CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Manager's Advisory
Wednesday, January 20, 2021

TONIGHT! CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION WITH MCINTYRE STUDY CIRCLES at 6:30 pm via Zoom -- The McIntyre Subcommittee with the project developer Redgate Kane and Portsmouth Listens (with assistance from the Boston-based urban design firm The Principle Group) hosted two weeks of "McIntyre 101" Study Circles. They will present a summary of their "Values to Visions to Sketches" discussions at the meeting. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here:
http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2021/citycouncil/ccmcintyre011921not.pdf

- For the Portsmouth Listens McIntyre Study Circle Discussion Guide, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2021-01/PL%20McIntyre%20Discussion%20Guide%20Final.pdf
- For all of the background and documents on the McIntyre Project, click here: https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/mcintyre-project

COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE – As of January 20, NH had received 127,225 doses of vaccine and had vaccinated 71,556 people. For the vaccine tracker, by state, click here:
https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-19-vaccine-doses.html

REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD For a larger PDF version of the dashboard, click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2021-01/CovidDashboard%20011821.pdf

AGE 65+ VACCINATION APPOINTMENT WEBSITE OPENS FRI JAN 22 at 8 am -- On Friday, January 22, the State of New Hampshire will begin accepting vaccination appointments for individuals within Phase 1B, which includes:

- NH residents age 65 and over
- NH residents who are medically vulnerable and at significant risk – including family caregivers for those under 16
- NH residents with developmental disabilities who receive services in a congregate residential setting, as well as staff in those settings
- Corrections officers and staff
- Populations who experience health disparities

Scheduling an appointment online at vaccines.nh.gov [not yet activated] is the fastest, most efficient way to do so and is highly encouraged. For those unable to schedule an appointment online, the 211 Hotline remains available.

Vaccinations for Phase 1B will begin on January 26. An estimated 300,000 individuals are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination within Phase 1B of the state's distribution plan. Supply of COVID-19 vaccines delivered to the states has fallen short of the increases promised by the federal government. Limited supply of vaccines from the federal government means appointments may be booked weeks out. Everyone in Phase 1B who wants an appointment will get an appointment. If allocation should increase, appointments will be rescheduled to earlier dates and times. The State will continue to urge federal partners to make more doses available as quickly as possible.

But those 65+ who do not have Internet access and need assistance can call Brinn Sullivan [603-610-4433] at the Portsmouth Senior Activity Center. She can walk through the registration over the phone, to get you signed up. You MUST have an email address for receiving the appointment confirmation.

Please note that the City is not setting up vaccination appointments. Brinn is simply available to help seniors over the telephone to register on the State website. Lengthy delays are expected both in signing up and in getting an appointment. The State is advising that your appointment date may be 5-6 weeks out.

NH VACCINATION SCHEDULE

PHASE 1A - CURRENT
Health care, first responders, long-term
PHASE 1B - LATE JANUARY
Age 65+ Registration starts Jan 22.
2+ health conditions/caregivers – contact healthcare provider to schedule
Residents/staff developmentally disabled
Corrections officers and staff
PHASE 2A - MARCH-MAY
K-12 school and childcare staff
PHASE 2B - MARCH-MAY
Age 50-64+
PHASE 3A - MAY+
Age under 50 with 2 health conditions
PHASE 3B - MAY+
Adults over 18

The timeline for widespread access to a COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be approximately 6-12 months, according to health officials. **Seacoast health care networks are asking that residents be patient as they wait to learn COVID-19 vaccine distribution information. Please do not call health care offices, fire or police departments, emergency medical services or local officials. If you have questions, call 211 or email: covidvaccine@dhhs.nh.gov**

WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH VACCINATION CLINICS?
A corps of qualified vaccinators and non-vaccinators for coordinating the process will be needed as the vaccination effort ramps up. The City Health Department asks residents who are interested in volunteering to visit the NH Responds website: https://nhresponds.org/ and fill out the online registration form: https://nhresponds.org/agreement.php **Volunteers should make sure they check off the "Seacoast COVID Team" in the "COVID-19 Teams" drop-down list in the Organization section of the form to volunteer for Greater Portsmouth efforts**.

