CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Wednesday, October 27, 2021

RECORDED CANDIDATES' FORUM from Oct 25 now posted on City's YouTube channel:
https://youtu.be/_eXgSWi_-is

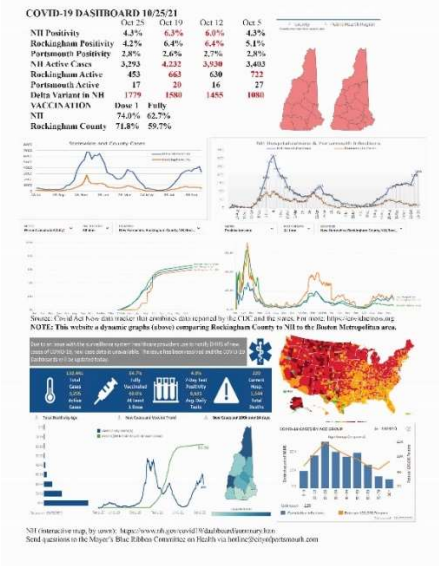
MUNICIPAL ELECTION DETAILS – Election Day Nov 2, 8 am to 7 pm -- For full details on polling places for each Ward (Portsmouth residents vote according to where they live), absentee ballots, voter registration deadlines, candidates for City Council, School Board, Police and Fire Commissions, sample ballots and more, click here: https://tinyurl.com/5ndwzphe **ABSENTEE BALLOTS must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall by 5 pm on Mon Nov 1, 2021**, the day before the election. For those obtaining an absentee ballot in person, **there are now 2 voting booths in the City Clerk's Office area** where voters can complete their ballots and return them on the spot.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY: SAT OCT 30, 8 am to 12 noon at the Recycling Center, 680 Peverly Hill Rd. For information about what materials are accepted, click here: https://tinyurl.com/2n2ff7ej

WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!
To review job postings and benefits, click here. ***For example, one of the current job openings is Sanitation Laborer.*** The purpose of this position is to pick up and otherwise clear refuse, garbage, vegetation and other debris in all weather conditions from curbs and roadsides and leave collection areas generally clean. Other seasonal clearing and cleaning operations are also performed. The work involves constant safety awareness, the ability to recognize and take appropriate actions regarding hazardous materials and to use hand tools.

The City offers a generous compensation and benefits package that includes retirement, generous paid time off including vacation, holidays, medical & dental insurance, flexible spending account, professional development, career growth, longevity incentives, and more! For details and to apply, click here: https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work



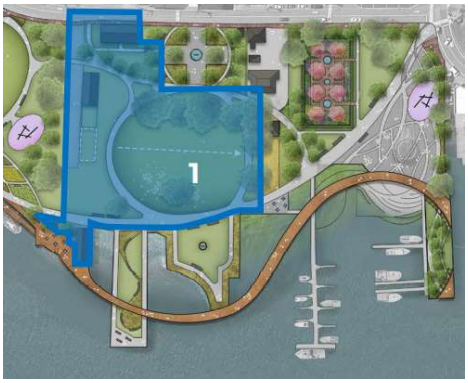
REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD – For a larger PDF, click here:
https://tinyurl.com/5dv99yjf

FREE TESTING SITE OPENS AT FOX RUN MALL IN NEWINGTON – Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 3 pm in the old Sears building. You will receive a personalized QR code when you register so you can check your results in 48 hours.

CDC APPROVES COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTERS -- For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, a booster shot is available at 6 months or more after their initial series, especially for those:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. For more information, click here: https://tinyurl.com/3bnsfsw



MON NOV 8: PRESCOTT PARK GROUND SITE TESTING FOR MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATON PHASE ONE – DPW plans to dig three five-foot, by five-foot, by five-foot "test pits" at Prescott Park, starting at 9 am, as part of the investigatory engineering required to implement the Prescott Park Master Plan: https://tinyurl.com/uujj9w54 The work will be conducted in conjunction with a soils scientist designated by the project consultant Weston and Sampson Engineers and an archaeologist. The pits will be dug and filled in one work day.

