

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Manager's Advisory

## Monday, December 7, 2020

The Governor has ordered flags flown at half-mast today in observance of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

**STATEWIDE MASK ORDINANCE NOW IN EFFECT.**

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)

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 UPDATED INFORMATION FROM NH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, [click here:](https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/self-quarantine-covid.pdf)

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MON DEC 7 at 7 pm via Zoom.** For agenda and Zoom registration information, visit: <http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2020/citycouncil/cc120720ag.pdf>

**CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING WED DEC 9 at 5 pm via Zoom.** For agenda and Zoom registration information, visit: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-12/CNC%20Agenda%20120920.pdf>

**SIGN UP FOR WINTER PARKING BAN ALERTS** – Snow plowing operations during each storm 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. **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>

**Join the 249 Portsmouth residents who took advantage of spaces in City parking lots and reduced rates in the garages** when the parking ban was in effect Dec 5-6! 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.

**LET THE MAGIC SHINE THROUGH: SECRET #4** – Did you know, Portsmouth Webcam's 'cam-master' Michael McCormack added a new webcam to the Portsmouth lineup, dubbed the Tree Cam. It's live streaming right now from a great vantage point! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXobS1o\\_iL4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXobS1o_iL4)

## **HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE**

**SHARE THE JOY! CARD WRITING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** -- The Alliance for Greater Good has launched a "Share the Joy" campaign seeks to put warm holiday wishes in the hands of nursing home and long-term care facility residents. The newly formed Seacoast group founded by Lisa Vivinetta, Kathryn Garcia, Joanne Wolfe and Julie Johnson is inviting community members to write personalized holiday cards to their elderly neighbors who are isolated this winter season. "You provide the cards and heartfelt notes, and we'll take care of everything else," the group says. The Alliance is also accepting Venmo cash donations which will be used to purchase food baskets for the assisted living and long-term care residents and staff. To sign up for "elf duty," those interested should email their name and phone number to [Alliance.GreaterGood@gmail.com](mailto:Alliance.GreaterGood@gmail.com).  
Information: [facebook.com/allianceforgreatergood](https://www.facebook.com/allianceforgreatergood)

**WELFARE DEPARTMENT ACCEPTING GIFT CARD DONATIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN** – Once again, the City's Welfare Office is collecting gift cards for families who have older kids who are not typically served by other Christmas programs in town. Local agencies who provide holiday assistance do a wonderful job here in Portsmouth, but teenagers can be a difficult population to serve. To help close that gap, the Welfare Department is again collecting gift cards in small denominations for things like movie tickets, coffee houses, stores such as Old Navy, Gamestop and Kohl's. As with the donation of gift cards for school supplies in September, the gift cards **can be mailed (Ellen Tully, Welfare Department, City Hall, 1 Junkins Ave. Portsmouth NH 03801), left in the gray drop box in front of City Hall or, dropped off with the receptionist.** Please contact Ellen Tully, 610-7267, [etully@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@cityofportsmouth.com) with any questions or concerns.

**ROTARY ORNAMENT PURCHASES SUPPORT LOCAL WAITSTAFF** -- The Rotary Club of Portsmouth wants something good to come out of 2020. Buy this year's collectible brass ornament of the iconic Gilley's Diner and Portsmouth Rotary will use 100% of the profits to buy restaurant gift certificates waitstaff. The ornaments are \$20 when purchased at the restaurants or \$22 if purchased online:  
<https://portsmouth.rotary778ogives.org/rotarytree2020>

**HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS** -- The Chamber Collaborative is not holding a holiday gathering this year. Instead, the Chamber is gathering resources for local nonprofits who have provided a list of what would help them out this holiday (and year-round). Requests range from \$10 to bring a student on a field trip with Great Bay Stewards to \$1,500 to sponsor one year of therapy at the Richie McFarland Children's Center. Go online to provide "Hope for the Holidays" by granting a local nonprofit's wish. Made possible in part by Service Credit Union, Sheehan Phinney and you. For more information, please contact [Jennifer@PortsmouthCollaborative.org](mailto:Jennifer@PortsmouthCollaborative.org)  
<http://portsmouthchamber.chambermaster.com/store/hope-for-the-holidays?viewmode=list&pagesize=12&orderby=10>

**Gather Food Pantry:** Gather provides food to hundreds of local families, and the need is even greater this year.. 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.

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



**CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST – REGISTER THRU DEC 10**

Residents are invited to register to participate in the contest by completing the form on this page: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/press-releases/city-announces-neighborhood-holiday-lights-contest-details>

The deadline to enter is December 10, 2020. (For a printable pdf of the entry form and more information, visit <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-11/REVISED%20PosterFlyer%20113020.pdf>) Print out the form, scan it and email it to [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com) or mail c/o City Manager's Office, City Hall, One Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth NH 03801. The contest is open to every Portsmouth resident. Participants can choose one of two categories for judging of their outdoor light displays:

- Classic Light Display
- Creative Light Display

Contest entries will be judged by school-aged children, who will be driven through their assigned neighborhoods (not their own) to make their choices of the best holiday lights displays. Judging will take place between December 12 and 20. The Committee will create a map of the Holiday Lights Contest entries so that residents can tour the lighted locations route by car.

