

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Manager's Advisory Monday, October 12, 2020

Portsmouth Observes Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day

CITY HOLIDAY MON OCT 12: COLUMBUS DAY/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY – All City offices closed for the holiday, reopening on Tuesday, Oct 13 at 8 am. For more information on the City Council decision to “recognize Indigenous Peoples Day alongside Columbus Day on October 12, 2020,” click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/press-releases/portsmouth-city-council-recognizes-indigenous-peoples-day-alongside-columbus>

TUES OCT 13 CONSTRUCTION BLASTING AT 60 PENHALLOW ST. – Controlled blasting for the building foundation is scheduled for 8 - 8:30 am, 10-10:30 am and 2-2:30 pm. Maine Drilling & Blasting of Auburn NH <https://www.mdandb.com/our-expertise> has received the necessary permit, will manage traffic around the site and has advised the Fire and Police Department and City dispatchers.

Do your part. Wear a mask. For answers to Portsmouth Mask Ordinance Frequently Asked Questions, click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/MaskOrdinanceFAQ%202020.10.05.pdf>

The Citizen Response Task Force also offers the following COVID-19 information:

For Testing FAQs click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-09/FINAL%20CRTF%20Letterhead%20Testing%20FAQs%202020.08.24.pdf>

For COVID-19 & Mask FAQs click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-09/CRTF%20Letterhead%20COVIDMasks%20FAQs%202020.07.28.pdf>

For Ventilation FAQs click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/ventilation-faqs>

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>
Look for Ghosts Of the Port – 55 of them have arrived!

Halloween Guidelines:

The hours permitted for trick-or-treating will be Saturday, October 31 from 3 to 6 pm. The schedule for trick-or-treating in Portsmouth is subject to change, based on the COVID-19 infection rates being reported in late October.

The City Health Officer asks that families not travel town to town or invite friends or family from other towns to come to Portsmouth as that reduces the risk associated with mixing households in close groups. The City's Emergency Services team also reminds residents that gathering in groups, in indoor settings with reduced air flow, is highly discouraged due to the greater risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Residents are asked to follow this guidance compiled from advice issued by the State of New Hampshire, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the New Hampshire Municipal Association:

- **Travel in family groups, only (not with members of other households).** Small children should be accompanied and supervised at all times.

- **Maintain at least a six-foot distance** between people not from the same household.
- Wear face coverings (standard Halloween masks are not sufficient as they typically do not cover the mouth).
- Bring a small bottle of **hand-sanitizer** with you and use it often.
- Residents who do not want to participate should leave their front house lights turned off or put a sign on the driveway or sidewalk. Trick or treaters should respect that notice.
- **No direct distribution of treats, please.** Children and those providing candy should maintain physical distance.
 - Distribution points should be cleaned regularly throughout the three hours of trick or treat.
 - Put treats in individual paper bags, or spread out on trays rather than using a communal bowl and place on a table on the front walk, porch or driveway.
 - Be creative! Candy slides or tubes? Who will have the best idea for distributing treats?

DEADLINE TUES OCT 13 FOR \$12 MILLION CARES ACT RELIEF PROGRAM FOR LIVE

PERFORMANCE VENUES -- This program supports New Hampshire performance venues who are facing revenue losses due to COVID-19, provided that they are primarily engaged in hosting live theatrical presentations, musical entertainment, and/or sporting or racing events, that are seated, ticketed, and open to the public. Click here for the application, which **must be completed and submitted by Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 11:59 PM, including all supporting documentation**, including copies of the business's year-end 2019 and current year-to-date financial statements showing monthly actual and projected facility-specific gross receipts, as applicable, from March 1, 2019 to December 30, 2020 and the organization must agree to continue operations for two more years. https://nhpublichealth.force.com/nhgoferr/CORE_Solicitation_Login_Page?SolicitationId=a0ht0000008z0MZAAY

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 – Liars Bench Beer Co., 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.

CITY AND NH THEATRE PROJECT PRESENT COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM, WED 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. The program will also be broadcast live on Channel 22 and recorded for later viewing.

PORTSMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SURVEY -- In an effort to evaluate the services provided to the, the Portsmouth Police Department is asking residents to complete a brief survey. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/2020-portsmouth-pd-community-survey>. The survey is 16 questions long and should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. The Police Department asks residents to complete the survey by October 23. Responses remain anonymous and once the results are tabulated and analyzed, the statistics will be made public. Any questions regarding this survey can be directed to Lt. Eric Kinsman of the Professional Standards Division at (603) 610-7519.

DRAWDOWN PORTSMOUTH ECO-MUNICIPALITY COMMUNITY DISCUSSION WED Oct 22 at 6:30 pm via Zoom -- The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices presents a virtual community discussion to provide an update on the committee's work in support of Portsmouth's Eco-Municipality commitment. The committee also introduces a workshop on "How Portsmouth Can Apply Project Drawdown Tools to Help Achieve a Climate-Safe Planet." Advance registration is required to participate in the discussion.

To register for the Zoom discussion, visit:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvf-CtrzooGdx19OobJFTEY6m3nnd5F9Ug>

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 October 7. **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/nhdfl/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.

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.

PORTSMOUTH VOTING CENTER IN CITY HALL OPEN WEEKDAYS THROUGH 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 17 and October 24, 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 -- New Maplewood Ave downtown intersection pedestrian crossing signals are now working. Pedestrians and motorists downtown at the intersections of Maplewood Avenue and Deer Street, Hanover Street and Congress Street now experience new 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. **Make sure you press the button for the crosswalk you want. There are now two buttons.**

DPW PROJECTS THIS WEEK:

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

For more information, visit [City's page on COVID-19](#)