CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Newsletter
Monday, August 15, 2022

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

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING: MON AUG 22 AT 7 PM.



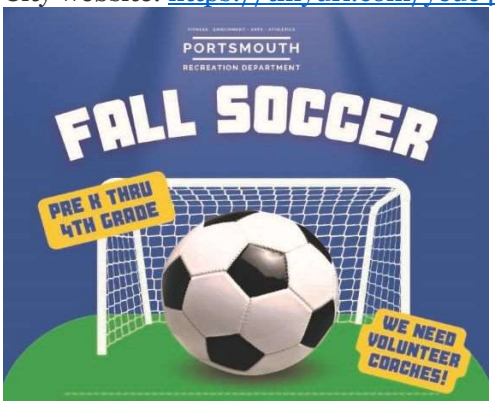
LISTER ACADEMY SEEKS PARTNERS
Lister Academy, a Portsmouth Public Schools alternative high school program, is seeking partners in the community for joint programs, tours of businesses, guest speakers and short-term internships for students. To learn more, contact Steve Krzyzanowski at Lister Academy skrzyzanowski@sau52.org



CITY ISSUES RFP FOR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN CONSULTANT – Seeking proposals from an experienced and qualified consultant to help the City create a Climate Action Plan to serve as the foundation for all climate adaptation projects and goals for the next 50 years. The plan will utilize the existing Coastal Resiliency Initiative along with new adaptation efforts to create systems to assist with benchmarking, policy evaluation, and progress tracking, and should integrate climate adaptation planning into the City's local planning and regulatory framework. Due by SEP 1 at 1 PM. Go to: http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/purchasing.htm Questions? Contact the Finance Dept at 603-610-7227.

AMERICANS for the ARTS
Inspire. Create. Succeed.

AFTA ARTS ECONOMY SURVEY UNDERWAY
Greater Portsmouth arts and culture organizations are urged to participate in the study so that the results are as comprehensive as possible. Audience members are encouraged to take the short (8 question) survey when asked. By surveying audiences across all the arts and culture organizations on the Seacoast, AFTA can produce both a total impact value and then also provide a specific customized economic impact value to each nonprofit. That information is invaluable when arts and culture organizations are fund-raising and applying for grants. **Arts and culture organizations not already participating in the survey, which continues through April 2023, should contact committee members** Renee Giffroy (rgiffroy@gmail.com) or Robin Albert (ralbert52@hotmail.com) or go to the details on the City website: https://tinyurl.com/yeuc4y8e



REC DEPT FALL SOCCER PROGRAM --
Register for instructional soccer leagues for boys and girls from preschool through fourth grade. All youth soccer games take place at the Recreation Field Athletic Field Complex on Campus Drive. Players receive a t-shirt, soccer socks and shin guards. The cost is $50 for residents and $70 for nonresidents. Thank you to league sponsor, Marshall Rental. **Registration NOW OPEN. For registration and more league/age group details go to:** https://tinyurl.com/34r6yxes
VOLUNTEER SOCCER COACHES NEEDED! Coach's clinic at the beginning of the season, and be given outlines of skills focus for the week.

PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE -- As of August 5, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire https://www.drought.gov/states/new-hampshire reported "severe drought" conditions around the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. While the drought report prompted other communities to put watering restrictions in place, **the City of Portsmouth and Pease Drinking Water Systems are not implementing any restrictions at this time but do ask water customers to be as efficient as possible when using our precious water resources. NOTE: Portsmouth Water System customers in RYE must comply with that town's watering restrictions.** City Water operations staff will continue to track and update conditions throughout the summer. For additional information visit: https://tinyurl.com/2p88pcu4

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.

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT – Road work continues to impact 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.

PENHALLOW STREET – Road closed between Daniel St. and Custom House Lane daily (M-F) for the week of Aug 15 and the week of Aug 22, from 7 am to 1 pm. DANIEL & PENHALLOW BUSINESSES ARE OPEN.

STATE STREET PROJECT – Prep work next week. Milling WED AUG 24 – FRI AUG 26.



HANOVER GARAGE PROJECT SCHEDULE – The contractor continues to install panels to reduce noise and dust. Column shoring work begins this week with masonry work expected in the first week of September. Work takes place between 8 am and 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Subscribe to the weekly emails and submit comments and questions on the Hanover Garage Project page. https://tinyurl.com/5n85cuhv

HANOVER GARAGE FAQs:
Q. Is there a **work schedule** for the project?
A. Yes. **For the latest update, go to construction schedule:** https://tinyurl.com/xwfbfn9w



ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE -- Collaborating again with the City Welfare Department to provide school supplies for children whose families are struggling to make ends meet. The goal is to raise a minimum of $2,000 by Aug 15 to purchase backpacks and school supplies for high school students who are often overlooked. Click here to make a donation of any amount and the Alliance will take care of the rest. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/367489389657
IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES Contact Ellen Tully at City Hall: 610-7267 or etully@cityofportsmouth.com

PAUL MCEACHERN REGATTA ON NORTH MILL POND AUG 28 AT 12 NOON – Join the community fun in anything that floats. Launching from the Paul McEachern Park on Mill Pond Way. If you've never visited the park, this is a great opportunity to do so!



