

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Manager's Advisory Monday, October 5, 2020

**PortsmouthMask Ordinance now in effect. For the full ordinance, click here.** <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-09/Ordinance%20-%20Face%20Coverings%20Chapter%203%20Article%2011%20-%20FINAL%2009-14-2020.pdf>

**Governor Sununu's "Safer At Home" guidelines continue until November 15, 2020.**

**TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING 7 pm via Zoom.** For Agenda and Zoom registration, click here. <http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2020/citycouncil/cc100520agenda.pdf>

**PLEASE NOTE: TUESDAY, OCT 6 PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD CONDUCTING GENERAL ALARM TEST BETWEEN 10:30 am and 11:30 am**

**PORTSMOUTH TRICK OR TREAT: SAT OCT 31, 3-6 pm.** Follow NH Health guidelines to reduce the risk of COVID-19 while celebrating Halloween. <https://www.readynh.gov/documents/halloweencovid-19safety.pdf>

Watch for Ghosts Of the Port, arriving October 8!

**PORTSMOUTH VOTING CENTER IN CITY HALL OPEN WEEKDAYS OCT 5 – NOV 2** --The Portsmouth Voting Center in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers in City Hall operates on the same schedule as City Hall:

- Monday 8 am to 6 pm [not open on Columbus Day, October 12]
- Tuesday 8 am to 4:30 pm
- Wednesday 8 am to 4:30 pm
- Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm
- Friday 8 am to 1 pm

The Voting Center allows residents to take advantage of the following services offered by the City Clerk's Office: Voter registration, Obtain Absentee Ballot, Return Absentee Ballot. Anyone who is a "delivery agent" returning an absentee ballot will be required to show picture identification and complete a form. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Center cannot accommodate voting within the City Hall Municipal Complex. **The City Clerk's Office staff will also be available outside of City Hall on Saturday October 10, October 17, October 24 and October 31, from 9 am to 12 noon, to collect absentee ballots (only from voters who are returning their own ballots).** Please contact the City Clerk's office at 610-7245 with any questions

**CURRENT OPENINGS ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** -- The City is seeking volunteers to fill the following vacancies:

**Regular Member (one)** of the Building Code Board of Appeals (Pending submission of renewal application)

**Alternate Member (one)** of the Building Code Board of Appeals – The vacancy to be filled would need to be (1) electrical engineer or master electrician

**Regular Members (two)** of the Economic Development Commission (Pending submission of renewal applications)

**Regular Members (two)** of the Peirce Island Committee

**Regular Members (two)** of the Sustainable Practices Blue Ribbon Committee

Apply now! For more information on the City Boards and Commissions, visit

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boards-commissions-information>. Applications are available in the Office of the City Clerk or download here:

<http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/BoardsandCommissionsApplication.pdf> Questions? Please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 610-7208.

**MAPLEWOOD AVE. DOWNTOWN INTERSECTION CROSSING SIGNALS CHANGE OCT 6** --Starting October 6, pedestrians and motorists downtown at the intersections of Maplewood Avenue and Deer Street, Hanover Street and Congress Street will see changes in the pedestrian-crossing patterns thanks to an upgrade in the traffic signals. Previously, all vehicle traffic stopped at the same time for pedestrian crossing in all directions. That cycle caused delays. The new timing gives pedestrians the WALK signal while the traffic moving parallel with them has the green signal. Turning traffic will be required to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. New signs posted at each intersection and electronic message boards will alert drivers to the need to yield to pedestrians when turning at intersections.

**OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH. PORTSMOUTH FIREFIGHTERS IAFF**

**LOCAL 1313**– Stop by Station 1 (170 Court Street) to pick up your “Extinguishing Cancer” shirts! Members will be wearing these same shirts during the entire month of Oct to raise awareness wherever they go. T-shirts \$20. Long sleeve \$25. Sweatshirts \$45.

