CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Wednesday, March 16, 2022

PORTSMOUTH STANDS WITH UKRAINE
In answer to those who have asked, there are many recognized relief agencies responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Be sure to verify that your donations are going where you intend, as situations like this always produce scams. You might consider one of these: https://tinyurl.com/2mtsejuh

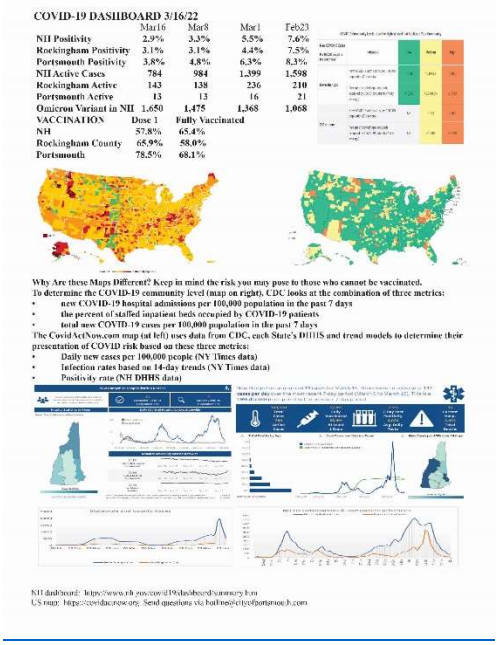
Questions about a City Department, program or issue? Suggestion? Email your comment to hotline@cityofportsmouth.com **and you'll receive an immediate response, or we'll find the right person who can answer your question.**



CITY CLOSES ON PURCHASE OF COMMUNITY CAMPUS FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR SEACOAST HEALTH
The City of Portsmouth and The Foundation for Seacoast Health closed today on the sale of the Community Campus to the City. Last fall, the City announced the intention to work with The Foundation for Seacoast Health to buy the Community Campus with its 72,000 sq. ft. building and surrounding 34 acres of land. The City and Foundation also agreed the sale will ensure the Community Campus will continue to support the current non-profit tenants, and the services they provide, and will remain accessible to Seacoast area residents. For more details, click here. https://tinyurl.com/2tmcmpd8



WED MAR 16: SPECIAL PARKING & TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING ON NPP AT 6:30 PM – In-person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here. https://tinyurl.com/47dcyuzh
For the results of the survey, click here: https://tinyurl.com/bdw2rrk9


COVID-19 DASHBOARD 3/16/22

	Mar16	Mar8	Mar1	Feb23
NH Positivity	2.9%	3.3%	5.5%	7.6%
Rockingham Positivity	3.1%	3.1%	4.4%	7.5%
Portsmouth Positivity	3.8%	4.8%	6.3%	8.3%
NH Active Cases	784	984	1,399	1,598
Rockingham Active	143	138	236	210
Portsmouth Active	13	13	16	21
Omicron Variant in NH	1,650	1,475	1,368	1,068
VACCINATION	Dose 1	Fully Vaccinated		
NH	57.8%	65.4%		
Rockingham County	65.9%	58.0%		
Portsmouth	78.5%	68.1%		

Why Are these Maps Different? Keep in mind the risk you may pose to those who cannot be vaccinated.
To determine the COVID-19 community level (map on right), CDC looks at the combination of three metrics:
- new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days
- the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients
- total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

The CovidActNow.com map (at left) uses data from CDC, each State's DHHS and trend models to determine their presentation of COVID risk based on these three metrics:
- Daily new cases per 100,000 people (NY Times data)
- Infection rates based on 14-day trends (NY Times data)
- Positivity rate (NH DHHS data)

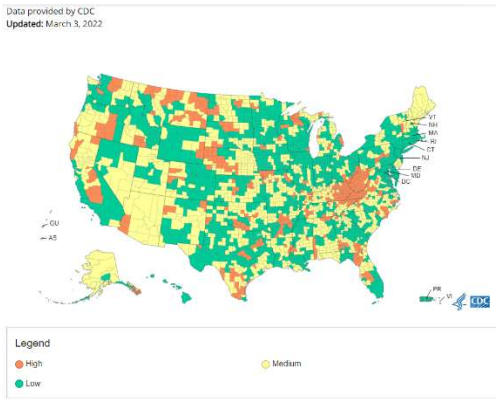
NH dashboard: https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/summary.htm
US map: https://covidactnow.org. Send questions via hotline@cityofportsmouth.com

REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD -- For a larger PDF, click here. https://tinyurl.com/2p9bmzzh



MIDDLE STREET BIKE LANE SURVEY – Following up the public information meeting on Mar 10, the City is conducting a survey of residents and businesses affected by the Middle Street Bike Lanes.

