

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter Monday, December 6, 2021

TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 7 pm. In-person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For Agenda and Zoom registration, [click here](#).



PORTSMOUTH "PURPLE HEART COMMUNITY" – Proclamation tonight recognizes Portsmouth citizens who have earned the Purple Heart. Recipients welcome.

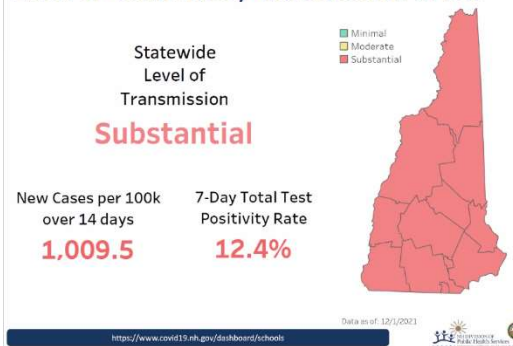


2021 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST! \$500 gift certificates to Lowe's, Home Depot and Ricci Lumber to the winners of the Most Traditional, Most Creative and Kids' Choice categories. For the registration form, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yt94kyva> **Register by Dec 10.** Judging takes place between Dec 11 and 19, with winners announced at the City Council meeting Dec 20. Seacoast Media Group is the media sponsor. Follow along on Facebook @portsmouthholiday.lightscontest.9 #PortsmouthHolidayLights

CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING WED DEC 8 AT 6:30 PM – In person in City Hall Conference Room A and via Zoom. For the agenda and Zoom registration, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p99rhzf>

CITY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SEASONAL PRESCOTT PARK DOCK LOTTERY NOW THRU JAN 7, 2022 -- City Clerk's Office accepting applications for the 2022 seasonal boat slips at the Prescott Park docks now through 1 pm on Fri Jan 7. For the application form, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2dfvua4> The 12 boat slips are awarded via a lottery system, with preference to Portsmouth residents first. If there are any remaining slips, a second lottery is held for non-residents. Notifications will be sent to successful applicants after the drawing on Mon Jan 10 at 9 am. Additional information about rates and policies can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxrarsj>

Level of Community Transmission in NH



OMICRON UPDATE -- COVID-19 community transmission is at a substantial level, with the number of new cases per day at the highest level ever over the entire course of the pandemic. The majority of cases are the result of the Delta variant; and the majority of those hospitalized are unvaccinated. For the latest CDC Health Alert Network notice about the new Omicron COVID-19 "variant of concern" [click here](#).

NH SOURCE FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS – While NH DHHS secures new supplies of the Say Yes to the Test kits, they are recommending the at-home PCR saliva tests available for NH residents from Vault Medical Services. To order a free kit, visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/>

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. Check your results within 48 hours.

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

BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND

INDIVIDUALS –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/>

NEW INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GUIDELINES FROM CDC REQUIRE NEGATIVE TEST 1 DAY BEFORE ENTERING US

– As before, people from other countries who are not fully vaccinated cannot travel to the U.S. NEW: People who are fully vaccinated can visit as long as they provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test within ONE day of traveling. For unvaccinated Americans, the guidelines already required proof of a negative test within one day of traveling. After travel, the CDC also suggests vaccinated travelers get tested three to five days after arriving in the U.S. and that unvaccinated travelers self-quarantine for a full seven days, even if they test negative during that timeframe. For details, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4jc6wnnt>

EVALUATING YOUR TRAVEL PLANS --

Courtney Niebrzydowski, an international travel risk analyst at the University of Denver urges people to ask themselves two primary questions when they consider traveling: 1. Can this travel be postponed? and 2. How flexible can you be? She also urges people to think through all the scenarios that could emerge if they travel — like testing positive, facing a canceled return flight or learning last minute that their destination country has expanded its quarantine requirement — and map out detailed contingency plans, including costs, missed obligations and how to approach health care. Be prepared.

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.



ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD SEEKS CARD-WRITING ELVES FOR SHARE THE JOY PROJECT

The Alliance for Greater Good again invites community members to write personalized holiday cards to their elderly neighbors who are isolated. The Alliance is partnering with the Edgewood Centre, Wentworth Senior Living, Webster at Rye and Benchmark at Rye long-term care centers to give cards to their residents. If other Seacoast area facilities are interested in participating, please contact the Alliance. **Once you register, the Alliance sends you the names of ten to twelve long-term card residents, along with instructions. Just complete the cards and return them by Dec 14. To register for "elf duty," please click here:**

<https://www.allianceforgreatergood.org/events>



CITY WELFARE OFFICE COLLECTING GIFT CARDS FOR OLDER KIDS

-- 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!

