

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

TONIGHT: WED OCT 20: CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7 pm. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, [click here](#).

MUNICIPAL ELECTION DETAILS – Election Day Nov 2, 8 am to 7 pm -- For full details on polling places for each Ward (Portsmouth residents vote according to where they live), absentee ballots, voter registration deadlines, candidates for City Council, School Board, Police and Fire Commissions, sample ballots and more, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/5ndwzphe> **ABSENTEE BALLOTS** must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall by 5 pm on Mon Nov 1, 2021, the day before the election. For those obtaining an absentee ballot in person, **there are now 2 voting booths in the City Clerk's Office area** where voters can complete their ballots and return them on the spot.

WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! To review job postings and benefits, [click here](#). For example, one of the current job openings:

TOMORROW: THURS OCT 21 AT 7 PM KINGSTON TOWN HALL HEARING ON SOUND BARRIERS: NH DOT 10 YEAR PLAN & GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMISSION –The Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) is working on a 2023-2032 Draft Ten Year Plan which will impact the sound barrier requests in Portsmouth. Make your voice heard! After Oct 21, the next hearing hosted by Portsmouth's District 3 Executive Councilor Janet Stevens is scheduled for: **Mon Nov 1 at 7 pm at the Seashell Oceanfront Pavilion Room in Hampton (170 Ocean Blvd.)**. There will be an additional **ALL VIRTUAL GACIT hearing on Wed Nov 3 at 7 pm**. For more information on the Ten Year Plan, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/vzbjrfzy>



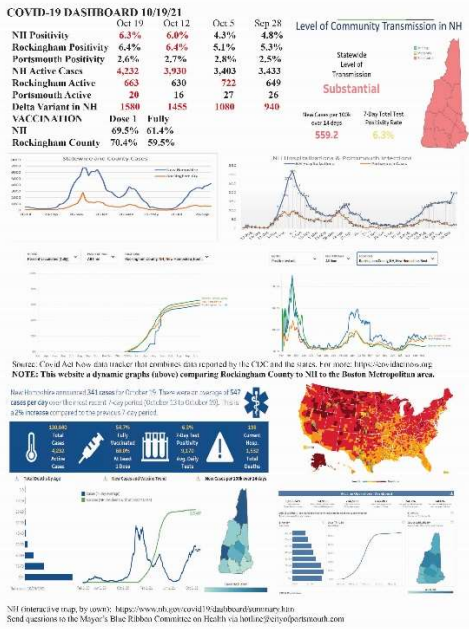
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY: SAT OCT 30, 8 am to 12 noon at the Recycling Center, 680 Peverly Hill Rd. For information about what materials are accepted, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2n2ff7ej>



CITY NAMES SHANTI WOLPH AS CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR -- The new Chief Building Inspector, Shanti Wolph will oversee an Inspections Department of six, and brings thirty years of experience in the construction industry to the post. He brings experience as an independent home inspector and as an independent contractor specializing in custom homes and light commercial buildings to the role. Wolph is an ICC Commercial Building Inspector, ICC Certified Residential Building Inspector and ICC Certified Residential Plumbing Inspector. Prior to joining the City of Portsmouth Inspection Department, Mr. Wolph worked for the City of Manchester NH and the City of Somersworth. Most recently he served the Towns of Stratham and Newton NH as Chief Building Inspector, Code Enforcement and Health Officer.



MOBILE VACCINE VAN IN MARKET SQ. SAT OCT 23, 2-4:30 PM – All three vaccines available, at no charge. No appointment needed!



VIRTUAL PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST, OCT 11-25! Residents are invited to show off their jack o'lantern masterpieces to win a prize from Pinz, Tuscan Market, Popovers, Kilwins or other local businesses. **To enter, simply review the contest rules, decorate a real pumpkin and submit a digital photo of the entry by 12 noon on Mon Oct 25.** Finalists will be announced on Tues, Oct 26 on the Rec Department Facebook page. Then, the public is invited to vote, up to 11:59 pm on Oct 28, to select winners from among the finalists. The winners will be announced by noon on Fri, Oct 29, 2021. For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/4k9vf6x2>



REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD – For a larger PDF, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/w3urpm3c>