DPW CONSTRUCTION – Work this week is being delayed due to heavy rain.
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



ISLINGTON STREET PROJECT DETOUR – Columbia Street is closed to thru traffic (local traffic only) during working hours. State Street is also closed to thru traffic and vehicles will be detoured through Cass Street, Lovell Street, and Madison Street (see map, above). No water service interruptions expected. For more information and to subscribe to weekly updates, click here: https://tinyurl.com/hb4wn9s

LITTLE HARBOR ROAD REPAVING STARTS NOV 1 -- The start date is weather-permitting. Work will take several days as road crews grind down the existing surface and then put down a binder layer. The road will be accessible throughout, though travel will be limited to one lane, alternating traffic. Flaggers will be in place to direct traffic.

95 MECHANIC STREET SEAWALL RECONSTRUCTION – Install crushed stone base material for wall foundations. Haul out excavated soil material for disposal. Continue the demolition/ excavation of existing seawall. **Installation of steel H-beam piles continues. Construction noise will be loud at times.** For more information and to subscribe to email updates on the project, click here: https://tinyurl.com/w48zy332

BANFIELD ROAD – Speed tables for traffic calming now installed. Three-way stop signs will be installed at Heritage Ave. and Constitution intersections. Flaggers in the construction areas, on weekdays, 7 am - 5 pm.

DENNETT STREET – Paving this Thurs-Fri.

VOTE FOR THE WINNER OF THE VIRTUAL PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST! Click on the Recreation Department Facebook page to view the five finalists, described only by the age of their creator. "Like" your favorite pumpkin to vote. The pumpkin with the most likes when the contest closes at Thursday, October 28 at midnight is our winner! Winners will be posted and notified by email on Friday, October 29. Thank you to everyone who entered, we loved your creativity!



HALLOWEEN PARADE STREET CLOSURES AND PARKING DETAILS FOR SUN OCT 31: This is not a City event. Parking will not be permitted along the parade route from 5-10 pm. Instead, park in the Foundry Garage for just $3 for the duration. The Police Department will be closing the following streets from 6-10 pm on Sunday:

- Marcy Street – from Hancock Street to State Street and under the bridge to Daniel Street
- Daniel Street – from Bow Street to Market Square
- Bow Street – most of Bow, from Daniel to Market Street will be closed during the parade
- Market Street – from Hanover Street to Market Square

- Fleet Street – from Hanover Street to Congress Street and State Street to Congress Street
- Congress Street – from Market Street to Fleet
- Pleasant Street – from Court Street to Market Square
- State Street – from Fleet Street to Marcy Street
- Porter Street – from Fleet Street to Pleasant Street

There will be significant traffic delays in the parade route area as it passes and motorists are strongly urged to seek alternate routes away from affected streets.

Cars towed from the route can be recovered at the lower parking lot at City Hall (1 Junkins Ave.).





REMINDER: IN-STREET DINING ENDS NOV 1. DPW WILL BEGIN REMOVING BARRIERS NEXT WEEK – Restaurants will in-street dining permits are asked to please remove furniture and other items from the street by Nov 1.

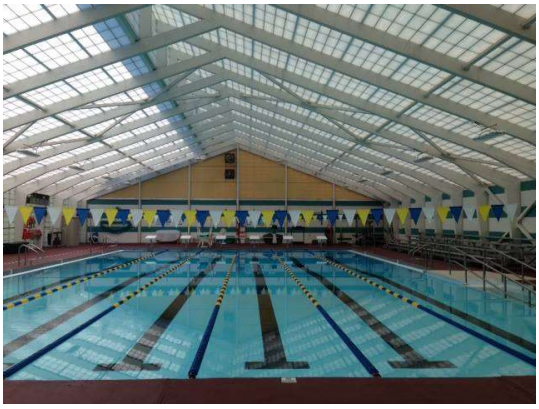
CONNIE BEAN CENTER TO OPEN ON WEEKENDS STARTING SAT NOV 6 – The hours will be: Saturdays 8am-4pm and Sundays 10am-4pm. Masks required at all times while in the building.