NHDOT GACIT MEETING ON 10-YEAR PLAN AND SOUND BARRIERS DEC 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 Executive Council meeting.



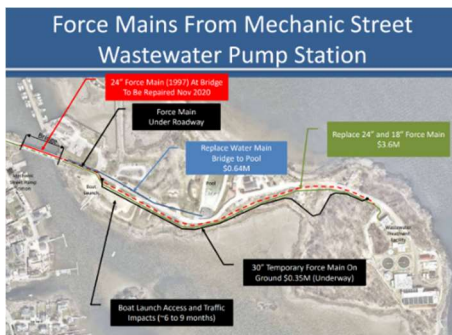
BARTLETT ST PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING THURS DEC 9 AT 6:30 PM – In-person in City Hall Conference Room A and via Zoom -- The City is preparing to reconstruct Bartlett Street in 2023. This meeting is intended to get public feedback regarding the future layout of the road and sidewalk system. Topics will include lane widths, parking, sidewalks and whether traffic calming is needed and if so, possible locations. The area includes Bartlett St from Ricci Lumber to Dennett, the section of Woodbury Ave from Morning Street to Bartlett and Morning Street itself. For the Zoom registration, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p99y3rn>

PREPARE FOR WINTER: SIGN UP FOR SNOW PARKING BAN ALERTS! For more information about how you can help road and sidewalk plowing, and how to sign up for voicemail, text or email notices when a snow parking ban is declared, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/2p87ua8p>

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>

TONIGHT! LAFAYETTE/MAPLE HAVEN NEIGHBORHOOD FLOW ASSESSMENT NIGHT WORK STARTING AT MIDNIGHT -- The work involves lifting manhole covers to measure the flow in the pipe between two manholes, and will progress through the neighborhoods, one street at a time, **between midnight and 6 am, starting Monday night, through Dec 10.** The work affects the following:

- Suzanne Drive
- Simonds Road
- Wallis Road
- Ocean Road
- Winchester Street
- Pamela Drive
- Denise Street
- Mariette Drive
- Nathaniel Drive
- Lafayette Road between Ocean Road and the Rye town line



The work area will be identified by large equipment with flashing lights, in the road; and will require a police detail on one night. Some delays should be expected for anyone using these streets during the testing times; but there will be no interruption to water or other utility services.

PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD – WORK ON SEWER FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT -- 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. Starting Dec 6.

ISLINGTON STREET PROJECT -- Work is now complete for the winter. For more information and to subscribe to weekly updates, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/hb4wn9s>



95 MECHANIC STREET SEAWALL RECONSTRUCTION – Tues Dec 7 and Thurs Dec 9: pour concrete for the retaining wall. All week: placement of granite blocks for the retaining wall and installation of steel sheet piles. Additional granite stones delivered, end of the week. For more information and to subscribe to email updates on the project, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/w48zy332>

NH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING AT PEIRCE ISLAND WWTF FRI DEC 10 – Public parking areas will have reduced capacity due to the meeting attendees.

BANFIELD ROAD – Speed tables for traffic calming and three-way stop signs at Heritage Ave. and Constitution intersections now installed.

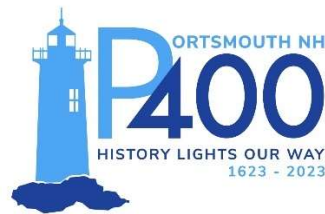
CITY SETS TAX RATE OF \$15.03 PER \$1000 OF ASSESSED VALUE – A reduction of 2% from the estimated tax rate proposed when the FY22 budget was approved. Based on assessed values, the median single-family home will pay \$7,203, compared to \$6,981 last year. **Tax bills for the first half of the real estate 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 brown bag takeout lunches from the parking lot (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: *Economic Development Manager* -- The Economic Development Manager serves as a member of the City’s Leadership Team and manages the City’s economic development efforts. This position will lead the effort to promote, assist, develop and advance economic development by identifying, encouraging, retaining and recruiting various industrial, manufacturing, commercial businesses and enterprises in the City. Consistent with the City’s Master Plan, goals set by the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and City Council goals and policy initiatives, the Economic Development Manager will work with the City Manager to prioritize and implement key economic development initiatives.

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>



PORTSMOUTH NH 400 – Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate! For more details, visit: <https://www.PortsouthNH400.org>



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. 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](#).

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>

