CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

UPDATE from the City Manager for Saturday, May 23, 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 full list of and links to the Governor's Executive Orders, click here:
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-05/GovOrders%202020.05.21.pdf

FIRE INVESTIGATION -- Portsmouth Fire and Police Departments are investigating an arson fire at 155 Parrot Avenue, the Portsmouth Middle School. The NH State Fire Marshal's Office and The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are assisting in the investigation. At 3:19 AM on May 23, 2020 all fire personnel were dispatched to a fire alarm activation at the Portsmouth Middle School at 155 Parrot Avenue. Station 1 units arrived to find fire extending out the doors of the main entrance foyer. The fire was quickly extinguished by the first arriving engine. Automatic fire sprinklers had activated to keep the fire contained to the room of origin. Accelerants and other evidence were found on scene and the area has been secured for investigation. Preliminary damage estimates may exceed $100,000. **Anyone with information about this crime can call Portsmouth Police Captain Darrin Sargent at 603-610-7549. Anonymous tips can be made through Seacoast Crime Stoppers by calling 603-431-1199 or online at www.seacoastcrimestoppers.com.**

UNSUNG HEROES -- We're applauding Portsmouth 's "Unsung Heroes" each Saturday. Just as we #ClapBecauseWeCare every Friday night, to let our healthcare workers and First Responders know that their commitment and sacrifices are deeply appreciated by the community, we highlight others on the frontlines in Portsmouth, who are less visible but are quietly doing the jobs that keep the city going. This week, we're recognizing the hardworking folks in the Tax Collector's office who have really gone the extra mile during this challenging time – while continuing to ensure the timely collection of needed City revenues. As the City Manager's executive assistant notes, "The City Manager's office gets many phone calls about various types of registrations, etc. and the team in the Tax Collector's office have been amazing. They respond quickly to all inquiries and have been in the building every day, (on staggered shifts, keeping physical distancing and wearing masks) during this temporary closure and even relocating while their work area was being renovated. On top of that, they always have smiles on their faces and are very pleasant interacting with the public."

APPLY BY MAY 26 FOR CITIZEN RESPONSE TASK FORCE -- Assistant Mayor Jim Splaine and Councilor Deaglan McEachern proposed the formation of Portsmouth Citizen Response Task Force. In their guest editorial outlining the idea, https://www.seacoastonline.com/opinion/20200515/guest-view-covid-19-establishing-portsmouth-citizen-response-task-force the two suggested, "As we begin to navigate what the foreseeable future looks like for our city, perhaps for years, we believe it is vital that we include more of our Portsmouth residents and business owners in the discussions going forward." The Task Force of nineteen members selected by the Mayor 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. For the application, click here. **Deadline to apply is May 26, 2020.**
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-05/revCitizens%20Task%20Force%20Application2020.05.21.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 38 restaurants had received approval for various outdoor dining arrangements, though not all plan to open immediately. **Always check first, as many have specific reservations requirements.**

BG's Boathouse
Bibimbap, LLC (dba Street)
Botanica
BRGR Bar
Café Nostimo
Colby's Breakfast & Lunch
Cornerstone West End
Dough Craft Pizza
Earth Eagle Brewings
Elephantine Bakery
Five Guys Burgers & Fries
Geno's Chowder and Sandwich Shop
Great Rhythm Brewing Company
Hebert's Restaurant
Lazy Jacks
Liars Bench Beer Co.
Loaded Question
Martingale Wharf LLC
MoJo's BBQ
Mombo Restaurant
Paddy's American Grille
Popovers
Portsmouth Brewery
Portsmouth Gas Light Co.
Portsmouth Lodge of Elks 97
Raleigh Wine Bar + Eatery
River House
Rooftop @ Envio
Roundabout Diner
Rudi's
Surf Restaurant
The Beach Plum
The District
The kitchen eatery
The Oar House
The Shanty
Vida Cantina
Wing-itz

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.

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.

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**

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. 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.**

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

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. The fixed locations are in Claremont, Lancaster, Plymouth, Tamworth, and Rochester.

Continuing precautions:

- Eliminate play dates, even "1 on 1"
- Eliminate small gatherings, including meetings "between a few families."
- Cancel planned vacations for the next month and avoid airline travel.
- Stay at home as much as possible. When you do have to go out to buy groceries or medicine "make the trips quick and purposeful."
- Wash your hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after you've been in public places.

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.