CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Wednesday, March 30, 2022

PORTSMOUTH STANDS WITH UKRAINE
There are many recognized relief agencies responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. 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.**

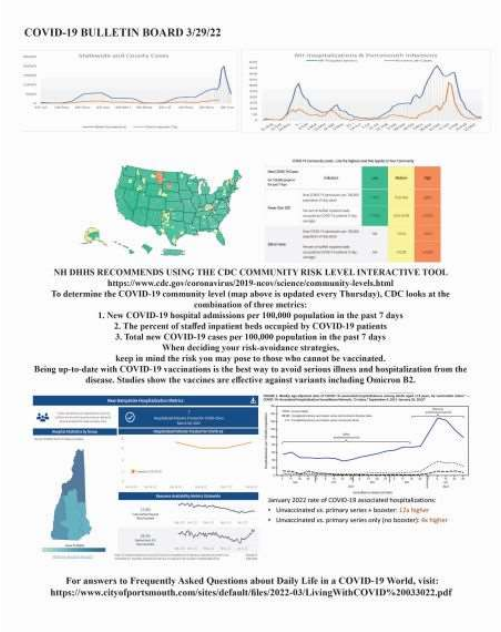


TONIGHT: STATE ST. SIDEWALKS PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING AT 6:30 PM -- To discuss the upcoming work on State Street sidewalks **between Goodwin Park and Columbia Street**. In person in City Hall Conference Room A or via Zoom. For the Zoom registration: https://tinyurl.com/2zjjempp

DEADLINE TODAY FOR 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)
- 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/



NEW REGIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD -- Designed to provide data-driven information you can use. Along with updated answers to "Living with COVID-19 FAQs." For a larger PDF, click here.



DEADLINE THURS MAR 31 FOR MIDDLE STREET BIKE LANE SURVEY – 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

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES SURVEY -- The City of Portsmouth is one of six communities chosen by the Rockingham Planning Commission to participate in an Age Friendly Communities Survey. Results will help the City build on our current senior services program and help to identify gaps in services. This is a great opportunity to provide some valuable feedback. Use this survey link: https://publicinput.com/AgeFriendlyPortsmouth

SEASONAL ROAD IMPACTS STARTING IN APRIL -- For information about each DPW project starting up for the season next week, the drop down Projects menu on the DPW page on the City website. Projects include:

- **Outdoor dining barriers** placed downtown, starting Apr 4.
- Excavation for the 60 Penhallow Brick Market project **will close Daniel Street between Penhallow and Market Square from April 4 to 22** and will limit traffic starting Apr 25 for sidewalk work. Businesses and pedestrian access will be open throughout construction.
- **Lang-Longmeadow Road** connector project is underway, with trees removed last week for the placement of erosion control measures.

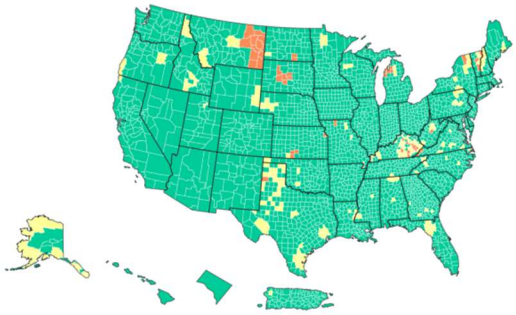


REC DEPT EASTER EGG HUNT SAT APR 9 AT LANGDON PARK (JUNKINS AVE) -- Free event for Preschoolers at 10:30 am and Grades K-2 at 11:30 am. Bring your own basket and find eggs hidden by our very own Easter Bunny! Photos with the Easter Bunny throughout the morning. Rain/snow date Saturday, April 16.

HYDRANT FLUSHING STARTING APR 11
The flushing will take place at various locations, Monday through Thursday, between 7 am and 11 pm, for the next six weeks. The flushing program is critical for maintaining water quality throughout the distribution system by removing sediment buildup in both public and private hydrants in Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, Greenland and Newington. Crews open select fire hydrants, releasing water with enough velocity to carry sediment out of the pipes. Flushing locations are indicated by the presence of DPW Water Division vehicles with flashing lights.



REMINDER DOG LICENSE DEADLINE IS APRIL 30 – New or annual renewals: **$10 per** male or female dog. **$7.50 per** neutered or spayed dog. **$3 per dog owned by a Senior Citizen** (age 65 or older; first dog only). **$7.50 per each puppy aged 3 to 7 months** for first-time licensing. Proof of spay/neuter will be required for the next April 1st licensing. Licenses available from the City Clerk's Office in City Hall. 1 Junkins Ave. Portsmouth. (603) 610-7245. **Monday** 8am to 6pm. **Tuesday-Thursday** 8am to 4:30pm. **Friday** 8am to 1pm



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK – CDC recommends using its online tool -- COVID-19 Community Levels -- to help 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.**



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, through April 10, during the following times:**

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

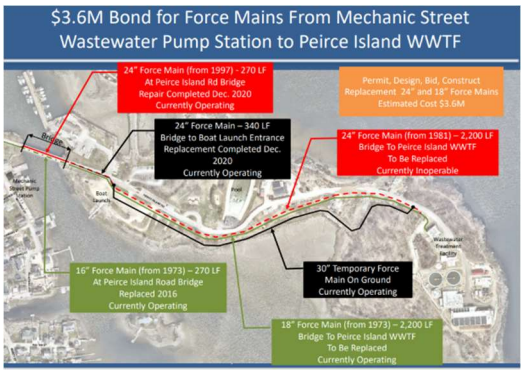
For detailed instructions on what you need for filing, click here: https://tinyurl.com/2p87ee45

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 who have until April 19, 2022, to file their returns due to the Patriots' Day holiday in those states. For filing information, FAQs and other IRS information, click here: https://www.irs.gov/filing

HIGHER ASSET LIMITS SET TO QUALIFY FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAX REDUCTIONS – The City Council has raised the Elderly Tax asset limit to $500,000 (from $175,000) and the Disabled Tax asset limit, also to $500,000. The Council also approved extending the Disabled Veteran/Disabled Officer exemption to $4,000 and added flexibility on the April 15 deadline so taxpayers have time to make arrangements with the City Clerk. For more information, contact the City Assessor at 603.610.7249.

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.

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.

THIS SUMMER -- WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! To review all the great summer job postings and benefits, click here.

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