CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Manager's Advisory Thursday, August 27, 2020

Portsmouth Protection Plan: Do your part. Wear a mask.

Avoid gatherings public or private. Keep distance between yourself and others. Governor Sununu's "Safer At Home" guidelines continue. For the full details on the Governor's Executive Orders, click here.

Face-Coverings Ordinance Proposed --The Portsmouth City Council held a Second Reading of the draft face-covering ordinance on August 18. The Third Reading is scheduled for August 31 at their regular meeting, 7 pm. For the draft ordinance, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-08/MaskOrdinance%202020.08.03.pdf

UPDATE ON ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION RETURN EMAIL – Voters are able to apply for absentee ballots for both the NH Primary (September 8) and the General Election (November 3) with just one application (voters must check both boxes). To receive an application for an absentee ballot, voters can come to the City Clerk's office, call the office to receive one by mail, or download the application, here. The absentee ballot application cannot be completed online; it must be downloaded and printed, then signed. Once complete, voters should return the application by mail (City Clerk, City Hall, 1 Junkins Ave., Portsmouth NH 03801), fax (610-4158), **e-mail to KLBarnaby@cityofportsmouth.com**, deliver in person to the City Clerk's Voting Center in Council Chambers or drop in the gray box outside of City Hall. Those who applied by any means other than in person can check the status of their applications here.

CHAMBER CHAT LIVE! Friday, Aug 28 at 1 pm via Zoom. Returning to school in Portsmouth and at Great Bay Community College. Chamber Collaborative President Valerie Rochon welcomes:

- Steve Zadravec, Portsmouth Superintendent of Schools
- George Shea, Assistant Superintendent
- Sean Clancy, AVP at Great Bay Community College.

With new decisions made about bringing students back to the classrooms for the fall, hear what considerations were explored, what will the classrooms and remote learning look like, and what are the resiliency plans should there be a spike in COVID cases? What the schools are doing affects our children, their parents, and our workforce. Join the conversation. **For Zoom registration, click here.** http://portsmouthcollaborative.org/events/details/chamber-chat-live-08-28-2020-52192?calendarMonth=2020-08-01

TESTING ADVISORY FOR ANYONE RETURNING FROM STURGIS WISCONSIN MOTORCYCLE RALLY -- The NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is notifying residents about potential exposures related to the Sturgis, SD, Motorcycle Rally held August 7-16. There have been more than 100 confirmed cases associated with the Sturgis event, including six New Hampshire residents. **DHHS recommends that all NH residents who traveled to Sturgis for the motorcycle rally get tested for COVID-19. They should also quarantine and monitor for symptoms for 14 days upon their return to NH, even if they test negative.** Guidance for self-quarantine is available at: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/self-quarantine-covid.pdf

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

SERVICE CU @ POPUP NH THIS WEEKEND:

DINING HOURS
Thursday, 3-10 pm Black Trumpet, Camp Sipabrew, Dos Amigos
Friday, 3-10 pm Black Trumpet, Camp Sipabrew, Vida Cantina
Saturday, noon-10 pm Black Trumpet, Camp Sipabrew, The Wilder
Sunday, noon-8 pm Black Trumpet, Camp Sipabrew, Dos Amigos
Camp Sipabew features Liar's Bench, Stoneface Brewing, Earth Eagle, Great Rhythm, Loaded Question

PERFORMANCE
Appearing on the bankprov. Stage
(All performances require ticket purchase in advance. For tickets, click on the link)
Thursday, The Sol Stage at PopUp NH https://www.facebook.com/events/595191414524901/
Friday, Kingdom (Hip Hop https://portsmouthnhtickets.com/events/kingdom-8-28-2020
Saturday, SHOW RESCHEDULED TO SUNDAY 6 pm
Sunday, Opera on Tap 1-3 pm https://portsmouthnhtickets.com/events/opera-on-tap-8-30-2020; King Kyote with Troy Ramey (blues/folk) 6 pm https://portsmouthnhtickets.com/events/king-kyote-w-troy-ramey-8-29-2020

NEW! $300 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT -- Through an agreement between the State of New Hampshire and FEMA resulting from the August 8 Executive Order of the President FEMA will be providing **$300 per week for each eligible person filing for unemployment benefits, starting at the beginning of September**. Initially, per Federal requirement, this benefit will only be available for those people filing for unemployment benefits that have been impacted by COVID-19 that have a weekly benefit amount of at least $100.
In order to qualify for this new benefit you need to be eligible for unemployment benefits from either the state or federal unemployment programs administered by the department. You will also need to be able to certify when asked by the department that you are unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19. For more information, **click here**. https://www.unemploymentbenefits.nh.gov/new-300-benefit

NOW OPEN! VOTING CENTER IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL -- The Absentee Ballot process is now open for the fall 2020 Election Season and Absentee Ballots are now available for the September 8 NH Primary election from the Portsmouth City Clerk. To assist residents with what is expected to be high demand for absentee voting due to COVID-19, the City Clerk's Office has set up a Voting Center in Council Chambers at City Hall. The Voting Center is open during regular City Hall hours (Mon, 8 am – 6 pm; Tues-Thurs, 8 am – 4:30 pm; Fri, 8 am – 1 pm) from Tuesday, August 25 through November 2. Residents can visit the Voting Center to:

- Register to vote
- Complete an application for absentee ballots (check the box on the application to receive absentee ballots for both the September 8 NH Primary and the November 3 General Election).
- Receive and complete an absentee ballot for the NH Primary.
- When they are available – late September/early October – receive and complete an absentee ballot for the General Election.

