CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Wednesday, April 13, 2022

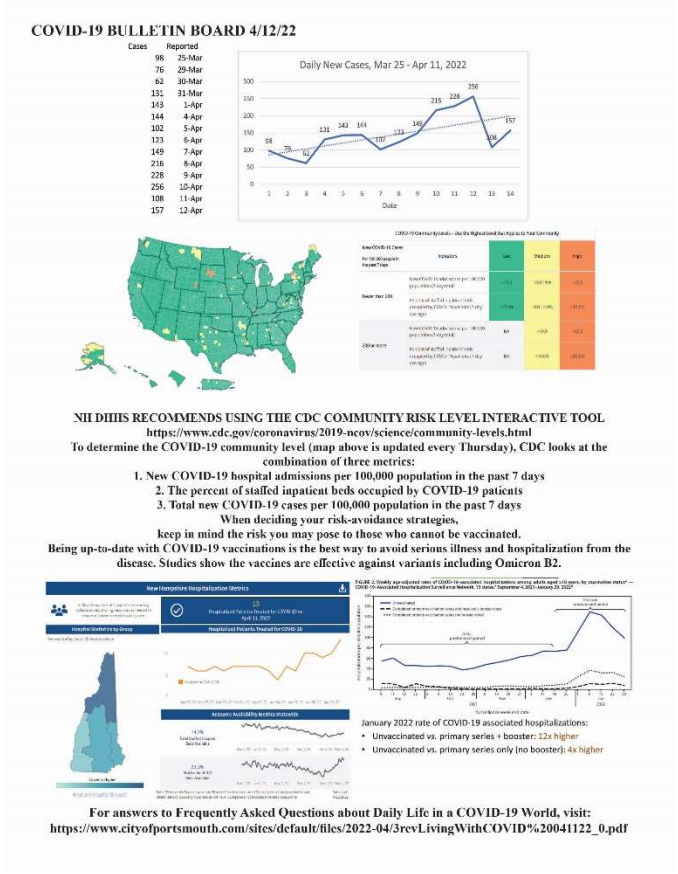
PORTSMOUTH STANDS WITH UKRAINE
There are many recognized relief agencies responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Verify that your donations are going where you intend, as situations like this always produce scams. You might consider one of these: https://tinyurl.com/2mtsejuh

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.**



BRIDGE STREET LOT CLOSED THRU MID-MAY -- The lot will be fenced off starting Tues Apr 12, and is now closed for construction. The Bridge Street Lot work includes reconstruction of the paved area, handicapped accessibility upgrades, subsurface preparations that would allow for EV charging stations and landscaping.

School Libraries Transform Learning
AASL APRIL IS SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH www.ala.org/aasl/slm



REGIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD -- Find a larger PDF and updated answers to Frequently Asked Questions on the City website.



APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH -- Here in Portsmouth, our social services agencies such as Haven and Operation Blessing, our hospitals and our Police Department, struggle daily trying to help the victims of sexual assault pick up the pieces. **Confidential, local help is available, 24 hours a day, at the HAVEN Violence Prevention and Support Hotline: 603-994-SAFE.**

HYDRANT FLUSHING STARTED 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.

MOSQUITO CONTROL MONITORING -- Crews from Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc., the City's contracted service, are checking swamps, salt marshes, woodland pools, ditches, catch basins and other shallow, stagnant water for mosquito larvae. **Citywide night-time road spraying for adult mosquitoes is not planned.** Any decision to conduct emergency spraying of adult mosquitoes on City-owned property is made by City officials based on the mosquito surveillance data, disease test results and weather conditions provided by Dragon Mosquito Control. Diseases such as EEE and West Nile Virus are generally found in mosquitoes during the latter part of the summer and early fall. Residents will be advised in advance if spraying is planned. For more details: https://tinyurl.com/2p9dapaa

DANIEL STREET CLOSED TO VEHICLES THRU APR 22. BUSINESSES AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS OPEN -- Excavation for the 60 Penhallow Brick Market project will continue to limit traffic starting Apr 25 for sidewalk work. Businesses and pedestrian access will be open throughout construction.

CONSTRUCTION BLASTING ON THE NEW LANG-LONGMEADOW ROAD CONNECTOR STARTING WED APR 13. During work hours, 7 am to 4 pm on weekdays. For more information: https://tinyurl.com/v2cbbu2v

RAYNES AVENUE PUBLIC INPUT MEETING TUES APR 19, 6:30 pm AT AC HOTEL (299 Raynes Ave.) -- To discuss the plan to re-establish and make permanent the one-way flow of traffic from Maplewood Avenue onto Vaughan Street and via Raynes Avenue back to Maplewood. In-person and via Zoom. Zoom registration.

