



City Newsletter: Monday, October 24, 2022

TONIGHT! CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 7 PM

– In person in Council Chambers and via Zoom. Go to Agenda and Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/4dd2nchk>

HIGH STREET ENTRANCE TO HANOVER GARAGE CLOSURE -- DELAYED TO TUES OCT 25 & WED OCT 26

– The entrance will be closed as a safety measure while the masonry contractor is placing cap stones above the entrance. **THURS OCT 27 FLEET STREET** will be affected for a few hours for concrete placement. **Noise expected from concrete sawcut and demolition thru Oct 26.** Work takes place between 8 am and 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Subscribe to the weekly emails and submit questions on the [Hanover Garage Project page](#). **For the current work schedule, go to [construction schedule](#).**



COAST BUS RESUMES AFTERNOON SERVICE ON ROUTE 1 & ROUTE 33 ROUTES -

- Specific bus runs that are resuming on Mon Oct 24, by route, are as follows:

- Route 1 – 2:30 p.m. NB, 2:55 p.m. SB, 4:30 p.m. NB, 4:55 p.m. SB, 6:30 p.m. NB, and 6:55 p.m. SB
- Route 33 – 1:30 p.m. OB, 1:59 p.m. IB, 3:30 p.m. OB, 3:59 p.m. IB, 5:30 p.m. OB, 5:59 p.m. IB, 7:30 p.m. OB, and 7:44 p.m. IB. The 4:30 p.m. OB and 4:59 p.m. IB runs will be suspended for now.
- Route 34 - 7:57 p.m. Route 34 OB run resumes.

Go to [additional COAST Bus information and details](#).

COVID-19 Booster Doses

The best way to protect yourself from COVID-19, including Omicron is to get vaccinated and boosted.

Who? Everyone ages 5 and older should get a booster.

When? At least 5 months after your second Pfizer or Moderna shot, or 2 months after Johnson & Johnson.

As of 5/19/2022

COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE CLINICS IN PORTSMOUTH TOMORROW & THURSDAY –

TUES OCT 25, MIDDLE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, 18 Court Steet, 9 am to 4 pm
THURS OCT 27, NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, 263 Peverly Hill Rd., 9 am to 4 pm. Free and open to the public. No appointment necessary. The clinic will offer the Pfizer and Moderna booster vaccines and will have limited quantities of the Pfizer and Moderna primary series vaccines. Please remember to bring your photo ID and your vaccination card (if you have one).

BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND

INDIVIDUALS – Call On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, at 603.826.6500 to make an appointment, or go to <https://www.on-sitemedservices.com/vaccine>

GO TO FAQs ON THE “FALL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE”

<https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7>



CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

WARD 1 FORUM WED OCT 26 at 6:30 pm. In-person at New Franklin School, 1 Franklin Drive. Go to the [Agenda](#).

PORTSMOUTH POLICE "BEARDS FOR BUCKS" RAISES FUNDS FOR ROCKINGHAM COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER -- To learn more and donate to the cause follow [this link](#).



VIRTUAL PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST VOTING! Finalists will be announced on Fri Oct 28 on the Recreation Department Facebook page.

PORTSMOUTH REC DEPT FALL FAMILY FUN FEST SAT OCT 29, 11 AM – 2 PM. Free at the Athletic Fields on Campus Drive.

PORTSMOUTH HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREATING HOURS – SUN OCT 30, 4-7 PM

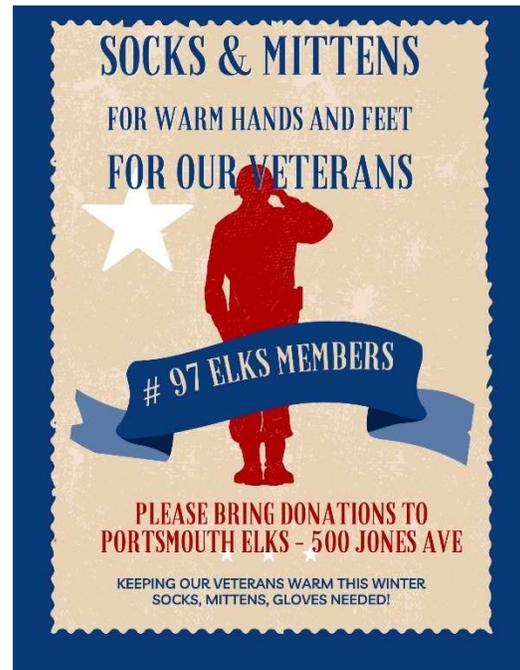
OCT 31 HALLOWEEN PARADE STREET CLOSURES AND PARKING BANS -- Go to [details](#). **FOUNDRY GARAGE PARKING, FLAT FEE \$3, FROM 5 TO 10 PM.**

ADVANCE NOTICE: MON OCT 31 – DOWNTOWN TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION BY 1 PM.

