CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Wednesday, May 4, 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

NATIONAL DRINKING WATER WEEK!



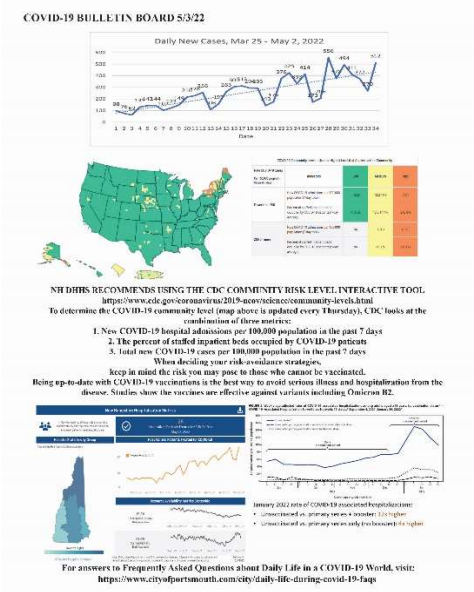
CITY MANAGER RELEASES PROPOSED FY23 BUDGET -- This budget document and accompanying interactive user guide are posted to the City website: https://tinyurl.com/4mpcrj2w This marks the start of the annual budget season schedule of presentations to the City Council and the public during the month of May. **New this year is an evening of Community Engagement Dialogues taking place simultaneously on Wednesday, May 19 at three locations dispersed among the city's neighborhoods: 5:30-6:30 pm at Portsmouth Middle School (155 Parrott Avenue); and 7-8 pm at the Senior Activity Center (125 Cottage Street) and Fire Station 2 (3014 Lafayette Road).** Members of the City Council and City management will be on hand to discuss the budget and respond to feedback from residents in an informal manner, designed to maximize input and share information. First Special City Council Meeting on the budget: Mon May 9 at 6:30 pm. Agenda and Zoom link.

FARMERS' MARKET OPENS AT CITY HALL ON SAT MAY 7, 8 AM – 1 PM! NEW GROWERS, NEW FACES AND A NEW JOB? – The seasonal Farmers' Market, now managed by Seacoast Eat Local, returns to the Upper Lot at City Hall. Come see what's new, **chat with City Manager Karen Conard and learn from the City's HR Director Kelly Harper about working with the City, from 8 to 10 am.**

PORTSMOUTH HOUSING

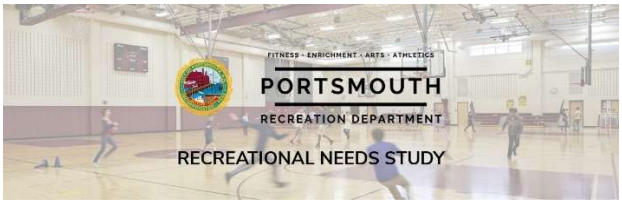
PARTICIPATE IN PORTSMOUTH HOUSING AUTHORITY (PHA) SURVEY -- The PHA and its affiliated 501(c)3 non-profit, PHA Housing Development Ltd., are seeking public participation in a Portsmouth Housing Needs Assessment. Please participate in this survey (which should take about 5 minutes). **Deadline is Fri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

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD EXERCISES MAY CONTINUED ON MAY 5 -- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is conducting an anti-terrorism/force protection exercise outside of the mouth of the Piscataqua River using marked Navy harbor patrol boats and Facility Response Team boats. The Navy harbor patrol boats conduct this training using blank ammunition with May 5 scheduled as a weather makeup day.



REGIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD – For PDF: https://tinyurl.com/m8dzhxva

SPRING SEMI-FORMAL FAMILY DINNER DANCE FRI MAY 20, 6-8 PM –Enjoy red carpet treatment at the Community Campus for a night of dancing, food, photos, and special family time. Residents: $15/ages 13+; $12/ages 6-12; Free/under 5. Non-Residents: $20/ages 13+; $17/ages 6-12; $5/under 5. **Must pre-register by May 16**. Call 603.427.1547 or go to https://tinyurl.com/yc2bm8n4



RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY UPDATE
The City of Portsmouth and the Recreation Department/Board are currently working on a study to determine the types of community services, sports and facilities the City needs to meet the demands of residents today and into the future. Become part of the plan! To learn more about the project and how you can participate, please visit the project website.

DANIEL STREET NOW OPEN TO SINGLE LANE OF TRAFFIC. BUSINESSES AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS REMAIN OPEN – Sidewalk work in connection with the 60 Penhallow Brick Market project will continue to limit traffic. Businesses and pedestrian access will be open throughout construction.

HYDRANT FLUSHING CONTINUES -- 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 WORK WRAPPING UP
The work includes reconstruction of the paved area, handicapped accessibility upgrades, subsurface preparations that would allow for EV charging stations and landscaping.

STATE STREET CLOSED between Columbia and Cass -- Possible water service interruptions – 72 hour advance notice. For more project details: https://tinyurl.com/242eb8vs

COMING UP: MARCY STREET BETWEEN SOUTH ST. AND NEW CASTLE AVE. – One-way, alternating traffic for road work and repaving on Pleasant Street between South St. and New Castle Ave., prep work May 9. Mechanized work starts Mon May 16, as crews begin removing the existing pavement and roadbed of Marcy St from New Castle Avenue to South St. Once Marcy Street's roadbed is replaced, crews will start working on the portion of New Castle Avenue from South St to Marcy St. as this area of New Castle Avenue is getting the pavement and roadbed replaced as well. Detours will be in place during working hours (7am-7pm) as some portions of the roads are insufficiently wide to maintain through traffic. To follow this project, subscribe to this email list.

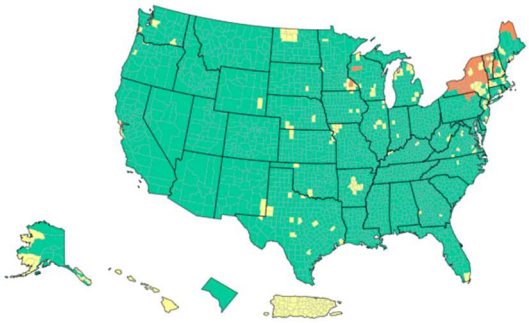
PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD WORK FOR SEWER FORCE MAINS PROJECT WRAPPING UP -- Work continues on the project to replace the force mains to the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. https://tinyurl.com/4urpjskz
That work requires closing Peirce Island Road, parking and trail access beyond the Outdoor Pool,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

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 **21 restaurants** are approved for outdoor dining permits include: BRGR Bar, Cava, Tuscan Market, Jumpin' Jay's, Popovers, Press Room, Kaffee VonSolln, La Carreta, Moxy, 110 Grill, Row 34, Portsmouth Brewery, Portsmouth Gaslight, 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.



ADOPT-A-SPOT SEASON UNDERWAY!
Volunteer 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



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.**

FREE COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC FRI MAY 6 AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHUCH (129 MILLER AVE.) 9 AM – 12 NOON-- Primary vaccinations and boosters, plus second booster for anyone aged 50+ who is 4 months from the first booster. All 3 vaccines will be available. Bring ID and vaccination card.

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

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 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 P400
HISTORY LIGHTS OUR WAY
1623 - 2023

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