There are four simple steps to vote by absentee ballot in the September 8 NH Primary and/or the November 3 General Election:

1. Make sure you are registered to vote.
2. Determine your eligibility to vote absentee.
3. Complete and return an application for Absentee Ballot(s) (one application form may be used for both the Primary and General Election).
4. Complete and return the Absentee Ballot.

NH Secretary of State Bill Gardner has created a brochure explaining the requirements to register to vote and cast an absentee ballot in New Hampshire. https://sos.nh.gov/media/nx2023fs/final-mailer-for-website.pdf
For more details about voting in Portsmouth, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/press-releases/city-clerk-details-steps-absentee-voting

DPW WATER DEPARTMENT ASKS RESIDENTS TO RESTRICT WATER USE – This past May, the state activated its Drought Management Task Force; and last week elevated New Hampshire's drought conditions in the Seacoast area from Moderate to Severe Drought (D2) conditions. The Seacoast has received only 8 inches of precipitation since the beginning of May, compared to the 14-inch average usually experienced in that time. The Drought Management Task Force has advised public water systems including Portsmouth's to implement outdoor

water use restrictions where needed. **Therefore, the City of Portsmouth is encouraging Voluntary Water Use Restrictions. Portsmouth water customers are asked to voluntarily restrict their use of water for outdoor irrigation, to be as efficient as possible and to refrain from outdoor watering between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm.**

CITY WELFARE DEPT. ASKS FOR DONATIONS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES -- Since 2006, the Welfare Department has collected back-to-school supplies for area children in need, Pre-K to post-grad. To minimize physical interactions, the Welfare Department **suggests donors might consider supplying gift cards instead of supplies. These can be mailed, 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 with any questions or concerns. For more information, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/news/welfare-dept-seeks-donations-school-supplies

NH AGRICULTURE RELIEF PROGRAM DEADLINE MON AUG 31 – To apply for relief from COVID-19 related expenses and lost sales between March 1 and June 30, 2020. For more information, click here. https://www.goferr.nh.gov/covid-expenditures/nh-agriculture-grants

CLIPPER STRONG FUND -- The Clipper Strong Fund is still accepting donations (https://www.clipperstrong.org) and the CSF Committee is considering initiatives to assist small local businesses through the fall season. 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

DPW PROJECTS THIS WEEK.

- **CATE STREET INTERSECTION, AUG 27-28** – Curbing installed Thursday-Friday.
- **BANFIELD ROAD CONSTRUCTION –** Between Heritage Ave and Ocean Rd. Alternating one-way traffic and flaggers in place.
- **ISLINGTON STREET --** Curbing between Bypass bridge and Bartlett. Sidewalks will be poured later this week. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/islington-street-corridor-reconstruction-project
- **MARKET STREET BRIDGE** – Traffic reduced to one lane, police detail and flaggers in place. Work to upgrade the traffic signals at the downtown intersections with Maplewood also continues.

NEXT WEEK:

- **JEWELL COURT SIDEWALK WORK STARTS MON AUG 31**
- **INTERNATIONAL DRIVE/MANCHESTER SQUARE STARTS MON AUG 31 –** Paving in the vicinity of Paddy's American Grille.
- **BANFIELD ROAD PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING, WED SEP 2, via Zoom. For Zoom registration, click here.** https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-08/BanfieldRd%20Public%20MtgZoom%20Registration%202020.09.02.pdf
- **FLEET STREET PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING, Wed Sep 9 via Zoom** https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-08/FleetSt%20Public%20MtgZoom%20Registration%202020.09.09.pdf

MAPLEWOOD AVE SIGNAL CHANGES WHEN FINAL EQUIPMENT IS INSTALLED – The upgrade to the traffic signals at three intersections along Maplewood Avenue (Deer Street, Hanover Street and Congress Street) will be completed soon. The signal upgrade provides the following benefits:

- Improves pedestrian access to and from the Foundry Parking Garage
- Complies with ADA accessibility requirements for pedestrian traffic signals
- Shortens pedestrian wait times by up to 80 seconds
- Improves traffic flow, shortening the wait-time for stopped traffic by 30 seconds
- Reduces the number of pedestrians crossing against the signal (jaywalking)
- Helps reduce delays caused by the closure of a lane on Congress Street to allow for outdoor dining.

Previously, all traffic was stopped and pedestrians could cross in all directions while the pedestrian signal was displayed. **The new signal reduces the wait time for traffic and pedestrians, allowing pedestrians to move with the traffic that has a green light and to cross where traffic is stopped for a red light.** Turning traffic will be required to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. The new signals will also hold traffic on a red

light while allowing pedestrians to proceed to make them more visible to motorists before any vehicles start to turn. This change eliminates the diagonal crosswalks at the Congress/Middle Street intersection, as they are no longer needed.

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

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