

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



UPDATE from the City Manager for Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Governor Sununu's "Safer At Home" programs include additional funds, announced June 22, for Youth programs (\$5 million), Substance Abuse/Mental Health (\$6 million) and Veterans (\$7 million) in the state. For the full details on the Governor's Executive Orders, click here.
<http://www.nh.gov/covid19>

SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD BENEFITS FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN -- Because of the pandemic, children are not in school right now and can receive food benefits to use right now. SNAP households who have a child or children in their households who are eligible for free or reduced priced meals at their school will have additional P-EBT benefits loaded onto their existing EBT card. Non-SNAP households will get a pre-loaded SNAP (P-EBT) card in the mail. (Note: Those who are open for SNAP but do not receive a benefit, will not automatically receive P-EBT but can apply on NH Easy Gateway to Services.) Those who do NOT currently receive SNAP benefits and have a child or children who are eligible for free or reduced priced meals at their school, need to complete a brief application on the NH EASY Gateway to Services. <https://nheasy.nh.gov> The EBT card can be used at any major food retailer or grocery store that displays a "We accept EBT" poster in the window.

PROJECT COOLAIR FOR SENIORS – The return of hot, humid weather is a reminder for those 60+ and anyone whose health is adversely affected by the heat to be prepared before an emergency develops. Often, those in need of air conditioning "do without" because they do not have the funds or know where to seek assistance. Through Project CoolAir, Area HomeCare <https://areahomecare.org/index.php/programs/project-coolair/> makes air conditioners available to low income, medically-challenged and 60+ residents in Rockingham County. Make arrangements now rather than waiting for a critical need to develop. For more information, contact Ellen Tully at City Hall: 610-7267 or WFDept@cityofportsmouth.com

WATER CONSERVATION – With the dry weather so far in June and with more households planting flower and vegetable gardens, the DPW Water/Stormwater Division encourages residents to "Think Blue" and consider some of these water-saving measures you can practice at home.
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/stormwater/what-can-you-do-about-water-conservation-and-stormwater-pollution> For the US Drought Monitor map for NH, click here.
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?NH>

UPDATED LIST OF OUTDOOR DINING, TAKEOUT AND RESTAURANTS PERMITTED FOR INDOOR DINING – For the list of restaurants offering takeout and/or that have received approval for various outdoor and/or indoor dining arrangements, click here. **Please note that not all plan to open immediately. Always check first, as many have specific reservations requirements.**
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/restaurants-takeout-outdoor-dining>

PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS NOW OPEN -- For a map of parks and playgrounds maintained by the City for residents, click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-06/ParksPlaygrounds.pdf>

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

- **FACE MASK DRIVE CONTINUES! Drop-off or Pick-up Donations of Cloth Masks for Seniors, 1-2 pm** – At the Community Campus tennis court parking lot. Drive up and leave the masks in the box. If you need a cloth face mask, homemade masks can be mailed to those who could not attend the

Distribution Drives. Please email or call Brinn Sullivan, Senior Services Manager, and she will mail you a mask. 603-767-2697. bsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com

- **DEADLINE FOR NH NONPROFIT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND APPLICATIONS** --The New Hampshire Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund was established by Governor Chris Sununu through the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) to award grants from the allocated \$60 million to help nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority, have partnered to administer this program. **501(c)(3) nonprofits should complete the required organizational profile. For more information, click here.** <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-06/NH%20Nonprofit%20Emergency%20Relief%20Fund.pdf>

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

- **CHAMBER CHAT LIVE, 1 pm via Zoom.** Join Chamber Collaborative Valerie Rochon as she welcomes David Choate, managing partner with the Colliers International office in Portsmouth, with over 35 years of commercial real estate experience. He will share current and projected trends in the commercial real estate market in and around Portsmouth, and will touch on the current tension between tenants, landlords, and lenders. Additional members of local residential real estate firms will discuss trends they are seeing now and, though lacking a crystal ball, thoughts for the upcoming year. For registration information, click here. https://portsmouthchamber.org/events/details/chamber-chat-live-real-estate-trends-commercial-residential-52183?calendarMonth=2020-06-01&utm_source=Chamber+Master+Synch&utm_campaign=bc0fec656d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_05_08_28_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6fed3172ed-bc0fec656d-491432037
- **NO PARKING DURING ACCESSIBLE BLACK LIVES MATTER RALLY, 2-5 pm.** No parking on Pleasant Street between Court and Congress Streets, or Court Street, Both areas will be closed to traffic during the event which includes a march from Pleasant Street to the African Burying Ground.
- **PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION PARADE -- Following graduation ceremonies, physically-distanced at the football field, graduates will participate in a car parade along the following route:**
 - Immediately following the graduation ceremony (6:30 pm), participating vehicles will line up at the PHS exit on Summit Ave.
 - Vehicles will turn right onto South St.
 - Travel down South St through the Miller/Sagamore Intersection; continue on South St to Marcy St.
 - Turn left onto Marcy St and continue past Prescott Park.
 - Turn right onto Harbour Place and continue under the Memorial Bridge and onto Daniel St.
 - Continue down Daniel St and into Market Square and onto Congress St.
 - Turn left onto Middle St. where it will continue back to PHS and enter the property via Andrew Jarvis where the parade will end.

