CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Wednesday, April 27, 2022

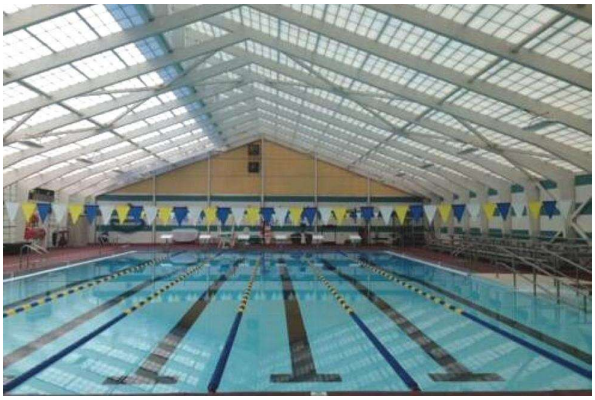
PORTSMOUTH STANDS WITH UKRAINE
There are many recognized relief agencies responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. You might consider one of these:
https://tinyurl.com/2mtsejuh

ARBOR DAY, FRI APR 29 TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT PEIRCE ISLAND AT 8 AM

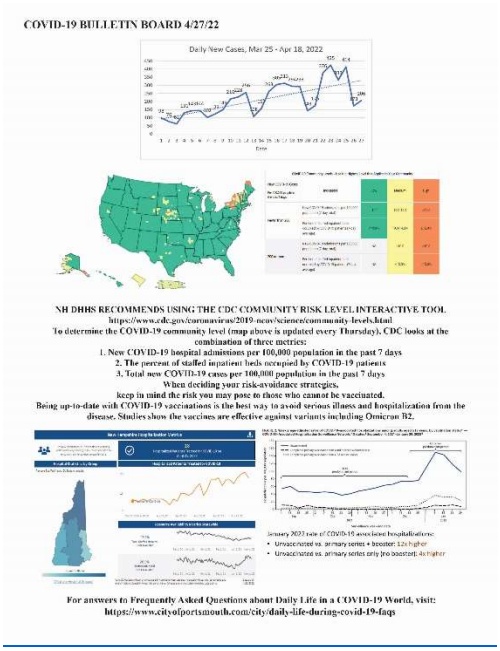
PARTICIPATE IN PORTSMOUTH HOUSING AUTHORITY (PHA) SURVEY -- The PHA and its affiliated 501(c)3 non-profit, PHA Housing Development Ltd., are seeking public participation in a Portsmouth Housing Needs Assessment. Please participate in this survey (which should take about 5 minutes). Deadline is May 6. Thank you for your assistance!
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/622LYNQ



TONIGHT! WED APR 27 SAGAMORE AVE. SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT MEETING AT 6:30 PM – To discuss next steps with residents in the project area. In-person in City Hall Conference Room A and via Zoom. To attend via Zoom, registration is required: https://tinyurl.com/34c3xf5n



TOMORROW: PORTSMOUTH INDOOR POOL WILL BE CLOSING AT 11:30 AM THURS APR 28 – Consider becoming a City lifeguard! For details and to apply, click here:
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work


COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD 4/27/22

Daily New Cases, Mar 25 - Apr 18, 2022

NH DHHS RECOMMENDS USING THE CDC COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL INTERACTIVE TOOL
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html
To determine the COVID-19 community level (map above is updated every Thursday), CDC looks at the combination of three metrics:
1. New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days
2. The percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients
3. Total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days
When deciding your risk-avoidance strategies,
keep in mind the risk you may pose to those who cannot be vaccinated.
Being up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations is the best way to avoid serious illness and hospitalization from the disease. Studies show the vaccines are effective against variants including Omicron B2.