**“TEACH THE REACH” BICYCLE SAFETY EVENT OCT 7 CITY HALL at 2 pm** – The Portsmouth Police Department has partnered with the City Planning Department and Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders (SABR) to spread the message of “Teach the Reach,” a simple technique that requires drivers and passengers to look back over their shoulders before opening a vehicle door. The kickoff event on Wednesday (rain date, Thursday October 8 at 2 pm) demonstrates the technique outside City Hall. Along with the demonstration, there will be giveaways of multi-sport helmets (children’s size), bicycle safety lights and other handouts. The helmets were provided thanks to a grant from Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. <https://www.dutchreach.org/>

**WATER RESTRICTIONS STILL IN EFFECT** – The DPW Water Division is restricting Water customers to use for watering lawns and gardens only on odd-numbered days, between midnight and 10 am. There should be no outdoor watering on even-numbered days. The recent rain far from makes up for the lack of rain since June. For more information:

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/press-releases/portsmouth-dpw-water-division-imposes-watering-restrictions> The map above shows the NH Drought Monitor, indicating "Severe Drought" in the

Portsmouth area as of, **The NH Division of Forests and Lands has issued a "red flag" warning statewide to alert residents to the high risk of forest fires** due to the extremely dry conditions. For more on what that means: <https://www.nh.gov/nhdfc/community/daily-fire-danger.htm>

**The Portsmouth Fire Department announces that no new permits will be issued until further notice. Also, the Fire Chief urges residents with Class 1 and 2 backyard fire permits to use extreme caution when kindling fires, to not burn if it is windy and to be extra sure the fire is extinguished before leaving it for the evening.**

**HYDRANT AND WATER MAIN FLUSHING CONTINUES, 7-11 pm** -- Monday through Thursday for the next several weeks. The flushing operation covers both public and private hydrants in Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, Greenland and Newington. Crews open select fire hydrants, releasing water with enough velocity to carry sediment out of the pipes. Residents are advised that when the Water Division trucks with flashing lights are working in their neighborhood, they should refrain from washing laundry to avoid any potential discoloration of clothing. While flushing can result in discolorations to tap water, the water remains safe to drink. When flushing is finished, water customers should run cold water to clear any discolored water in their plumbing systems. If the discoloration persists, customers should contact the Water Division through the Click ‘n Fix system to ensure prompt response.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/portsmouth-click-n-fix>

**FALL CLEANUP SUGGESTIONS** – Thanks to the residents in 314 vehicles (a record!) who participated in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day last Saturday. Residents can continue to assist in efforts to reduce stormwater pollution by cleaning up debris collecting in catch basins, pulling weeds from curbs and sidewalks, and properly disposing of brush and leaves. “Rake It Or Leave It”

[https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2019-11/Handling\\_Yard\\_Waste\\_in\\_Portsmouth.PDF](https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2019-11/Handling_Yard_Waste_in_Portsmouth.PDF) is the City’s effort to keep raked leaves from clogging wetlands and waterway and reducing the oxygen available to plant

and marine life. For more suggestions: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/press-releases/portsmouth-dpw-offers-fall-clean-suggestions>

**CITY AND NH THEATRE PROJECT PRESENT COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM OCT 14** -- City of Portsmouth and NH Theatre Project present a reading of the play *Final Thoughts* by Tim Barretto, and a community discussion on the topic of Suicide & Self-Harm on Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Co-sponsored by Seacoast Mental Health Center, this program is part of New Hampshire Theatre Project's Elephant-in-the-Room Series® (EITR). *Final Thoughts* will be performed by Bill Humphreys, Peter Josephson, and Teddi Kenick-Bailey, along with Portsmouth actors Genevieve Aichele, Blair Hundertmark and CJ Lewis. Immediately following the reading, NHTP's Artistic Director Catherine Stewart will facilitate a community discussion designed for teenagers and adults with panelists Dennis Walker, Director of Emergency Services at Seacoast Mental Health Center; playwright Tim Barretto; and Lt. David Keaveny from the Portsmouth Police Department. The Portsmouth High School guidance department is also providing assistance during the program for those who might want to discuss issues the play or conversation might trigger. To register for the webinar and participate in the discussion, go to NHTP's website: [ntheatreproject.org](http://ntheatreproject.org). The program will also be broadcast live on Channel 22 and recorded for later viewing.