For DHHS VACCINE FAQs, click here: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/vaccination-planning-faq.pdf

PORTSMOUTH VACCINE FAQs from the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Health and City Health Department, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-manager/vaccination-faqs

CANCELLED: DO NOT FLY A RED CROSS FLAG – Due to the possible confusion about places of refuge and medical assistance, the American Red Cross has asked the community NOT to display Red Cross flags as a show of support for the efforts of frontline medical workers fighting COVID-19.

CHAMBER CHAT LIVE! FRI JAN 22 at 1 pm via Zoom. What's Next in Washington? Join Valerie Rochon as she welcomes Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Congressman Chris Pappas. To register, click here.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

St. John's Community Lunch, Wednesdays Noon to 1 pm. Guests enjoy a brown bag lunch to go, thanks to partnerships with local restaurants and friends. At the Middle Street Baptist Church (18 Court Street) parking lot (behind the building, in an easy drive-through loop). No reservations needed. Questions? Please contact lunch@middle.st or 603-436-2337.

Salvation Army Hot Meals – The Salvation Army at their new location at 115 Heritage Ave. offers free dinner and breakfast service for anyone who needs a hot meal. During the pandemic, they are putting packaged hot meals out front for dinner M-F from 5-6 pm. Some eat them there outside or in their cars, but they can also be taken home to warm up again. Breakfast is from 7-8 am, 6 days a week.

Operation Blessing: Drive up Food Pantry Wed-Fri 10am-4pm. Call for more info 603-430-8561.

Gather Food Pantry: Gather provides food to hundreds of local families, and the need is even greater this year.. Food distribution, online grocery shopping for people who don't want to enter the shop, meal delivery for Seniors, Meals 4 Kids, Community Fridays 9am-1pm open at Community Campus (open to anyone). Call for info 603-436-0641 or visit GatherNH.org

The Clipper Strong Fund Committee presented a $1000 check to Deb Anthony, executive director of Gather, the largest hunger relief agency serving the Seacoast, including local business employees hard hit by the pandemic. Pictured, left to right: City Manager Karen Conard, Deb Anthony, Mayor Becksted, Committee members Dan Gray, Mark Syracusa, Bob Marchewka; Committee cochairs John Tabor and Esther Kennedy and Seneca Bernard, assistant director of Gather.

GOVERNOR SUNUNU'S STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE EXTENDED THROUGH MARCH 26, 2021
https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2020-25.pdf

PORTSMOUTH MASK ORDINANCE EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021.
For answers to Portsmouth Mask Ordinance Frequently Asked Questions, click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/MaskOrdinanceFAQ%202020.10.05.pdf

For the complete NH DHHS Vaccination Plan Summary, click here.

NH PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE FOR EMPLOYERS – The NH DHHS Public Health Department offers five steps if a staff member tests positive for COVID-19:
https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid19-5-steps.pdf
AND Updated NH DHHS Guidance on Employer Travel, Screening and Exclusion policies. Click here: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/employee-travel-guidance.pdf

REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2021-01/CovidDashboard%20011121X.pdf

MAYOR ANNOUNCES BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON ARTS & NONPROFITS -- Mayor Rick Becksted has announced the formation of a Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Arts and Nonprofits, designed to respond to the needs of arts and culture nonprofits during the reopening and recovery phases ahead.
The Mayor announced the new committee at the City Council meeting on January 11 and invited those interested in serving on the volunteer committee to submit this application posted on the City website.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2021-01/Arts%20and%20Non-Proft%20BRC%20Application.pdf Volunteers do not need to be residents of Portsmouth to serve on this committee.

CITY ISSUES CAFR AND PAFR FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FY20 -- The Portsmouth community can now access the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) on the City of Portsmouth website. The CAFR is the City's official, audited "full financial disclosure" reporting on the financial health of the City. The PAFR, based on the CAFR, offers the community an engaging and easy-to-read summary report to help citizens better understand the City's audited financial statements. Both are prepared under the guidance of Director of Finance and Administration Judie Belanger. Visit the City's website to read and/or download the CAFR at http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/fy20/CAFR20.pdf and the PAFR at http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/fy20/PAFR20.pdf. The online versions of both the PAFR and CAFR are interactive and include easy-to-navigate bookmarks, a clickable table of contents and links to applicable external resources. The Finance Department has included a "How To" document (http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/fy20/PAFR20HowTo.pdf) to help the public navigate the PAFR document's unique interactive features.