VACCINE CLINICS WEDNESDAYS, NOV 3, 10, 17 & 24 AT SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER, 8 AM – 1 PM – Enter through the back assembly hall door. All three vaccines available, at no charge. No appointment needed! Address is 125 Cottage Street. Primary Doses for Pfizer (2-doses), Moderna (2-doses), and J&J (1-dose). 3rd Doses for Pfizer and Moderna for persons who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and BOOSTER doses available.



ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD "SHARE THE WARMTH" COLLECTING NEW HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES, SCARVES FOR GATHER -- Purchased or handmade *new* items can be dropped off Nov 1 through Nov 17 at the Senior Activity Center (125 Cottage Street) or YMCA (555 Peverly Hill Road) in Portsmouth. In the 2020 **Share the Warmth** drive, the Alliance collected more than 1,700 items thanks to the generosity of the Seacoast community. "The Gather team was amazed by how many items were collected," according to Julie Johnson, one of the Alliance co-founders. "They loved seeing the joy the event brought to their families in need. The Alliance is rallying the kindness of people to **Share the Warmth** and provide some holiday cheer to Gather families again this year and hopes to be able replicate the success of last year's drive." For more information, click here: allianceforgreatergood.org or email the Alliance for Greater Good at alliance.greatergood@gmail.com



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR INDOOR POOL GREAT BAY MASTERS AND AMERICAN RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS
The Recreation Department plans to reopen the Indoor Pool **on November 2, 2021 and has posted the pool schedule** (note that the first week, Nov 2-7, is slightly different than the schedule moving forward), click here. https://tinyurl.com/6f9ux3wj The Indoor Pool will not be open on weekends except for scheduled swim lessons on Saturday mornings. In preparation, registrations are NOW OPEN for residents for the Great Bay Masters adult swim group and American Red Cross Swim Lessons. Registration for non-residents will open in November. While the fall Indoor Pool schedule allows for many of the usual activities, swim lessons and team rentals will operate under COVID-19 restrictions until children under 12 can be vaccinated. The Recreation Department is working on more fall programming details which will be posted to their website when finalized. For more information, click here: https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor



WED NOV 10, 10 AM FREE VETERANS' BREAKFAST AT THE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER -- Open to all who served, all ages. Space is limited, so reservations are required. Please call 603-610-4433.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DROP BOX -- The Portsmouth Police Department joined the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 23 to give the community an additional opportunity to turn in prescription drugs that are no longer needed. The Portsmouth Police Department provides an anonymous Drug Take Back Box in the police station at City Hall, year round. The department can take pills, patches and liquid medicine. No needles or sharp items are accepted. The service is free of charge and anonymous. For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs, visit www.deatakeback.com, or call 800-882-9539.

HYDRANT FLUSHING CONTINUES -- The flushing takes place at various locations, Mon through Thurs, between 7 am and 11 pm. Flushing locations are indicated by the presence of DPW Water Division vehicles with flashing lights. The work starts on the outskirts of the city and then moves downtown as the weeks progress.

When flushing is occurring, the Water Division recommends that customers refrain from washing laundry to avoid potential discoloration of clothing. After flushing has occurred, customers can check their water clarity by running cold water to flush their plumbing systems. While flushing can result in discoloration in tap water, the water remains safe to drink. If the discoloration persists, customers should report the issue using the DPW Click 'n Fix system: https://tinyurl.com/29h9f99c

COAST SERVICE CHANGES STARTING NOV 13 -- Until COAST can restore adequate staffing levels, services on the following bus routes will be temporarily suspended:

- Route 14 (between the Rochester P&R/ Portsmouth Mon-Sat)
- Route 33 (continuation of 4:30pm run suspension Mon-Sat)
- Route 34 (multiple am and pm runs Mon-Sat)
- Route 40 (continuation of current suspensions)
- Route 43 (continuation of current suspensions)
- Route 44 (one pm run Mon-Fri)

Service will be resumed on the following routes:

- Route 12 (all previously suspended runs)
- Route 13 (all previously suspended runs)
- Route 33 (6:30pm run)
  For more information, visit:
  www.coastbus.org/upcomingservicechanges