**FLU SEASON AHEAD! FLU SHOTS NOW AVAILABLE** -- Public health officials are urging people to get flu shots this year. Flu shots are now available in the Portsmouth at:

- Prompt Care at Pease (WD Hospital Portsmouth Outpatient) 73 Corporate Dr. 603.610.8051. Flu shots available; can walk in or make an appointment
- ClearChoice MD 750 Lafayette Rd 603.427.8539. Flu shots available - can walk in, but preregistration will save time.
- Rite-Aids: Flu shots available; can walk in.
- CVS: 674 Islington St 603.431.0234 Flu shots available; prefer appointments be made due to waiting area size.

All of the above said that flu shots are covered at no cost with most insurances and Medicare.

### **DPW PROJECTS THIS WEEK:**

**SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES ON ISLINGTON STREET. YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE!** The construction/detour between Cass and Bartlett (and on either side) has brought challenges to businesses on that section. All of the businesses – White Heron Café, Papa Wheelies, The Kitchen, Seacoast Auto Parts, Flote, Dogland, Luigi's, STREET, Blaze Yoga & Pilates, Sweet Pea Bakery, Nest, Herbal Nails, Decades, Portsmouth Escape Room, Liar's Bench, Kaffe Kilim, Ohana, Botanica, Oomph, Cornerstone and more! – are open and looking forward to welcoming you.

**ISLINGTON STREET DETOUR BETWEEN BARLETT & CASS STREETS** -- Traffic flow will be reduced to one lane of one-way westbound traffic between Cass Street and Bartlett Street. Eastbound traffic on Islington will be detoured onto Jewell Court and around the work zone via Brewery Lane and Cass Street. Flaggers and/or police details will be present to help direct traffic. Drivers should expect minor delays. Parking restrictions will be in place at all times along the detour until the winter shutdown between mid-December and next April and will resume until the project is completed in June 2021. For more information on the project, including a map of the detour route, <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/islington-street-corridor-reconstruction-project>

**BANFIELD ROAD CONSTRUCTION CLOSURE** – The section of Banfield between Heritage Ave and Ocean Rd. is now closed due to construction. Drivers are detoured to Lafayette Rd. (Rte. 1), Mon-Fri, 7 am to 6 pm. For more information on the project, including a map of the detour route: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/banfield-road-improvements-project>

**SOUTH STREET PAVING** – Paving complete, just need to stripe the section of South Street between Junkins Ave. and Marcy Street this week. No parking allowed in this section between 7 am and 5 pm. Residents with on-street parking should park in the lower lot at City Hall.

**KEARSARGE & MARKET STREET BRIDGES** – Traffic reduced to one lane, police detail and flaggers in place. Work to upgrade the traffic signals at the downtown intersections with Maplewood also continues.

**For the latest on individual projects, click here and then on the Projects tab.**

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks>

**TESTING--** The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services provides this list as a service to the community. The Department does not endorse any particular entity for COVID-19 testing services.

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-testing-options.pdf>

**For all the COVID-related resources, [click here](#).**

**Governor Sununu has extended his Emergency Order until November 15, 2020.** The State has also made changes to the COVID guidelines to minimize redundancy in each industry sector. **Those guidelines that applied to all industry sectors have been removed from separate sector pages and now live only in the Universal Guidelines (UG) pages.** In some cases (e.g. outdoor attractions, arts, music education, funerals, and more) the sector pages have been eliminated entirely and you'll find a note at the end of the UG specific to those sectors. Click here for the details: <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/>

**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 [City's page on COVID-19](#)**