CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Manager's Advisory Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Portsmouth mourns the loss of Recreation Director Rus Wilson. Farewell, dear friend.

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 scheduled for August 31 was postponed until the next City Council meeting. For the draft ordinance, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-08/MaskOrdinance%202020.08.03.pdf

TONIGHT: 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

VAUGHAN MALL BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MEETING FRI SEP 4 at 11:30 am via Zoom --
The meeting will include a review of the committee charge and actions as well as an overview of the short term improvement plans developed by consultants from Klopfer Martin. For the Zoom registration, click here.

SERVICE CU @ POPUP NH SCHEDULE THIS WEEKEND:

NOTE: No parking on Bridge Street:
Thurs & Fri, 2:30 pm – 10 pm
Sat, 11:30 am – 10 pm
Sun, 11:30 am – 8pm

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, LD's Lobsters Brought to You by Dos Amigos
*Camp Sipabrew includes Liar's Bench, Stoneface Brewing, Earth Eagle, Great Rhythm, Loaded Question

PERFORMANCE
Appearing on the bankprov. stage
Thursday, Sep 3 Seacoast Rep presents A Cabaret Hosted by Kevin Mahaney, 8 – 10 pm, $20 to $40, more information at: https://tinyurl.com/y3vj7wjy
Friday, Sep 4, PopUpJazz with the PMAC Jazz Faculty, 8 – 10 pm, $40 to $80, more information at: https://portsmouthnhtickets.com/events/popupjazz-with-the-pmac-jazz-faculty-9-4-2020
Saturday, Sep 5 **Matinee** 3S Artspace Presents Long Story Short: Never Have I Ever, 1 – 3 pm, $20 to $40, more information at: https://portsmouthnhtickets.com/events/3s-artspace-presents-long-story-short-never-have-i-ever-

9-5-2020 **Evening** Rustic Overtones, 8 – 10 pm, $50 - $100, more information at:
https://portsmouthnhtickets.com/events/rustic-overtones-9-5-2020
Sunday, Sep 6: TBD

NH PRIMARY ELECTION VOTING HOURS ANNOUNCED FOR TUES SEP 8 -- The polls will be open in Portsmouth from 8 am to 7 pm. The voting locations for residents are based on where you live. Click here for the map. http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/documents/votingWards.pdf
NH law permits same-day registration for those 18 or over, with proof of US citizenship and Portsmouth residence.
Voting Locations:

- Ward One – New Franklin School, 1 Franklin Drive
- Ward Two – Middle School, 155 Parrott Avenue
- Ward Three – NEW THIS YEAR Senior Activity Center, 125 Cottage Street
- Ward Four – NEW THIS YEAR Portsmouth High School, 50 Andrew Jarvis Drive
- Ward Five – Little Harbour School, 50 Clough Drive

LEGAL NOTICE: ***As required by RSA 652:20, the City Clerk's office shall be open to receive applications for absentee ballots, to provide voters the opportunity to complete absentee ballots, and to receive returned ballots on the MONDAY, Labor Day, September 7, 2020 from 3 pm to 5 pm.***

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.

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

$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

RENTAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION SIMPLIFIED -- Last week, State and community action agencies announced that the 8-page application for filing for the New Hampshire Housing Relief Program is being shortened to three pages to open access to more state residents. New Hampshire Housing Relief Program is designed to keep people from losing their housing and to secure or maintain permanent housing. The program has two components: one-time assistance grants; and a short-term rental assistance program. Click here to contact the local Community Action Program agency that can assist. www.CAPNH.org

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.

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

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.

- **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.
- **JEWELL COURT SIDEWALK WORK**
- **INTERNATIONAL DRIVE/MANCHESTER SQUARE –** Paving in the vicinity of Paddy's American Grille.
- **FLEET STREET PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING, Wed Sep 9 via Zoom.** https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-09/Fleet%20St.%20Meeting%20Agenda%20Zoom%20September%209.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.

Governor Sununu has extended his Emergency Order for another 21 days. The State has also made extensive changes to the COVID guidelines over the last few weeks 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

For more information, visit City's page on COVID-19