CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

UPDATE from the City Manager for Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Governor Sununu's "Stay At Home 2.0" order and guidelines remain in effect through May 31, 2020. Phased Business Reopening began with retail on May 11 and outdoor dining May 18. For the latest information: https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/emergency-order-40-c.pdf

CITY COUNCIL CREATES CITIZEN RESPONSE TASK FORCE -- At the May 18 City Council meeting, Assistant Mayor Splaine and Councilor Deaglan McEachern proposed the formation of Portsmouth Citizen Response Task Force. The Councilors approved the motion unanimously. The Task Force of nineteen members will include representatives of the business community, restaurant owners and managers, non-profit organizations from the arts community and health services, citizens, members of the Economic Development Commission, health care professionals, and city staff members including the City Manager and Health Officer. The representatives will be appointed by the Mayor. All meetings of the Portsmouth Citizen Response Task Force will be public meetings and posted on the City website. For the application, click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-05/Citizens%20Task%20Force%20Application.pdf

BUSINESS REOPENING WORK GROUP -- RESTAURANTS -- The Business Reopening Work Group, with ongoing input from individual restaurateurs and retail business owners, has detailed a preliminary set of working guidelines designed to translate the Governor's outlines into fair and practical steps to re-open Portsmouth for outdoor dining. As of this afternoon, the following had received approval for various outdoor dining arrangements, though not all plan to open immediately. **Always check first, as many have specific reservations requirements.**

- Portsmouth Lodge of Elks 97
- Earth Eagle Brewings
- Wing-itz
- Botanica
- Colby's Breakfast & Lunch
- Lazy Jacks
- Paddys American Grille
- Geno's Chowder and Sandwich Shop
- Surf Restaurant
- The Beach Plum
- Bibimbap, LLC (dba Street)
- Liars Bench Beer Co.
- Rooftop @ Envio
- River House
- The kitchen eatery
- Martingale Wharf LLC
- The Oar House
- Cornestone West End
- Mombo Restaurant
- Vida Cantina
- Rudis
- Roundabout Diner
- Mojos Restaurant

- The Shanty
- BRGR Bar
- Elephantine Bakery
- The District
- Raleigh Wine Bar + Eatery

The group is working with three different subgroups:

- **Restaurants already permitted for outdoor dining** should submit their outdoor seating arrangements and compliance with the new public health guidelines checklist to the Health Department. Click here for details. (https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/portsmouth-health-department-guidelines-related-outdoor-dining-during-covid-19-emergency)
- **Restaurants seeking to offer outdoor dining on private property not already permitted** must receive a Building Permit from the Building Inspection. This one permit incorporates both Fire and Health Department review, the checklist and outdoor seating arrangement plan. For the Viewpoint portal application, click here. https://portsmouthnh.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1071/record-types/6408)
- **Restaurants requesting new outdoor dining use of space in the public realm**. The Work Group is also in discussions with restaurants and others examining other proposals for additional outdoor dining, and will report to City Council at their June 1 meeting for further discussion.

NEWLY OPENED REC DEPARTMENT FACILITIES – South Mill Pond tennis courts, pickle ball courts and basketball courts (*for hoops-shooting*, no games*) and* Portsmouth High School field complex now open to Portsmouth residents, 7 days a week, 8 am to 8 pm.

City Hall and other municipal buildings remain closed. City Offices will observe the Memorial Day holiday and return to working by telephone and email, only, on May 26.

CITY HALL REOPENING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, June 1. City Hall will reopen to the public for appointments and walk-ins on Monday, June 1. When it opens, City Hall will be limited to 50 percent occupancy. Walk-ins will be greeted at the front door, with new protocols in place, which include:

- Visitors will be required to wear a cloth mask while in City Hall.
- Masks will be provided if the visitor does not bring one.
- If the department the visitor wants to visit is already at capacity, that person will be asked to wait in a physical-distancing queue in the Portsmouth Room, adjacent to City Council Chambers.

Appointments are still recommended. Priority will be given to seniors and immune-impaired residents for appointments.

ClipperStrong.org NOW LIVE– Click here to make a Clipper Strong Fund tax deductible donation. **Donations by check may be mailed to the Clipper Strong Fund c/o Coastal Economic Development Corporation, 4 Merrill Industrial Drive, Suite 201, Hampton NH 03842. https://www.clipperstrong.org**

UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

Wed. May 20 at 6:30 pm, Historic District Commission, public meeting by zoom. Click here for the Agenda and zoom registration instructions.
http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2020/hdc/05-20-20_HDC_ag.pdf

Thurs. May 21 at 9:30 am, Board of Registrars of Voters, public meeting by zoom.
Notice: As Chair of the Board of Registrars of Voters, I, Barbara M. Ward, find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. All members of the Board of Registrars of Voters have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting by zoom. Click here to register. If anybody has a problem registering for the meeting, please call (603) 610-7272 or (603) 610-7208 or email at: wardports@gmail.com. https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYsdeCuqzwvGtBCdPbgvZ3hHWuBhs14yHmT

