Portland on the Move Newsletter

April 2020

For those that do not have the ability to check the Town of Portland’s website for updates we are providing this newsletter to help keep our residents informed.

In accordance with Governor Lamont’s Executive Orders to extend public school closures through at least April 20, 2020, the Town municipal offices will remain closed to the public as well. We are doing this in an attempt to flatten the curve of spreading COVID-19. Rest assured we continue to serve the public by way of telephone, email, facsimile and mail communication.

If you are registered on the CT Alert system (www.ctalert.gov) you may receive notifications that could include information on the total number of positive COVID-19 cases in town. Please understand that out of respect for individual privacy as well as compliance with HIPAA, there are details about positive cases that we will not be able to share. Release of information to the public about confidential patient data is not appropriate.

FREE OFFER

Portland resident, Caroline Thompson, and members of the St. Mary Church Youth Group have created MyTownCares as a way to meet the shopping needs of citizens at most risk (medically challenged or age 60+). Residents may order through the website http://www.mytowncares.com or by calling (860) 301-3329. Payment is made by check or cash when the groceries are delivered. There is no charge for this service. Any tips received will be donated to the Portland Food Bank.

Catch-phrase From St. Louis American Red Cross in 1918:

“Cover up each cough and sneeze, if you don’t you’ll spread disease”
Portland Transfer Station

Until further notice the scale for Bulky Waste is CLOSED.

MSW-Garbage, Single Steam, Brush/Leaves and recyclables will be accepted only.

Trash Bags can be purchased at Adams Hometown Market. This will help prevent the spread of contamination with money between employees and outside agencies.

Employees have been trained to wipe down surfaces between each transaction. Employees will use gloves when needed and have been asked to refrain from assisting the public in a direct manner with loading and unloading. If you are unable to do this on your own, we ask that you come back when precautions have subsided.

We appreciate your patience during this difficult time.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Public Works Dept. at ccreem@portlandct.org or call us at 860-342-6733

Town Clerk’s Office (860) 342-6743

Until further notice the office is CLOSED to the public.

Land Records Availability: the land records vendor has enabled free viewing of Portland land images during the duration of our closing. Portland’s land images are available online from October 1963 through the present.

Recordings may be scheduled by appointment only. Please call the office ahead of time and we will schedule a drop off time.

All Notary Public Services are suspended until further notice.

Dog Licensing may be processed by mail only at this time.

Copies of birth, marriage, and death certifications may be processed by email or by mail only. Please visit https://www.portlandct.org/vital-record-copies for the appropriate form and send it to rcurley@portlandct.org. We can then take your credit card number over the phone and process your payment.

Primary Election Status: The primaries are delayed.

Absentee Balloting: The Presidential preference primaries are June 2, 2020. Absentee ballots are not available until May 12, 2020. Absentee ballot applications can be filled out online and mailed to the Town Clerk’s office.
Arrigoni Bridge Improvements:

CT Department of Transportation (DOT) rehabilitation of Arrigoni Bridge approach spans and operational improvements at Saint John’s Square/Main Street intersection in Middletown and Portland (DOT Project Nos. 0082-0312 and 0082-0320) is scheduled from January 13, 2020 through February 25, 2022.

This project has already begun, however the traffic lane closures are scheduled to start on Monday March 30, 2020.

The Arrigoni Bridge will be reduced to one lane in each direction.

Motorists are advised to maintain a safe speed when driving in this vicinity.

Some public meetings may be viewed on Zoom—go to the Town’s website

A message from the Portland Schools:

The Portland Public Schools are committed to providing meals and ensuring that our students have access to proper nutrition during our school closure/home instruction period of time. Therefore, we are running a “Grab and Go” breakfast and lunch meal plan between the hours of 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM at the Portland Secondary School. Participants are asked to remain in their motor vehicle as a member of our food service staff brings the “Grab and Go” meals to them. This breakfast and lunch food service is targeted for children who attend our schools. Meals will be available to all children 18 and under in the household if at least one child attends one of our schools.