SAVE THE DATE! RECREATION NEEDS STUDY PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2, NOV 16, 6-8 PM AT COMMUNITY CAMPUS, 100 CAMPUS DRIVE – Get an update on the findings from community engagement efforts, data collection and analyses. Then, visit the gallery to help the City define recreational priorities for the next 10 years. **Print this flyer and bring it with you to be eligible to win a door prize:** <https://tinyurl.com/2spvkres>



WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! Latest opening is: Wastewater Treatment Operator. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/t2zxnxcw>



PORTSMOUTH ELKS #97 COLLECTS SOCKS & MITTENS FOR VETERANS -- Bring donations to Portsmouth Elks, 500 Jones Avenue.

VETERANS' BREAKFAST THURS NOV 10 AT SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTER, 10-11 AM– All veterans welcome to the free appreciation breakfast! 125 Cottage St. in the Assembly Hall. **Annual Veterans Day Wreath-Laying, FRI Nov 11 at 11 am in Goodwin Park.** Guest speaker NH National Guest Major General David J. Mikolaities. Portsmouth High School Clipper Band performs.

SEACOAST MANUFACTURERS' ROUNDTABLE WED NOV 9, 11:30 am – 1 pm at Great Bay Community College, 320 Corporate Dr., Portsmouth. A collaborative effort between Great Bay Community College, City of Portsmouth, and the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth to discuss and work on solutions to challenges facing local manufacturers. Representatives from local and state government, education and workforce leaders will participate in the roundtable alongside industry representatives. Free and includes lunch. Go to registration: <https://tinyurl.com/bdeyhbpz>



NH ELECTION TUES NOV 8 – NEW VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOV 1 -- New Portsmouth voters may register in advance, during regular business hours at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall (1 Junkins Avenue) through Nov 1. On that day, the City Clerk will be available to register new

voters until 4:30 pm. The Board of Registrars will also offer special hours for voter registration that evening, in the City Hall Lobby, from 6 to 7:30 pm. Same-day voter registration is also accepted at the polls on Election Day, November 8.

Polling hours for the NH Election on Tues Nov 8 are from 8 am to 7 pm. **Absentee ballots** for the NH Election are now available. Qualified registered voters may apply to receive an absentee ballot in person in the City Clerk's Office in City Hall or online, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhdkkxx> Once completed, Absentee Ballots must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall by 5 pm on Mon Nov 7, the day before the election.

Sample ballots by Ward:

<https://tinyurl.com/3veh62f6>

For additional information on voting, Absentee Ballot qualifications and polling place locations, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/3veh62f6> Or contact the City Clerk's Office at **(603) 610-7208** or via e-mail at cityclerk@cityofportsmouth.com.

NH SAVES BUTTONUP ENERGY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP AT PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY NOV 3, 6:30 PM

-- The Rye Energy Committee and the Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee (PEAC) are hosting this free workshop for area residents. The workshop is a 1.5 hour presentation for NH residents wishing to use energy more efficiently, conserve energy and save money on their heating and cooling bills. **In person in the Levenson Room** and via Zoom. Register in advance for the Zoom option at <https://tinyurl.com/479kb4v7>

CONSTRUCTION WORK THIS WEEK:

- **WOODBURY & GOSLING INTERSECTION LANE CLOSURE** -- One of the two left-turn lanes from Woodbury Ave.
- **STATE & UNION FINAL PAVING THURS OCT 27.**
- **STATE STREET SIDEWALKS PROJECT WORK CONTINUES THRU OCT** -- Those who park on the street should move their cars by 7 am or risk being towed. Sidewalk removal and replacement work is expected to take 6 weeks. **Work hours are Mon-Fri, 7 am to 5 pm with no parking in the marked work zone.** Construction from Columbia Street to 683 State Street (near Summer St). Work includes roadway repaving and sidewalk replacement using both brick and concrete.

