



July 17, 2020

RAVE ALERT: Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken Shares Community Updates

Hi, this is Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken with some important community updates as we head into the weekend.

The parking lots at Stage Fort Park, Good Harbor and Wingaersheek Beaches will be closed to non-residents this weekend - Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19. The decision to close the parking lots to non-residents follows excessive traffic and public safety concerns from last weekend as well as social distancing concerns related to the scheduled tide cycle.

This week I signed an emergency order that implements resident-only parking restrictions on nearly three dozen streets in and around Stage Fort Park, Good Harbor and Wingaersheek Beaches. The Department of Public Works will be posting signage in a phased approach over the next several days on these streets. Please pay attention if signage has been posted on your street as Gloucester Police will have extra enforcement scheduled throughout the weekend.

To avoid being ticketed, you will need to display a 2019/2020 beach parking sticker, resident sticker, or display your motor vehicle registration on your dashboard. If you lease a vehicle, display a utility bill showing a Gloucester name and address on your dashboard. Please reach out to your Ward Councilor for more information on this temporary order and how to obtain a resident sticker.

Also this weekend, I am happy to introduce a Ranger Program in Gloucester. The Rangers will be out throughout the weekend at Stage Fort Park and our beaches. They will assist City staff, give a face to those public spaces, ensure a positive experience for all patrons, monitor safety at these locations and serve as a liaison between park and beach visitors and City staff.

These measures have all been introduced and implemented to protect and safeguard each and every one of you.

I hope to see you this Saturday, July 18 from 5pm-9pm on Main Street for Shop, Stroll and Dine. Don't forget your face covering! Please continue to support our local businesses. By spending your dollars locally, you are helping support our neighbors and investing in our community's recovery.

Next week, Gloucester City Hall and City Hall Annex will reopen to the public on Tuesday, July 21. We strongly encourage residents to continue to conduct city business online where possible or to call ahead for an appointment. Wait times may be significantly increased for in-person services. Depending on volume, socially distanced queuing may be required outside of the building. Walk-ins are welcome, but those with appointments will be given priority.

As of yesterday, 231 of the 260 confirmed cases in Gloucester had recovered from the coronavirus. There are currently less than five active cases. Sadly, 26 Gloucester residents have died from this awful virus. Our community mourns for those we have lost and we continue to offer our love and support to their families and loved ones.

With your help we continue to make great progress in reducing the transmission of this virus and getting our local economy up and running again. That is why it is more important than ever to follow the recommended health guidance so we don't reverse these positive trends.

More and more people are out and about enjoying the beautiful weather. COVID doesn't take a summer vacation and we must all continue to do our part to keep each other safe. Please wear a mask or face covering when out in public, maintain a safe physical distance of 6 feet from others, wash and sanitize your hands and frequently touched surfaces often, and stay home if you're sick.

We're all in this together and together we'll get through this. Stay safe, and please be patient and kind with each other. Thank you.

FACEBOOK MESSAGE

Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken shares Community Updates. The full update will be posted to the City's website under latest news. Visit: <https://gloucester-ma.gov/>.

TWITTER MESSAGE

For the latest City of Gloucester community updates, which will be posted to the City's website under latest news, please visit: <https://gloucester-ma.gov/>