Sample Bag Breakfast: (must take complete meal bag) Nutra grain Bar, 100% Fruit Juice, Graham Cracker, Piece of Fruit, Milk.

Sample Lunch Bag: (must take complete meal bag) Sandwich, Vegetable, Fruit, and Milk

Breakfast and Lunch distribution times: 11:00 AM till 1:00 PM

Portland Secondary School
95 High Street, Portland, CT 06480

For questions about this food service program please contact Stephanie Fragola in the Central Office: sfragola@portlandct.us
Portland Food Bank (860) 342-6795

Until further notice the Portland Food Bank is only operating on Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Residents of Quarry Heights and Chatham Court must call in their orders to (860) 342-6795 by no later than 2:30 PM on Wednesdays. Food will be distributed twice per month per client however client must call in each order (twice per month).

All other Portland residents must call in their order and a pick-up time will be scheduled. Clients must pick-up their orders outside of the Food Bank.

At this time, donations to the Food Bank should be brought to St. Mary’s Church on Freestone Avenue on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between the hours of 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please leave donated items on the table at the front door of the school.

The mobile food pantry has been cancelled this month.

Senior Center (860) 342-6760

Until further notice the Senior Center is CLOSED for all activities and programs. Staff is available for telephone calls and respond to emails. Transportation has been suspended for this month.

Grocery Stores offering early hours for seniors:

- Adams Hometown Market: 7AM to 8:AM daily
- Stop & Shop: 6AM to 7:30AM daily

Be on the alert for scammers. Only visit safe websites, such as the Town of Portland’s (www.portlandct.org), the Chatham Health District (www.chathamhealth.org), the CDC (www.cdc.gov), and the CT State website for COVID-19 (www.ct.gov/coronavirus).

AARP Tax preparation program has been suspended. However the Federal and State tax deadlines have been extended to July 15, 2020.

Be on the alert for scams:
The Better Business Bureau has an online scam tracker at BBB.org/ScamTracker where it collects information about fraudulent schemes, and has an additional page online at BBB.org/Coronavirus offering tips for a range of consumer protection issues during the pandemic, including on the topics of price gouging and charitable donations.
Portland Library

The library renovation project began March 10th and is in full swing to enhance interior ambience and comfort while improving accessibility. Funding for this project is made possible by the Library Endowment Fund (up to $250,000) as well as a matching grant in the amount of $108,450 from the Connecticut State Library Construction Grant Program. The Library is fortunate to have a fund that has grown over 20 years, through generous donations and fundraising. We prearranged to work at satellite locations in town buildings with staff continuing their projects and preparing collections for the reopening in early May. We miss hearing from you so call or email us, we are diligently working!

All library cards have automatically been renewed until the library reopens. In order to utilize our online resources and databases, while the library is closed, Portland residents who do not currently have a library card may go to our website and create one that is valid for 30 days. Online resources are available to anyone who has a Portland Library card in good standing.

Featured Online Resources

Hoopla: The digital media service that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! You must have a valid Portland Library card to set up an account on Hoopla and you may borrow up to 3 items a month.

RbdDigital: Access to magazines such as Newsweek, Rolling Stone, National Geographic and more!

Tumblebooks: Access hundreds of ebooks and audiobooks for children, teens and adults. Tumblebooks is providing free access to their five databases to library users through August 31.

Driving-Tests.org: This is the perfect website to find practice tests that will prepare you for the real thing.

ReseachItCT: Access to genealogy resources and newspaper from around the country.

Transparent Language: Want to learn a new language? Look no further. Transparent Language Online is a great place to start your language journey.

Universal Class: Learn something new! This database has more than 500 courses on subjects ranging from finance, real estate, homeschooling, career training, and arts and crafts.

ReferenceUSA: Free business and consumer data including telephone listings and white pages.

Consumer Reports: trustworthy information about a variety of products

Update from the Children’s Department

Virtual Storytime is open to ages 0-5, to be held weekly on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. through April 16. Registration is required. A Zoom link will be emailed to those who are registered within 24 hours of the event.

