CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Wednesday, August 4, 2021



WEEKLY MOBILE VACCINATION VAN Every Wednesday Aug 4-Sep 15, 8 am to 1 pm in Market Square -- NH DHHS provides FREE vaccinations (all three vaccines) to anyone wishing one. Translation services also available. This morning, Deputy City Health Officer Kirstin Shaw joined vaccinators Patrick Twomey, Jillian McColgan and Greg Marcellin and added six people to the list of those fully vaccinated (and four more receiving Dose 1) in NH. The van will be back on Wed Aug 11.

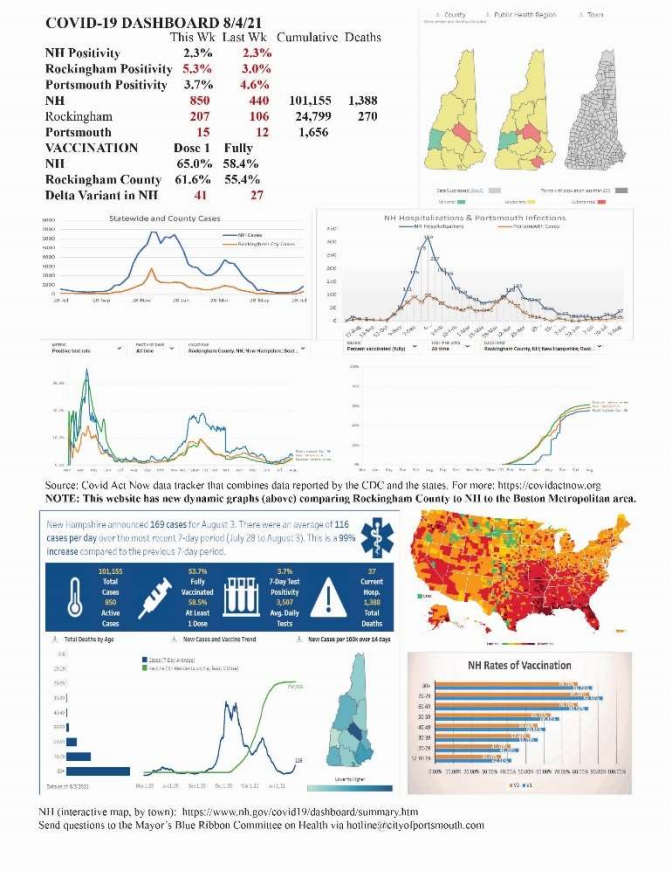
CITY CLERK ANNOUNCES MUNICIPAL ELECTION FILING SEASON: MON AUG 30 – MON SEP 13 -- For more information, click here. https://tinyurl.com/arjchzcw



FARMERS' MARKET RETURNS TO CITY HALL PARKING LOT ON SAT AUG 7 – Taking another step toward "normal" the Farmers Market returns to the upper lot at City Hall on Saturday, Aug 7 and will operate from 8 am to 12 noon.



ISLINGTON CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PROGRAM STARTS AUG 4 -- The pilot extends through February 4, 2022 to allow time for modifications as needed and monitoring through different seasons. The following streets are included in the program: McDonough from Dover to Brewster; Sudbury, Hanover from Brewster to Bridge Street, Tanner from Islington Street to Hill Street; Tanner Court, Autumn, Parker, Pearl, Rock, Brewster, Langdon, Cornwall, Rockingham, Cabot, Salem and Dover Streets. Residents and businesses in this neighborhood as well as residents of both sides of Islington Street from Dover Street to Bridge Street, may apply for one permit per vehicle and a maximum of three per residence/business. Residents of Portsmouth who live outside the pilot area may apply for one permit. The permits are tied to specific vehicles and are not transferable. There is no charge for the pilot program permit. For more information, click here. https://tinyurl.com/yfeyc92x



REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD – For a larger PDF, click here: https://tinyurl.com/88k45wwz



PORTSMOUTH NH 400TH RESUMES PREPARATIONS FOR 2023 -- After the interruption of planning during the pandemic, "Portsmouth NH 400th" has a new organizational structure and non-profit status for tax-deductible fundraising and grant purposes. The Executive Team includes Managing Director Valerie Rochon, Community Engagement Officer Susan Labrie and City Manager Karen Conard, with City Finance, Legal and Public Information resources in support. The Portsmouth NH 400th Board will include that Executive Team, along with additional members. **The goal of Portsmouth NH 400th is to give the community an inclusive opportunity to tell the stories that are important to them, through programs, events, exhibits and legacy projects.** The Executive Team is convening a Task Force to support the Portsmouth NH 400th organization and to guide signature events and projects, including a parade. Individuals, businesses and organizations who want to join the team who will help steer the programming for the 400th are invited to contact Valerie Rochon at hello@PortsmouthNH400.org

