

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter Wednesday, May 11, 2022

PORTSMOUTH STANDS WITH UKRAINE

There are many recognized relief agencies responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. You might consider one of these:

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

This marks the start of the annual budget season schedule of presentations to the City Council and the public during the month of May.

CITY COUNCIL LISTENING SESSIONS ON FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET, COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 6:30 PM

– The budget document and accompanying interactive user guide are posted to the City website: <https://tinyurl.com/4mPCRj2w>

For the Agendas and Zoom registrations:

Wed May 11, School Budget:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc8bnCPa>

Thurs May 12, General Government & Parking

Budget: <https://tinyurl.com/2bkywu38>

Wed, May 18, Water, Sewer, Stormwater Budget:

THURS MAY 19: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIALOGUES

-- At three locations dispersed among the city's neighborhoods: 5:30-6:30 pm at Portsmouth Middle School (155 Parrott Avenue); and 7-8 pm at the Senior Activity Center (125 Cottage Street) and Fire Station 2 (3010 Lafayette Road). Members of the City Council and City management will be on hand to discuss the budget and respond to feedback from residents in an informal manner, designed to maximize input and share information. **Also:**

Mon, May 23, City Council Work Session, Review
Tues, May 31, City Council Work Session (if needed)

COAST BUS SERVICE CHANGE EFFECTIVE

SAT MAY 21 --Due to an acute shortage of CDL-qualified operators, COAST regrettably has announced that they must suspend Saturday service on all fixed routes, ADA paratransit, and other demand response services, and must reduce the weekday frequency of service on Routes 40/43 (Portsmouth/Newington) and Routes 1/33 (Dover/Somersworth/Berwick). Saturday Route 7 On Demand service will shift to Tuesdays for the time

being. COAST is encouraging anyone with a CDL-license who wants to work for an employer that is focused on serving the community and providing an essential service, to please visit [their website](#).

CAUTION: DPW received a call from someone who received a suspicious phone call from a man claiming to be from the water department requesting her credit card information for payment of an invoice. Please be assured that the City NEVER requests or takes any credit card or payment information over the phone. If you receive a call asking for this information, just hang up. To pay a City bill you can mail a check, pay in person at City Hall or go online: <https://tinyurl.com/4rcv2h23> As always, be careful out there!

COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD 5/11/22



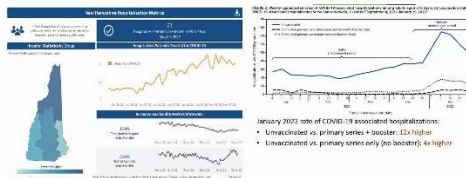
NH DHHS RECOMMENDS USING THE CDC COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL INTERACTIVE TOOL

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/science/community-levels.html>

To determine the COVID-19 community level (map above is updated every Thursday), CDC looks at the combination of three metrics:

1. New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days
2. The percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients
3. Total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

When deciding your risk-avoidance strategies, keep in mind the risk you may pose to those who cannot be vaccinated. Being up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations is the best way to avoid serious illness and hospitalization from the disease. Studies show the vaccines are effective against variants including Omicron B.1.



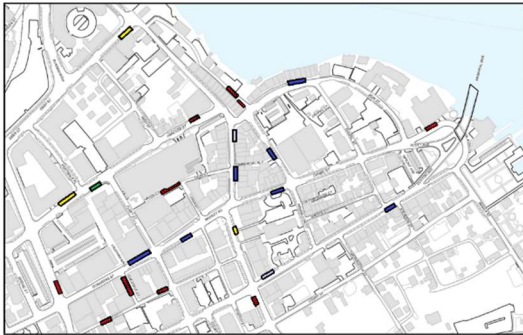
For answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Daily Life in a COVID-19 World, visit: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/daily-life-during-covid-19-faqs>

REGIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD -- Go to a larger PDF. <https://tinyurl.com/47pw2xmm>

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT WORK STARTS MON MAY 16

-- Severino Construction will start work affecting City streets in the Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension Project area, impacting Sagamore Avenue, Shaw Road, Cliff Road and Walker Bungalow Road. Excavation work starts on Sagamore Ave., continuing onto the other streets as work advances. During construction travel on the streets will be limited, intermittently, to a single lane of alternating one-way travel Mon-Fri between 7 am and 6 pm. Flaggers, signs, and portable traffic lights will be used to control traffic. Pedestrian movement may be interrupted over this time period. Vehicles and pedestrians traveling on Sagamore Avenue should expect minor delays. Go to the [Sagamore Ave. Project page](#) for more information on this project and to subscribe to regular communications about the project.