To participate in the survey, click here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/middlest



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK -- On February 25, 2022, CDC updated its mask guidance and created an online tool -- COVID-19 Community Levels -- to help communities and residents decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. **The City Manager encourages the use of masks indoors in City facilities. Please note that masks are still required in the Portsmouth Public Library.** The free N95 masks supplied by the Federal government are now available at the following local pharmacies:

- CVS, 674 Islington St. at checkout, not pharmacy
- Rite-Aid, 800 Islington St., at checkout, not pharmacy
- Rite-Aid, 1303 Woodbury Ave., at pharmacy
- Walmart, 2460 Lafayette Rd., at doors and Service Desk

DAILY WALK-IN VACCINATION & BOOSTER CLINICS REMAIN OPEN – Rochester, Spaulding Commons, 306 N. Main St. open Mon-Sat, 12 noon- 7pm, closed on Sundays. For additional local pharmacies and same-day sites, click here: https://tinyurl.com/kbvemrbk



AARP TAX PREP ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
AARP Tax Prep is drop-off only this year. Envelopes are available at the Senior Activity Center and Portsmouth Public Library, and **drop-offs should be made at the Senior Center ONLY, February 1 – April 10, during the following times:**

- **Sundays, 11 am – 12 noon**
- **Tuesdays, 4-5 pm**

For detailed instructions on what you need for filing, click here: https://tinyurl.com/2p87ee45

NH UNITED WAY TAX ASSISTANCE FOR LOW- TO-MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS -- If you need help preparing your tax return, the Granite United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program can help. Call 211 or visit nhtaxhelp.org for more information.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX FILING DEADLINE: APR 18, 2022 -- The due date is April 18, instead of April 15, because of the Emancipation Day holiday in the District of Columbia for everyone except taxpayers who live in Maine or Massachusetts. Taxpayers in Maine or Massachusetts have until April 19, 2022, to file their returns due to the Patriots' Day holiday in those states. Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until Monday, October 17, 2022, to file. For filing information, FAQs and other IRS information, click here: https://www.irs.gov/filing

CHILDREN'S DAY LOGO CONTEST! Children's Day, produced by Pro Portsmouth, takes place in Downtown Portsmouth on May 1, from noon to 4pm. Pro Portsmouth invites young artists to participate in the Children's Day Logo Contest. Here are the few guidelines for 2022:

- Artists under age 12 are eligible to submit drawings and designs
- Please use a **MAXIMUM** of 4 colors
- The image should be drawn and submitted on 8.5" x 11" paper
- You can use colored paper, markers, crayons and colored pencils to create your design – the key: the image must be flat (so it can be scanned into a computer)
- **DEADLINE IS WED MARCH 30**
- please incorporate the year "2022" in the design.
- Ideas: Show us what the day means to you. Get creative – your drawings should be festive, fun and recognizable. Submit entries to Pro Portsmouth, Inc.
  P.O. Box 967, Portsmouth NH 03802

For more information, click here: https://proportsmouth.org/childrens-day-faqs/

PORTSMOUTH
Tourism
Summit
2022

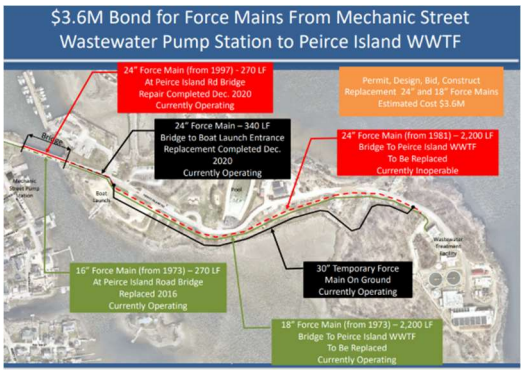
CHAMBER COLLABORATIVE TOURISM SUMMIT WED MAR 23, 8 to 11 AM at Jimmy's Jazz Club – Free admission. For information and registration, click here. https://tinyurl.com/2hrbu64z

CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING WED MAR 23 AT 6:30 PM – In person at the Portsmouth Public Library Levenson Room or via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here: https://tinyurl.com/mr39wwuj



PORTSMOUTH INDOOR POOL ADULT LEARN TO SWIM LESSONS – This Learn to Swim program includes four half-hour sessions on Apr 4, 6, 11 & 13, 5:30-7:30 pm. For adults over 18) for $25 per person. For more information and registration, click here: https://rec.cityofportsmouth.com/Default.aspx?id=2

RUTH LEWIN GRIFFIN PLACE AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPLICATION SITE NOW OPEN! The Portsmouth Housing Authority development, now under construction, features 48 one-bedroom apartments and 16 two-bedroom units. The units will be available to people who meet income requirements. Starting rent for the one-bedrooms units is $950 a month, while starting rent for the two-bedroom units is $1,200. To apply to rent one of the apartments, visit https://cityoftheopendoor.com/



PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD WORK FOR SEWER FORCE MAINS PROJECT -- Work continues on the project to replace the force mains to the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. https://tinyurl.com/4urpjskz
That work requires closing Peirce Island Road, parking and trail access beyond the Outdoor Pool, on a daily basis, 7 am to 4 pm. The public is advised that access is obstructed in the area past the pool.

NEW ENGLAND MUSICIANS RELIEF FUND OFFERING GRANTS -- NEMRF continues to help musicians facing extraordinary hardship during the pandemic and beyond. "To date we have received over 500 applications, and most of those have been granted," NEMRF said. "We do plan to be a part of the musical community in New England for a long time to come." The New England Musicians Relief Fund is currently accepting applications. Apply at: https://www.nemrf.org/apply

FREE TEST KITS BY MAIL -- Order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the Federal government website: https://www.covidtests.gov/ which also offers 'how to test' instructions. **NH SOURCES FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS –** To order a free kit, visit: https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/

BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS –Call On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, at 603-338-9292 or book an appointment online at the On-Site Medical website: https://www.on-sitemedservices.com/

WEEKLY FREE LUNCH REMINDERS:

- **Middle Street Baptist Church –** Seacoast Community Lunch brown bag lunches from the parking lot (18 Court St..), 12 noon to 1 pm on Wednesdays. For more information call 603-436-2337 or email lunch@middle.st
- **St. John's Church --** Common Table bag lunch pickup in the St. John's parking lot (100 Chapel St.) Thurs, 12 noon to 1 pm.

GATHER COMMUNITY MARKET, FRIDAYS, 10 am – 1 pm – A FREE market for all. No

paperwork. No ID. No one is ever turned away. Located at the NH National Guard building, 801 McGee Drive in Portsmouth.

WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! To review job postings and benefits, click here. *For example, one of the current job openings is: Urban Forestry Associate.* This May 9 – August 29, 2022 paid internship is an ideal job for students planning to work in the landscaping sector, agriculture, the natural resource arena, forestry, horticulture, or in environmental education. Individual will gain hands-on experience maintaining tree plantings throughout the City and interacting with residents to promote urban tree care.

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

PORTSMOUTH NH 400 PHOTO CONTEST!
PNH400 is now accepting submissions from Portsmouth-based photographers so the calendar showcases the best local talent, professional and amateur. There are thirteen prizes – feature placement of the winners' images in the printed calendar. One photograph per month plus a cover image will be selected. The calendar will also include the dates of all signature PNH400 events and special observances, along with fun historical facts and figures.
For submission details and the online form, click here . **The Submission Deadline is June 30, 2022.**

PORTSMOUTH NH 400 ACCEPTING OFFICIAL PROGRAM PARTNER APPLICATIONS – Organizations, groups and anymore planning a Portsmouth NH 400 celebration program, project or event is invited to submit an Official Program Partner Application.
https://tinyurl.com/mw5664bm
Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate!
For more details, visit:
https://www.PortsmouthNH400.org

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).



RECENTLY UPDATED:

- **MASK FAQs,** click here: https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/mask-faqs
- **VACCINATION FAQs**, click here: https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7
- **TESTING FAQs,** click here: https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx

- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs,** click here

KIDS AND COVID FAQs, click here

POST-VACCINATION FAQs – For the latest information on breakthrough infections, boosters and vaccine effectiveness against the Omicron variant, 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

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