CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Monday, June 27, 2022

Questions for City staff? Email hotline@cityofportsmouth.com **and your question will be referred to the appropriate City staff for reply.**

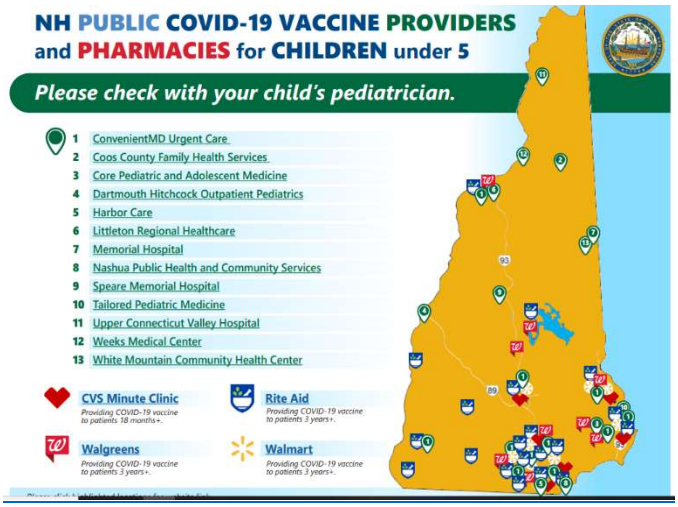
SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS – TONIGHT: UNION ST. MON JUN 27 at 6:30 pm. In person City Hall Conference Room A and via Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/bd9nwejf **WILLARD AVE. TUES JUN 28 at 6:30 pm.** In person City Hall Conference Room A and via Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/mvsuz4nb Go to the Project page to subscribe to email updates.

SOUTH STREET PAVING WORK:

- **TUES 5 AM JUN 28-- ISLINGTON-MIDDLE ROAD-PEVERLY HILL ROAD INTERSECTION PAVING.**
- **WED JUN 29 MIDDLE ROAD PAVING.**
- **THURS JUN 30 RESHAPING SOUTH STREET BETWEEN LAFAYETTE AND MILLER AVE.**

LANG ROAD - LONGFELLOW ROAD INTERSECTION CONSTRUCTION STARTS MON JUN 27 – Opening access to new traffic pattern to Route 1.

WETLAND CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TRAINING WED JUN 29 at 6:30 pm – In City Hall Council Chambers. A joint meeting of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. Training provided by Stephen C. Buckley, Legal Services Counsel for the NH Municipal Association and Sandy Crystal, formerly with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Free and open to the public.



VACCINES APPROVED FOR CHILDREN AGE 6 MOS – 4 YRS AND OLDER -- Go to **maps of locations offering vaccinations for children 6 mo-4 yrs and 5-11 years old.**

DPW JOINS COVD-19 WASTEWATER SAMPLING PROGRAM -- NH DHHS launched a program in May 2022 to regularly test wastewater levels at around two dozen of the 78 municipal wastewater treatment plants in New Hampshire. Portsmouth is one of those municipalities.Find the link to COVID-19 Sampling on the City website Wastewater & Sewer page. Each sampling report will be posted on this page.



COMMUNITY POWER INFORMATIONAL EVENT, WED JUN 29 at 7 on at 3S Artspace -- Join the Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee and Portsmouth Smart Growth for free a community event with Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) featuring**:**

- Henry P. Herndon, Consultant, CPCNH
- Julia Griffin, Town Manager, Town of Hanover, a CPCNH community
- Sam Evans-Brown, ED, Clean Energy NH

Go to event details & ticket information: https://tinyurl.com/mr24u9st
Go to the Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee webpage: https://tinyurl.com/44zmzun2

TRY MASTERS SWIMMING AT PORTSMOUTH INDOOR POOL IN JULY -- The Portsmouth Recreation Department with Great Bay Masters hosts **at two FREE workouts.** The USMS Try Masters Swimming initiative **welcomes anyone who can swim**! For more information, please contact Coach Crystie at GreatBayMastersSwimTeam@gmail.com



