

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Manager's Advisory Thursday, October 22, 2020

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:

Regional COVID-19 Dashboard as of October 19, 2020:

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/NEWCovidDashboard101220.pdf>

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 Facts 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>

Health Department:

For Restaurant Indoor Barrier FAQs, click here.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/barrier-use-indoor-restaurants>

DRAWDOWN PORTSMOUTH ECO-MUNICIPALITY COMMUNITY DISCUSSION THURS 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>

CHAMBER CHAT LIVE! FRI Oct 23 at 1 pm via Zoom. -- BEA/Chamber Partnership - What's In It for YOUR Business? Join Chamber President Valerie Rochon and representatives from the Seacoast Chamber Alliance to discuss how to benefit from the six initiatives developed under a new program from the Governor and Commissioner Caswell of the BEA (NH Division of Business & Economic Affairs) to aid businesses in each of the state's seven regions to achieve economic recovery from the pandemic. For the Seacoast Region, Chamber Chat guests include representative from the Seacoast Chamber Alliance including:

- Allison St. Laurent, Falls Chamber (Somersworth), Seacoast Website - aggregating resource information
- Laura Ring, Rochester Area Chamber, B2B Communication - PPE resources, personnel communication
- John Nyhan, Hampton Area Chamber, Economic Recovery - business assistance resources
- Margaret Joyce, Dover Area Chamber, Workforce Development - virtual job fairs, housing summit, employee skills development
- Jennifer Wheeler, Exeter Area Chamber, Seacoast Safe - business and consumer safety best practices

- Valerie Rochon, Portsmouth Chamber Collaborative, Destination Marketing - driving visitors to your businesses.

To register for the free Zoom meeting: <http://portsmouthcollaborative.org/events/details/chamber-chat-live-bea-chamber-partnership-52200?calendarMonth=2020-10-01>

AVE ATQUE VALE COPPER BEECH – The beech tree at the far end of the Masonic Temple parking lot, maintained by the City, is being taken down on Friday, October 23 – before it falls down in a seasonal storm. A large piece was removed proactively earlier this year. Arborist Micum Davis who owns Cornerstone Tree Care is providing his services and crew at no cost to the City. Portsmouth’s Tree Supervisor and Arborist Charles Baxter estimates the tree may be more than 150 years old and is sad to say it has reached the end of its expected life.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY SAT OCT 24, 10 am to 2 pm at Portsmouth Police Station -- The Portsmouth Police Department is joining the Drug Enforcement Administration and other seacoast communities on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The event gives the community an opportunity to safely dispose of prescription drugs in their households that are no longer needed. The department will take pills, patches and liquid medicine. No needles or sharps will be accepted. The service is free and anonymous. Portsmouth Regional Hospital is also participating in the event, with the same guidelines, accepting items at the Discharge Lounge entrance near the main entrance between 10 am and 2 pm on Saturday. The Portsmouth Police Department also has a drug take-back box that offers members of the community the opportunity to drop off prescription drugs on any day and at any time, anonymously. For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 24 National Drugs Take Back Day, visit <https://takebackday.dea.gov>.

ELWYN PARK SIDE PATH PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING TUES OCT 27 at 7 pm via Zoom -- The City of Portsmouth is working to complete a project to add pedestrian and bicycle improvements along **Elwyn Road between Lafayette Road and Harding Road**. The City is now proceeding with the Engineering Study phase of the project and is hosting Public Meeting via Zoom on **October 27 at 7 pm**. Members of the public are required to register to join the meeting over Zoom at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_M2XAjzRvTuaryhoi94T8EQ A unique meeting ID and password will be provided after registration. The intent of the meeting is to collect initial feedback from the public relative to the existing conditions, concerns, and project goals. A review of the existing site conditions, contemplated improvements, and schedule will be followed by a question, answer and comment period. More information about the project is available here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planportsmouth/elwyn-road-side-path-project>

