

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Manager's Advisory

## Thursday, December 10, 2020

**LET THE MAGIC SHINE THROUGH: SECRET #6** – The Portsmouth Fire Department has just received word from the North Pole that Santa Claus is making a special trip to Portsmouth on Saturday, December 19 (rain/snow date: Sunday, December 20) to help plan his route through the neighborhoods for the big night. Because the reindeer are resting up for their trip, Santa has asked the Fire Department if they'd drive him around in a ladder truck. You might spot Santa between 10 am and 4 pm – Fire Chief Todd Germain is working on convincing Santa to provide his special reconnaissance map in advance. Stay tuned!

**THIS WEEK'S REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD** – The weekly Regional COVID-19 Dashboard created by the Citizen Response Task Force [REVISEDCovidDashboard120820.pdf](https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/REVISEDCovidDashboard120820.pdf) ([cityofportsmouth.com](https://www.cityofportsmouth.com))

**STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE & PORTSMOUTH 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>

**For DHHS COVID-19 FAQs, click here:** <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-19-faq.pdf>

**SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER DEC “GRAB & GO” MEAL, RSVP BY DEC 11 --** 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.

**SHARE THE JOY! CARD PROJECT THANK YOU --** The Alliance for Greater Good thanks the community for helping them collect 1,500 cards for nursing home and long-term care facility residents. Several school classes even adopted the project, with children creating handmade holiday greetings for the project.

**PORTSMOUTH ROTARY ORNAMENT SALES PROVIDE DINING GIFT CARDS TO HARD-HIT WAITSTAFF --** This year's ornament, a Portsmouth Rotary tradition since 1994, not only showcases an “institution,” it is a means to achieve a great cause: \$10,000+ in local restaurant gift cards distributed to local

restaurant waitstaff. 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.rotary7780gives.org/rotarytree2020>

**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.

**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.



**LAST DAY TO REGISTER! CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST – REGISTER BY MIDNIGHT TONIGHT!** -- 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**

**CHAMBER CHAT LIVE! “Doing Well at Doing Good,” FRI DEC 11 at 1 pm via Zoom.** For Zoom registration, click here. [Chamber Chat LIVE! Meet People Who Are Doing Well at Doing Good - Dec 11, 2020 - The Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth, NH \(portsmouthchamber.org\)](#)

How lucky are we to live in a community where SO many of our friends, neighbors, and colleagues have stepped up to "do good" during the pandemic? Chamber Collaborative President Valerie Rochon and Andrew Bagley, tireless cheerleader for the arts, business, and non-profits, welcome:

- Anne Weidman, responsible for Biz Dev and Community Engagement for JSA Design, will share the amazing work she and a volunteer team of architects have done to re-imagine our outdoor dining scene.
- Seacoast Mask Makers (invited) all-volunteer group will share why, how, where their group of creative volunteers came together to provide thousands of masks free to our community.

### **SEACOAST CHAMBER ALLIANCE**

- **NEW! EMPLOYABILITY FORUM TUES DEC 15 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>
- **WEBSITE** – The new VisitSeacoastNH.com website offers up-to-the-minute resources for businesses and visitors. <https://www.visitseacoastnh.com/>
- **NEW! POSTERS** – The Alliance has developed a set of posters that businesses and organizations can download for free and print/post to inform their publics. Click here: [Seacoast Chamber Alliance \(visitseacoastnh.com\)](#)

### **NEW! NH STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS CAMPAIGN FOR PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATIONS**

– The NHSCA has worked with the Governor’s reopening task force to develop graphics for a public information campaign that performing arts organizations across the state can use to remind their audiences that “We Will Be Back.” For the free materials, click here. [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sh6t9oh3z0ybw3w/AAyF8\\_SNApEaW-ellWP3Qeza?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sh6t9oh3z0ybw3w/AAyF8_SNApEaW-ellWP3Qeza?dl=0)

**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.

**NEW! BLASTING FOR 60 PENHALLOW CONSTRUCTION RESUMES MON DEC 16 at 8 am --**  
**Controlled blasting for the building foundation is scheduled for 8 - 8:30 am, 10-10:30 am, 2-2:30 pm**  
and potentially later in the afternoon. Maine Drilling & Blasting of Auburn NH <https://www.mdandb.com/our-expertise> has received the necessary permit, will manage traffic around the site and has advised the Fire and Police Department and City dispatchers.

**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>

**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>

**ONLINE PAYMENT FOR MONTHLY ACCOUNT AT HANOVER GARAGE --** The City of Portsmouth DPW Parking Division announces the activation of a new online account management and payment system for the High/Hanover Garage monthly parking account holders. Beginning with the billing for January 2021, issued later this month, Hanover Garage users with monthly parking accounts will receive a monthly invoice by email, including account information and total amounts due. Accessible through ParkPortsmouth.com, the new PARIS Online Portal provides the ability for monthly parkers at the Hanover Garage to view a detailed account history and take advantage of the convenience of touch-free online payment. Those who wish to pay by check may continue to do so without a processing fee; but there is a \$3 processing fee for online payments to cover the cost of the system.

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

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WHEN THE VACCINE ARRIVES?** Governor Sununu announced <https://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](#)**