020.
- **Recreation Department** buildings, playgrounds, ball fields, basketball courts and dog parks are all closed.
- **City Parks are open.** Residents are encouraged to enjoy our open spaces, parks and [off-leash dog areas](#). The [NH State Parks](#) are also open.
- **Senior transportation and Meals on Wheels** are operating as usual.
- **Portsmouth Housing Authority** asks citizens to restrict visits so as not to put their more-susceptible residents at greater risk.

**DPW:**

- **The recycling center is open and trash pickup is on the normal schedule.**
- **Please dispose of disinfectant wipes in a separate trash bag.** Flush only toilet paper or tissues in the toilet (even the wipes marked "flushable" can clog pipes [like this](#)). Also use [Click 'n Fix](#) as needed so service requests can be logged and addressed.

**All City board, commission and committee meetings scheduled for the next two weeks have been postponed until further notice.**

**For answers to other questions about the City's response to COVID-19, please email: [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com)**

**For more information, visit the [Health Department page on COVID-19](#)**