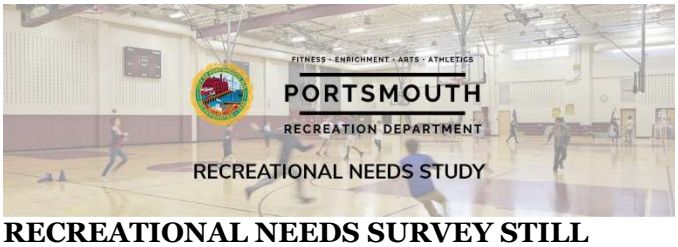
PORTSMOUTH NH 400 PHOTO CONTEST! The Submission Deadline is June 30, 2022. PNH400 is now accepting submissions from Portsmouth-based photographers so the calendar showcases the best local talent, professional and amateur. There are thirteen prizes – feature placement of the winners' images in the printed 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* .



FIREWORKS DETAILS FOR SUN JULY 3 The City of Portsmouth and Wilcox Industries are presenting the annual fireworks display on **Sunday, July 3, 2022 at the South Mill Pond across from the Portsmouth City Hall beginning at 9:15 pm**. The rain date is Tuesday, July 5th at the same time. This celebration is an alcohol-free, family-friendly event. **NO PARKING will be permitted starting at 12 noon on Sunday, July 3rd on these streets surrounding the area https://tinyurl.com/2p9467cd** in preparation for and during the fireworks display that evening. Limited handicapped parking will be available at the Public Library. **The Foundry Garage will charge a flat $3 fee on entry, and the Hanover Parking Garage will charge a flat $6 fee on entry, for parking during the hours of 4 pm and 9 pm on Sunday, July 3rd.** No dogs allowed during the event, per city ordinance, at Leary and Central Fields, South Playground and the Connie Bean Playground.



NOTE: DOG PARK ADJACENT TO LEARY FIELD WILL BE CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE WORK, SUN JUL 3 THRU FRI JUL 8 – The park will be off-limits as of 6 am Sun Jul 3 for fireworks set-up and will remain closed thru Fri.



RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY STILL SEEKING YOUR INPUT! – Complete the survey **by Jun 30** to be part of the plan: https://tinyurl.com/bdfuzk7s **To learn more about** the project, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/bdh2d6



WORTH LOT CONFIGURATION PILOT – This week the spaces next to the center island opposite the Novocure building will be reconfigured for angled parking and reserved for the tenant. Watch for signage.

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.

EVERSOURCE PROJECT WORK IN LADD ST -- Work hours are 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. The work limits traffic on High and Ladd Streets between Congress and Market Street. 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.

PENHALLOW STREET – Rescheduled setting of the Eversource electric pole at Sheafe St. this week, weather-permitting. PENHALLOW SIDEWALK SCAFFOLDING IN PLACE for copper installation. This "pass thru" scaffolding allows pedestrian access to the sidewalk. **DANIEL STREET SIDEWALK BRICK WORK TO BE COMPLETED FRI JUL 1. DANIEL & PENHALLOW BUSINESSES ARE OPEN. Pedestrian access maintained.**

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT -- Impacting Sagamore Avenue, Shaw Road, Cliff Road and Walker Bungalow Road. During construction travel on the streets will be limited, intermittently, to a single lane of alternating one-way travel Mon-Fri between 7 am and 6 pm. Go to the Sagamore Ave. Project page for more information.

MARCY STREET-NEW CASTLE AVE PAVING PROJECT RESUMES JULY 5.

HANOVER GARAGE SET UP WORK CONTINUES. CONSTRUCTION STARTS AFTER JULY 5 – Work will take place between 8 am and 4 pm, Mon-Fri. Partitions are being placed to reduce construction noise and dust. To stay informed about this project, subscribe to the weekly emails and submit comments and questions on the Hanover Garage Project page. https://tinyurl.com/5n85cuhv

SEASONAL TREE TRIMMING UNDERWAY
DPW will be working over the next several weeks to trim shrubs that are overhanging or extending into the public sidewalks and other public rights-of-way.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS AND PAYMENT HELP – On **Aug 1,** New Hampshire electric customers will see an increase in the supply portion of their bill, which will be more than double last August's supply rate. This significant rate increase is due to record-high natural gas prices and the global economy. Natural gas is the primary fuel for generating electricity in the region. Eversource offers the following suggestions for keeping costs down this summer and details on payment plans for those who need assistance.