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT PAVING THURS OCT 27 ON

WALKER BUNGALOW, SHAW & CLIFF RD. -

- 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.

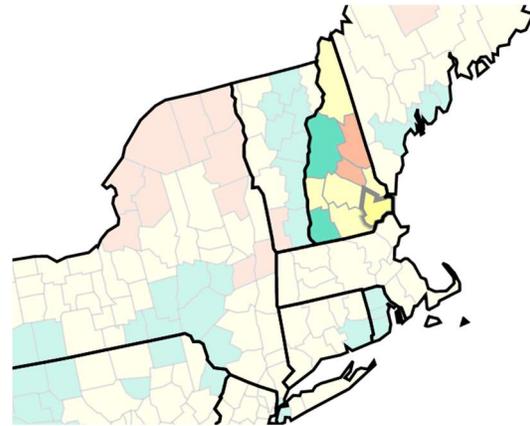
PEIRCE ISLAND TRAIL FENCE WORK

COMPLETED -- Peirce Island Trails network now extends around the treatment plant.



ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD "SHARE THE WARMTH" HAT & MITTEN DRIVE FOR GATHER FAMILIES

-- The [Alliance for Greater Good](#) is collaborating again with [Gather](#), the community nonprofit fighting hunger in the Seacoast, to collect NEW hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for adults and children. Alliance volunteers will distribute the collected items during Gather's Thanksgiving Food Distribution. **Drop off donations now through November 15** at the Senior Activity Center (125 Cottage Street) or the [YMCA of the Seacoast](#) (555 Peverly Hill Road), Click [here](#) to learn more.



TRAVELING? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WITH CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LISTED AS "MEDIUM RISK." CARROLL & BELKNAP ARE LISTED AS "HIGH" -- CDC recommends using its online COVID-19 tracker:

<https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba>

based on hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

COVID-19 BOOSTER SITES! Find locations offering the new booster by going to the **interactive map at vaccines.gov** NH DHHS advises that everyone over 12 who completed the primary series vaccination 3 months ago or more should receive the new bivalent boosters. By receiving the booster (and this year's flu vaccine) you may help blunt the expected winter surge and demand on healthcare providers. The boosters are based on clinical research with the BA.1 bivalent vaccine, conducted in humans and were found to provide increased protection against severe disease and broader protection against existing and anticipated variants.

PORTSMOUTH ARTS & NONPROFITS COMMITTEE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR NEW CULTURAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE – Go to details and link to application form:

<https://tinyurl.com/yk2tcz7w>

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: I'm not a Portsmouth resident, can I apply to be a part of the Cultural Plan committee?

A: Yes. When completing the application, where you're asked how long you've been a resident, please detail your connections to the city's arts & cultural community, i.e. business owner, work with arts/cultural nonprofit, etc.

Q: How long will the group meet to complete the Cultural Plan?

A: The committee will begin meeting this fall and complete the work by December 31, 2023.

Q: How often will the group meet?

A: The main Cultural Plan Committee will meet monthly, and possibly shift to more frequent meetings as needed.



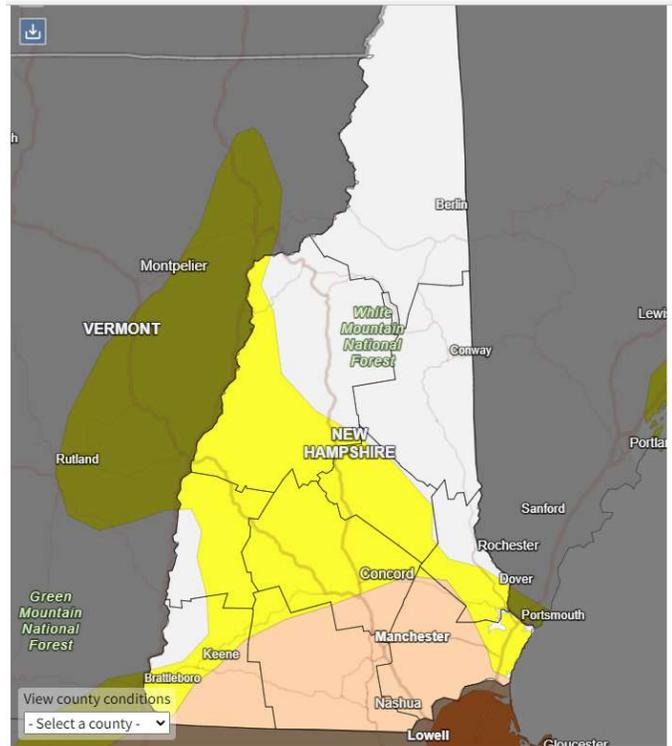
DEADLINE NOV 1 FOR "MEMORIES" FOR PORTSMOUTH NH 400 COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

-- 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.

