

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter

Monday, April 4, 2022

PORTSMOUTH STANDS WITH UKRAINE

There are many recognized relief agencies responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Verify that your donations are going where you intend, as situations like this always produce scams. You might consider one of these: <https://tinyurl.com/2mtsejuh>

Questions about a City Department, program or issue? Suggestion? Email your comment to hotline@cityofportsmouth.com and you'll receive an immediate response, or we'll find the right person who can answer your question.

TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING ON POLICE FACILITY AT 7 PM -- In City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/p6x2tatn>



FREE & CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE 24-HRS A DAY



603.994.SAFE (7233)

- Support Groups
- Support at court, police stations, & hospitals
- Emergency Shelter
- Chat M-F 9-4 via HAVENNH.org
- Safety Planning

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH -- Every 68 seconds someone in America is sexually assaulted, and that every nine minutes, that victim is a child; that 41% of the most recent sexual assaults reported in the New Hampshire occurred when the victim was 18 or younger and 83% before they were 25; and one out of every six American women and one in 33 American men have been the

victim of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetimes. Here in Portsmouth, our social services agencies such as Haven and Operation Blessing, our hospitals and our Police Department, struggle daily trying to help the victims of sexual assault pick up the pieces. Confidential, local help is available, 24 hours a day, at the HAVEN Violence Prevention and Support Hotline: 603-994-SAFE.

CDC UPDATE ON OPTIONAL SECOND BOOSTER -- On March 30, 2022 The CDC updated their [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) to allow for a 2nd booster dose in certain persons:

- Persons 12 years of age or older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may choose to receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster
- All persons 50 years of age or older (regardless of immunocompromised status) may choose to receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster
- Persons 18-49 years of age (regardless of immunocompromised status) who received the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for both their primary series and 1st booster may receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their Janssen booster

DAILY LIFE DURING COVID-19 -- Updated answers to Frequently Asked Questions: <https://tinyurl.com/29f8x8jv>



BRIDGE STREET LOT UPGRADES APR 11 – MID-MAY -- The lot will be fenced off and closed during construction. The Bridge Street Lot work includes reconstruction of the paved area, handicapped accessibility upgrades, subsurface preparations that would allow for EV charging stations and landscaping.

DANIEL STREET CLOSED TO VEHICLES, TODAY THRU APR 22. BUSINESSES AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS OPEN -- Excavation for the [60 Penhallow Brick Market project](#) will continue

to limit traffic starting Apr 25 for sidewalk work. Businesses and pedestrian access will be open throughout construction.

SEASONAL ROAD IMPACTS -- For information about each of the seasonal DPW projects now underway, click on the drop down Projects menu on the DPW page on the City website. Projects include:

- **Street barriers for outdoor dining** are being prepared for placement in the next couple of weeks, as weather permits. Planters will be added mid-May.
- **Lang-Longmeadow Road** connector project is underway, with trees removed last week for the placement of erosion control measures.
- **State Street Sidewalks**, between Columbia and Cass, prep work starting Apr 11 with wider impacts starting Apr 18.



MARKET SQUARE DAY LOGO CONTEST!

Pro Portsmouth is producing the 45th Annual Market Square Day Festival and Road Race *SAT JUN 11* and now invites the artists of the community to put their signature on the 2022 Logo design and message. Please incorporate the text 'Market Square Day 2022' as well as "A Pro Portsmouth Event or Produced by Pro Portsmouth" – into the design. **Deadline for entries: THURS APR 28. Send entries to:** Barbara Massar – Pro Portsmouth, Inc. – P.O. Box 967 – Portsmouth, NH 03802 (Email: bmassar@proportsmouth.org) For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/mtwtwaeg>

HYDRANT FLUSHING STARTING APR 11

The flushing will take place at various locations, Monday through Thursday, between 7 am and 11 pm, for the next six weeks. The flushing program is critical for maintaining water quality throughout the distribution system by removing sediment buildup in both public and private hydrants in Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, Greenland and Newington. Crews open select fire hydrants, releasing water with enough velocity to carry sediment out of the pipes. Flushing locations are indicated by the presence of DPW Water Division vehicles with flashing lights.



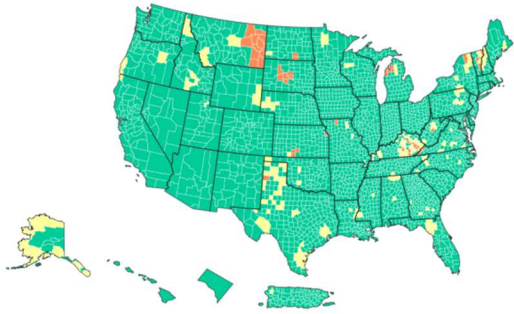
REC DEPT EASTER EGG HUNT SAT APR 9 AT LANGDON PARK (JUNKINS AVE) -- Free event for Preschoolers at 10:30 am and Grades K-2 at 11:30 am. Bring your own basket and find eggs hidden by our very own Easter Bunny! Photos with the Easter Bunny throughout the morning. Rain/snow date Saturday, April 16.

FREE FIRESTOP CONCEPTS, CODES & SYSTEMS TRAINING APR 27 FOR CONTRACTORS, DEVELOPERS, INSPECTORS, RESIDENTS

-- The session takes place in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom from 9 am to 12 noon (check-in starts at 8 am). [Advanced registration](#) is required. This training is presented by Wayne Barrow, a firestop contractor for 16 years and the founder and president of VeriCon. Barrow is author of three books on firestop inspection and quality control and has trained more than 8000 building officials, architects, contractors and facilities personnel.