City of Portsmouth Downtown Loading Zone Map



	Loading Zone Hours	Parking Hours
	Mon-Sat: 6am - 3pm Sunday: 6am - Noon	After 3pm After Noon
	Mon-Sat: 6am - 9am Sunday: 6am - Noon	After 9am After Noon
	Mon-Sat: 6am - 11am Sunday: 6am - Noon	After 11am After Noon
	Mon-Sat: 6am - 7pm, then Taxi Stand Sunday: 6am - 7pm, then Taxi Stand	None None
	24 hour	None

EVENING PARKING SPACES NOW AVAILABLE IN SELECT LOADING ZONES -

- The City Council approved the Parking & Traffic Safety Committee recommendation in March, and the new loading zone parking spots are now identified by signage and loaded into the ParkMobile system. The new loading zone parking spots are identified on the map above. Parking rates vary by zone, consistent with the parking rates for other spaces in that location.



Inspire. Create. Succeed.

ARTS & CULTURE LEADERS! AMERICAN FOR THE ARTS (AFTA) ECONOMIC PROSPERITY STUDY TRAINING THURS MAY 12 AT 9 AM

-- In-person training is being offered so your organization is able to participate in the AFTA Survey (May 1, 2022 - Apr 30, 2023) at Portsmouth Public Library, Levenson Room. This effort will provide critical data on the economic impact of the arts on the city, and will give participants access to highly useful ROI information for grant writing, fund-raising, etc. New digital survey option this year. Make sure your organization is represented!

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/2twvpjej>

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY SAT MAY 21, 8 am to 12 noon

– At DPW, 680 Peverly Hill Road. Residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington are encouraged to bring household chemicals for safe disposal. Proof of residency is required. Residents remain in their vehicles and staff will remove

disposable items from car trunks. Residents will be asked verbally about their town of residence for survey purposes, in compliance with EPA requirements. To learn more about what is accepted and what is not: <https://tinyurl.com/2x6tscby>

SPRING SEMI-FORMAL FAMILY DINNER DANCE FRI MAY 20, 6-8 PM

–Enjoy red carpet treatment at the Community Campus for a night of dancing, food, photos, and special family time. Residents: \$15/ages 13+; \$12/ages 6-12; Free/under 5. Non-Residents: \$20/ages 13+; \$17/ages 6-12; \$5/under 5. **Must pre-register by May 16.** Call 603.427.1547 or go to <https://tinyurl.com/yc2bm8n4>



RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY NOW ONLINE!

The City of Portsmouth and the Recreation Department/Board are currently working on a study to determine the types of community services, sports and facilities the City needs to meet the demands of residents today and into the future. **Complete the survey and become part of the plan:**

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfuzk7s>

To learn more about the project and how you can participate, please visit [the project website](#).



INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT FIRE PROTECTION ALARMS & SPRINKLERS WORKSHOP MAY 26 from 8 am to 12 noon in City Hall Council Chambers.

Portsmouth Fire Department Fire Prevention Officer Chad Putney is the instructor for the training. This course explains the basic components of fire alarms and sprinkler systems and what the inspector as well as the installer should be looking for. Chad has 20+ years of professional fire service experience and over a decade as a licensed fire alarm contractor in several states. Advance registration required.

<https://tinyurl.com/3uw7wndv>

DANIEL STREET NOW OPEN TO SINGLE LANE OF TRAFFIC. BUSINESSES AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS REMAIN OPEN –

Sidewalk work in connection with the [60 Penhallow Brick Market project](#) will continue to limit traffic. Businesses and pedestrian access will be open throughout construction.

