

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Monday, November 14, 2022

TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 7 PM

-- In person in Council Chambers and via Zoom. Go to the Agenda and Zoom registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/p6wy25df>

WED NOV 16: RECREATION NEEDS STUDY PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2 AT 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>



MEMORIAL BRIDGE WILL BE LIT BLUE TONIGHT NOV 14 FOR [WORLD DIABETES DAY](#), AND PURPLE ON THURS NOV 17 FOR [PANCREATIC CANCER DAY](#).



PORTSMOUTH RECREATION DEPARTMENT SENIORS THANKSGIVING LUNCH & CRAFT FAIR THURS NOV 17 AT COMMUNITY CAMPUS – Craft Fair 10 am – 1:30 pm. Lunch seating begins at 10 am. Lunch served at 11:30 am. Reservations required for lunch. Portsmouth resident \$5/non-resident \$7. **RSVP 603-610-4433.**



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. **Drop off donations thru TUES NOV 15** at the Senior Activity Center (125 Cottage Street) or the [YMCA of the Seacoast](#) (555 Peverly Hill Road), Click [here](#) to learn more.



PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY COAT SWAP -- The Library invites you to "get in the holiday spirit by helping those in the community with a donation of your unneeded cold-weather clothing." **DONATE (drop off at the Library, 175 Parrott Ave.) between MON Nov 21 and WED Nov 23.** Anyone who would benefit, can stop by the Library between NOV 28 and JAN 7. Free and open to all.



MON NOV 21: PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP ON AMENDED CITY BUILDING AND FIRE CODES, at 2:30 PM, COMMUNITY CAMPUS -- In person and via Zoom. Go to the Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/2jaxwfs>

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL DEBATERS SWEEP NH DEBATE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT – Congratulations to the Portsmouth High School students and Team Coach Joe Kraus who won the

team and individual awards in the first tournament of the 2022-2023 debate season. Portsmouth hosted the thirty-eight students from Spaulding High School, St. Thomas Aquinas, Alverine High School and Portsmouth High School competed in the Public Forum Debates. Portsmouth winners included the team of Lexi Lambart and Hailey Venuto in first place, Anya Blake and Marlon Pinto in second place and Bahar Altinda and Nina Cummins in third. In addition, debaters were awarded individual speaker points across the four debate rounds with Pinto receiving the most points, followed by Venuto and Mariam Nada in third.

DEBATE TEAM VOLUNTEER JUDGES

NEEDED -- For every two competing debate teams, each school needs to provide a volunteer judge. As this was a home meet a number of Portsmouth locals donated their morning and afternoon to judge. No judging experience is required as there is new judge training prior to each tournament. The next tournament is Nov. 19 at Oyster River High School. If anyone is interested in assuring that all students who prepare to debate are able to compete in all four rounds, please contact PHS volunteer coordinator Steven Borne at steven@consumegov.com.

CONSTRUCTION WORK THIS WEEK:

HANOVER GARAGE Noise expected from concrete sawcut and demolition thru Nov 23 - 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](#). Go to current work schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3s2az7>

STATE STREET SIDEWALKS

PROJECT WORK CONTINUES --Those who park on the street should move their cars by 7 am or risk being towed. **Work hours are Mon-Fri, 7 am to 5 pm with no parking in the marked work zone.**

WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!

Latest opening is: [Housing Navigator](#) who will serve as a local coordinator of housing regulatory change and housing development activities. Thanks to a Federal grant, the Housing Navigator will work closely with the Director of Planning, the Land Use Committee, and professional service consultants to implement a two (2) year work plan focused on increasing the supply and diversity of affordable housing in Portsmouth.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (NHSCA) COMMUNITY SURVEY

NHSCA is in the midst of a strategic planning process and is conducting a Community Survey to gauge public opinion. Deadline is FRI DEC 2. Go to: <https://bit.ly/nhscasurvey>

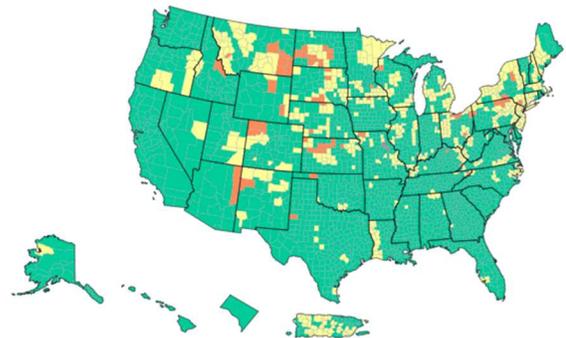


PORTSMOUTH DPW WASTEWATER SAMPLING FOR COVID-19

-- The City continues to receive weekly reports on samples from the Pease and Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facilities. **New updates posted** on the [COVID-19 Sampling page](#) on the City website.

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 5 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.



TRAVELING FOR THE HOLIDAYS? CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK.

ROCKINGHAM, STRAFFORD, CHESHIRE, SULLIVAN, GRAFTON AND COOS COUNTIES LISTED AS "LOW RISK." ALL OTHERS AS "MEDIUM RISK" -- CDC recommends using its **online COVID-19 tracker:**

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

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/4smxnj7>



PNH400 COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOODS TEAM ANNOUNCES BRGR BAR RAFFLE –

Here's your chance to win one of THREE \$500 gift cards! Fundraiser for the Little Italy Carnival August 6, 2023. Only 300 tickets are being sold. A \$500 gift card winner will be selected for each 100 tickets sold. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/mypkmu>

“MEMORIES” FOR PORTSMOUTH NH 400 COMMEMORATIVE BOOK DEADLINE

EXTENDED TO DEC 31 -- 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.

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THE MARITIME-THEME SCULPTURE GARDEN AS A PNH400 LEGACY PROJECT? – Go to more details: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8nkmf8>

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

PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE -- As of November 8, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire had reduced the limits of the “abnormally dry” conditions area

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

CURBSIDE YARD WASTE/LEAVES PICKUP

Bagged leaves and other yard waste are collected by DPW through Nov 30 on the same day as your normal Solid Waste/trash.

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!

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, Thurs, 12 noon to 1 pm dine inside. 12:30 pm for bag lunch pickup in the St. John's parking lot (100 Chapel St.).

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: (Derry toll free 1-855-295-4105)
- Salem (603) 893-9172 (Salem toll free 1-800-939-9172)
- Portsmouth (603) 436-3896 (Portsmouth toll free 1-800-639-3896)
- Seabrook (603) 474-3507 (Seabrook toll free 1-800-979-3507)
- Raymond (603) 895-2303 (Raymond toll free 1-800-974-2303)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS AND PAYMENT HELP – On Aug 1, New Hampshire electric supply rates increased to more than double last August's supply rate due to record-high natural gas prices and the global economy. **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>

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