CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Tuesday, May 31, 2022

FROM MAYOR MCEACHERN:

There really are no words to express the shock and sadness with which we receive the terrible news of the tragic death of Quarius Dunham, a 3rd grader from Little Harbor School.

Just last week we gathered in a vigil to remember the 19 children whose lives were cut short in Texas. We tried to imagine how those parents felt, how we would feel. Now that darkness has crept into Portsmouth and taken the life of one of one of our own.

Portsmouth stands with the family, friends and classmates in grief at this dark hour. Counseling is available through the schools. If you have trouble accessing assistance, please reach out directly to me.

Moms Demand Action Rally at Prescott Park and Lighting of Memorial Bridge SAT Jun 4 at 7:30 pm. The bridge will be lit in orange and organizers suggest participants "wear orange" for National Gun Violence Awareness Day/Wear Orange Weekend to honor the victims of gun violence.

CHANGES IN VOTERS' PARTY AFFILIATION MUST BE MADE BY END OF DAY TODAY, MAY 31 in order for the change to apply to voting in the 2022 State Primary Election on September 13, 2022. **The City Clerk's Office is open on Tues May 31 until 6 pm and the Board of Registrars will also be available in City Hall from 5:30 to 7:30 pm today to make changes.** Voters may change party affiliation with the City Clerk *except* between the first day of the filing period for the primary election and the date of the primary election itself. Therefore, during this year's Primary Election cycle, party affiliation changes will not be accepted between June 1 and September 13, 2022.



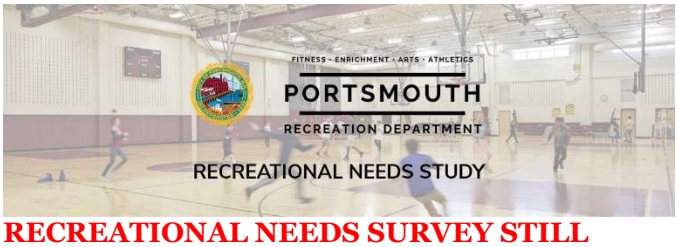
PORTSMOUTH CELEBRATES LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH IN JUNE! Go to the Mayor's LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation: https://tinyurl.com/2p853p9w The annual Seacoast OutRight Pride Parade takes place on Sat Jun 24, from 12 to 4 pm.

THURS JUN 2 AT 6:30 PM: CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION -- The full FY23 proposed budget document and accompanying interactive user guide are posted to the City website. **City Council Work Session takes place in Council Chambers and via Zoom. Go to the Agenda and Zoom registration.**



FREE COMMUNITY CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE FRI JUN 3 from 9:30 to 11 am.

REC DEPT NOW HIRING FOR SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS – Come work with the City and our kids! For details, go to: https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work



RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY STILL SEEKING YOUR INPUT! – The City's Recreation Department/Board are working to identify the types of community services, sports and facilities the City needs to meet the demands of residents today and

into the future. **Complete the survey and become part of the plan: https://tinyurl.com/bdfuzk7s** To learn more about the project and how you can participate, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/bdh2d6



45th MARKET SQUARE DAY AND ROAD RACE RETURN! SAT JUN 11, 9 am to 4 pm -- Streets closed due to the Festival will be posted with regard to parking restrictions. Any vehicles parked on the streets closed as part of the Festival will be towed at the owner's expense. These streets will be closed to on-the-street parking from 4 am through 6 pm on Market Square Day. Special parking rates for the **Foundry Garage: flat rate $3 between 6 am and 4 pm on Sat. Jun 4**. Hanover Garage – regular hourly rates apply. Metered parking is enforced on Market Square Day, from 9am – 8pm. For full details: https://proportsmouth.org/events/market-square-day/

CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE WARD 5 FORUM WED JUN 8 in City Hall Conference Room A. For the Meeting Notice: https://tinyurl.com/4k8nwawa

HANOVER GARAGE RENOVATION PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING THURS JUN 9 at 6:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Meeting Notice and Zoom registration: https://tinyurl.com/2p8h9st9

CONSTRUCTION WORK THIS WEEK:
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.

REVISED TRAFFIC PATTERN ON FLEET STREET-- ONE-WAY traffic from Congress to Hanover WITH RESTORED ACCESS to the Hanover garage from Hanover Street. Effective through Nov 27. All Fleet Street businesses are open and sidewalks are open to pedestrians.

EVERSOURCE MARKET STREET PROJECT SHIFTS TO LADD ST -- The project involves installing subsurface conduit to connect to transformers that are housed in the Hanover Street Garage to provide enhanced electrical power to that area of downtown. **Work hours are 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday**. After Memorial Day, **the work now shifts to Ladd Street and will limit traffic on High and Ladd Streets between Congress and Market Street**. Flaggers will be on-site throughout all phases of the work to aid vehicle and pedestrian travel and to assure access to all business. **The on-site project contacts are:** For Eversource: Nick Kosko, 603-842-0416; for the City of Portsmouth, DPW: Marc Batchelder, 603-498-8449. Go to Eversource Project: https://tinyurl.com/5b4srz26

