

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



UPDATE from the City Manager for Sunday, January 24, 2021

Deaths to date from COVID-19: US: 400,000. NH: 981. Rockingham County: 171. Cumulative cases: US: 22.2 million. NH: 61,576. Rockingham County: 15,072. Portsmouth: 963. Current NH: 5,951. Rockingham County: 1,326. (Positivity 8.6%). Portsmouth: 107.

I chose an American form, the golden shovel, for today's poem. A type of cento, golden shovel poems are created from a poem and for a poet one wishes to honor. They are created from one line in another poem, and the new poem responds in some way to the original. I felt nothing but a golden shovel would do this week.

"A country that is bruised, but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free"

after Amanda Gorman

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/20/inaugural-poet-amanda-gorman-speech-460804>

Wednesday last was a day that our **country** fretted over, prayed over, battled over, but **that** arrived anyway in a slow, cold glory. **Is** what's past just prologue? **Bruised** and fractured, we listened, irreconcilable **but** for Miss Gorman's verse molding us **whole**. If we can only remain **benevolent**, swallow the ready if, and, or **but**, while never failing to be **bold** -- for ferocity tempered is still **fierce**, **and** freedoms freely shared -- are the duty of the **free**.

-- **Tammi J Truax**

Portsmouth Poet Laureate 2019-2021/Maine Beat Poet Laureate 2018-2020

Click here for the entire Advisory collection of poems by Portsmouth Poet Laureate Tammi Truax.

*<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-manager/portsmouth-poet-laureate>

Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program "A Bridge to Japan: A Poetry Broadside Contest."

Winning entries will be awarded cash prizes and the broadsides will be gifted to Portsmouth's sister city, Nichinan, Japan. Deadline: midnight Jan. 31, 2021. For full details and rules, click here.

https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-11/Broadside_contest.pdf

STATEDWIDE MASK MANDATE.

Governor extends Emergency Order to February 12, 2021

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/2021-01.pdf>

Portsmouth Mask Ordinance in effect through June 30, 2021.

NH information from the Department of Health & Human Services, [click here.](#)

* For a 2017 profile of Portsmouth resident, Mr. Goulet, [click here:](#)

<https://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20170927/veteran-with-d-day-wallet-honored-by-portsmouth-police>