

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Manager's Advisory Monday, November 9, 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:**

**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>

**For this week's Regional COVID-19 Dashboard, click here.**

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-11/CovidDashboard110320.pdf>

**TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON CITIZEN RESPONSE TASK FORCE 2.0, at 6:30 pm via Zoom. For Zoom instructions and registration, click here.**

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-11/2020.11.09%20CRTF%20CityCouncilWorkSession%20ZoomRegistration.pdf>

**TOMORROW: FLEET STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PUBLIC INPUT MEETING, 6:30 pm via Zoom --** As the DPW prepares to start field work, they will host a second Public Input Meeting on the Fleet Street Reconstruction Project. 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.

**CITY ANNOUNCES PROPERTY TAX RATE --** The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration has approved the City's 2020 tax rate for Fiscal Year 2021 of **\$14.70 per \$1,000 of valuation**. The 2020 tax rate has **dropped by 16 cents or 1.1% from the prior year's tax rate** of \$14.86. Finance Director Judie Belanger noted the median single-family property value in Portsmouth as of April 1, 2020 increased from \$470,850 to \$474,900, or \$4,050 (less than 1%). The median single-family homeowner will pay \$6,981 in TY2020 compared to \$6,997 in 2019. **The newly approved tax rate will be reflected in the tax bills mailed this month, with the first half due 30 days after they are mailed** and the second half due in June 2021. Again this year, the City of Portsmouth offers an online tax calculator at <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/tax/online-property-tax-calculator> for residents to use to estimate their tax bill for Fiscal Year 2021. With COVID-19 precautions still in place, the City urges taxpayers to make their tax bill payments online, where they will receive an instant confirmation and receipt. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/pay-my-bill>. Payment options will be on the back of the tax bill as well as online.

**CITY RECEIVES TWO FINANCIAL REPORTING EXCELLENCE AWARDS --** The City of Portsmouth has received two awards for exceptional financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). GFOA awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City's year ended June 30, 2019 CAFR – the City's 27th time receiving this award. GFOA also recognized the City for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the City's year ended June 30, 2019 PAFR. This is the third time Portsmouth has received this award.

**CLIPPER STRONG FUND ANNOUNCES MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS --** The Clipper Strong Fund Committee announces that nineteen small Portsmouth businesses will receive Clipper Strong Fund mini-grants of \$500 each, for a total distribution of \$9,000. This second initiative was made possible by generous donations to the Clipper Strong Fund to assist Portsmouth small businesses who “might otherwise fall through the cracks.” The mini-grants provide short-term relief to cover such expenses as utility bills, rent, PPE or other expenses. The Clipper Strong Fund mini-grant beneficiaries include: New England Printing Group, Loaded Question Brewing Co., The Gift Massage, River Run Bookstore, NH Chiropractic Clinic, Portsmouth Escape Room, Performance Muscular Therapy, Piantedosi Art Gallery, La Maison Navarre, Sages Entertainment, Bridge Street Bistro, Pragmatic Consulting, CJ Physical Therapy, Makunia Cleaning, Board and Brush, Portsmouth Eye, F45 Gym, Henri Salaun Sports and Wren’s Nest Village Inn. The Clipper Strong Fund previously provided 250 local small businesses with “care packages” consisting of masks, hand sanitizer, a digital thermometer and COVID-19 protocol signage.

**VETERANS DAY OBSERVED WED NOV 11 –** City offices and municipal buildings will be closed all day on Wednesday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day. The Post Commander of Portsmouth Frank E. Booma Post 6 of the American Legion reports that instead of the usual Veterans Day ceremonies this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Veterans Day will be commemorated with a wreath-laying at the Soldiers & Sailors Monument in Goodwin Park. Post Commander Frank Desper, who is also president of the Central Veterans Council, explained that while the Governor’s “Safer At Home” protocols are still in place, the commemoration will not include the usual gathering of numbers of people, speakers or the Portsmouth High School Clipper Band.

**CHAMBER CHAT LIVE FRI Nov 13 at 1 pm via Zoom –** Greater Portsmouth Chamber Collaborative President Valerie Rochon welcomes Kim McNamara, Health Officer, City of Portsmouth to provide a COVID-19 response status update. For the free Zoom registration, click here.  
<https://portsmouthchamber.org/events/details/chamber-chat-live-11-13-2020-52203?calendarMonth=2020-11-01>

#### **ASSISTANCE RESOURCES**

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

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

#### **THANKSGIVING**

**48th Annual Portsmouth Rotary Thanksgiving Dinner**, Thursday, November 26. Pickup between 11 am and 12:30 pm at St. Nicholas Greek Church, Andrew Jarvis Drive. No sit-down dinner this year due to COVID-19. For delivery or pickup, please call 603-828-4869 or email [rotarythanksgiving@gmail.com](mailto:rotarythanksgiving@gmail.com)

**Gather – Food Pantry:** Food distribution, online grocery shopping for people who don’t want to enter the shop, Meal delivery for Seniors, Meals 4 Kids, Community Fridays 9am-1pm open at Community Campus (open to anyone). Call for info 603-436-0641. The **annual Peas 'n Carrots food drive is by virtual donation this year. Online through November 30.** To make a donation and learn how far dollars raised will go in feeding the food insecure in the community, click here. <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/gather/pease-n-carrots-2020>

**Operation Blessing:** Drive up Food Pantry Wed-Fri 10am-4pm, **Thanksgiving Baskets.** Call for more info 603-430-8561.

**Portsmouth Meals on Wheels:** Monday-Friday home delivery. Accepting new customers 603-766-4448. Monthly grab & go lunch specials open to seniors. **Nov 19: Turkey & Stuffing meal to-go.** Reservations required. New Address: 125 Cottage Street (at senior center).

- **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.caphn.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>

**SIGN UP FOR WINTER PARKING BAN ALERTS** -- Portsmouth's snow plowing operations typically begin when snow levels exceed two inches, at which time a citywide parking ban may go into effect in order to facilitate snow removal. Residents can take advantage of spaces in City parking lots and garages when the parking bans are in effect. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of flat fee parking: \$3 at Foundry Place and \$5 at the Hanover garage, good from the time an anticipated ban is announced, until 2 hours after. Regular rates apply for additional time parked. Parking bans for snow removal are announced in several different ways:

- **CodeRED:** anyone can sign up to receive automatic email and text alerts, click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/parkportsmouth/snowrelatedimpacts>
- **Snow Phone:** call 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW) to hear recorded messages.
- **Channel 22:** snow parking bans are posted as bulletins
- **CityofPortsmouth.com:** a yellow (planned) or red (in effect) banner appears at the top of City website pages when snow parking ban events occur.
- **Twitter:** follow @PortsmouthDPW
- **Public Works Department:** call 427-1530 or report a snow clearing issue use the Click 'n Fix system. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/portsmouth-click-n-fix>

## **DPW PROJECTS**

**PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD SEWER FORCE MAIN WORK** -- 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.

**DENNETT STREET** – Roadwork continues all week. Crews will then need to raise all the manhole covers up to grade for the winter the following week.

**BANFIELD ROAD CLOSED BETWEEN CONSTITUTION AND HERITAGE FOR STONE FILL** – **Traffic-calming Public Input Meeting, Nov 18 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. For registration information, click here.** <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/BanfieldTrafficCalmingZoomInstructions%202020.11.18.pdf>. Paving, weather permitting, next week. 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>

**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](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com)**

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