NEW! CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING WED JAN 27 For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here. http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2021/misc/CNC_AGENDA_1-27-21.pdf

CURRENT OPENINGS ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS -- The City is seeking volunteers to fill the following vacancies:

- 1 Regular Member to the Building Code Board of Appeals (Pending submission of renewal application)
- 1 Alternate Member to the Building Code Board of Appeals – The vacancy to be filled would need to be (1) electrical engineer or master electrician
- 1 Regular Member to the Conservation Commission
- 2 Alternate Members to the Conservation Commission
- 1 Regular Members to the Peirce Island Committee
- 1 Alternate Member to the Planning Board
- The Sustainable Practices Blue Ribbon Committee is also welcoming new members

Apply now! For more information on the City Boards and Commissions, visit https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boards-commissions-information. Applications are available in the Office of the City Clerk or download here: http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/BoardsandCommissionsApplication.pdf Questions? Please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 610-7208.

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT BORINGS -- As part of the Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension Project, borings are needed to collect data about the soils and bedrock in the project area. The first phase of borings was completed in the spring of 2020; and this work will complete the boring data collection. Work is scheduled to take place this week, through Friday, January 23, 8 am to 3:30 pm, weather permitting. The work areas include: Walker Bungalow Road at the Shaw Road intersection, and the section of Wentworth House Road from Sagamore Avenue to the Rye Town Line. The work will take place on one side of the road, leaving one lane for traffic; but some delays may be expected. For more information on this work, please contact Terry Desmarais, P.E, City Engineer, at (603) 766-1421 or at tldesmarais@cityofportsmouth.com.

TIP TIP #6 – Though a restaurant will make its money on takeout orders, the server who depends on in-house diners for their tips loses out on that money. Please consider tipping the server who hands you your takeout order, especially if they bring it to your car for curbside pick up.

RESTAURANTS OPEN AND CLOSED – The best source of information about restaurant dining hours and takeout is the restaurant itself. This Chamber Collaborative page is a good place to start, but be sure to call or check the restaurant website. https://portsmouthcollaborative.org/list/category/restaurant-reopened-dining-on-site-994

ASSISTANCE RESOURCES
For Resources and Assistance with housing, food, heat, etc. click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-resources

- **Portsmouth Regional Hospital Suicide Lifeline** – If you or someone you know is at risk for suicide, please call our crisis-suicide prevention hotline at (603) 433-5270, option 1. If you are calling from outside of New Hampshire, please call (800) 273-TALK (8255).
- **Crisis Text Line** provides free, 24/7, confidential support via text message to people in crisis when they dial 741741.
- **Help Paying Energy Bills** – Eversource offers a COVID-19 Payment Program that gives customers up to 12 months to pay past-due balances, without down payments, fees or interest. Once enrolled the account is protected from service disconnection for the duration of the payment plan. For more information call 1-800-662-7764 or visit https://www.eversource.com/content/nh
- **Help Paying for Heat** -- Fuel assistance is available from Rockingham County Fuel Assistance program. For information, click here. https://www.snhs.org/programs/energy-programs/low-income-home-energy

STIMULUS BILL UPDATE -- Assistance is on the way:

NH Small Business Development Center: PPP Re-Opening and New Guidance
Congress appropriated an additional $284 billion for PPP under the Economic Aid Act. New borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers can now apply for a First or Second Draw PPP Loan (deadline March 31, 2021). In order to be eligible to be for a second draw loan, businesses or self-employed individuals must have:

- Previously received a First Draw PPP Loan and have used or will used the full amount only for authorized uses;
- No more than 300 employees; and
- Had at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts on an annual or quarterly basis between 2019 and 2020.

The Program now covers 501(c)(6)'s such as housing cooperatives, destination marketing organizations.

The new Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) re-opened this week, first to community financial institutions. The SBA will continue to roll out access to the next round of PPP loans to additional lenders as it strives to implement the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act and to ensure increased access to the PPP for minority-, underserved-, veteran- and women-owned small business concerns. Second draw PPP loans will become available from additional lenders in the near future and SBA will be providing rolling updates in the next week. Information on updated PPP Lender forms, guidance, and resources are available at **www.sba.gov/ppp**. This includes guidance on prior PPP loan forgiveness updates.
The SBA anticipates that there will be enough PPP funds to meet nationwide demand and suggests that borrowers work with their existing financial institution.