The winners of the following awards will be announced by Mayor Becksted at the December 21 City Council meeting;

- Best Classic/Traditional Display – \$500 Ricci Lumber Gift Certificate
- Most Creative Display – \$500 Home Depot Gift Certificate
- Best Overall Display – \$500 Lowe's Gift Certificate
- Honorable Mentions – \$25 Gift Certificates

In addition, to the prize donors, Seacoast Media Group is an in-kind sponsor, providing publicity and advertising space for the contest. **JOIN THE PORTSMOUTH HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST FACEBOOK GROUP** and share holiday decorating stories with the hashtag #HolidayLightsContest.

<https://www.facebook.com/PortsmouthHolidayLightsContest> and **share photos of your displays on Instagram at @portsmouthholidaylightscontest**



**NEWS FROM THE PORTSMOUTH POET LAUREATE** -- In Portsmouth's Sister City, Nichinan, Japan, the daily newspaper carried a story about Portsmouth Poet Laureate's poem about the Nichinan Nursing Junior College capping ceremony she missed when the annual Portsmouth High School trip to Nichinan was cancelled. The article includes a photo of Nursing College President Ogawa holding a copy of Tammi's poem, which was translated into Japanese and given to each of the ceremony participants in October.

**FLEET STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT BUILDING INSPECTIONS NOW UNDERWAY** - Building owners in the project area (for the project area map, [click here](#)) are now being contacted by the Department of Public Works consultant, Flow Assessment Services, LLC to schedule appointments for utility surveys of their buildings. For more information on the project: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/fleet-street-reconstruction-project>

**ACCESS TO SENIOR CENTER AND LIBRARY REDUCED:**

**SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER:** The Senior Activity Center has paused programming, through the holidays due to widespread community transmission of COVID-19. The Center staff remain available to help the senior community connect to resources. Meals on Wheels will continue to provide the Mon-Fri home delivered meals and will still offer a holiday “grab & go meal” on December 17. RSVP by Fri, Dec 11 at 9 am to 603-610-4433.

**PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY RETURNS TO CURBSIDE AND ONLINE SERVICES -- Until further notice, the Library is not able to offer browsing, computer use, or any other services inside the building.** You can still check out materials by placing a hold for Curbside Pickup – which are now offered on demand. You can also continue to return library materials, get recommendations, attend online events, and access all online services. For more information, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/currentservices>

#### **REMINDERS:**

**APPOINTMENTS WITH CITY OFFICES: are available to help reduce indoor mingling of households.** City offices (Tax, Assessors, City Clerk, Inspections, etc.) are staggering shifts and working remotely when they can to reduce risk. You can make an appointment at any time to meet with these offices in person.

**PAY YOUR CITY BILLS ONLINE -- The newly approved \$14.70 per \$1,000 in valuation property tax rate is reflected in the tax bills mailed recently. The first half is due on December 17.** 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>

#### **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.caph.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>
- **Help Paying for Heat** -- Fuel assistance is available from Rockingham County Fuel Assistance program. For information, [click here](#).

#### **SEACOAST CHAMBER ALLIANCE EMPLOYABILITY FORUM TUES DEC 8 via Zoom, 8:30-10 am –**

With thousands of workers affected by the pandemic economy, the Chambers of the Seacoast Alliance host this forum to help workers understand the concept of employability and connect them with resources available to help improve their skills. To register for the free forum, click here. <https://www.dovernh.org/events/details/seacoast-chamber-alliance-employability-forum-31773>

**SEACOAST CHAMBER ALLIANCE WEBSITE** – The new VisitSeacoastNH.com website offers up-to-the-minute resources for businesses and visitors. <https://www.visitseacoastnh.com/>

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WHEN THE VACCINE ARRIVES?** Governor Sununu announced <http://indepthnh.org/2020/12/02/first-covid-19-vaccinations-in-n-h-by-christmas-sununu-says/> that the first batches of COVID-19 vaccine may arrive in New Hampshire before Christmas and the state Department of Health and Human Services said in a draft policy that the first phase to get the vaccine will include older adults living in residential care settings like nursing homes and assisted living facilities, first responders and high-risk workers in health-care facilities. A corps of qualified vaccinators and non-vaccinators for coordinating the process will be needed as the vaccination effort ramps up. The City Health Department asks residents who are interested in volunteering to visit the NH Responds website. <https://nhresponds.org/> and fill out the online registration form. <https://nhresponds.org/agreement.php> **Volunteers should make sure they check off the "Seacoast COVID**

**Team" in the "COVID-19 Teams" drop-down list in the Organization section of the form to volunteer for Greater Portsmouth efforts.**

**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 extended to January 15, 2021.**

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/emergency-order-72.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](#)