LAST CHANCE! FREE GUIDED TOURS OF PRESCOTT PARK GARDENS FRI AUG 19, 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.

PNH400 RAFFLE SUPPORTS 2023 LITTLE ITALY CARNIVAL -- The Portsmouth NH 400th (PNH400) Community & Neighborhoods Team announces a raffle – happening now – to raise funds for the Little Italy Carnival they have planned for August 6, 2023 as part of the 400th Celebration. **Raffle tickets are now on sale to win a seven-course dinner for ten, with wine pairings, in the Private Dining Room at Ristorante Massimo**. Tickets are $100 each, now available at PortsmouthNH400.org. The deadline for purchase is 12 noon on SEP 29. Only 200 tickets will be sold and they are expected to sell out quickly. The winner will be announced on SEP 30 and the dinner (Sunday through Thursday only; holidays excluded) must be redeemed by DEC 31, 2022. To purchase raffle tickets go to: https://tinyurl.com/n42bnsdu

PORTSMOUTH NH 400 SEEKING STORIES FOR COMMEMORATIVE BOOK -- Portsmouth NH 400th, Inc. plans to bring the historical record compiled in 1973 for the City's 350th anniversary up-to-date in 2023 with a Commemorative Book, filling in the history of the past fifty years. The Portsmouth NH 400 committee is now collecting those accounts from everyone who would like to participate in the project. Short essays of 400 words or less are welcome. Anyone who wants to participate in the Commemorative Project should submit a story of 400 words or less, as a Word document or link, in an email to Stories.PNH400@gmail.com Submissions will be reviewed for accuracy and edited for length and content. The deadline is November 1, 2022.

BECOME AN OFFICIAL PNH400 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 supply rates increased to 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.

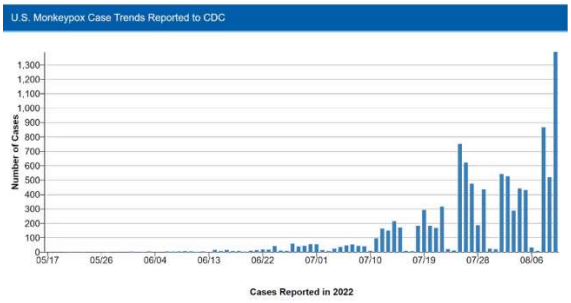
- Use the new Cooling Calculator on Eversource.com to understand how much electricity their current cooling system uses.
- Keep air conditioners set at or near 78 degrees For every degree higher on the thermostat, the air conditioner will use 1-3% less electricity.
- Keep air vents clear of obstructions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

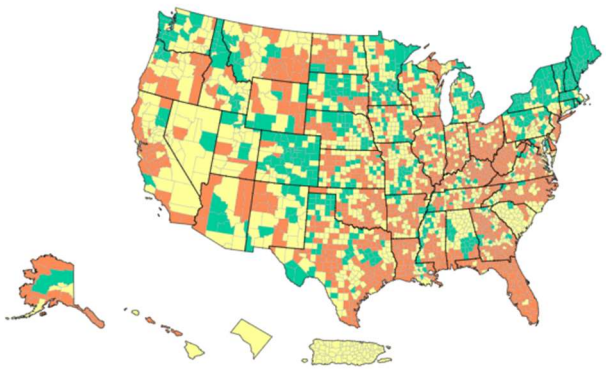
COME WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! NOW HIRING WATER/SEWER DIVISION TRUCK DRIVER -- Go to: https://tinyurl.com/bd8a8ybs

10TH ANNUAL SEACOAST VETERANS CONFERENCE SAT SEP 24, 8:30 AM TO 2:30 PM – At Service Credit Union, 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.

U.S. Epi Curve (# of Cases Reported by Day)



NHDHHS UPDATES MONKEYPOX INFORMATION -- While the CDC has elevated its concern about monkeypox to a national health emergency, there have been 15 cases of monkeypox reported in NH (7,510 confirmed in the US). NH DHHS says the state is prepared if the outbreak spreads, NH has received 327 doses of the vaccine and expects to receive 1,140 more does with the first of three shipments arriving soon. Right now vaccine is being allocated to persons with known exposure. When the additional doses arrive, the state can expand coverage to high-risk individuals before they are exposed. U.S. health officials on Aug 9 authorized a new strategy that would allow health professionals to vaccinate up to five people – instead of one – with each vial. The approach uses just a fraction of the typical amount of vaccine and administers it with an injection just under the skin rather than into deeper tissue. Recipients would still get two shots a month apart. The current outbreak is affecting primarily men ages 20 to 40 who identify as gay, bisexual or men having sex with men. NH DHHS website: https://tinyurl.com/4hydwaes Dartmouth Health hotline to answer general questions about monkeypox: 603.650.1818



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.

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