

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter

## Monday, May 23, 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>

### TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW

The full proposed budget document and accompanying interactive user guide are posted to the City website: <https://tinyurl.com/4mpcrj2w>. In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/mp74dh94>

**CHANGES IN VOTERS' PARTY AFFILIATION MUST BE MADE BY MAY 31** -- Kelli Barnaby, City Clerk for the City of Portsmouth has announced that **anyone wishing to make any change to their party affiliation, including those who wish to remain Undeclared, must do so by 5 pm on Tuesday, May 31, 2022** in order for the change to apply to their voting in the 2022 State Primary Election on September 13, 2022. Voters may change party affiliation with the City Clerk *except* between the first day of the filing period for the primary election and the date of the primary election itself. Therefore, during this year's Primary Election cycle, party affiliation changes will not be accepted between June 1 and September 13, 2022.

**FIRE DEPT SCAM ALERT** -- Attention Portsmouth bar and restaurants: There is a couple going around the city offering to install self-serve breathalyzers claiming the proceeds benefit the "Fire Department" or the "Fallen Firefighters Memorial". This is not part of any legitimate fundraiser that we are aware of and is not endorsed, condoned or in any way a part of our department. You are encouraged to report them to the Portsmouth Police.

**INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT FIRE PROTECTION ALARMS & SPRINKLERS WORKSHOP WED MAY 25 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>

**OFFICE HOURS WITH BUILDING INSPECTORS** – The Inspections Department is open whenever City Hall is open: **Mondays 8 am – 6 pm; Tues-Thurs 8 am – 4 pm; and Fridays 8 am – 1 pm.** The Department has set aside Office Hours when the Building inspectors are in the office rather than out in the field doing inspections. Those hours are **Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri, 8-10 am and Monday evenings, 5-6 pm.** By providing set office hours, the Inspections Department is more available for discussing projects with property owners and contractors, and more efficient.

### CONSTRUCTION WORK THIS WEEK:

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.

**EVERSOURCE MARKET STREET PROJECT** -- The project involves installing subsurface conduit to connect to transformers that are housed in the Hanover Street Garage to provide enhanced electrical power to that area of downtown. **The initial phases are on Market Street and impacts the availability of parking to allow continuous one lane traffic around the work zones. Work hours are 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.** Work will be complete before Memorial Day Weekend with roadway patching and temporary sidewalks for the summer. Final repairs to this area will occur in the fall. After Memorial Day, the work will shift to Ladd Street and will limit traffic on High and Ladd Streets between Congress and Market Street. Flaggers will be on-site throughout all phases of the work to aid vehicle and pedestrian travel and to assure access to all business. **The on-site project contacts are:** For Eversource: Nick Kosko, 603-842-0416; for the City of Portsmouth, DPW: Marc Batchelder, 603-498-8449. Go to Eversource Project: <https://tinyurl.com/5b4srz26>

**PENHALLOW STREET CLOSED TO THRU TRAFFIC: THURS May 26 & FRI May 27 between Custom House Lane and Daniel Street during work day.** Eversource will be pulling wires thru the conduit infrastructure during the day, with Penhallow opening up at the end of each day. Traffic on Penhallow will be handled as in the past (Custom House Lane will exit their street heading towards State St.). Masonry work, framing and

exterior elements of the building continue as does work in the west alley and south alley, preparing for fountain foundations and hardscape. Sidewalk brick repair on Daniel Street continues. **DANIEL & PENHALLOW BUSINESSES ARE OPEN. Pedestrian access maintained.**

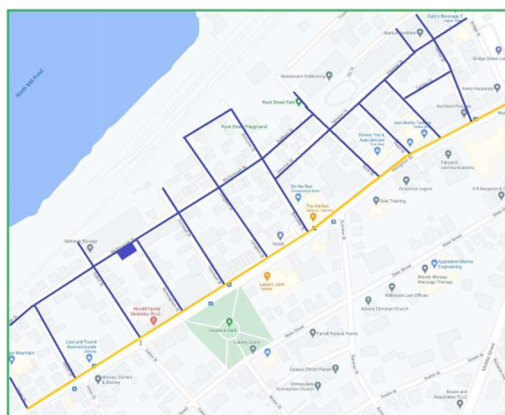
**SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT** -- Impacting Sagamore Avenue, Shaw Road, Cliff Road and Walker Bungalow Road. Excavation work starts on Sagamore Ave., then continues to the other streets. Travel is limited, intermittently, to a single lane of alternating one-way travel, Mon-Fri between 7 am and 6 pm. Flaggers, signs, and portable traffic lights used to control traffic. Vehicles and pedestrians traveling on Sagamore Avenue should expect minor delays. Go to the [Sagamore Ave. Project page](#) for more information and to subscribe to regular communications about the project.