CITIZEN RESPONSE TASK FORCE -- The Task Force and subcommittees working on Foundry Place Garage and Downtown Streets are meeting almost daily, with City staff including DPW, Planning, Health, Fire, Police, Inspections and the City Manager to facilitate functional plans. **DOWNTOWN BUSINESS OWNERS** who would like to participate in the planning, please send an email with your contact information to hotline@cityofportsmouth.com

- **Foundry Place Subcommittee for Rooftop Popup** – The subcommittee has met twice with the adjacent neighborhoods. The subcommittee is working with City departments and the sound engineer Eric Routhier and JSA, Inc. architect North Sturtevant to determine the best layout and with PopupRooftop.com to plan the nonprofit arts and culture schedule.
- **Downtown Streets Public Realm Spaces for Restaurants** – Concepts for use of public spaces are being advanced in conjunction with Fire, Police, Building, Planning and DPW. Attention is being focused first on four areas that might benefit interested restaurants: Worth Lot, Congress Street, Market Street and Penhallow. Concrete barricades will be placed as they are made available and placement decided. The

subcommittee meets publicly by Zoom on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Public realm requests are being collected (29 in total for 2020) through City's Viewpermit system (Sidewalk Café Application), pending additional Task Force decision-making. The use of these spaces is subject to City area service agreement insurance details and Health Department requirements for physical distancing.

<https://portsmouthnh.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1082/record-types/6431>

- **For more information, visit the Citizen Response Task Force web page**, that provides the materials and resources the committee is using. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/citizen-response-task-force> 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

CLIPPER STRONG FUND CARE PACKAGES -- The initial distribution is being planned to meet demand during this round on a first-come, first-served basis. **Portsmouth businesses should email hotline@cityofportsmouth.com to request a Clipper Strong Care Package and include their locations.** The plan is to deliver the packages on Saturday morning, June 26 to businesses who have requested one. For more information on the Clipper Strong Fund, click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/clipper-strong-fund> **Click here to make a Clipper Strong Fund tax deductible donation to support Portsmouth's small businesses.** Donations by check may be mailed to the Clipper Strong Fund c/o Coastal Economic Development Corporation, 4 Merrill Industrial Drive, Suite 201, Hampton NH 03842. <https://www.clipperstrong.org>

NEW SERVICES & NEW HOURS FROM THE LIBRARY -- Beginning today, the library offers computer use and individual study space by appointment. Call the library's Reference Desk at (603) 766-1720 to sign up. Click here to learn more. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/appointments> The library continues to offer curbside pickup for items placed on hold and for documents printed remotely for curbside pickup. Click here <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/curbside> to learn how to place holds, submit print jobs and schedule a pickup time. **The library's hours also changed: now open 11 am to 7 pm Monday and Tuesday; 11 am to 5 pm Wednesday to Friday; and will be closed Saturday to Sunday.** Please note that the library building is not open to those without an appointment, and no library users will to be allowed to browse the library shelves at this time. Library staff is working hard to make these services available, and appreciates your support and patience!

PORTSMOUTH RECREATION DEPARTMENT BOUTIQUE PROGRAMS FOR KIDS -- The Portsmouth Recreation Department will be offering a session of boutique programs this summer. Each program will run twice a week for six weeks, with a specific focus that allows for maximum social distancing. The programs are for Portsmouth residents only and are free of charge. Children will be kept in pods of eight, with a maximum of four pods per program. Physical distancing and hand sanitizing procedures will be in place, along with encouraging use of masks by participants. The programs include hiking and running clubs, multi-sport, kids' fitness, arts & crafts, Legos and more. Click here for the full program listing and schedule. www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation

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 being 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 being 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:** Affecting Richmond and Livermore. Equipment staged, as before, on Edmunds.
- **PRESCOTT PARK DOCK RAILING replacement work continues.** The dock remains closed.

TESTING: The NH Department of Health & Human Services is now coordinating COVID-19 testing appointments at several testing clinics established throughout the state, for anyone who calls. **That**

testing coordinating office phone number is 603-271-5980. CVS on Lafayette Road in Hampton is now also accepting appointments for testing. For FAQs about testing in New Hampshire, click here. <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/testing-guidance.htm> In addition, the Rite-Aid at 1390 Lafayette Road in Portsmouth is providing free by-appointment testing for COVID-19 to anyone age 18 or over. For more information, click here. <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/covid-19-testing>

Instead of repeating the long list of COVID-related resources each day, you can now find them all collected on one City website page! Click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-resources>

Sign up for the Advisory, [here](#). The latest news is always at the top, **in red**.

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](#).