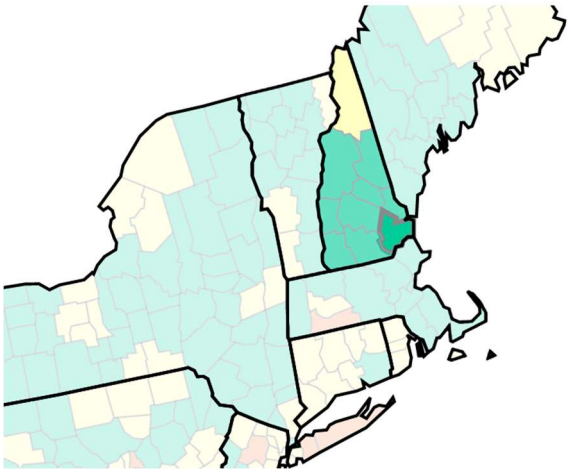
- Use the new Cooling Calculator on Eversource.com to understand how much electricity their current cooling system uses.
- Keep air conditioners set at or near 78 degrees For every degree higher on the thermostat, the air conditioner will use 1-3% less electricity.
- Keep air vents clear of obstructions such as furniture, curtains and rugs.
- Operate major appliances during the cooler parts of the day when there is less demand on the electric system.
- Using curtains, shades, and blinds can lower indoor temperatures by up to 20 degrees.
- Switch to ENERGY STAR® certified LED lights which run cooler and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lights.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise and at a higher speed in the summer.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR rating when purchasing new appliances including air conditioners. An oversized or undersized AC unit is less effective and uses more energy.

Help is available for customers who need it:

- **Budget Billing Plan** – to avoid seasonal spikes
- **Discount Rate – for c**ustomers who meet certain income guidelines
- **Flexible Payment Plans –** to pay past-due balances over a period of time and protect from service interruptions.

- **New Start –** Income-eligible customers can reduce or eliminate their enrolled, outstanding balance in as little as 12 months when they make on-time monthly payments and Eversource will make up the difference.

Regardless of financial need, customers are eligible for various payment programs and are urged to call Eversource at 844-273-7760 or visit Eversource.com/billhelp to find the right plan for them. To learn about the many energy saving programs available, visit Eversource.com.



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK: ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LISTED AS "LOW" -- 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.

CDC AUTHORTIZES VACCINES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 -- Following FDA review and Emergency Use Authorization, the CDC has released supplies of the new Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for children under 5. The NH DHHS is distributing the vaccines to authorized pediatricians' offices because:

1. Pediatricians have the best patient history for these children and have trusted relationships with their families.
2. Pediatricians have extensive experience with vaccinating small children.
3. The administration of the COVID-19 vaccine provides the opportunity to administer other childhood vaccines.
4. The pediatricians' offices are an appropriate medical environment for vaccination -- and immediately addressing any issues that arise.
5. NHDHHS will be apportioning its first supplies of the under 5 vaccines -- and the detailed instructions differentiating all the vaccines -- to the pediatricians who have signed up for their distribution network.

NHDHHS said on their Jun 9 Health Care Provider call that the state would start delivering vaccines on Jun 20 to the pediatricians who had ordered by 8 Jun, and would deliver Jun 23-29 to the pediatricians who ordered after Jun 8. SOME of the commercial pharmacies that have been participating in the Federal vaccine distribution network will receive the under 5 vaccines. But not all (CVS, Walmart, RiteAid) will have the same rules. WalMart, for example, will only vaccinate children in the 3-5 yr range. Check Vaccines.gov for more details.



ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD YOGA AT SUNSET JUL 26 FUNDRAISER FOR BACK TO SCHOOL BACK PACKS FOR CITY WELFACE DEPT -- Yoga-enthusiasts can attend Yoga @ Sunset on Tues Jul 26. 6:30 – 7:30 pm on the grounds of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion on Little Harbor Rd. or make a direct donation.

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 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

HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE -- In addition to the NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program, there is a program for NH homeowners who are struggling to pay their mortgage, property taxes and other home expenses, and utilities. For more information, go to: https://homehelpnh.org/homeowners

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