CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

UPDATE from the City Manager for Thursday, July 30, 2020

Portsmouth Protection Plan: Safer At Home.

Do your part. Wear a mask whenever you are in public, indoors or out. Stay at home except for essential needs. Avoid gatherings public or private. Keep distance between yourself and others.

Current cases identified in Portsmouth: 12

Face-Coverings Resolution -- Portsmouth City Council unanimously approved a mask-wearing resolution at their meeting on July 13. They are now investigating the City's options for a mask-wearing ordinance. Governor Sununu and State Epidemiologist Dr.Ben Chan recommend that people wear masks, to protect the spread of COVID-19 to others.

In addition, the Citizen Response Task Force Health Subcommittee provided some **face-covering recommendations** to the City Council at their July 22 Work Session. For details, click here.

https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-07/HealthSubcommitteeMaskStatment%202020.07.21.pdf

CITIZEN RESPONSE TASK FORCE CREATES A COVID-19 DASHBOARD. Click here for a larger version. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-07/revCovidDashboard2%202020.07.29.pdf

NH SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESULTS OF BUSINESS RESILIENCY SURVEY -- The University of New Hampshire Survey Center survey for the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) assesses the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses throughout New Hampshire. For the full report, click here. **And for a discussion on the Seacoast-specific survey results, JOIN CHAMBER CHAT LIVE! On Friday, July 31** for the analysis. **Click here to register.**

BRIDGE STREET LOT POPUP NH OPENING POSTPONED TO NEXT WEEK – PopUp NH announced today that they are delaying the opening of the performance/restaurant venue to get all of the operational elements in place. Stay tuned.



PORTSMOUTH HELPING PORTSMOUTH
This has to be the 'feel good' story of the day as businesses try to cope with the pandemic, think creatively and explore the spaces the City has opened up for outdoor dining. This cheerful scene is outside Ceres Bakery on Penhallow, next to Massimo's. Thanks to Massimo's "exterior decorating," by day, it's the bakery's outdoor dining space. After they close for the day, it becomes an al fresco 'cocktail lounge' for Massimo's next door.

PARKING SPACES REALLOCATED FOR OUTDOOR DINING:

Downtown Streets – Parts of the following streets have been barricaded to allow for dining in the street in place of parking spaces. For all the Citizen Response Task Force updates from the Downtown Streets Subcommittee, click here**.**

- Congress Street – Flatbread, Goat, Jumpin' Jay's
- Congress Street – Rudi's, Thirsty Moose
- Bridge/Hill Streets – Bridge Street Bistro, Dwyer's Pub
- Worth Lot – Friendly Toast, Café Mediterraneo, Maison Navarre
- State Street – Mr. Kim's, Fezziwig's
- Penhallow – Cure, Ceres Bakery, Massimo's, Moxy
- Market Street – Portsmouth Gas Light, Portsmouth Brewery, Cup of Joe, Durbar Square
- Pleasant Street – Clipper Tavern

For details on restaurants open for outside, inside and public realm outdoor dining, click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/restaurants-takeout-outdoor-dining

For more information, click here **to visit the Citizen Response Task Force web page**, that provides the materials and resources the committee is using. All meetings are conducted publicly via zoom and are posted in advance on the City website homepage. To contact the Citizen Response Task Force, email via hotline@cityofportsmouth.com

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

HEAT WAVE RELIEF – The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool now allows occupancy by up to 100 Portsmouth residents per hour. Advance reservations required.
https://rec.cityofportsmouth.com/CourseActivities.aspx?id=7&cat=5 Each reservation allows a one-hour visit between 11 am and 7 pm, with 30 minutes between each session to allow for cleaning and sanitizing. For more information on pool guidelines, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/press-releases/city-prepares-open-outdoor-pool-july-6 **Project Cool Air is a program for qualified participants to receive air conditioning units through Area Home Care.** For more information, contact Ellen Tully at City Hall:610-7267 or WFDept@cityofportsmouth.com As it is currently not possible to offer appropriate physical-distancing for a cooling shelter in any City facility, an alternative is the climate-controlled Fox Run Mall.

COVID-19 CONCERNS ACCEPTED AS VALID REASON FOR REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT -- Absentee Ballots are now available for the September and November elections. For more voter information, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voting-information **The City Clerk is also in need of Election Workers for both dates.** Those interested should call 603-610-7208 or email CityClerk@CityofPortsmouth.com

ECONOMIC RELIEF RESOURCES:

NOW OPEN: State of New Hampshire New Hampshire General Assistance & Preservation (GAP) Fund. The Governor has allocated and authorized $30 million of CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds ("flex funds") to provide emergency financial relief to New Hampshire businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, who have not been able to access support from other existing state and federal programs.

- Application Period – July 21, 2020 – August 4, 2020
- Application Verification Period – August 5, 2020 – August 18, 2020

For more information, **click here**.

CLIPPER STRONG FUND -- Small businesses who would like to receive a **free Clipper Strong Fund Care Package** (containing disposable face masks, signage asking customers to wear masks and a touchless thermometer) should **send an email with the name of the business, location, phone and email contact to** hotline@cityofportsmouth.com Donations still welcome! Click here to make a donation online at ClipperStrong.org

DPW PROJECTS THIS WEEK.

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

- **BANFIELD ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES –** Between Heritage Ave and Ocean Rd. Alternating one-way traffic and flaggers in place.
- **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. 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 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 reduced to one lane in each direction. For the full presentation on the project, click here. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBTsRp4Pemo
- **SIDE STREETS OFF PLEASANT:** Equipment staged, as before, on Edmunds.
- **PRESCOTT PARK DOCK RAILING replacement work continues.** The dock remains closed.

Governor Sununu's "Safer At Home" guidelines continue. For the full details on the Governor's Executive Orders, click here**.**

For all the COVID-related resources, click here.

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