

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter

Monday, January 3, 2022

Masks required for staff and visitors in all City buildings.

TONIGHT! CITY COUNCIL INAUGURATION *outside* at the 9/11 Memorial at City Hall,

7 pm. Parking in the lower lot and across the street. The abbreviated ceremony will be filmed and posted to YouTube and Channel 22. For program, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/syzknpwx>

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Fire Commissioners Dickie Gamester and Jennifer Mosher-Matthes. Police Commissioners Kate Coyle and Buzz Scherr. School Board members Liz Barrett, Nancy Novelline Clayburgh, Brian French, Kerry Nolte and Lisa Rapaport. City Council members Andrew Bagley, Rich Blalock, Kate Cook, Josh Denton, Vince Lombardi, Beth Moreau, John Tabor, Assistant Mayor JoAnna Kelley and Mayor Deaglan McEachern.

NEXT STATEWIDE BOOSTER BLITZ, SAT JAN 8 -- Registration now open. Clinics in 14 locations on Sat Jan 8. Closest to Portsmouth are Exeter High School (1 Blue Hawk Dr.) and the daily vaccine clinic site in Rochester (Spaulding Commons, 306 N. Main). **APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED.** Register: <https://business.nh.gov/covidvaccineregistration/>

NH SOURCES FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS – To order a free kit, visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/> **“Say Yes to the Test” also has tests available** -- NH residents who did not order at-home test kits before can place a free, one-time order (with 4 tests to a kit) at: <https://sayyescovidhometest.org/>

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.

DAILY WALK-IN VACCINATION & BOOSTER CLINIC IN ROCHESTER: Spaulding Commons, 306 N. Main Street. Hours: 10am-7pm weekdays, 9-2 on Saturdays, closed on Sundays. For additional local pharmacies and 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/>

RECENTLY UPDATED:

- **TESTING FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx>
- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs**, [click here](#)
- **KIDS AND COVID FAQs**, [click here](#)



COAST BUS PILOTS FREE TRANSFER SYSTEM STARTING TODAY, JAN 3 -- Transfers are valid for immediate transfer to the next available bus on the desired route and should be requested when boarding their first bus. For a trip involving two different routes to get to a destination, the full cash fare will be cut in half, from \$3.00 to \$1.50. (Those who qualify for COAST's half-fare program and require two different routes will pay 75 cents instead of \$1.50.) Passengers who remain on a single vehicle to their destination will not need a transfer, including on routes that change number along the way (such as 12S, which continues as 13S to Portsmouth). COAST ADA paratransit passengers will also benefit from the six-month pilot. The fares charged for their equivalent two-legged trips will also be cut in half because of the free transfers offered on the fixed route buses. The goals of the new program are to make riding with COAST simpler, reduce costs for passengers traveling on multiple routes on COAST's system, and to encourage increased ridership overall. For more information, click here: <https://coastbus.org/upcomingservicechanges>



CITY CONDUCTING SURVEY ON FLEET STREET RECONSTRUCTION DESIGN OPTIONS -- The survey is open to the public. The weatherproof signs include sketches of the design options and a QR code that links to a page on the City website with more detailed drawings and the link to the online survey itself: <https://tinyurl.com/2jbywd5d> The survey is designed to determine which options City residents and project abutters prefer. For more information about the project, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mpnr92f6>

DPW IS ALSO CONDUCTING A SIDEWALK SURVEY AMONG PANNAWAY MANOR AND MAPLE HAVEN RESIDENTS – For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/242eb8vs>



BE PREPARED: SIGN UP FOR SNOW PARKING BAN ALERTS! For more information about how to sign up for text and/or email notices when a snow parking ban is declared, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p87ua8p> Snow Phone Hotline: 603.766.7669

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>

95 MECHANIC STREET SEAWALL RECONSTRUCTION – Truck out temporary sheet piles on Tues Jan 4. No parking zones will be posted

and there may be associated noise. Backfill excavation. Install granite cap stones. Remove barge by Jan 7. For more information and to subscribe to email updates on the project, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/w48zy332>

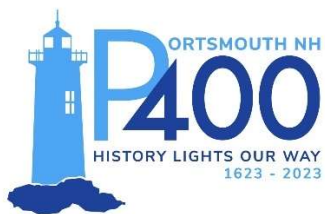


CITY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SEASONAL PRESCOTT PARK DOCK LOTTERY. DEADLINE FRI JAN 7, 2022 -- For the application form, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2dfvua4> The 12 boat slips are awarded via a lottery system, with preference to Portsmouth residents, first. Drawing Mon Jan 10 at 9 am. For more on rates and policies can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxrsrsj>

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 pickup in the St. John's parking lot (100 Chapel St.) Thurs, 12 noon to 1 pm.

WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!
To review job postings and benefits, [click here.](#)
For example, one of the current job openings is: Lifeguard – Train to Hire. Love to swim? Thought about being a lifeguard but couldn't find a class? Here's your opportunity to become a lifeguard and get a great job with the City of Portsmouth at the Portsmouth Indoor pool! Receive Red Cross Blended Learning Lifeguard Instruction and then once certified: a lifeguard will ensure the safety of patrons of an aquatic facility by preventing and responding to emergencies, assist in sanitizing procedures relating to the City's COVID-19 guidelines. As one of seven lifeguards on at a time, so teamwork and communication skills are important. 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.PortsmouthNH400.org>

CITY WEBSITE NOW ACCEPTS DONATIONS VIA VENMO & PAYPAL! Your secure portal for donations to the Community Scholarships, Skatepark Park, Portsmouth Public Library, Cemetery Preservation and Portsmouth NH 400 Celebration! You can also still make donations online by credit card and check.
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/pay-my-bill>

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, boosters and vaccine effectiveness against the Omicron variant, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/uurbmrse>

CDC REDUCES COVID-19 EXPOSURE ISOLATION TIME FROM 10 DAYS TO 5 – the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others. For more information, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p86edpa>

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/2ywc6ab>

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>