

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter Monday, November 29, 2021

**NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING MON DEC 6
at 7 pm. In-person in City Hall Council
Chambers and via Zoom.**



PORTSMOUTH NH 400, INC. REVEALS LOGO

The logo for the anniversary celebration that will be used to denote official events, projects, programs and merchandise was designed as a pro-bono donation by Darci Creative of Portsmouth, with input from the Portsmouth NH 400 Executive Team and Task Force Management Team. The logo incorporates the dates 1623-2023 and the words "Portsmouth NH" -- to differentiate the city from many other "Portsmouths" in the US and England. The contemporary typeface is presented in strong shades of blue, reflecting the ocean. The design element that immediately identifies the logo as Portsmouth NH is the silhouette of a lighthouse – Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, specifically – as Portsmouth is surrounded by three lighthouses that welcome residents returning home, and visitors from around the globe, to Portsmouth NH. The Portsmouth NH 400, Inc. Executive Team has also received confirmation of its incorporation from the NH Secretary of State. With Giving Tuesday coming up on November 30 – a day dedicated to making tax-deductible donations to non-profits as the tax year nears its end -- the Team reminds the community they can make tax-deductible donations directly through the City's secure online payment portal by clicking on the "Donate Now!" button at: <https://www.PortsmouthNH400.org>

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://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/2021-holiday-lights-contest> 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.



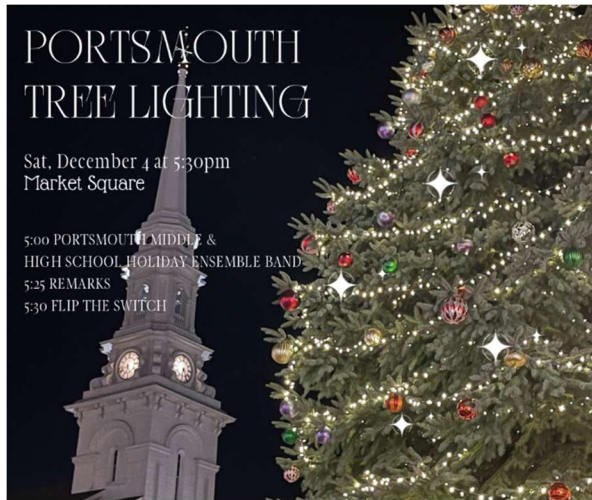
**PORTSMOUTH'S HOLIDAY TREE DONATED
BY THE RESIDENTS OF OSPREY LANDING --
a 35-foot Colorado Spruce.**



**PORTSMOUTH ROTARY CHRISTMAS TREE
SALE ONGOING –** At 775 Lafayette Road. Buy your tree and 2021 ornament from Portsmouth Rotary Club, with all proceeds going back to the community. Hours: Fri- Sun 11am to 8pm; Mon-Thurs 12pm to 6pm. To order online, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yckwu6k6>

**HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING & ILLUMINATED
HOLIDAY PARADE SAT DEC 4** (rain/snow date Sun Dec 5). For all the details, [click here](#).

HOLIDAY PARADE ROUTE ROAD CLOSURES AND PARKING LIMITS ANNOUNCED: Parking limits in effect 3 pm to 8 pm on Sat Dec 4 (Sun Dec 5 rain/snow date) and roads closed 4 pm to 8 pm for details, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/y46bkyke>



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>



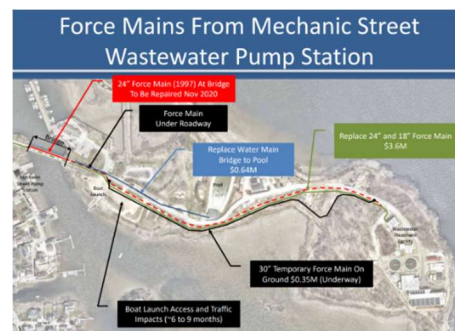
HOLIDAY FOOD TIPS FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT -- Whether you're bringing a special dish to a party, making homemade food gifts or preparing the holiday meal yourself, it's important to practice safe food handling to protect everyone from getting sick. These tips will help: <https://tinyurl.com/ue3nem46>

NHDOT GACIT MEETING ON 10-YEAR PLAN AND SOUND BARRIERS RESCHEDULED TO DEC 8 -- The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) has cancelled the meeting planned for Monday, November 22, and rescheduled for Wednesday, December 8 at the Department of Transportation, Room 114, 7 Hazen Drive, in Concord, NH. The meeting will begin at whichever is later - 2:30 pm or one hour after the completion of the separate and unrelated Governor and Executive Council meeting scheduled earlier in the day.



DPW CONSTRUCTION – For more information 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>

CITY WELFARE OFFICE COLLECTING GIFT CARDS FOR OLDER KIDS -- Each year, the City Welfare Office collects donations of gift cards for families who have older kids who are not typically served by other holiday gift programs. Local agencies do a wonderful job here in Portsmouth, but teenagers are historically a difficult population to serve. Help close that gap by donating gift cards in small denominations for things like movie tickets, coffee houses, retailers like Old Navy, Gamestop, Kohl's or the Mall at Fox Run. Please contact Ellen Tully, 610-7267, etully@cityofportsmouth.com. Thank you!



PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD – WORK ON SEWER FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT STARTS MON NOV 29 -- Construction and equipment on and adjacent to Peirce Island Road and on the Peirce Island Road Bridge will impede traffic, on an intermittent basis, on weekdays between 7 am and 6 pm, through June 2022. The project includes excavations from the bridge to the Peirce Island Waste Water Treatment Facility and work on the pipes suspended from the bridge. This work will limit travel to a single lane of alternating one-way traffic. Flaggers will control traffic and accommodate pedestrian travel, which will also be interrupted intermittently. Vehicles and pedestrians traveling to and from Peirce Island should expect minor delays.

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*: Landscaping. 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 – Installation of rebar and concrete footings and placement of large granite stones for permanent wall. For more information and to subscribe to email updates on the project, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/w48zy332>

BANFIELD ROAD – Placement of gravel on road shoulders this week. **Speed tables for traffic calming and three-way stop signs at Heritage Ave. and Constitution intersections now installed.**

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 on Dec 20, 2021.** For more information, the tax calculator and payment options, including online, [click here](#).

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** -- 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.

WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!

To review job postings and benefits, [click here](#). For example, one of the current job openings is: **Prosecutor**. This position provides professional legal services to the City primarily as a Police Prosecutor with some civil/municipal work as assigned by the City Attorney. 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 AT-HOME COVID-19 TEST KITS AVAILABLE TO NH RESIDENTS -- As of Nov 29, New Hampshire residents have access to the one million free at-home COVID-19 test kits. To order a free test kit click here: <https://sayyeshometest.org/>. An at-home test kit can be requested for each person in a household, meaning a family of four can request four kits.

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.

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/>



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.

RESTRICTED TRAVEL FROM SOUTH AFRICA

-- As of November 26, 2021 the US government has decided to suspend and restrict the entry into the United States, as immigrants and nonimmigrants, of noncitizens of the United States (“noncitizens”) who were physically present within the Republic of Botswana, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of South Africa, and the Republic of Zimbabwe during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States.

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>