BRIDGE STREET LOT – SCHEDULED TO OPEN END OF NEXT WEEK. The work includes reconstruction of the paved area, handicapped accessibility upgrades, subsurface preparations that would allow for EV charging stations and landscaping.

STATE STREET CLOSED between Columbia and Cass – Binder paving the end of this week. For more project details: <https://tinyurl.com/242eb8vs>

MARCY STREET CLOSED BETWEEN SOUTH ST. AND NEW CASTLE AVE. PREP WORK– One-way, alternating traffic for road work and repaving on Pleasant Street between South St. and New Castle Ave., prep work May 9. Mechanized work starts Mon May 16, as crews begin removing the existing pavement and roadbed of Marcy St from New Castle Avenue to South St. Once Marcy Street's roadbed is replaced, crews will start working on the portion of New Castle Avenue from South St to Marcy St. as this area of New Castle Avenue is getting the pavement and roadbed replaced as well. Detours will be in place during working hours (7am-7pm) as some portions of the roads are insufficiently wide to maintain through traffic. To follow this project, subscribe to this email list.

PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD PAVING MAY 11-13 AFTER 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>
The public is advised that access is obstructed in the area past the pool. Site restoration and planting, cleanup of parking area, underway.

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:

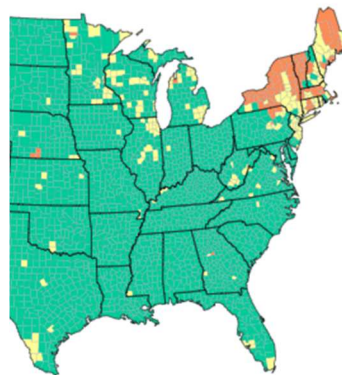
- **Street barriers for outdoor dining** -- These **23 restaurants** are approved for outdoor dining permits include: BRGR Bar, Cava, Tuscan Market, Jumpin' Jay's, Popovers, Press Room, Kaffee VonSolln, La Carreta, Moxy, 110 Grill, Row 34, Portsmouth Brewery, Portsmouth Gaslight, Dwyer's Pub, Thirsty Moose Taphouse, Elephantine Bakery, Toscana, Raleigh Wine Bar + Eatery, The Green Room, Portsmouth feed company, The Goat, Goods Market & Café, Stroll Café, Clipper Tavern. Be sure to check first before

visiting, as outdoor dining continues to be set up. Planters will be added mid-May.



ADOPT-A-SPOT SEASON UNDERWAY!
Volunteer responsibilities range from weeding and mowing to litter control and planting, depending on your interests and the needs of the particular spot you adopt. Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/7x8fc9xf>

FDA LIMITS USE OF J&J VACCINE -- Due to the ongoing risk of rare but serious blood clots. The problem occurs in the first two weeks after vaccination. Under the new FDA instructions, J&J's vaccine could still be given to people who had a severe allergic reaction to one of the other vaccines and can't receive an additional dose. J&J's shot could also be an option for people who refuse to receive the mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, and therefore would otherwise remain unvaccinated.



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK – CDC recommends using its online tool -- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) based on 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.**

CDC GUIDANCE 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. **Second booster is recommended for those age 60+**
- 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

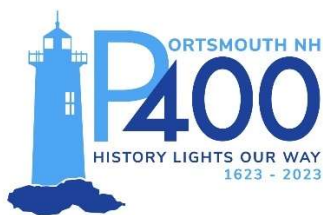
FREE TEST KITS BY MAIL -- Order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the Federal government website: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> which also offers 'how to test' instructions. **NH SOURCES FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS** – To order a free kit, visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/>

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-sitemedservices.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 food 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.



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:

- **DAILY LIFE DURING COVID-19** -- <https://tinyurl.com/2m463dne>
- **VACCINATION FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7>
- **TESTING FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx>
- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs**, [click here](#)

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND –
For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines were developed, tested and approved, [click here. https://tinyurl.com/3yhreymk](https://tinyurl.com/3yhreymk)

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>