**DODGE AVE/HARVARD ST./PRINCETON ST. (NEAR RTE 33 PARK 'N RIDE)** – Reclamation and repaving project expected to take about two weeks.

**MARCY STREET-NEW CASTLE AVE GAS LINE REPLACEMENT** – Unutil gas company is now working to replace the gas main, all the gas services under the road and all of the main tie ins to the side streets (Pray, Partridge, Holmes, Walden and Humphreys). This work will take about three weeks. After that, Advanced Paving will return for the rebuilding and repaving project.

**STATE STREET AREA** – Miscellaneous clean up on the Bartlett and Islington Street Intersection, Albany Street to Dover Street, Columbia Street Area and State Street.

**BRIDGE STREET LOT NOW OPEN!** The work included landscaping, reconstruction of the paved area, handicapped accessibility upgrades and subsurface conduit that would allow for EV charging stations in the future.



**NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PROGRAM PILOT -- The Neighborhood Parking Program pilot remains in effect through Labor Day, September 5, 2022 to collect a full year of data on its impacts.**



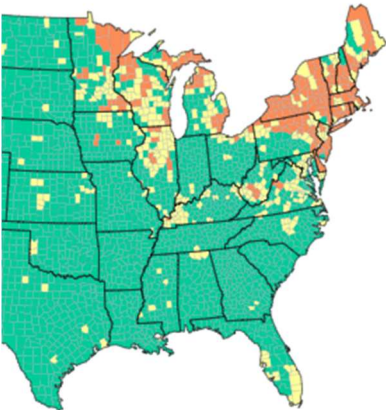
**COMMUNITY CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE JUN 3.**

**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 <https://tinyurl.com/bdh2d6>

**OUTDOOR DINING** -- These 37 restaurants are approved for outdoor dining permits include: 110 Grill, 250 Market, Black Trumpet, BRGR BAR, Cafe Espresso, Cava, Durbar Square, Dwyer's Pub, Elephantine Bakery, Fezziwig's Food & Fountain, Fresh House, Jumpin' Jay's Fish Café, Kaffee Vonsolln, La Caretta Portsmouth, Moxy, Popovers on the Square, Portsmouth Feed Company, Portsmouth Gas Light Co., Raleigh Wine Bar + Eatery, Ristorante Massimo, Rosa Restaurant, Row 34, The Sol, Stroll Café, The Clipper Tavern, The District, The Franklin, The Goat, The Goods Market & Café, The Green Room, The Hammer Pub & Grille, The Portsmouth Brewery, The Press Room, Thirsty Moose Taphouse, Tjs Food and Spirits, Toscana, Tuscan Market. Be sure to check first before visiting, as outdoor dining continues to be set up. Planters will be added mid-May.



**MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES** -- On Fri May 27 at 10:30 am, the traditional Burial at Sea service takes place in Prescott Park. On Mon May 30, the Memorial Day parade returns, starting from Junkins Ave/Parrott Ave at 1 pm and proceeding to South Cemetery for a commemoration program at 2 pm. A cookout follows at Prescott Park. **City Hall is closed from Fri May 27 at 1 pm through Mon May 30, reopening at 8 am on Tues May 31. The Portsmouth Public Library is closed on Sat May 28, Sun May 29, Mon May 30. Recreational Facilities are closed on Mon May 30 (open on Sat & Sun). Trash pickup normally scheduled for Mon will be picked up on Tues (Recycling Center is open on Sat May 28).**



**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 RECOMMENDS BOOSTER FOR CHILDREN 5-11** – Following FDA Emergency Use Authorization on May 17, the CDC on May 19 recommended a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 5 to 11. Children in this age group who received their last dose at least five months earlier are eligible to receive the additional doses immediately.

**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 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 may choose to receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster. The **second booster is recommended for those age 60+**
- Persons 18-49 years of age who received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine for both their primary series and 1st booster may receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their J&J booster.

**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.

**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/>

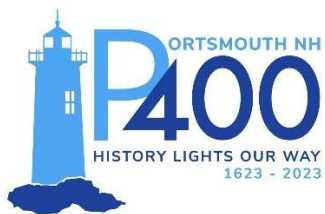
**BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS** – Call On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, at [603-338-9292](tel:603-338-9292) or book an appointment online at the On-Site Medical website: <https://www.on-sitemedservices.com/>

#### **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](mailto: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/4smxnj7>
- **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 of the link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>



