

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Manager's Advisory Wednesday, October 28, 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>

Citizen Response Task Force Regional COVID-19 Dashboard

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/ALTERNATECovidDashboard102720b.pdf>

For Resources and Assistance with housing, food, heat, etc. click here.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-resources>

CITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$1,000 IN GIFT CARDS FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES -- The City Welfare Department thanks generous residents for supporting the City's Back to School Drive which provides school supplies for children in need. Recently, \$1,000 in funds for the gift cards were raised by a newly formed alliance, *Brain Trust for the Greater Good*, a collaboration among four friends -- Kathryn Garcia, Julie Johnson, Lisa Vivinetto and Joanne Wolfe -- who brainstormed ideas to combine their collective time and talents to support those community members and organizations in need right now. For further information or to share ideas for future events, please contact Julie Johnson at braintrustgg@gmail.com. Remember that the Welfare Department has many resources and contacts for referral assistance in the Greater Seacoast. **Call 603-610-7267 or email WFDept@CityofPortsmouth.com for confidential help.**

TONIGHT: SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE LAUNCHES DISCUSSION SERIES ON DRAWDOWN PORTSMOUTH, WED OCT 28 at 7 pm via Zoom. The Sustainability Alliance who co-hosted the Drawdown Portsmouth event last week is starting a 10-week series of hour-long programs on the "Top 10 Drawdown Solutions." To participate, please RSVP to seareinh@gmail.com for the link for the evening program.

THURS OCT 29: PRESCOTT PARK MASTER PLAN PHASE ONE IMPLEMENTATION PUBLIC MEETING at 6:30 pm via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here. https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pP9e5ToeTKCJk--rs1ANZw For information on the Prescott Park Master Plan Implementation Committee's work, click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/prescottpark/prescott-park-master-plan-implementation-committee>

DEADLINE FRI OCT 30 -- MAIN STREET RELIEF FUND 2.0 -- 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. **All applications must be completed and submitted by 4 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>

LIBRARY NOW OPEN FOR BROWSING. RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/currentservices>

HOURS:

Monday: 11 am – 1 pm* and 3-7 pm
Tuesday: 11 am – 1 pm* and 3-7 pm
Wednesday: 11 am – 1 pm* and 3-5 pm
Thursday: 11 am – 1 pm* and 3-5 pm
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 11 am – 3 pm*
Sunday: CLOSED

*** Please note: 11 am – 12 noon is reserved for seniors and high-risk or immunocompromised library users.**

In accordance with the City's Mask Ordinance, **anyone over the age of 6 will be required to wear a face mask to enter the library, and at all times while in the building.** Any person who does not comply with this policy will not be allowed in the building, or will be asked to leave.

The library is:

- Open to a maximum of **20 visitors** at a time
- Asking visitors to please keep visits to **30 minutes or less**. All seating has been removed for this reason.
- Asking families who plan to visit the **Youth Services area to make appointment in advance**
- **Maintaining strict physical distancing (6') with all visitors** and may not be able to assist everyone in the way you are used to. Thank you for your patience while we navigate this together!
- Allowing pickup of **Holds Shelf items inside the library** – already checked out and ready to go! However, the library **also continues to offer Curbside Pickup**.
- Inviting the public to **use the contactless self-check stations**, available in all departments, to check out.
- **NOT open for browsing in the following areas:** Magazines, Newspapers, Reference and Special Collections. Please ask a staff member if you need help!

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.

ELECTION DAY NOV 3. POLLING HOURS 8 AM TO 8 PM – New Hampshire law permits same-day registration for those 18 years of age or over, with proof of US citizenship and Portsmouth residence. Voting in Portsmouth is by Ward, according to place of residence. The location where residents vote depends on where they live. For the map of the City’s five Wards, visit:

<http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/documents/votingWards.pdf>

Voting Locations:

- Ward One – New Franklin School, 1 Franklin Drive
- Ward Two – Middle School, 155 Parrott Avenue
- Ward Three – **NEW THIS YEAR** Senior Activity Center, 125 Cottage Street
- Ward Four – **NEW THIS YEAR** Portsmouth High School, 50 Andrew Jarvis Drive
- Ward Five – Little Harbour School, 50 Clough Drive

As required by NH RSA 652:20, “the City Clerk’s office shall be open to receive applications for absentee ballots, to provide voters the opportunity to complete absentee ballots, and to receive returned ballots on Monday, November 2, 2020 from 8 am to 5 pm.” Registered Portsmouth voters may still file an application to vote absentee and submit their completed Absentee Ballots until November 2, 2020 at 5 pm.

The Portsmouth Voting Center in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers in City Hall operates on the following schedule for the next three business days:

- Thursday, Oct 29 8 am to 4:30 pm
- Friday, Oct 30 8 am to 1 pm
- Monday, Nov 2 8 am to 5 pm

The Voting Center allows residents Obtain and/or Return an 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. Please contact the City Clerk’s office at 610-7245 with any questions.

The New Hampshire Attorney General’s Election Hotline is available to voters or election officials who may have concerns or questions related to elections: 1-866-868-3703 (1-866-VOTER03). In the event a caller receives voicemail, the caller should leave a message. Attorneys in the office will address each message received. Inquiries and complaints may also be submitted via email at electionlaw@doj.nh.gov. Additionally, questions related to election procedures may be directed to the New Hampshire Secretary of State’s Office Elections Hotline: 1-833-726-0034 or by e-mail to: info@sos.nh.gov.

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.

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.**

BRIDGE STREET LOT PARTIAL REOPENING FOR PARKING & WORTH STREET SPACES RETURN TO STAY AND PAY METERING – With the end of the restaurant and performance space use of the Bridge Street Lot, parking is now allowed again in the lot, with the exception of space used by the temporary sheds, scheduled to be removed next week. Temporary barriers to allow for outdoor dining in the Worth Lot are also being removed. While the Bridge Street Lot was unavailable and in an effort to support all businesses served by the Worth Lot, six of the standard metered spaces were reconfigured to serve as 30-minute spaces. As planned those 30-minute spot allocations now sunset with the return of the Bridge Street Lot to parking use and are being restored to standard Stay and Pay metered spaces.

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.

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 this week. 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>

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's Emergency Order remains in effect through November 15, 2020.

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/emergency-order-70.pdf>

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](#)