

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Manager's Advisory Monday, November 2, 2020

ELECTION DAY NOV 3. POLLING HOURS 8 AM TO 8 PM – For more information about voting in Portsmouth, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voting-information>

ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTING -- Absentee Ballots are available at the City Clerk's Office TODAY Monday, November 2, 2020 until 5 pm. For 2020, **absentee ballots can be returned to the polling place by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day.** Election workers may ask for an ID but the voter is under no obligation to provide it if returning THEIR OWN ballot. If returning someone else's ballot, they must provide an ID and complete an affidavit swearing to the "delivery agent" relationship (immediately family allowed) for the person returning the ballot.

Click here to download an application for an absentee ballot or visit the Voting Center in Council Chambers at City Hall. <http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/files/cityclerk/absballotapp-2020-COVID.pdf> Click here for the **criteria** to obtain an absentee ballot. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voting-information>

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

Masks Required in Polling Places

Everyone wishing to enter a polling place will be required to wear a mask to vote inside. Those who cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition will be required to vote at the outdoor tent located at each polling station. Any voter who refuses to comply will be reported to the Portsmouth Police Department for enforcement. The enforcement action could result in a summons and or arrest for criminal trespass or disorderly conduct.

Same Day Voter Registration:

New Hampshire law permits same-day registration for those 18 years of age or over, with proof of US citizenship and Portsmouth residence.

Picture ID Required for Voting:

Remember to bring your Picture Identification to vote on Election Day. If you do not have your Picture ID you may complete a Challenged Voter Affidavit and have your photo taken by an Election Official. Note to Voter: RSA 659:13, IV (a) – The Secretary of State shall cause a letter of identity verification to be mailed by first class mail to each voter who executed a challenged voter affidavit.

Distribution or Wearing of Campaign Materials – RSA 659:43:

No person shall distribute, **wear**, or post at a polling place any campaign material in the form of a poster, card, handbill, placard, picture, pin, sticker, circular, or **article of clothing** (shirt, hat, face mask) which is intended to influence the action of the voter within the building where the election is being held.

Anyone wishing to enter the polling place will either remove or cover up any campaign materials prior to voting. Any voter who refuses to comply will be reported to the Attorney General's office for enforcement. The penalty is a violation with a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Election Concerns or 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-VOTERO3). 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.

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/city/testing-faqs>

For COVID-19 & Mask Facts click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-manager/covid-19-mask-facts>

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

ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

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

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

- **Housing Relief Fund**- Governor Chris Sununu authorized the expenditure of \$35 million from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund ("flex funds") to support families or individuals in need of housing assistance as a result of COVID-19. Of the allocated \$35 million, \$20 million will be initially expended, with \$15 million being held in reserve, for rent stabilization and housing support. Both the one-time grants and the short-term rental assistance will be coupled with regional case management services to help connect households to appropriate services as defined by the household and the agency. **Program payments will be made directly to the landlord or provider, and this program will end by December 30, 2020.** For more information, visit <https://www.capnh.org>
- **Help Paying Energy Bills** – Eversource offers a COVID-19 Payment Program that gives customers up to 12 months to pay past-due balances, without down payments, fees or interest. Once enrolled the account is protected from service disconnection for the duration of the payment plan. For more information call 1-800-662-7764 or visit <https://www.eversource.com/content/nh>
- **Federal Stimulus Checks** – Anyone who has not received a stimulus check from the Federal government can still file to do so. The deadline is **November 21, 2020 at 3 pm**. If you did not file a 2019 Federal Income Tax return, did not receive a stimulus check and have not already applied, visit this IRS website to file your application: **Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Veterans Affairs Benefits recipients who received their Stimulus Checks but still need to file to receive benefits for qualifying children also have until November 21, 2020 at 3 pm to apply. Click here for details:** <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payment-information-center-topic-h-social-security-railroad-retirement-and-department-of-veteran-affairs-benefit-recipients>

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.**

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.

DPW PROJECTS

PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD SEWER FORCE MAIN WORK STARTING TUES NOV 3 -- Scaffolding will be installed along the underside of the Peirce Island Road Bridge and the work will limit travel to a single lane of alternating one-way travel on weekdays between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm, continuing to Tuesday, Nov 10. Flaggers will be placed on either end of the bridge to control traffic.

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-](https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/Fleet%20Street%20Zoom%20Agenda%202020.11.10.pdf)

[10/Fleet%20Street%20Zoom%20Agenda%202020.11.10.pdf](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.

DENNETT STREET – Roadwork continues all week. Paving should be completed by Friday, weather permitting. Crews will then need to raise all the manhole covers up to grade for the winter the following week.

BANFIELD ROAD – Roadwork continues with two days of reclaiming and then crews will begin the process of regrading and fortifying the road with stone pave. Paving is expected to take place around or before Veterans Day. 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>

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](#)