Middle Grade Book Club meeting is open to grades 5-7, to be held on Monday, April 6 using Google Hangouts. We will be discussing our favorite Nutmeg titles from the previous year and a link to vote for your favorites will be sent to participants after the meeting.

Visit www.portlandlibraryct.org for more information and other upcoming programs
Nature Scavenger Hunt

Can you find or photograph...

- an acorn
- flying insect
- tree stump
- spiderweb
- squirrel
- moss on a tree
- 4 different types of birds
- 3 types of leaves
- a rock big enough to stand on
- pinecones under a coniferous tree
- red flower
- tree with bark that is NOT brown
- animal tracks in the mud/dirt
- a path into the woods
- an animal making noise
- something you didn’t expect to see

Once you are done with your hunt, make a nature collage with what you have found! Email your nature collages to nfoley@portlandct.org or adionne@portlandct.org, and we will post the best collages on our Facebook page! If you arrive at a park and crowds are forming, choose a different park or trail, or return another day or time. Please make sure to Observe the CDC’s minimum recommended social distancing of six feet from other people, whether you’re walking, biking, or hiking.
Follow us on FaceBook @PortlandCTParksandRecreation to stay informed on our Department and program status!

The Annual Portland Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 4, 2020 is canceled.

At this time, we are unfortunately not holding any of our programs or events. However, we are working with many of our instructors in an effort to implement live streamed classes such as Zumba, Pilates, Yoga, and Tai Chi.

We have been looking into entertaining and creative ways to keep in contact and stay engaged with the community. We have compiled a broad list of ideas that will hopefully fit many of your interests during these times of social distancing and quarantine.

We hope to be back in a normal routine before summer is here. We will continue to update our hotline, website, and FaceBook with new information.

Get outdoors, experience nature and enjoy the world. Maintain that 6ft. distance from those around you.

Go for a run or a walk, especially with your dog! Be pleasant, smile and wave at those you see in your neighborhood.

Get out the bike and go for a ride.

Go hiking and explore a little using the AllTrails app! It’s great for discovering new trails around your area. The app provides user ratings on difficulty levels depending on the toughness of terrain you’re looking to take on.

For the art enthusiast!

Follow us @PortlandCTParksandRecreation to participate in Abrakadoodle’s weekly Splat Doodle Art Challenges, share your work on the page or email them to us and we will be sure to post them!

Visit a virtual museum online at Travelandleisure.com which shares a list of 12 museums from around the world that offer virtual tours. A simple google search will bring you right to their list.
Portland's Area Code is 860

Town Hall – 33 East Main Street
  Accounts Payable ......................... 342-6724
  Accounting.......................... 342-6725
  Assessor.......................... 342-6744
  Benefits Administrator............. 342-6723
  Building Department.............. 342-6727
  Economic Development.......... 342-6720
  Finance Director.................. 342-6726
  Fire Marshal....................... 262-7223
  First Selectman’s Office......... 342-6715
  Information........................ 342-6700
  Payroll........................... 342-6722
  Planning / Land Use................ 342-6720
  Public Works Office.............. 342-6733
  Registrar of Voters............. 342-6747
  Tax / Revenue Collector......... 342-6737
  Town Clerk.......................... 342-6743
  Town Tech / I.T..................... 342-6769
  Water & Sewer Billing........... 342-6735
  Zoning Enforcement.............. 342-6719

Animal Control – Dog Pound
  1 Main Street...................... 342-6789

Education, Board of – 33 East Main Street
  Superintendent of Schools ......... 342-6790
  BOE Business Manager............. 342-6794
  BOE Maintenance Department
    314 Main Street.................... 342-3428

Schools:
  Brownstone Intermediate School
    314 Main Street................... 342-6765
  Gildersleeve Elementary School
    565 Main Street................... 342-0411