SOUND BARRIERS HEARING: NH DOT 10 YEAR PLAN & GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMISION –The Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) is working on a 2023-2032 Draft Ten Year Plan which will impact the sound barrier requests in Portsmouth. Make your voice heard! The last hearing hosted by Portsmouth's District 3 Executive Councilor Janet Stevens is scheduled for: **Mon Nov 1 at 7 pm at the Seashell Oceanfront Pavilion Room in Hampton (170 Ocean Blvd.).** There will be an additional **ALL VIRTUAL GACIT hearing on Wed Nov 3 at 7 pm.** For more information on the Ten Year Plan, visit: https://tinyurl.com/vzbjrfzy



CITY PHASING OUT EASYPARK PROGRAM – ENDS DEC 31, 2021 -- EasyParkUSA has notified New Hampshire cities participating in its EasyPark program that the company has begun phasing out their on-dash devices. EasyParkUSA has already discontinued the sale of new devices, although existing customers will be able to continue to use their devices in any participating New Hampshire city, and use up any remaining balance on their accounts, until December 31, 2021. At that time, all accounts will be closed and no further service fees will be charged. EasyParkUSA will alert subscribers to the end of the program via their account emails. Instead of EasyPark, the City's Parking Division encourages subscribers to sign up for the ParkMobile smartphone app, that gives them more convenience and flexibility. Portsmouth EasyPark users who are residents may apply for the resident discount with ParkMobile. For more information: https://tinyurl.com/t29zj2yk

CHANGES TO EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITIES ASSISTANCE – The **NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (NHERAP) provides funds to renters who cannot pay their rent and utilities during the pandemic. The program works with tenants and landlords. Program changes as of October 1, 2021:

- Households may qualify for assistance for past-due and future rent and utility payments for a period not to exceed 18 months.
- At least one person in the household must have qualified for unemployment benefits, had their income reduced, had significant costs, or had other financial hardship during the pandemic. Certain income requirements must be met.

WHAT THE PROGRAM COVERS

- Past-due rent including reasonable late and legal fees.
- Three months of future rent payments if needed for housing stability.
- Utilities, such as electricity, home heating costs, water, sewer, trash.
- Other housing-related costs such as internet and relocation expenses (including rental application fees, utility hook-up fees, and security deposits).
- Households may qualify for utility assistance even if they do not receive or need rental assistance.

For more information on whether you qualify and how to apply for emergency funds available to renters in NH, click here: https://www.capnh.org/covid19 The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has also launched a tool (click here: https://tinyurl.com/4hawaxf4) that allows renters and landlords to find rental assistance programs in their area. Applications are handled through NH Community Action Partnership (CAP).



OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH #DVAM2021 -- HAVEN is NH's largest crisis center working to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking, and to support and empower women, men, youth and families to heal from abuse and rebuild their lives. HAVEN advocates are available for free and confidential support 24-hours a day:



POST-VACCINATION FAQs – For the latest information on breakthrough infections and third doses of vaccine, click here: https://tinyurl.com/uurbmrse

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND – For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines were developed, tested and approved, click here. https://tinyurl.com/3yhreymk

PROOF-OF-VACCINATIONS: What should you do if you discover your vaccination is not recorded properly in the NH DHHS database? Or if you need more than your vaccination card because some travel destinations require the full record? Contact NHIIS (NH Immunization Information System) at 603-271-4028, by email at nhiis.support@dhhs.nh.gov or click here for the NH DHHS website https://tinyurl.com/rva3tphc for the immunization information system (NHIIS). On this site, select the correction forms for your PCP to verify your vaccine card, DOB, etc. You will need to get the form notarized and before sending it back to NHIIS. Once your record is corrected, you can request an official vaccine and immunization record. This record is the one that would be accepted when travelling if the vaccine card is not enough. For more answers to Frequently Asked Questions, click here**.**

FOR A LIST OF WALK-IN VACCINATION OPTIONS at hospitals and local pharmacy same-day sites, click here: https://tinyurl.com/kbvemrbk

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 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

CITY HALL FACEBOOK PAGE:
Like and follow us to get news as it's posted: https://www.facebook.com/CityHallPortsmouthNH

Want to know more about what's happening in the City? Click on the QR code or link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par