- $300 weekly additional unemployment benefit now being paid to NH recipients, starting with the week-ending January 2, 2021. For more information from the NH Division of Employment Security, click here. https://www.nhes.nh.gov/
- $200 million in emergency housing assistance. More information will be available soon from the Community Action Partnership of NH.
- Employee Retention Tax Credit now available, covering losses by Quarter, not only Annual: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=7686f9ab-fb80-489f-9236-b71d4f018c4d
- NH Small Business Development Center resources and the highlights in the new relief bill, https://www.nhsbdc.org/covid-19-assistance. And to sign up for eblasts from the SBA on new PPP grants and other assistance, click here. https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSBA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USSBA_106

SIGN UP FOR WINTER PARKING BAN NOTICES AND OTHER CITY ALERTS – The City sends out email and text alerts via the CodeRed notification system. During snowstorms these notices alert residents to such things as trash pickup rescheduling and when the public garages are full, as well as announcing parking bans. **These alerts are announced in several different ways:**

- **CodeRED**: anyone can sign up to receive automatic email and text alerts, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/parkportsmouth/snowrelatedimpacts
- **Snow Phone**: call 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW) to hear recorded messages.
- **Channel 22**: snow parking bans are posted as bulletins
- **CityofPortsmouth.com:** a yellow (planned) or red (in effect) banner appears at the top of City website pages when snow parking ban events occur.
- **Twitter**: follow @PortsmouthDPW
- **Public Works Department:** call 427-1530 or report a snow clearing issue use the Click 'n Fix system. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/portsmouth-click-n-fix
- **During parking bans, residents should take advantage of spaces in City parking lots and reduced rates in the garages** when the parking ban is in effect! Flat fee parking: $3 at Foundry Place and $5 at the Hanover garage, good from 4 pm Dec 16 until 2 hours after. Regular rates apply for additional time parked beyond the lifting of the ban.

SEACOAST CHAMBER ALLIANCE

- **SEACOAST SAFE PARTICIPANTS** -- Click here and then on the "Participating Businesses" button for the growing list of businesses who have taken the Seacoast Safe pledge to do everything in their power to keep their customers and employees safe.

- **WEBSITE** – The new VisitSeacoastNH.com website offers up-to-the-minute resources for businesses and visitors. https://www.visitseacoastnh.com/
- **POSTERS** – The Alliance has developed a set of posters that businesses and organizations can download for free and print/post to inform their publics. Click here: https://www.visitseacoastnh.com/business-support/

PAY YOUR CITY BILLS ONLINE -- With COVID-19 precautions still in place**, the City urges residents to pay their bills online, where they will receive an instant confirmation and receipt**.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/pay-my-bill

FLU SEASON IS HERE! FLU SHOTS NOW AVAILABLE
Public health officials are urging people to get flu shots this year to avoid complications from COVID-19 or extra burdens on the healthcare system. Flu shots are available in the Portsmouth at:

- Prompt Care at Pease (WD Hospital Portsmouth Outpatient): 73 Corporate Dr. 603.610.8051. Flu shots available. Walk in or make an appointment.
- ClearChoice MD: 750 Lafayette Rd. 603.427.8539. Flu shots available. Walk in, but preregistration will save time.
- Rite-Aids: Flu shots available. Walk in.
- CVS: 674 Islington St .603.431.0234. Flu shots available. They prefer appointments, due to small waiting area.

All of the above said that flu shots are covered at no cost with most insurances and Medicare.

For Testing FAQs click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/testing-faqs

For COVID-19 & Mask Facts click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-mask-facts

For Ventilation FAQs click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/ventilation-faqs

For Daily Life During the Pandemic FAQs, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/daily-life-during-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions

PRECAUTIONS CONTINUE: STATEWIDE AND PORTSMOUTH MASK MANDATE. Avoid crowded, confined spaces. Watch your distance (maintain 6-feet or more). Wash your hands.

For DHHS COVID-19 FAQs, click here: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-19-faq.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

For all the COVID-related resources, click here.

Governor Sununu's Emergency Order extended to January 22, 2021.
https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2020-25.pdf

The State has also made changes to the COVID guidelines 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: https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-information