CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Wednesday, July 20, 2022

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



STAY COOL! PEIRCE ISLAND OUTDOOR POOL OPEN TONIGHT & TOMORROW TIL 6:15 PM – Go to daily schedule. https://tinyurl.com/4dykjz2d **And keep these cooling tips in mind.** https://tinyurl.com/bdz7pjjz

PROJECT COOLAIR -- Cooling assistance is available to those 60+ and anyone whose health is adversely affected by the heat. Often, those in need of air conditioning "do without" because they do not have the funds or know where to seek assistance. Through Project CoolAir, Area HomeCare makes air conditioners available to low income, medically-challenged and 60+ residents in Rockingham County. Make arrangements now rather than waiting for a critical need to develop. For more information, contact Ellen Tully at City Hall: 610-7267 or etully@cityofportsmouth.com

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.



HANOVER GARAGE SAFETY, DUST, NOISE PANEL PLACEMENT – Work will take place between 8 am and 5 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

HANOVER GARAGE FAQs:

Q. How do I get a parking pass for the Hanover Garage?

A. The number of Hanover passes has reached its cap, with fewer spaces available due to the construction. But passes are available for the Foundry Garage. Just check at the office of the parking clerk there.

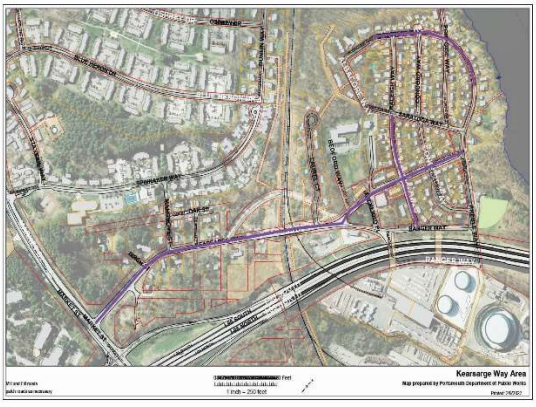
MIDDLE STREET SEWER COVER REPAIRS BETWEEN SUMMER ST. & RICHARDS AVE. THURS JUL 21– Expect delays.

BARTLETT-CATE INTERSECTION – Setting sidewalk curbing first thing THURS Jul 21, weather permitting.

SOUTH STREET SIDEWALK NEAR LITTLE HARBOR SCHOOL – Concrete will be poured on Thurs Jul 21.

MARCY STREET PAVING PROJECT – Completion of one side this week with switch to other side next week.

STATE ST. SIDEWALK PROJECT EXPECTED TO START WEEK OF JUL 25.



ATLANTIC HEIGHTS PAVING PROJECT STARTS MON JUL 25. Starting with Kearsarge Way. **No parking in work zones, Mon-Fri, 6 AM to 5 PM.** Expected to take about 3 weeks. Go to a larger PDF of the map. https://tinyurl.com/8fjuca77

LANG ROAD - LONGFELLOW ROAD INTERSECTION CONSTRUCTION – Milling at Longmeadow Rd. intersection preparatory to paving before opening access to new traffic pattern to Rte 1.

PENHALLOW STREET -- 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.



FREE GUIDED TOURS OF PRESCOTT PARK GARDENS EVERY FRIDAY, 11 am – 12 pm and 1-2 pm. Meet at the Liberty Pole entrance on Marcy Street. Led by the City interns who designed and planted the gardens.

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.

CHAMBER COLLABORATIVE streetlife! IS NOW SUMMER DETOUR, THURS AUG 4, 5-9 PM -- Celebrate the local business community at Jimmy's Jazz & Blue Club with a band, heavy appetizers, lighthearted fun and meaningful awards for members including Large Business, Small But MIGHTY Business, Volunteer of the Year; Collaborator of the Year and the live award for the evening: the Building a Better Community Award! Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/yvhutmd8

PORTSMOUTH NH 400 – BECOME AN OFFICIAL PROGRAM PARTNER! Organizations, groups and anymore planning a Portsmouth NH 400 celebration program, project or event is invited to submit information using the Program Partner Application. *https://tinyurl.com/mw5664bm **Listings for the 2023 commemorative print calendar being accepted thru Sep 29. Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate! For more details, visit**: https://www.PortsmouthNH400.org

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.

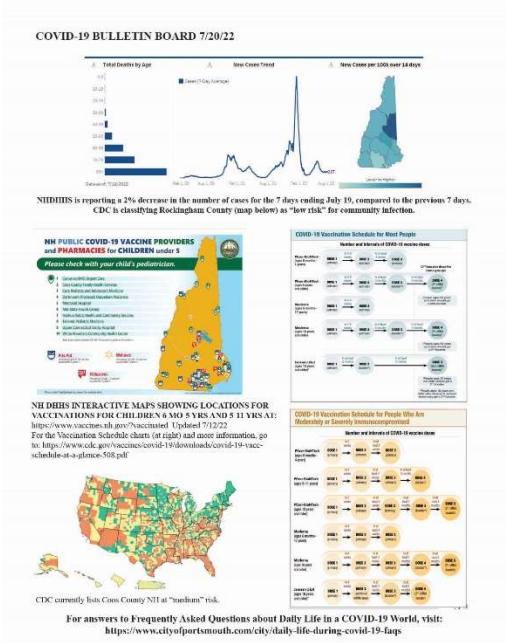
- Use the new Cooling Calculator on Eversource.com to understand how much electricity their current cooling system uses.
- Keep air conditioners set at or near 78 degrees For every degree higher on the thermostat, the air conditioner will use 1-3% less electricity.
- Keep air vents clear of obstructions 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:

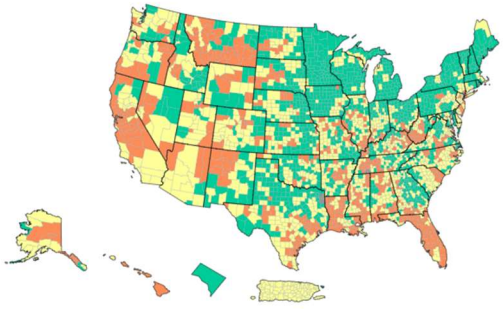
- **Budget Billing Plan** – to avoid seasonal spikes

- **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.



REGIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD – Go to a larger PDF. https://tinyurl.com/5n6nrf4u



VACATIONING? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WITH CDC TOOL FOR 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. Map as of June 22, 2022.



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.

INFO OPPORTUNITY AT ECO DAY AT PORTSMOUTH FARMERS MARKET SAT AUG 13 – Seacoast Eat Local plans to host a special "Eco Day" at the farmers' market on August 13th as an educational event for the public using space not filled by vendor stalls. If your organization (nothing that has a political affiliation) would like to participate, please contact Morgan Morani, Food Coordinator morgan@seacoasteatlocal.org

10TH ANNUAL SEACOAST VETERANS CONFERENCE SAT SEP 24, 8:30 AM TO 2:30 PM – Presented by and hosted at Service Credit Union located at 3003 Lafayette Road Portsmouth, NH. The day is dedicated to educating veterans on resources to better their health and well-being. To discuss VA Health Care Enrollment with a VA Benefits expert, bring your DD214.



COME WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! NOW HIRING CROSSING GUARDS FOR THE FALL -- Check out all the great job openings currently available.

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.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Homeowner Assistance Fund

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 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