REMINDER DOG LICENSE DEADLINE IS APRIL 30 – New or annual renewals: **\$10 per male or female dog. \$7.50 per neutered or spayed dog. \$3 per dog owned by a Senior Citizen** (age 65 or older; first dog only). **\$7.50 per each puppy aged 3 to 7 months** for first-time licensing. Proof of spay/neuter will be required for the next April 1st licensing. Licenses available from the City Clerk's Office in City Hall. 1 Junkins Ave. Portsmouth. (603) 610-7245. **Monday** 8am to 6pm. **Tuesday-Thursday** 8am to 4:30pm. **Friday** 8am to 1pm



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK – CDC recommends using its online tool -- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) -- to help decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. **The City Manager encourages the use of masks indoors in City facilities. Please note that masks are still required in the Portsmouth Public Library.**



AARP TAX PREP ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
AARP Tax Prep is drop-off only this year. Envelopes are available at the Senior Activity Center and Portsmouth Public Library, and **drop-offs should be made at the Senior Center ONLY, through April 10, during the following times:**

- **Sundays, 11 am – 12 noon**
- **Tuesdays, 4-5 pm**

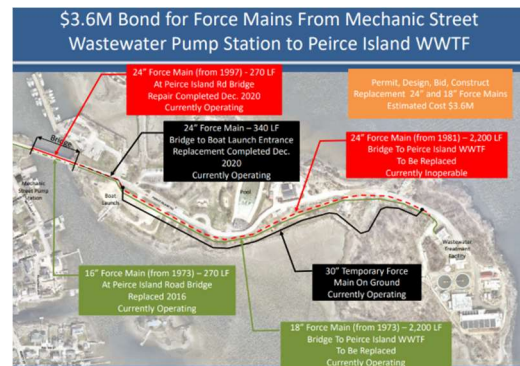
For detailed instructions on what you need for filing, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p87ee45>

NH UNITED WAY TAX ASSISTANCE FOR LOW- TO-MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS -- If you need help preparing your tax return, the Granite United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program can help. Call 211 or visit nhtaxhelp.org for more information.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX FILING DEADLINE: APR 18, 2022 -- The due date is April 18, instead of April 15, because of the Emancipation Day holiday in the District of Columbia for everyone except taxpayers who live in Maine or Massachusetts who have until April 19, 2022, to file their returns due to the Patriots' Day holiday in those states. For filing information, FAQs and other IRS information, click here: <https://www.irs.gov/filing>

HIGHER ASSET LIMITS SET TO QUALIFY FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAX REDUCTIONS – The City Council has raised the Elderly Tax asset limit to \$500,000 (from \$175,000) and the Disabled Tax asset limit, also to \$500,000. The Council also approved extending the Disabled Veteran/Disabled Officer exemption to \$4,000 and added flexibility on the April 15 deadline so taxpayers have time to make arrangements with the City Clerk. For more information, contact the City Assessor at 603.610.7249.

RUTH LEWIN GRIFFIN PLACE AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPLICATION SITE NOW OPEN!
The Portsmouth Housing Authority development, now under construction, features 48 one-bedroom apartments and 16 two-bedroom units. The units will be available to people who meet income requirements. Starting rent for the one-bedrooms units is \$950 a month, while starting rent for the two-bedroom units is \$1,200. To apply to rent one of the apartments, visit <https://cityoftheopendoor.com/>



PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD WORK FOR SEWER FORCE MAINS PROJECT -- Work continues on the project to replace the force mains to the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility.

<https://tinyurl.com/4urpjskz>
That work requires closing Peirce Island Road, parking and trail access beyond the Outdoor Pool, on a daily basis, 7 am to 4 pm. The public is advised that access is obstructed in the area past the pool.

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/>

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-sitemedicalservices.com/>

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.

COME WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! Current postings include:

- **Water Treatment Operations Foreman** responsible for technical and supervisory tasks associated with the operation and maintenance of the Portsmouth Water System.
- **Pump Stations Foreman** responsible for the daily administration, operation and maintenance of the City's wastewater pumping station infrastructure.

To review all the job opportunities and benefits, [click here](#).

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 PHOTO CONTEST!
PNH400 is now accepting submissions from

Portsmouth-based photographers so the calendar showcases the best local talent, professional and amateur. There are thirteen prizes – feature placement of the winners' images in the printed calendar. One photograph per month plus a cover image will be selected. The calendar will also include the dates of all signature PNH400 events and special observances, along with fun historical facts and figures.

For submission details and the online form, [click here](#). **The Submission Deadline is June 30, 2022.**

PORTSMOUTH NH 400 ACCEPTING OFFICIAL PROGRAM PARTNER APPLICATIONS

– Organizations, groups and anyone planning a Portsmouth NH 400 celebration program, project or event is invited to submit an Official Program Partner Application.

<https://tinyurl.com/mw5664bm>

Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate!
For more details, visit:

<https://www.PortsmouthNH400.org>

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).



RECENTLY UPDATED:

- **MASK FAQs**, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/mask-faqs>
- **VACCINATION FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7>
- **TESTING FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx>
- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs**, [click here](#)

KIDS AND COVID FAQs, [click here](#)

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>

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>