DPW CONSTRUCTION THIS WEEK

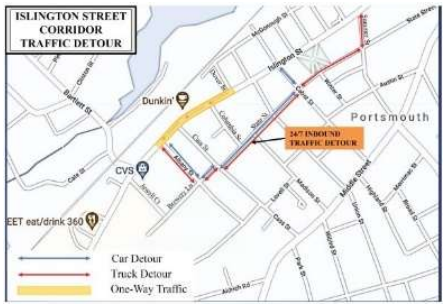
For more information on construction projects in the city, visit the DPW page on the City website, then click on the Projects tab for a dropdown menu that links to an individual page for each project with updates, project background and an opt-in email list. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks

CHEVROLET AVENUE SIDEWALK PROJECT STARTED JUL 30 – Murtha Landscape prep work at 200 Cass St. and 16 Chevrolet Ave., removing the plants that will be relocated for the final landscape design. Advanced Excavation is the general contractor for the construction of a new sidewalk.

BANFIELD ROAD -- Removing stumps to begin installing the sidewalk between Heritage and Ocean Road. Single-lane traffic continues for pipe installation under the road with work impacting the Banfield-Peverly Hill Road intersection.

ALDRICH ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING – Speed tables and curbing being installed on Wed or Thurs this week.

CLOUGH DRIVE & LITTLE HARBOUR SCHOOL DRIVEWAY – Road work and paving continues.



ISLINGTON STREET -- Returned to two-way traffic on weekends and overnight, but single-lane during the day for installation of curbing and sidewalks. For the weekly update and to subscribe to the weekly eblast, click here: https://tinyurl.com/hb4wn9s

DENNETT STREET – Gas main replacement work continues to Labor Day. DPW will be able to complete their project immediately after that, finishing by the end of October.



MAPLEWOOD AVE COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT – Final paving of Maple Street at the intersection of Woodbury Avenue (weather dependent). Driveway paving of Cutts Street and Central Avenue.

LITTLE BAY WATER LINE PROJECT – The City is advancing a project to install an additional water line Little Bay to the city. As part of the standard permitting process, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (USACE) has published a Public Notice inviting public comment regarding the City's permit for the water line work. (Click here: https://tinyurl.com/rnmjbpc for File Number: NAE-2019-01078.) The deadline for comments is August 19, 2021. The project is expected to go out for bid in Fall 2021, with construction during Winter 2021-22.

HAVEN WELL RESTORED TO SERVICE THIS WEEK -- After seven years of research, treatment piloting and engineering design, followed by the installation at the upgraded Pease Water Treatment Facility of a sophisticated, multi-step treatment system which includes cartridge, resin filtration and GAC filtration, the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has issued a permit for the City to restore operation of the well. The well is expected to go back into service this week and the water will be tested weekly. The City of Portsmouth took the Haven Well off-line in 2014 after testing revealed the presence of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) chemicals in the water at levels that measured higher than the Environmental Protection Agency's preliminary health advisory level. For more information, click here: https://tinyurl.com/jurk2juw

RETURN TO EMPLOYMENT SUMMER STIPEND PROGRAM -- Applications for the program are now open for the first people who returned to work. Visit https://tinyurl.com/4abbah9v to see if you're eligible. NH suspended Dept of Employment Security COViD-19 unemployment supplements on May 18 and announced a "summer stipend" of $500 for part-time and $1000 full-time jobs that those in the NHES system receiving unemployment benefits secured and worked for 8 weeks. (Those who receive $25/hour or less.) Employees can now apply for the benefit with proof of 8 weeks new employment since May 18. Those who were already registered in the NHES system should check their individual dashboards for eligibility and instructions on filing for the stipend.

EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITIES ASSISTANCE – There are emergency funds available to renters in NH through federal programs. For more information on whether you qualify and how to apply, click here: https://www.capnh.org/covid19 The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has also launched a new tool (https://tinyurl.com/4hawaxf4) that allows renters and landlords to find rental assistance programs in their area. Applications for $26 million in support available to NH residents are handled through NH Community Action Partnership (CAP). Landlords and tenants are encouraged to apply to avoid any impacts from the end to the eviction moratorium. Once you have an application in progress, you are protected.

