

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



UPDATE from the City Manager for Monday, July 27, 2020

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

PARKING SPACES REALLOCATED FOR OUTDOOR DINING:

- **Bridge Street Lot** -- Closed through Columbus Day to allow for the PopUp NH restaurant/performance space. The venue hopes to open on Saturday, August 1. Hours for the summer are expected to be: Thurs/Fri 3-10 pm; Sat noon – 10 pm; Sun noon – 8 pm. For all the Citizen Response Task Force updates from the Bridge Street Subcommittee, [click here](#)
- **Downtown Streets** – Parts of the following streets have been barricaded to allow for dining in the street in place of parking spaces. For all the Citizen Response Task Force updates from the Downtown Streets Subcommittee, [click here](#).
 - Congress Street – Flatbread, Goat, Jumpin’ Jay’s
 - Congress Street – Rudi’s, Thirsty Moose
 - Bridge/Hill Streets – Bridge Street Bistro, Dwyer’s Pub
 - Worth Lot – Friendly Toast, Café Mediterraneo, Maison Navarre
 - State Street – Mr. Kim’s, Fezziwig’s
 - Penhallow – Cure, Ceres Bakery, Massimo’s, Moxy
 - Market Street – Portsmouth Gas Light, Portsmouth Brewery, Cup of Joe, Durbar Square
 - Pleasant Street – Clipper Tavern

For details on restaurants open for outside, inside and public realm outdoor dining, click here.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/restaurants-takeout-outdoor-dining>

For more information, [click here](#) to visit the Citizen Response Task Force web page, that provides the materials and resources the committee is using. 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

MAPLEWOOD AVE. TRAFFIC/PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS UPGRADE – The traffic signals at the three Maplewood Ave. intersections – Deer St., Hanover St., Congress St. – are in the process of being upgraded to improve pedestrian crossing and traffic flow timing. During the work, there are daily closures of one of the sidewalk corners at each of the intersections. Detour signing is provided to direct pedestrians to the open crosswalks at each intersection. Pedestrian signals will remain operational during the work. When complete, the signal upgrade will provide 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.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 INFORMATION

CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERING ORDINANCE FOR FACE COVERINGS – At their Work Session on July 23, the City Council asked the City Attorney to draft language for an ordinance requiring the wearing of face coverings where physical-distancing is not possible in public spaces. The draft will be considered at the next Council meeting August 3rd. The Citizen Response Task Force Health Subcommittee is also working on public information on masks: recommendations presented on July 23 and an FAQs memo for the Aug 3 meeting. #MaskUpPortsmouth and “Do your part. Wear a mask.” PSAs support the wearing of face coverings, especially in shops and restaurants where staff are required to promote the Governor’s guidelines.

COVID-19 DASHBOARD -- The Health Subcommittee has also created a localized COVID-19 case dashboard that is updated every Monday. Click here. **For the complete, new NH Department of Health & Human Services dashboard, [click 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. The cost of the test is the responsibility of the person being tested and each person should discuss insurance coverage and payment arrangements directly with the testing provider. Most health insurance plans cover testing for COVID-19 without a copay, coinsurance, or deductible. Persons who do not have insurance or have a health insurance plan that does not fully cover the cost of testing may have access to cover the costs of testing via a New Hampshire Medicaid Limited COVID-19 Testing Benefit. To apply online for the Testing Benefit, please visit NH EASY at <https://nheasy.nh.gov> and click on “COVID-19 Testing.” Additional information about other DHHS programs and benefits, including different Medicaid plans that cover more than COVID-19 testing services, are on the NH EASY website.

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-testing-options.pdf>

HEAT WAVE RELIEF – The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool now allows occupancy by up to 100 Portsmouth residents per hour. Advance reservations required.

<https://rec.cityofportsmouth.com/CourseActivities.aspx?id=7&cat=5> Each reservation allows a one-hour visit between 11 am and 7 pm, with 30 minutes between each session to allow for cleaning and sanitizing. For more information on pool guidelines, click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/press-releases/city-prepares-open-outdoor-pool-july-6>

Project Cool Air is a program for qualified participants to receive air conditioning units through Area Home Care. 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

As it is currently not possible to offer appropriate physical-distancing for a cooling shelter in any City facility, an alternative is the climate-controlled Fox Run Mall.

COVID-19 CONCERNS ACCEPTED AS VALID REASON FOR REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT -

- Absentee Ballot applications for the upcoming September 8, 2020 State Primary Election and November 3, 2020 General Election can be downloaded by [Clicking here](#). Voters are allowed to request an absentee ballot listing COVID-19 as a specific reason to vote by Absentee Ballot for both or either of the upcoming 2020 Elections. You may submit the one application to cover absentee balloting for both election by checking the boxes for both. Return the completed Application (2 pages) to the City Clerk’s Office, by dropping it in the gray “payment box” in the City Hall upper parking lot, by mail or fax (603-610-4158) or by email to CityClerk@CityofPortsmouth.com Track the status of your application by visiting <http://app.sos.nh.gov> **ABSENTEE VOTER REGISTRATION** – If you are not currently registered to vote visit the City Clerk’s Office in City Hall to register in person. If that is not possible, please contact the office at 603-610-7208 or email CityClerk@CityofPortsmouth.com to make arrangements to receive a Voter Registration Packet. For more voter information, click here.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voting-information> **The City Clerk is also in need of Election Workers for both dates.** Those interested should call 603-610-7208 or email CityClerk@CityofPortsmouth.com

ECONOMIC RELIEF RESOURCES:

NOW OPEN: State of New Hampshire New Hampshire General Assistance & Preservation (GAP) Fund. The Governor has allocated and authorized \$30 million of CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (“flex funds”) to provide emergency financial relief to New Hampshire businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, who have not been able to access support from other existing state and federal programs.

- Application Period – July 21, 2020 – August 4, 2020
- Application Verification Period – August 5, 2020 – August 18, 2020

For more information, [click here](#).

NH SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESULTS OF BUSINESS RESILIENCY SURVEY -- The University of New Hampshire Survey Center conducted a survey for the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to assess the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses throughout New Hampshire. By better understanding the challenges and needs of NH business owners, economic development partners can more effectively help businesses recover, reopen and become more resilient. For the full report, [click here](#).

JOIN CHAMBER CHAT LIVE! On Friday, July 31 **for a discussion on the survey and its analysis**. [Click here to register](#).

CLIPPER STRONG FUND -- 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** Donations still welcome! [Click here](#) to make a donation online at ClipperStrong.org

BEHIND ON RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS DUE TO COVID-19? -- The Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery has announced the **New Hampshire Housing Relief Program, an initiative designed to keep people from losing their housing and to secure or maintain permanent housing in partnership with the Community Action Partnership for NH (CAPNH). Applications are available NOW.** To contact CAPNH, call 2-1-1 from any NH phone or [click here](#).

DPW PROJECTS THIS WEEK.

For the latest on individual projects, [click here](#) and then on the Projects tab.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks>

REMINDER: SAGAMORE AVE. SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION, Tuesday, July 28 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration information, visit:

<http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2020/citycouncil/cc072820wsag.pdf>

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

Governor Sununu's "Safer At Home" guidelines continue. For the full details on the Governor's Executive Orders, [click here](#).

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](#)