January 2022 rate of COVID-19 associated hospitalizations:
- Unvaccinated vs. primary series + booster: 12x higher
- Unvaccinated vs. primary series only (no booster): 4x higher

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Daily Life in a COVID-19 World, visit:
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/daily-life-during-covid-19-faqs

REGIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD For a larger PDF: https://tinyurl.com/yc2wzzxr



WATER FORUM TUES MAY 3, 6-8 pm – In-person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. Presented by the Safe Water Advisory Group. The Water Forum is an interactive session using video tours, electronic polling and guest speakers to share information about how the City ensures the quality

and safety of its drinking water system and will cover topics including:

- History of Portsmouth's Drinking Water System
- Water Sources and Quality
- Contaminants of Concern
- Water Efficiency
- Planning for protecting City of Portsmouth water for the future

The public will also be able to participate in real-time polling and to ask questions of the City's Department of Public Works Water Division staff and members of the Safe Water Advisory Group.
For the Zoom registration:
https://tinyurl.com/5n9xb84p



REMINDER: FRI APR 29 IS LAST DAY TO REGISTER BEFORE DOG LICENSE DEADLINE 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

DANIEL STREET NOW OPEN TO SINGLE LANE OF TRAFFIC. BUSINESSES AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS REMAIN 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.

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. **If you experience discolored water, here's what to do: https://tinyurl.com/2p9d6aaf**



BRIDGE STREET LOT CLOSED THRU MID-MAY -- The work includes reconstruction of the paved area, handicapped accessibility upgrades, subsurface preparations that would allow for EV charging stations and landscaping.

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 --** These **18 restaurants** are approved for outdoor dining permits include: Cava, Tuscan Market, Jumpin' Jay's, Popovers, Press Room, La Carreta, Moxy, 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, work started Apr 18.** For more project details: https://tinyurl.com/242eb8vs

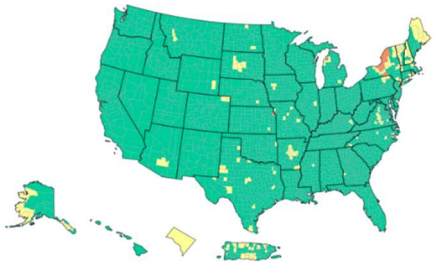


ADOPT-A-SPOT SEASON UNDERWAY!
Residents, businesses, and neighborhood groups volunteer their time to help maintain the City's pocket parks, squares, traffic islands, and other green spaces. Maintenance responsibilities range from weeding and mowing to litter control and planting, depending on your interests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



PRO PORTSMOUTH CHILDREN'S DAY RETURNS! SUN MAY 1, 12 noon to 4 pm!
Congratulations to Pro Portsmouth's 2022 Children's Day Logo Artist, Aidan Dargenio! For details: https://proportsmouth.org/events/childrens-day/

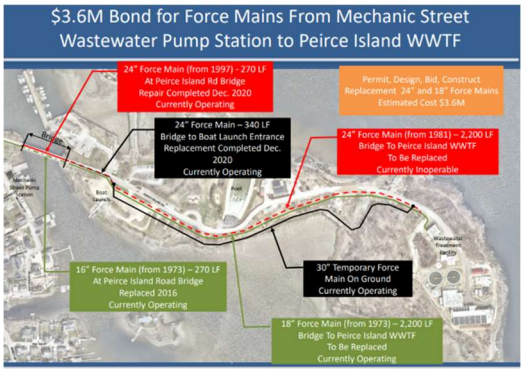
DEADLINE TOMORROW TO ENTER 45TH MARKET SQUARE DAY LOGO CONTEST!
Please incorporate the text 'Market Square Day 2022' as well as "A Pro Portsmouth Event" or "Produced by Pro Portsmouth" – into the design. **Send entries to:** Barbara Massar – Pro Portsmouth, Inc. – P.O. Box 967 – Portsmouth, NH 03802 (Email: bmassar@proportsmouth.org) For more information: https://tinyurl.com/mtwtwae9



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK – CDC recommends using its online tool -- COVID-19 Community Levels based on 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. **Second booster is recommended for those age 60+**
- 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



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.

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/2m463dne
- **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