

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



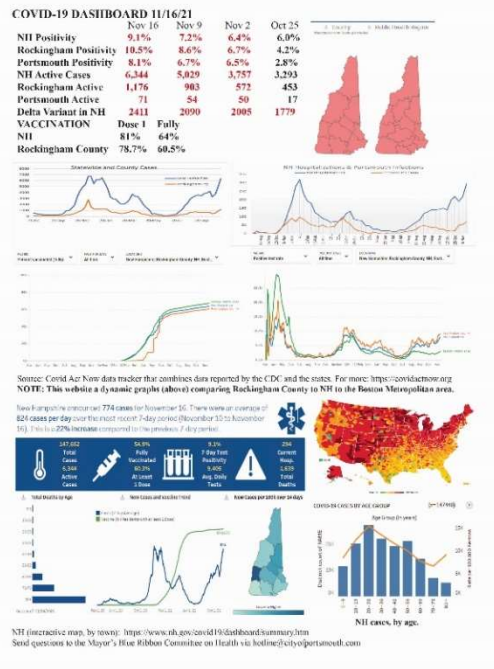
City Newsletter Wednesday, November 17, 2021

TONIGHT! CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON PFAS AND TURF ATHLETIC FIELD, 6:30 PM -- In person in City Hall Council Chambers or via Zoom. For the full City Council Meeting Agenda and Zoom registration, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/3vnx5fwh>

CITY SETS TAX RATE OF \$15.03 PER \$1000 OF ASSESSED VALUE – A reduction of 2% from the estimated tax rate proposed when the FY22 budget was approved. The reduction is thanks to a significant increase in revenue from the State in Rooms & Meals tax and other allocations. Based on assessed values, the median single-family home will pay \$7,203, compared to \$6,981 last year. Tax bills for the first half of the real estate tax due go out on Thursday. For more information, the tax calculator and payment options, including online, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/79yt56t8>



2021 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST! Mayor Becksted announced the return of last year's popular Holiday Lights Contest (76 entrants) and more valuable prizes. \$500 gift certificates to Lowe's, Home Depot and Ricci Lumber will be awarded to the winners of the Most Traditional, Most Creative and Kids' Choice categories. For full details and the registration form, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/urmkddbj> Register by Dec 10. Judging takes place between Dec 11 and 19, with winners announced at the City Council meeting Dec 20. Seacoast Media Group is the media sponsor.



REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD: For a larger PDF click here: <https://tinyurl.com/aurvbtrs>
Note: NH positivity 9.1%. Rockingham County 10.5%. Portsmouth 8.1%. The good news is that the vaccination rate for Rockingham County is up, to 78.7% with at least 1 dose of vaccination; but still lags behind the state: 60.5% vs. 64% fully vaccinated.

CITY NAMES BEVERLY MESA ZENDT AS DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Ms. Mesa Zendt brings 16 years of professional municipal planning experience to the post, most recently as Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Redmond in Washington state. She interned with the Dover Planning Department while earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration at UNH. She will start January 10. To read more about her, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/48jkwyf7>



SAFE WATER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING, MON NOV 22 AT 6:30 PM -- In person in City Hall Conference Room A or via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/p8fjkj77u>

29TH ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT AT THE CONNIE BEAN CENTER SAT NOV 20, 9 AM – 12 NOON – Free event for Boys/Girls in grades K-5. FREE but please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to local families in need. Children will be divided by grade and shoot basketball “FOWL” shots to try and win a big turkey for Thanksgiving! Grades K-1, 9-9:40 am. Grades 2-3, 9:45-10:25 am. Grades 4-5, 10:30-11 am. All participants will receive certificates and lollipops. For further information: Please call Portsmouth Recreation 603-427-1547.



FREE 50th Annual Portsmouth Rotary Thanksgiving Dinner, Thurs Nov 25, 11 am – 12:30 pm. Pick up or delivery only. Due to COVID-19, there is no sit down dinner. St. Nicholas Greek Church (40 Andrew Jarvis Dr., adjacent to Portsmouth High School) **MASKS REQUIRED.** The event is FREE and open to all individuals, children and families. **Call 603-205-1233 or email rotarythanksgiving@gmail.com**

WEEKLY FREE LUNCH REMINDERS:

- **Middle Street Baptist Church** – Seacoast Community Lunch serves brown bag takeout lunches from the parking lot of the church (18 Court St..) from 12 noon to 1 pm on Wednesdays. For more information call 603-436-2337 or email lunch@middle.st
- **St. John’s Church** -- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Common Table offers a bag lunch pickup in the St. John’s parking lot (100 Chapel St.) from 12 noon to 1 pm on Thursdays. Bathrooms are available to guests at this time.