SERVICE CU @ POPUP NH MEMORIES? The Bridge Street Lot is now being returned to use for parking but before the memories fade: was a visit to the popup your first venture downtown early in the summer? Did the experience encourage you to visit other outdoor dining spots, The Music Hall’s “Under the Arch” series, or downtown shops? **The Citizen Response Task Force is collecting your thoughts at hotline@cityofportsmouth.com**

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>

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? **Got a clever trick-or-treat distancing/COVID risk-reducing plan? SeacoastOnline wants to hear about it!** Email Haldey Barndollar at hbarndollar@seacoastonline.com

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. POLLING HOURS ON NOV 3; 8 AM TO 8 PM --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
- 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 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.

MAIN STREET RELIEF FUND 2.0: Applications Due by 4 pm October 30, 2020 -- The Main Street Relief Fund (MSRF) 2.0 <https://www.goferr.nh.gov/covid-expenditures/main-street-relief-fund> provides continued economic support to New Hampshire small businesses suffering from business interruptions as a result of COVID-19. Specifically, it supports both (1) businesses that did not receive grants from the initial round of MSRF or the General Assistance & Preservation (GAP) Fund, and (2) businesses that received grants of less than the maximum \$350,000 from the initial round of MSRF or the GAP Fund, if eligible. Businesses that received a Self Employed Livelihood Fund (SELF) grant are not eligible for MSRF 2.0. The application period runs from October 19, 2020 to 4:00 PM on Friday, October 30, 2020. The application must be completed and submitted by 4:00 PM on Friday, October 30, 2020. For MSRF 2.0 FAQs [click here](#). For assistance, call (603) 271-7840 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM,

Monday through Friday, or email mainstreet@GOFERR.nh.gov. <https://www.goferr.nh.gov/new-hampshire-main-street-relief-fund-20-frequently-asked-questions>

OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH – The Portsmouth Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau offers 10 Fire Safety Tips to keep in mind. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/fire/about-fire-preventionsafety-tips> And the caution: By planning ahead you can do a lot to prevent a fire. But once a fire starts in your home there are only three things to do:

1. Get everyone out of the house.
2. Close the door behind you.
3. Call 9-1-1 from outside the building or from a neighbor's home.

Don't go back into a burning building, no matter what. If you think someone is trapped inside, tell the firefighters when they arrive.

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 – Loaded Question Brewing, 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.

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.**

FLEET STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PUBLIC INPUT MEETING NOV 10 -- As the DPW prepares to start field work, they will host a second Public Input Meeting on the Fleet Street Reconstruction Project, via Zoom, on November 10 at 6:30 pm. For Zoom registration instructions, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/Fleet%20Street%20Zoom%20Agenda%202020.11.10.pdf> This meeting will discuss the specific testing and inspection activities necessary to locate and identify connections to the City's sewer, water and drain systems. The inspection work will require access to buildings in the project area.

DPW PROJECTS TOMORROW & NEXT WEEK

BANFIELD ROAD – The installation of the drainage system and culverts is complete, with the exception of the final culvert and associated retaining wall between the railroad crossing and Heritage Ave. That work is underway now and should be completed by early next week. Tomorrow (Friday, October 23), pavement milling will begin between Ocean Road and about halfway between Constitution Ave and Peverly Hill Road. Drivers should expect road closures/delays to extend past Heritage Ave to Constitution Ave and/or Peverly Hill Road, as necessary until paving is complete sometime near the end of October or early November, weather depending. The road will be ground down to dirt/gravel for some time leading up to paving. The guardrail installation will follow paving. 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>

MAPLEWOOD AVE. – Friday, paving side streets as necessary.

MARCY/SOUTH STREET – Friday, paint striping in the area of recent paving.

DENNETT STREET – Monday-Tuesday, reclamation and then grading begins, continuing on Wednesday.

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>

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. Paving in November.

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](#)