CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Manager's Advisory Thursday, September 3, 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 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

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

RETAIL
Seacoast Rep and Rain 4 Sahara will have a pop-up tent presence tonight to try out space for retail tents on future weekends.

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 NH 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.

For more details about voting in Portsmouth, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/press-releases/city-clerk-details-steps-absentee-voting

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. The Governor has advised that the application process is being improved. The complication is that the new benefit comes from FEMA, and requires a different process than the usual unemployment benefit. 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

DPW WATER DEPARTMENT ASKS RESIDENTS TO RESTRICT WATER USE – This past May, the state activated its Drought Management Task Force; and has elevated New Hampshire's drought conditions in the Seacoast area from Moderate to Severe Drought (D2) conditions. **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 WEEK

NEXT WEEK, STARTING WED SEP 9: Grinding and paving of South Street between Junkins Ave. and Marcy Street. No parking on South Street in that section between 7 am and 5 pm. Residents with on-street parking can park in the Lower Lot at City Hall during work hours.

- **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 NEXT WEEK**
- **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