

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter

Monday, January 24, 2022

Public Health Directive on Face Coverings

now in effect: <https://tinyurl.com/yckthu46>

Masks are required for all indoor public spaces. For a PDF sign to post at your business, click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y98rmxj8>

KN95 & N95 MASKS FOR SENIORS – At the Senior Activity Center (125 Cottage St.), Mon-Fri, 9 am to 4 pm -- Limited supplies available, intended to tide people over until Federal supplies are available at local pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreen's at the end of this week. Both say they will be fully operational in February. Each person can receive up to 3 free masks. For an updated review of Mask Basics, click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/5yhb4xsn>

TONIGHT: City Council Meeting, Mon Jan 24 at 7 pm -- In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9efcsa>

TUES JAN 25, CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON FY23 BUDGET at 6:30 pm -- In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here:

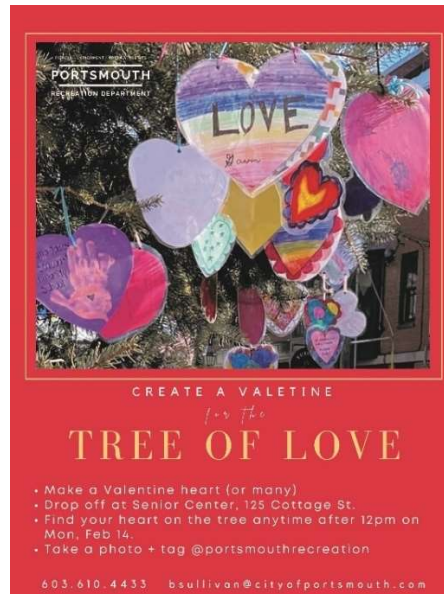
<https://tinyurl.com/332rwb2n>

CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING JAN 26 at 6:30 pm – Via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfkm9de>

SENIOR CENTER ART SHOW OPENING RECEPTION THURS JAN 27, 3-5 PM -- Display open to the public Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Winter 2022 Artists: Gerry Bresnahan, Pat Corlin, Mary Crump, Patricia Dateo, Jane Fithian, Joe Flaherty, Anita Freeman, Gary Gansburg, Carol Kuzminski, Janice Michienzi, Nancy Reiss, and Michael Sterling. Facebook Event details, [click here](#).



TREE OF LOVE RETURNS! Make a paper Valentine heart (or many). Drop off at the Senior Activity Center or City Hall by Thurs Feb 10. Find your Valentine on the holiday tree in Market Square anytime after 12 noon on Mon Feb 14. Take a photo and post with the tag #PortsmouthRecreation Design your own, or to download a heart template, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p89ubzj>

AARP TAX PREP ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH LIBRARY AND SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER – As the 2021 Tax Year filing period opens, the IRS is encouraging taxpayers to file electronically. They estimate that refunds on electronic filings without errors will be processed in 21 days, but caution the IRS still has a backlog of 6 million unprocessed returns.

FREE TEST KITS BY MAIL -- Order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the Federal government website: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> which also offers 'how to test' instructions.

NH SOURCES FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS – To order a free kit, visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/>
For a list provided by NH DHHS of FDA-Emergency Use Authorized at-home antigen test kits, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/ymzjbj2r>

A NOTE ON COMMERCIAL TESTING CHARGES – If a commercial urgent care center says that COVID tests are not going to be covered by insurance, NH DHHS advises that **patients may request the urgent care center submit a bill to the carrier under the code Z20.828**. This covers suspected exposure to viral communicable disease. Their advice is based on this CDC guidance: "If the provider documents 'suspected,' 'possible,' 'probable,' or 'inconclusive' COVID-19, do not assign code U07.1.

Assign a code(s) explaining the reason for encounter (such as fever) or Z20.828, Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases." **As of Jan 15, private health insurers are required to cover up to eight home COVID-19 tests per month for people on their plans.**

Under the new policy, Americans are able to either purchase home testing kits for free under their insurance or submit receipts for the tests for reimbursement, up to the monthly per-person limit.

FREE COVID-19 TESTING SITE AT FOX RUN MALL IN NEWINGTON—Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 3 pm in the parking lot behind the JC Penney store. 48-hour results. For other free testing center, click here:

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> including in Concord, 273 Loudon Rd. opposite Steeplegate Mall.

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:

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

FRIESE NAMED LIBRARY DIRECTOR AS OF MAR 1 – The City Manager is pleased to announce the promotion of Christine C. Friese to the position of Director of the Portsmouth Public Library, effective March 1, 2022. Christine joined the Library as Assistant Director in 2014, responsible for coordinating daily operations and administration, directing supervisors, and building and maintaining strong community partnerships through outreach to internal and external audiences. She brings a strong set of skills vital to effective library leadership, including experience in public and special (business) libraries at BMCP and Saint Gobain, as well as the Vermont Department of Libraries system. She holds a BA in Foreign Languages & Literature from Bennington College, an MA in Italian from The Ohio State University and an MS in Library & Information Science from the University of Illinois.

CITY PUBLISHES ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE AND POPULAR FINANCIAL REPORTS -- The new Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Popular Annual Financial Report for FY21 are now available online <https://tinyurl.com/4mpcrj2w> and is available in printed form at City Hall, the Public Library and the Senior Activity Center by the end of this week. Finance Director Judi Belanger notes that the best way to review the PAFR is online, because of the many links to additional information it provides. The Finance Department has also created a special "How to Use the PAFR Guide," also online: <https://tinyurl.com/bp8t2ysa>

KEEP PIPES FROM FREEZING – The DPW Water Division reminds customers that some customers who have installed new high-efficiency furnaces have discovered that basements and crawl spaces that used to get some area heat from the older heater are no longer heated. Check, and insulate if necessary. For more tips to keep your pipes from freezing, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2022-01/PipeFreezing.pdf>



DEADLINE JAN 31: 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>

DEADLINE ALSO JAN 31 FOR SIDEWALK SURVEY AMONG PANNAWAY MANOR AND MAPLE HAVEN RESIDENTS – For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/242eb8vs>



PORTSMOUTH NH 400 – Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate! For more details, visit: <https://www.PortsmouthNH400.org>

RECEIVE SNOW PARKING BAN ALERTS --

Sign up for text and/or email notices in advance, when a snow parking ban is declared, and when it is lifted. Click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8zrup7> Snow Phone Hotline: 603.766.7669

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.

GATHER COMMUNITY MARKET, FRIDAYS,

10 am – 1 pm – A FREE market for all. No paperwork. No ID. No one is ever turned away. Located at the NH National Guard building, 801 McGee Drive in Portsmouth.

WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!

To review job postings and benefits, [click here](#).

For example, one of the current job openings is: **Part-time Parking Enforcement Officer**.

Individuals in this position facilitate the efficient utilization of vehicular parking facilities and spaces, to assist in providing for the public's safety by maintaining vehicular and pedestrian sight distances and the related purposes of other parking regulations and to notify dispatch of potential requirements for other public safety services. 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>

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).



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>



POST-VACCINATION FAQs – For the latest information on breakthrough infections, boosters and vaccine effectiveness against the Omicron variant, 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/4pj4chez> 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>