Middle School
  95 High Street...................... 342-1880

Senior High School
  95 High Street....................... 342-1720

Valley View Elementary School
  81 High Street....................... 342-3131

Fire Department / Emergency Medical Services (Volunteer)
  All Emergency Calls ..................... 911
  Fire Chief.................................. 342-6750
  Fire House Company #1
    1 Middlesex Avenue................. 342-6751
  Fire House Company #2
    594 Main Street..................... 342-6752
  Fire House Company #3
    169 Great Hill Road............... 342-6753

Health Services (Environmental, Housing Code Enforcement)
  Chatham Heath District (East Hampton)
    240 Middletown Avenue............. 365-0884
    Portland Office................... 342-6718

Housing Authority
  9 Chatham Court...................... 342-1688

Police Department – 265 Main Street
  All Emergency Calls ..................... 911
  Police Reports & Records Only...... 342-6780
  Other Purposes 24 hour-Dispatch ...347-2541
  Emergency Management............. 342-6767

Public Library
  20 Freestone Avenue................ 342-6770
Parks & Recreation
265 Main Street ........................................... 342-6757
Hotline (field closures, event updates) .... 262-7234
Bransfield Park / Kuzminski Field
160 Rose Hill Road ........................................ N/A
David Agogliati Field
5 Middlesex Avenue ......................................... N/A
Riverfront Park & Pavilion
284 Brownstone Avenue .................................... N/A
Route 17 Recreational Complex
301 Gospel Lane ........................................... N/A
Tomasso little league ball field
255 Airline Avenue .......................................... N/A
William J. Nolan Field
97 Airline Avenue ........................................... N/A

Public Works Departments
Buildings Maintenance
265 Main Street ........................................... 342-6748
Coe Avenue Pump Station
144 Middlesex Avenue .................................... 342-0119
Highway Garage
505 Glastonbury Turnpike ............................ 342-3815
Indian Hill Pump Station
25 Indian Hill Avenue .................................... 342-0134
Riverside Pump Station
24 Riverside Street ...................................... 342-3049
Sewer Treatment Plant
3 Main Street .............................................. 342-3159
Town Reservoir
379 Old Marlborough Turnpike ...................... N/A
Transfer / Recycling Station
39 Sand Hill Road ........................................... 342-6732
Water Garage
505 Glastonbury Turnpike ............................. 342-3333

Probate Court Judge (Marlborough)
9 Austin Drive, Suite 211 ............................... 295-6239

Senior Citizen Center/The Waverly Center
7 Waverly Avenue .......................................... 342-6760
Food Bank (basement) ................................. 342-6795

Youth Services
265 Main Street ........................................... 342-6758
Youth & Family Counseling ......................... 342-6716

CT Coronavirus Website:
www.ct.gov/coronavirus

CT Alert System:
www.ctalert.gov
Meeting Schedule for Charter Designated Boards and Commissions

Board of Education .............................................. 1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Board of Selectmen ............................................. 1st & 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30 PM
Building Code Board of Appeals.................................. as needed
Conservation Commission ................................ 1st Wednesday @ 6:30 PM
Economic Development Commission ......................... 2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Emergency Management Advisory Board .................... as needed
Ethics Commission ............................................ 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
Housing Authority Board of Commissioners ................ 3rd Monday @ 5:00 PM
Housing Code Board of Appeals ................................ as needed
Inland Wetlands Commission ................................ 1st Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Library Board of Directors .................................... 3rd Thursday @ 7:00 PM
Long-Range Capital Improvements Commission .......... as needed
Parks & Recreation Commission .............................. 2nd Monday @ 6:00 PM
Planning & Zoning Commission .............................. 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 7:00 PM
Senior Citizens Advisory Board ............................. 4th Wednesday @ 11:00 AM
Water & Sewer Commission ................................... 1st Monday @ 7:00 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals ...................................... 4th Thursday @ 7:00 PM

Some public meetings may be viewed on Zoom—go to the Town’s website

Portland Town Hall
33 East Main Street
P.O. Box 71
Portland, CT 06480-0071
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer