

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Manager's Advisory Monday, November 16, 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 Daily Life During the Pandemic FAQs, click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-manager/daily-life-during-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

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

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-11/revCovidDashboard110920.pdf>

TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING, MON NOV 16, 7 pm via Zoom – For Agenda and Zoom registration, click here. <http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2020/citycouncil/cc111620ag.pdf>

TONIGHT: ISLINGTON STREET PROJECT WATER SHUTDOWN, 6-10 pm between Bartlett and Albany. Affected residents have been notified.

SEACOAST REGION VIRTUAL JOB FAIR, NOV 17, 10 am - 1 pm

The Seacoast Chamber Alliance and New Hampshire Employment Security join forces to present a virtual job fair showcasing many different industries and hundreds of open positions around the Seacoast area. For more information, [click here.](https://business.nh.gov/nhesjobfair/Home/Posting/09a320e0-4f6b-4a06-af69-4cf059de3cff) <https://business.nh.gov/nhesjobfair/Home/Posting/09a320e0-4f6b-4a06-af69-4cf059de3cff>

NH DOT ROUTE 1 PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING, Wed Nov 18 at 4 pm via Zoom --

Public Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting for the US 1 project between Wilson Road and Ocean Road will present refined versions of the alternatives that the team is working to develop and discuss next steps. For the Zoom link, click here. <https://zoom.us/j/92272882687?pwd=eUxUbjBKakNBUXBJTGxveFlsT2QoQT09> Passcode: 504396

BANFIELD ROAD PAVING MON & TUES. 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-](https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/BanfieldTrafficCalmingZoomInstructions%202020.11.18.pdf)

[10/BanfieldTrafficCalmingZoomInstructions%202020.11.18.pdf](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>

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.

ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

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

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

THANKSGIVING

NEW SHARE THE WARMTH FOR GATHER -- Starting immediately, the *Alliance for Greater Good* hopes to collect enough new hats, mittens, and gloves for all Gather families who participate in this year's Thanksgiving food distribution event. **Donations of new hats, mittens, and gloves for adults and children can be dropped at the Portsmouth Senior Activity Center at 125 Cottage Street through November 19.** For more information or questions, email Lisa Vivinetto at Alliance.GreaterGood@gmail.com.

Gather Food Pantry: Gather provides food for the Thanksgiving holiday to hundreds of local families, and the need is even greater this year. Their Thanksgiving Distribution takes place on November 21. 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>

American Legion, Thanksgiving Day Nov 26, Noon-3pm. Thanksgiving dinner delivery within a 5-mile radius of the Legion (including Marjeson, Feaster, other housing). Also serving a take-out Thanksgiving dinner. There is no cost for take-out or delivery, but the drivers can be tipped. For delivery call the Legion at 436-7575. For takeout, call or just show up. The Legion will also have a few tables inside the Legion for up to 4 people each, first come, first served. Starting at 12 noon. Free.

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

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.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>

PORTSMOUTH POET LAUREATE PROGRAM BRIDGE TO JAPAN POETRY BROADSIDE CONTEST

The digital poetry broadside contest offers two categories for entries: Adult and Youth (age 17 and younger) and will be judged by poet and translator Patrick Donnelly. Winning entries will be awarded cash prizes and the broadside will be gifted to Portsmouth's sister city, Nichinan, Japan. Entries should be one original poem of 30 lines or less, in English or English and Japanese, that has not been published elsewhere. The work should show a Japanese influence in the poem and/or accompanying art and the broadside should be no larger than 11 x 17 inches. Entries (maximum of 2 per person) should be submitted sized at 300dpi to PPLPcontest@gmail.com with a brief bio in the body of the email. Questions: Contact Tammi Truax, Portsmouth Poet Laureate at T4tu@comcast.net Deadlines: midnight Jan. 31, 2021. Judging will take place in February 2021 and winners will be announced in March 2021. 4. Originals of winning entries will be presented to the city of Nichinan and an online gallery of all entries will be shared in April of 2021. For full details and rules, click here.

https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-11/Broadside_contest.pdf

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.

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

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