REGISTRATION OPENS THIS WEEK FOR INDOOR POOL GREAT BAY MASTERS AND AMERICAN RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS
 The Recreation Department plans to reopen the Indoor Pool **on November 2, 2021 and has posted the pool schedule** (note that the first week, Nov 2-7, is slightly different than the schedule moving forward), click here: <https://tinyurl.com/6f9ux3wj>
 The Indoor Pool will not be open on weekends except for scheduled swim lessons on Saturday mornings. In preparation, registrations are NOW OPEN for residents for the Great Bay Masters adult swim group and American Red Cross Swim Lessons. Registration for non-residents will open in November. While the fall Indoor Pool schedule allows for many of the usual activities, swim lessons and team rentals will operate under COVID-19 restrictions until children under 12 can be vaccinated. The Recreation Department is working on more fall programming details which will be posted to their website when finalized. For more information, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor>



SCARECROWS ON THE PORT, APPEARING NOW, IN 46 LOCATIONS!



HYDRANT FLUSHING FOR NEXT FOUR WEEKS

-- The flushing takes place at various locations, Mon through Thurs, between 7 am and 11 pm. Flushing locations are indicated by the presence of DPW Water Division vehicles with flashing lights. The work starts on the outskirts of the city and then moves downtown as the weeks progress.

When flushing is occurring, the Water Division recommends that customers refrain from washing laundry to avoid potential discoloration of clothing. After flushing has occurred, customers can check their water clarity by running cold water to flush their plumbing systems. While flushing can result in discoloration in tap water, the water remains safe to drink. If the discoloration persists, customers should report the issue using the DPW Click 'n Fix system: <https://tinyurl.com/29h9f99c>



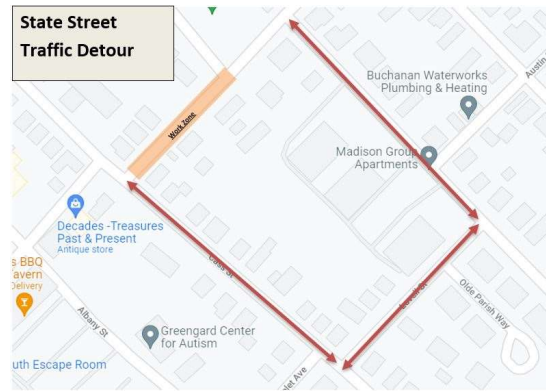
WINTERIZING PRESCOTT PARK GARDENS – The DPW Trees & Public Greenery Division will start cutting back perennials and pulling annuals from the Prescott Park gardens this week, in preparation for winter.

TUES OCT 26 PRESCOTT PARK GROUND SITE TESTING FOR MASTER PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE ONE – DPW plans to dig three five-foot, by five-foot, by five-foot “test pits” at Prescott Park, starting at 9 am, as part of the investigatory engineering required to implement the Prescott Park Master Plan. The work will be conducted in conjunction with a soils scientist designated by the project consultant Weston and Sampson Engineers and an archaeologist. The pits will be dug and filled in one work day.

DPW CONSTRUCTION

For more information on construction projects in the city, visit the DPW page on the City website, then click on the Projects tab for a dropdown menu that links to an individual page for each project with updates, project background and an opt-in email list. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks>



ISLINGTON STREET PROJECT DETOUR

– Columbia Street is closed to thru traffic (local traffic only) during working hours. State Street is also closed to thru traffic and vehicles will be detoured through Cass Street, Lovell Street, and Madison Street (see map, above). No water service interruptions expected. For more information and to subscribe to weekly updates, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/hb4wn9s>



95 MECHANIC STREET SEAWALL RECONSTRUCTION

– Install crushed stone base material for wall foundations. Haul out excavated soil material for disposal. Continue the demolition/excavation of existing seawall. **Installation of 18 steel H-beam piles. Construction noise will be loud at times.** For more information and to subscribe to email updates on the project, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/w48zy332>

BANFIELD ROAD – Speed tables for traffic calming installed this week. **Three-way stop signs being installed at Heritage Ave. and Constitution intersections.** Flaggers in the construction areas, on weekdays between 7 am and 5 pm.