Thurs. May 21 at 6:30 pm, City Council Work Session – Budget Review. Watch for the Agenda and zoom registration instructions.
For the FY21 Budget, click here http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/fy21/FY21ProposedBudget.pdf
For the interactive guide to the FY21 Budget, click here.
http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/fy21/FY21BudgetLinkTutorial.pdf

Thurs. May 21 at 7 pm, Planning Board Meeting by zoom. Click here for the Agenda and zoom registration instructions. http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2020/pb/05-21-20_PB_AG_amended3.pdf

GOVERNOR SUNUNU'S MAIN STREET RELIEF PROGRAM – Deadline May 29. Click here.
Emergency financial relief to New Hampshire small for-profit businesses due to the economic disruption caused by COVID-19. **The prequalifying form** (click here) **with the required information must be filed by May 29th.** https://new-hampshire.secure.force.com/support/GOV_GOFERR_Business_Survey The fund will be administered by the Department of Revenue. In order to be eligible, a business must have its principal place of business in New Hampshire and must have generated less than $20 million in revenue during the 2019 tax year. **Every eligible New Hampshire small business desiring relief must submit the prequalification form with all required information by May 29, 2020.**

The Small Business Administration has issued the Loan Forgiveness Application to be used by PPP borrowers to determine and report how much of their PPP loan will be forgiven. The Application and Instructions resolve a number of calculations and substantive questions. Forbes.com provided a summary (click here).

FACE MASK DRIVE CONTINUES! Drop-off or Pick-up Donations of Cloth Masks for Seniors: Thurs May 21, 1-2 pm -- The City of Portsmouth Senior Services is collecting and distributing donated homemade masks to seniors and other individuals in need throughout the community. All donations should be brought to the Community Campus tennis court parking lot. Drive up and leave the masks in the box. Brinn Sullivan, Senior Services Supervisor will be on site to collect them. Contact 603-767-2697 to coordinate or if you have any questions. If these times do not work, please call. All homemade masks will be washed before being distributed. **If you need a cloth face mask, homemade masks can be mailed to those who could not attend the Distribution Drives.** Please email or call Brinn Sullivan, Senior Services Manager, and she will mail you a mask. 603-767-2697. bsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com For more information on cloth face masks and how to wear them, click here. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html

CHAMBER CHAT LIVE! Friday, May 22 at 1 pm. "To Open, or Not to Open? That is the Question." --
As New Hampshire ventures into a new phase of the pandemic and businesses are slowly given permission to reopen, some have made the decision to not reopen right now. Chamber Collaborative VP Ben Van Camp welcomes two restaurateurs and two retailers, one in each open or not-open category. Each will discuss their decision-making process. **To register, click here.**
https://portsmouthchamber.org/events/details/chamber-chat-live-to-open-or-not-to-open-that-is-the-question-52175?calendarMonth=2020-05-01&utm_source=Chamber+Master+Synch&utm_campaign=c4cdef3a93-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_05_08_28_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6fed3172ed-c4cdef3a93-491432037

PRIMARY VOTING: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PARTY AFFILIATION CHANGES --
Anyone wishing to make a change in their Party affiliation must do so by June 2, 2020. In accordance with Section 18 of Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05 and 2020-08, **to change political party affiliation a voter must complete this application, sign it in front of a witness, and mail it by the deadline to the City Clerk's Office, 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801.**
http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/files/cityclerk/partyaff-form.pdf Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the New Hampshire Secretary of State has provided guidance on additional provisions for voters in upcoming elections. For the Secretary of State's memo, click here. The State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Party affiliation changes WILL NOT be accepted after June 2, 2020. **https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/20200410-absentee-voting.pdf**

ASSISTANCE RESOURCES UPDATE

- **GATHER, our local food pantry,** hours are Mon, Tues, Wed: 10 am – 3 pm at 210 West Road #3 in Portsmouth. Thurs: *Closed*. Fri: 9am-1pm at Community Campus, 100 Campus Drive in Portsmouth. **: Open-Air Market for laid-off workers, Thursdays 10 am to 3 pm** at Community Campus, 100 Campus Drive in Portsmouth. Food donations always welcome.

- **Operation Blessings** d**rive-up food pantry** at 600a Lafayette Rd. Wed-Fri, 10am to 4pm, for Portsmouth residents only. For more information, please call 603-430-8561. **Senior mobile food pantry** to the residents of the Portsmouth area, ages 62 and up, Mon-Sat 10am-4pm. Anyone who is interested please contact Tammy Joslyn at 603-988-2671. **Operation Blessings clothing and household item donations site reopened Wednesday, May 20. Showers formerly offered by Operation Blessings are now available at the YMCA on Peverly Hill Road.**

- **Meals on Wheels** makes deliveries to Portsmouth seniors on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with the extra meals for Tuesday and Thursday included in the delivery. Additionally, they will continue to deliver extra shelf-stable food and frozen meals, just in case. New customers are still being accepted, so please call 603-431-0561 to complete an application over the phone.

- **The Portsmouth School Department daily lunches, continues Monday through Friday through June for local schoolchildren**. See the schedule for pickup and drop-off, **here**. The School Department is also working with End 68 Hours of Hunger to supply weekend meals to food-insecure children.