2022 SEACOAST HALF-MARATHON BENEFITS PORTSMOUTH NH 400, VIRTUAL HALF MARATHON OPENED

OCT 22! IN-PERSON RACE IS OCT 30 -- Go to [Registration](#). Deadline for in-person is Oct 25. Deadline for virtual is Oct 29.

Go to [the latest news on plans for the Portsmouth NH 400th anniversary](#). Follow [@PortsmouthNH400](#) on social media.



PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE -- As of October 18, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire is reporting "abnormally dry" conditions

<https://www.drought.gov/states/new-hampshire> around the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. The **City of Portsmouth and Pease Drinking Water Systems** 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 continue to track and update conditions. For additional information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88pcu4>



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY SAT NOV 12, 8 AM-12 NOON -- At the Public Works facility at 680 Peverly

Hill Road. Residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington are encouraged to bring household chemicals for safe disposal between 8 am and 12 noon. Proof of residency is required. Household hazardous waste collection helps safely dispose of items that can harm residents' health, the environment and drinking water supplies. Go to [details on what is accepted and what is not](#).

CURBSIDE YARD WASTE/LEAVES PICKUP
Bagged leaves and other yard waste is collected by DPW through Nov 30 on the same day as your normal Solid Waste/trash. **PLEASE NOTE:** Use only paper or plastic biodegradable bags. If you opt to use the plastic bio-degradable bags, the bags must be factory-labeled "biodegradable." Yard waste bags, when placed curbside, shall not weigh more than 50 pounds each. **PLEASE DO NOT dispose of leaves or clippings in or near storm drains, drainage channels (where water drains rain or melting snow), wetlands or water bodies!** Check out what "Blue" has to say about yard waste: <https://tinyurl.com/25rww8r>

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH – HAVEN, our local safe space and victims' advocate reminds us that one in every 3 women and one in 4 men is abused in their lifetimes. HAVEN is NH's largest crisis center working to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking, and to support and empower women, men, youth and families to heal from abuse and rebuild their lives. HAVEN advocates are available for free and confidential support 24-hours a day at **1-603-994-SAFE (7233)**.

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE LOCAL CONTACTS -- Recent tragedies in Portsmouth prompt the City to remind everyone: If you need help, **please call or text the Suicide Hotline Number AT 1-833.710.6477 or reach out to nh988.com.** PLEASE NOTE that the new federal 988 system routes callers to the crisis center closest to their area code, not their physical location. So, if your phone is not an area code 603 number you should call the New Hampshire crisis center directly for immediate help.

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.

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER – Portsmouth Rotary is hosting its 51st Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, free on Thurs Nov 24. No sit-down dinner. Pickup 11 am – 12:30 pm at St. Nicholas Church. Call 603-205-0901 or email: rotarythanksgiving@gmail.com

STATE AID CREDIT ON ELECTRIC BILLS --
The NH Legislature has approved allocating \$35 million to NH residents earning from 60% to 75% of the state's median income (\$75,000 to \$93,000 per year for a family of four). Those who are eligible and apply will get \$200 credits on their electric bills and \$450 for heating assistance. Residents with incomes below that threshold already are also eligible for other funds. You must apply through one of these Community Action Program agency to receive the assistance. **Rockingham County**

- Derry ([603 965-3029](tel:6039653029)): (Derry toll free [1-855-295-4105](tel:18552954105))
- Salem ([603 893-9172](tel:6038939172)) (Salem toll free [1-800-939-9172](tel:18009399172))
- Portsmouth ([603 436-3896](tel:6034363896)) (Portsmouth toll free [1-800-639-3896](tel:18006393896))
- Seabrook ([603 474-3507](tel:6034743507)) (Seabrook toll free [1-800-979-3507](tel:18009793507))
- Raymond ([603 895-2303](tel:6038952303)) (Raymond toll free [1-800-974-2303](tel:18009742303))

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. **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.



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>

City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>

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 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>

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