DENNETT STREET CONSTRUCTION

Crews are working from Woodbury to Maplewood, raising manhole covers and replacing accessibility ramps in the sidewalk system. Concrete sidewalks being poured and final pavement overlay planned this week.

LITTLE HARBOR ROAD REPAVING STARTS

OCT 25 -- The start date is weather-permitting. The work will take several days as road crews grind down the existing surface and then put down a binder layer. The road will be accessible throughout, though travel will be limited to one lane, alternating traffic. Flaggers will be in place to direct traffic.



CITY PHASING OUT EASYPARK PROGRAM – ENDS DEC 31, 2021

-- EasyParkUSA has notified New Hampshire cities participating in its EasyPark program that the company has begun phasing out their on-dash devices. EasyParkUSA has already discontinued the sale of new devices, although existing customers will be able to continue to use their devices in any participating New Hampshire city, and use up any remaining balance on their accounts, until December 31, 2021. At that time, all accounts will be closed and no further service fees will be charged. EasyParkUSA will alert subscribers to the end of the program via their account emails. Instead of EasyPark, the City's Parking Division encourages subscribers to sign up for the ParkMobile smartphone app, that gives them more convenience and flexibility. Portsmouth EasyPark users who are residents may apply for the resident discount with ParkMobile. For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/t29zj2vk>

CHANGES TO 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).

ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN (EIDL) PROGRAM -- The SBA announced significant changes to the program to add flexibility and to increase the assistance that eligible businesses can apply for. **Applications now being reviewed.** For the necessary checklists and resources, [click here](#).

- Loans will be deferred for a total of 24 months from the loan origin and existing loans will be adjusted accordingly.
- EIDL loans can now be applied to payment and prepayment of commercial debt and regular payments on federal debt.
- The loan size caps may be increased from \$500,000 to \$2 million, beginning on October 8, 2021.

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE
24 hours a day



HAVEN
603.994.SAFE (7233)

- Support Groups
- Support at court, police stations, & hospitals
- Emergency Shelter
- Chat via havennh.org M-F 9-5
- Safety Planning

HAVENNH.org

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH #DVAM2021

-- 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:



KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE. PLEASE WEAR MASKS INDOORS IN PUBLIC SPACES.

Masks work. While the COVID-19 transmission rate remains “substantial” in Rockingham County, masks are strongly recommended in all City buildings to help protect our kids and community. Thank you for your assistance.

POST-VACCINATION FAQs – For the latest information on breakthrough infections and third doses of vaccine, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/uurbmrse>

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND – For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines were developed, tested and approved, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/3yhreymk>

PROOF-OF-VACCINATIONS: What should you do if you discover your vaccination is not recorded properly in the NH DHHS database? Or if you need more than your vaccination card because some travel destinations require the full record? Contact NHIIS (NH Immunization Information System) at 603-271-4028, by email at nhiis.support@dhhs.nh.gov or click here for the NH DHHS website <https://tinyurl.com/rva3tphc> for the immunization information system (NHIIS). On this site, select the correction forms for your PCP to verify your vaccine card, DOB, etc. You will need to get the form notarized and before sending it back to NHIIS. Once your record is corrected, you can request an official vaccine and immunization record. This record is the one that would be accepted when travelling if the vaccine card is not enough. For more answers to Frequently Asked Questions, [click here](#).

FOR A LIST OF WALK-IN VACCINATION OPTIONS at hospitals and local pharmacy same-day sites, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/kbvemrbk>

I LOST MY PROOF-OF-VACCINATION CARD. NOW WHAT? All vaccination records are kept on file in the CDC National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) system. NH DHHS advises that you can replace a lost vaccination card in either of two ways:

1. Download and complete the vaccination card replacement request form here: <https://tinyurl.com/4pj4chcz> Note that the

completed form MUST BE NOTARIZED before sending it back to NH DHHS.

2. If your healthcare provider has access to the NHIIS, ask him/her to print out the record directly from NHIIS.

For DHHS VACCINE FAQs, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/tkvaksnw>

For Testing FAQs click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/testing-faqs>

For Ventilation FAQs click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/ventilation-faqs>

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 QR code or link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>