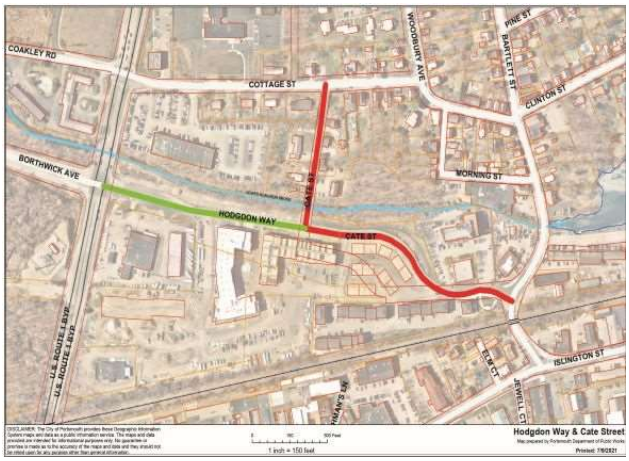


SAVE THE DATE! THANK OUR VETERANS ON TUES AUG 17 at 2:30 pm – The Gundalow has arranged a special sail for veterans (sold out) and invites the community to "come to our dock in Prescott Park as our Veterans board the Gundalow and offer them thanks, with a handshake, applause, (a hug if we are all doing that again), whatever is most comfortable."



CITY WELFARE DEPT. SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE –Bring donated new supplies to the Welfare

Office in City Hall. “Our number one need right now is three-ring binders, 2 inch is ideal, but any size can be used. We are also short on dry erase markers, pencil sharpeners, colored markers, colored pencils, highlighters and pens. We are always on the lookout for large, sturdy backpacks. Think high-schoolers who carry their lives in their backpacks!” Please contact Ellen Tully, 603-610-7267, etully@cityofportsmouth.com if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity.



REMINDER: NEW CONFIGURATION FOR CATE & BARTLETT STREETS STARTS – The new through-street, named “Hodgdon Way,” branches off Cate Street and continues to the Route 1 By-Pass. The design includes a re-alignment of the intersection of Bartlett and Cate Streets. For a larger version of the map above, click here: https://tinyurl.com/yr8wxx3k The new route allows for through-traffic to avoid the Bartlett Street residential neighborhood and expedites ambulance service to Portsmouth Regional Hospital. This revised intersection configuration will be monitored and adjusted as needed over the next few weeks.

BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES – The following positions are open. If you are interested in applying for a Board or Commission, please complete this application and submit it to the City Clerk’s Office. https://tinyurl.com/2unv4wax

- 1 Regular Member to the Building Code Board of Appeals (Pending submission of renewal application)
- 1 Alternate Member to the Building Code Board of Appeals –electrical engineer or master electrician
- 2 Alternate Members to the Conservation Commission
- 1 Alternate Member to the Historic District Commission
- 1 Alternate Member to the Planning Board
- 1 Regular Member to the Trees and Public Greenery Committee (pending submission of renewal applications)
- The Sustainable Practices Blue Ribbon Committee is also welcoming new members



FOR A LIST OF WALK-IN VACCINATION OPTIONS at hospitals and local pharmacy same-day sites, click here: https://tinyurl.com/kbvemrbk
Note that some local pharmacies may not always have the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in stock.

I LOST MY PROOF-OF-VACCINATION CARD. NOW WHAT? All vaccination records are kept on file in the CDC National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) system. NH DHHS advises that you can replace a lost vaccination card in either of two ways:

1. Download and complete the vaccination card replacement request form here: https://tinyurl.com/4pj4chcz Note that the completed form MUST BE NOTARIZED before sending it back to NH DHHS.
2. If your healthcare provider has access to the NHIIS, ask him/her to print out the record directly from NHIIS.

For DHHS VACCINE FAQs, click here:
https://tinyurl.com/tkvaksnw

For Kids & COVID FAQs, click here.
https://tinyurl.com/49anabp9

For COVID-19 Treatment FAQS, click here. https://tinyurl.com/5bhmksy2 Ask your health-care provider about avoiding hospitalization once infected with COVID-19, by receiving the monoclonal antibody treatment described in these FAQs.

For Testing FAQs click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/testing-faqs

For Ventilation FAQs click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/ventilation-faqs

For more information, visit City's page on COVID-19: https://tinyurl.com/2ywcu6ab

Want to know more about what's happening in the City? Click on the link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par
CITY HALL FACEBOOK PAGE:
Like and follow us to get news as it's posted:
https://www.facebook.com/CityHallPortsmouthNH