REC DEPT COLLECTING FOR CROSS ROADS HOUSE WISH LIST – During the holiday season, Cross Roads House presents each adult resident with a gift bag (families are sponsored separately). Help fill these gift bags by donating items from the wish list. Drop off new Wish List donations at any Rec Dept facility by Dec 10. For the Wish List, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/ccd6r97p>

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION! CITY WEBSITE NOW ABLE TO ACCEPT TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO THE 5 PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS – To make a donation to any of the Portsmouth Community Scholarship Funds – open to all Portsmouth residents, not just Portsmouth High School students -- through the secure donation portal on the City website, **click on the “Make a Donation” button in the middle of the CityofPortsmouth.com homepage, or go directly to <https://tinyurl.com/zrw55zbw> and select the scholarship fund you wish to support.** For more information about the scholarships, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2xcze3ff>

WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! To review job postings and benefits, [click here.](#) For example, one of the current job openings is: **Parking & Transportation Engineer.** This person participates in division level management and administration of the DPW’s Parking and Transportation Division including assessing traffic flow, traffic safety, transportation and parking services, and working to improve operations, implement policies and procedures, direct work activities and supervise personnel. The City offers a generous compensation and benefits package that includes retirement, generous paid time off including vacation, holidays, medical & dental insurance, flexible spending account, professional development, career growth, longevity incentives, and more! For details and to apply, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work>

FREE COVID-19 TESTING SITE AT FOX RUN MALL IN NEWINGTON – Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 3 pm in the old Sears store You receive a personalized QR code when you register and can check your results in 48 hours.

CDC APPROVES PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-11. <https://tinyurl.com/5d29muh5> **For additional locations where this pediatric vaccine is available. [click here.](#)**



VACCINE CLINIC WED NOV 24 AT SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER, 8 AM–3 PM.

Enter through the back assembly hall door. **All vaccines available, at no charge, including Pfizer pediatric vaccine for 5-11 year-olds.** No appointment needed! Address is 125 Cottage Street. Primary Doses for Pfizer (2-doses), Moderna (2-doses), and J&J (1-dose). 3rd Doses for Pfizer and Moderna for persons who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and BOOSTER doses available. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. For more information, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/3bnsfw> **For boosters, be sure to bring your vaccination card and an ID.** Note: COAST Bus Trolley Route #40 stops at the Senior Activity Center.

BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS

– People who are homebound and need a booster shot, or their first round of vaccinations, can call On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, at [603-338-9292](tel:603-338-9292) or book an appointment online at the On-Site Medical website: <https://www.on-sitemedservices.com/>

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>

BIKE LANE BOLLARDS & BIKE RACKS BEING REMOVED– DPW is preparing the streets and sidewalks to facilitate snow removal. Metal picnic tables placed downtown last winter will remain.

ISLINGTON STREET PROJECT

Work this week includes: **East Side - Albany Street to Dover Street:** Sign installation, restoration of loam and seed areas, driveway and brick work; **Columbia Street Area:** Driveway work. Plus miscellaneous clean up in preparation for winter in all project areas. 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 – Concrete pouring this week. 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 and three-way stop signs at Heritage Ave. and Constitution intersections now installed.**

HYDRANT FLUSHING CONTINUES ONE MORE WEEK -- 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. 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>

REGISTER NOW FOR REC DEPARTMENT TRIP TO SEE BOSTON BALLET

NUTCRACKER NOV 26 – To register, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/wd7h6mzh> \$138 per person. Depart Senior Activity Center at 10:30 am and stop for lunch at Prince Pizza + Pasta. Travel in a coach bus complete with wifi and bathrooms. Attend 1:30 pm show. Return to Portsmouth, 6 pm. Reservations required: call 603-610-4433. Payment is expected at time of registration; cash, check, credit card. Price includes orchestra level ticket, transportation, lunch, tax + tip for both restaurant and bus driver. This trip is recommended for ages 12+ and the Boston Opera House requires all attendees to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test. The bus company requires, per Federal law, that masks be worn at all times on the bus.



CITY PHASING OUT EASYPARK PROGRAM – ENDS DEC 31, 2021 -- 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. 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/t29zj2yk>

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).



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>