PENHALLOW STREET –

- Severino will be continuing existing sidewalk brick repairs (impacted by the off-site utility work) along Penhallow St. and State St. While the brick sidewalk repair work is in progress, the sidewalks will be closed until it is safe to walk thru.
- Eversource will be **setting a new pole on Sheafe St. WED JUN 1** (weather dependent). Note: outside dining in front of Massimo's has started. Penhallow will remain open during construction and dining.
- Severino will be **setting granite curbing along Penhallow St and Daniel St. on WED JUN 1 and THURS Jun 2** (weather dependent).
- Masonry work, framing and exterior elements of the building continue as does work in the west alley and south alley, preparing for fountain foundations and hardscape. Sidewalk brick repair on Daniel Street continues. **DANIEL & PENHALLOW BUSINESSES ARE OPEN. Pedestrian access maintained.**

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT -- Impacting Sagamore Avenue, Shaw Road, Cliff Road and Walker Bungalow Road. Excavation work starts on Sagamore Ave., then continues to the other streets. Travel is limited, intermittently, to a single lane of alternating one-way travel, Mon-Fri between 7 am and 6 pm. Flaggers, signs, and portable traffic lights used to control traffic. Vehicles and pedestrians traveling on Sagamore Avenue should expect minor delays. Go to the Sagamore Ave. Project page for more information and to subscribe to regular communications about the project.

DODGE AVE/HARVARD ST./PRINCETON ST. (NEAR RTE 33 PARK 'N RIDE) – Reclamation and repaving project expected to take about two weeks.

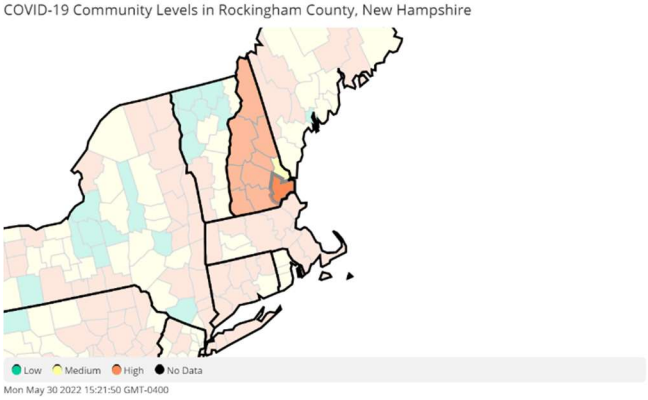
MARCY STREET-NEW CASTLE AVE GAS LINE REPLACEMENT – Unitil gas company is now working to replace the gas main, all the gas services

under the road and all of the main tie ins to the side streets (Pray, Partridge, Holmes, Walden and Humphreys). This work will take about three weeks. After that, Advanced Paving will return for the rebuilding and repaving project.

STATE STREET AREA – East Side - Albany Street to Dover Street, Columbia Street Area: Trimming driveways and paving preparation on Tues May 31. Paving on WED JUN 1 & THURS JUN 2 Miscellaneous cleanup work on FRI JUN 3. State Street: Miscellaneous cleanup work on Friday 6/3. **Possible detour on State Street to accommodate paving operations on Islington Street (6/1 and 6/2). Possible one-way alternating traffic on Islington Street as required to accommodate contractor operations.**



OUTDOOR DINING -- Planters are being filled with flowers by 13 members of the Portsmouth High School Eco-Club (Maddie Herrholz, pictured) with assistance from their advisory Kimberly McGlinchey and Jackie Nooney Landscaping, plus volunteers Gretchen Greene. Mary Ann Driscoll and Anne Weidman. These 38 restaurants are approved for outdoor dining permits include: 110 Grill, 250 Market, Black Trumpet, BRGR BAR, Cafe Espresso, Cava, Durbar Square, Dwyer's Pub, Elephantine Bakery, Fezziwig's Food & Fountain, Fresh House, Jumpin' Jay's Fish Café, Kaffee Vonsolln, La Caretta Portsmouth, Moxy, Popovers on the Square, Portsmouth Feed Company, Portsmouth Gas Light Co., Raleigh Wine Bar + Eatery, Ristorante Massimo, Rosa Restaurant, Row 34, Shalimar India, The Sol, Stroll Café, The Clipper Tavern, The District, The Franklin, The Goat, The Goods Market & Café, The Green Room, The Hammer Pub & Grille, The Portsmouth Brewery, The Press Room, Thirsty Moose Taphouse, TJs Food and Spirits, Toscana, Tuscan Market. Be sure to check first before visiting, as outdoor dining continues to be set up.



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK: ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LISTED AS "HIGH" -- 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 RECOMMENDS BOOSTER FOR CHILDREN 5-11 – Following FDA Emergency Use Authorization on May 17, t**he** CDC on May 19 recommended a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 5 to 11. Children in this age group who received their last dose at least five months earlier are eligible to receive the additional doses immediately.

CDC GUIDANCE 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 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 may choose to receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster. The **second booster is recommended for those age 60+**
- Persons 18-49 years of age who received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine for both their primary series and 1st booster may receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their J&J booster.

FDA LIMITS USE OF J&J VACCINE -- Due to the ongoing risk of rare but serious blood clots. The problem occurs in the first two weeks after vaccination. Under the new FDA instructions, J& J's vaccine could still be given to people who had a severe allergic reaction to one of the other vaccines and can't receive an additional dose. J& J's shot could also be

an option for people who refuse to receive the mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, and therefore would otherwise remain unvaccinated.

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 .

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 food 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).

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

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 link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par