- **Cross Roads House, emergency shelter had to cancel its annual fundraiser** which usually brings in $400,000 in donations to support the population it serves. For more information about how you can help, including their Wish List, click here. https://www.crossroadshouse.org/want-to-help/

- **"STAY CONNECTED NH" INITIATIVE** from the NH Financial Exploitation Specialist Team is an outreach campaign regarding elder exploitation abuse, neglect, and/or scams. Portsmouth Police Department Community Outreach Coordinator Detective Rochelle Jones recommends the resources on this website and says it is an easy to navigate tool for seniors, their loved ones, law enforcement, agencies, and any citizen in need of guidance. www.stayconnectednh.org

TESTING: The NH Department of Health & Human Services is now coordinating COVID-19 testing appointments at one of the several testing clinics established throughout the state, for anyone who calls. That testing coordinating office phone number is 603-271-5980. For FAQs about testing in New Hampshire, click here. https://www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/testing-guidance.htm In addition, the Rite-Aid at 1390 Lafayette Road in Portsmouth is providing free by-appointment testing for COVID-19 to anyone age 18 or over. For more information, click here. https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/covid-19-testing

COAST BUS SERVICE RESUMED -- COAST has resumed fixed route bus services (Routes 1, 2, 6, 40, 41, 100-103) and Route 7 On Demand, as staffing allows. Passengers should restrict use to essential transportation needs (work, groceries or medical needs) and are also encouraged to wear face masks. Drivers sit behind clear barriers and have their own protective gear. For more information, click here. https://coastbus.org/COVID-19

DPW PROJECTS THIS WEEK. For the latest on individual projects, click here and then on the Projects tab. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks

- **WATER LINE FLUSHING --** The Water Division has begun the twice-annual, routine flushing of the City's fire hydrants and 190 miles of water mains to remove sediment buildup. The work is ongoing for the next six to eight weeks, Monday through Thursday, between 7 and 11 pm. The flushing operation covers both public and private hydrants in Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, Greenland and Newington. Crews open select fire hydrants, releasing water with enough velocity to carry sediment out of the pipes. While flushing can result in discolorations to tap water, customers can use cold water to flush their lines and the water remains safe to drink. If the discoloration persists, customers should contact the Water Division though the Click 'n Fix system to ensure prompt response.
- **ISLINGTON STREET** detour is in place for one-way, inbound/easterly traffic between the bridge over the Bypass to Aldrich Road and outbound/westerly traffic, detoured down Aldrich. Sewer and sidewalk work on the Aldrich this week. For map, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/islington-street-corridor-reconstruction-project
- **MARKET STREET & KEARSARGE WAY BRIDGES:** Final landscaping and other details are being completed on the Market Street gateway park. Kearsarge Way Bridge is being reduced to one lane, with

alternating traffic directed by temporary traffic signals. Market Street between the Sarah Long Bridge and the Noble's Island traffic signal is being reduced to one lane in each direction. For the full presentation on the project, click here. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBTsRp4Pemo

- **CITY HALL PARKING LOT AND DRIVEWAY REPAVING – Both driveways and the upper parking lot are affected so Mount Vernon Street may fee occasional two-way traffic from the Police Department.**
- **CORPORATE DRIVE AT PEASE:** Road work this week.
- **DEER STREET/BRIDGE STREET:** Water and sewer pipe work nearing completion. Electric work and lighting is up next.
- **SIDE STREETS OFF PLEASANT –** Affecting Richmond and Livermore. Equipment staged, as before, on Edmunds.
- **BOW STREET REPAVING & SIDEWALK WORK:** Daniel Street to Chapel Street will be closed to through-traffic and no parking will be allowed in that section. A flagger will be in place to direct traffic around the Penhallow Street detour. The rest of Bow St. is unaffected.
- **MAPLEWOOD AVE DETOUR NOW IN PLACE.** Click here for details. Work has resumed for the season. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-05/2020-05-18%20-%20Maplewood%20Detour.pdf
- **PRESCOTT PARK DOCK RAILING replacement work continues.** The dock remains closed.

CANCELLED: 2020 Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade. American Legion Frank E. Booma Post 6 has confirmed that Memorial Day commemorations will not take place this year. The American Legion has cancelled commemorative events nationwide and that American Legion Family members – and those outside of the organization – share the names of those you will honor and remember on Memorial Day. Their plan is to compile a list and then begin sharing them regularly via their social media channels over Memorial Day Weekend. For more information, click here. https://www.legion.org/honor/248724/help-us-observe-memorial-day-virtually **NEW: In response to the pandemic and in alignment with the American Legion, Thresher Base Submarine Veterans cancelled the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Albacore Park.**

EVERY FRIDAY at 7 pm: Clap! Ring bells! Blow horns! Show our healthcare workers and First Responders #WeClapBecauseWeCare

Instead of repeating the long list of COVID-related resources each day, you can now find them all collected on one City website page! Click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-resources

Sign up for the Daily Advisory, here. The latest news is always at the top, in red.

STAY SAFE! STAY AT HOME! DO NOT CONGREGATE

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.