MAPLE HAVEN SIDEWALKS PROJECT UPDATE WED APR 20 -- At Fire Station #2 and via Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/mrj5s5vk

SAFE WATER ADVISORY GROUP QUARTERLY MEETING WED APR 20 AT 6 PM – City Council Chambers and via Zoom. Agenda and Zoom registration: https://tinyurl.com/2p9e8j8y

SAGAMORE AVE. SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT MEETING WED APR 27 AT 6:30 PM – To discuss next steps with residents in the project area. More information in the detailed memo to City Council. To attend via Zoom, registration is required: https://tinyurl.com/34c3xf5n

SEASONAL ROAD IMPACTS -- For information about each of the seasonal DPW projects now underway, click on the drop down Projects menu on the DPW page on the City website. Projects include:

- **Street barriers for outdoor dining are being placed, starting today on Congress Street.** The first 12 restaurants approved for outdoor dining permits include: Cava, 110 Grill, Row 34, Portsmouth Brewery, Dwyer's Pub, Thirsty Moose Taphouse, Elephantine Bakery, Toscana, Raleigh Wine Bar + Eatery, The Green Room, Portsmouth feed company, The Goat. Be sure to check first before visiting, as outdoor dining continues to be set up. Planters will be added mid-May.
- **State Street Sidewalks**, between Columbia and Cass, **prep work starting Apr 11** with wider impacts starting Apr 18. For more project details: https://tinyurl.com/242eb8vs



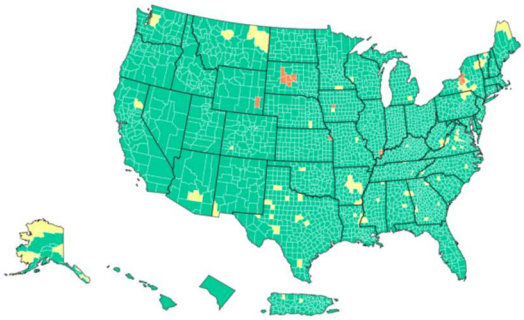
ADOPT-A-SPOT SEASON UNDERWAY!
Residents, businesses, and neighborhood groups volunteer their time to help maintain the City's pocket parks, squares, traffic islands, and other green spaces. Maintenance responsibilities range from weeding and mowing to litter control and planting, depending on your interests and the needs of the particular spot you adopt. Residents interested in participating can learn more here: https://tinyurl.com/7x8fc9xf

***FREE* FIRESTOP CONCEPTS, CODES & SYSTEMS TRAINING APR 27 FOR CONTRACTORS, DEVELOPERS, INSPECTORS, RESIDENTS** in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom from 9 am to 12 noon (check-in starts at 8 am). Advance registration is required. This training is presented by Wayne Barrow, a firestop contractor for 16 years, founder and president of VeriCon and author of three books on firestop inspection and quality control. He has trained more than 8000 building officials, architects, contractors and facilities personnel.

MARKET SQUARE DAY LOGO CONTEST!
Pro Portsmouth is producing the 45th Annual Market Square Day Festival and Road Race SAT JUN 11 and now invites the artists of the community to put their signature on the 2022 Logo design and message. Please incorporate the text 'Market Square Day 2022' as well as "A Pro Portsmouth Event or Produced by Pro Portsmouth" – into the design. **Deadline for entries: THURS APR 28. Send entries to:** Barbara Massar – Pro Portsmouth, Inc. – P.O. Box 967 – Portsmouth, NH 03802 (Email: bmassar@proportsmouth.org) For more information: https://tinyurl.com/mtwtwae9



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.**

CDC UPDATE ON OPTIONAL SECOND BOOSTER -- On March 30, 2022 The CDC updated their Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines to allow for a 2nd booster dose in certain persons:

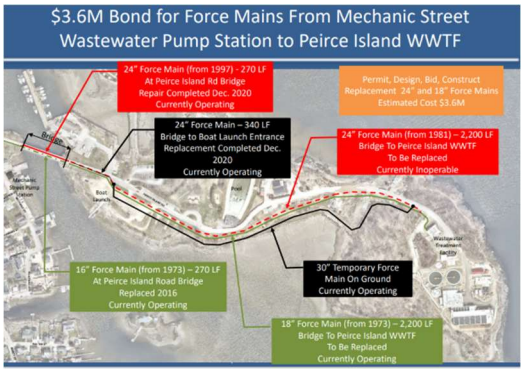
- Persons 12 years of age or older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may choose to receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster
- All persons 50 years of age or older (regardless of immunocompromised status) may choose to receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster
- Persons 18-49 years of age (regardless of immunocompromised status) who received the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for both their primary series and 1st booster may receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their Janssen booster



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.**



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.

COME WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! Current postings include: City Prosecutor who provides professional legal services to the City primarily as a Police Prosecutor with some civil/municipal work as assigned by the City Attorney. A candidate for this position must have a Juris Doctor Degree from an accredited law school, be admitted to the New Hampshire Bar Association.

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

To review all the job opportunities and benefits, click here.

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:

- **DAILY LIFE DURING COVID-19** -- https://tinyurl.com/m7936t6y
- **VACCINATION FAQs**, click here: https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7
- **TESTING FAQs,** click here: https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx
- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs,** click here

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