

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

PORTSMOUTH RECYCLING CENTER NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARD PREPAYMENT on fees for bulky items, drop-off or curbside pickup. Call 603.427.1530



TONIGHT: CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE WARD 5 FORUM in City Hall Conference Room A at 6:30 pm. For the Meeting Notice: <https://tinyurl.com/4k8nwawa>

HANOVER GARAGE RENOVATION PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING THURS JUN 9 at 6:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Meeting Notice and Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8h9st9>

CITY RECEIVES 11TH CONSECUTIVE AAA BOND RATING AND CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL BOND SALE -- The City of Portsmouth has completed the sale of \$23,330,000 in 20-year general obligation bonds to fund approved General, Water and Sewer Fund projects. Morgan Stanley & Co., LLC was the winning bidder, committing to a net interest rate of 3.083 percent and a bond premium of \$1,951,365. The City also received eight competitive bids on a \$10,423,820 360-day bond anticipation note issue. Jefferies LLC was the winning bidder with a net interest rate of 1.765 percent. Prior to the sale, the municipal bond credit rating agency Standard & Poor's issued the eleventh consecutive affirmation of its AAA rating of the City's ability to manage its credit, citing its "very strong management with strong financial policies and practices."

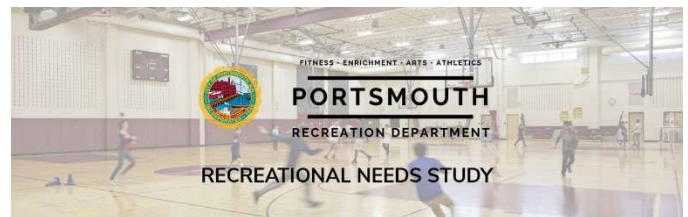
SEPTEMBER PRIMARY FILING PERIOD ENDS FRI JUN 10 – The City Clerk is now

accepting filings for the **September 13, 2022 State Primary Election** from State Representative candidates, as well as from candidates for Delegate to the Republican State Convention (only these offices are filed with the City Clerk in Portsmouth). Pursuant to RSA 652:20, **the Office of the City Clerk will be open on the last day of the filing period, FRI JUN 10, 3-5 PM to accept filings in person by the candidate.** All other City Offices will be closed, as usual for a Friday afternoon. The Office of the City Clerk will be open for candidate filings only.

CHAT WITH THE CITY MANAGER AT PORTSMOUTH FARMERS MARKET, SAT JUN 10 from 8 to 10 am. Questions? Concerns? Stop by and say hi to City Manager Karen Conard. The Farmers Market is held 8 am to 12 noon in the City Hall upper parking lot.



MAYOR CONGRATULATES WINNING PHS DEBATE AND TRIVIA TEAMS -- Go to [recognition at City Council meeting](#) on June 6.



RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY STILL SEEKING YOUR INPUT! – 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>



FUN(D) RAISER FOR SKATEPARK LIGHTING! THURS JUN 9, 6-10 PM at 3S ARTSPACE. For tickets:
<https://tinyurl.com/3ehvyh9k>



45th MARKET SQUARE DAY AND ROAD RACE RETURN! SAT JUN 11, 9 am to 4 pm -- Streets closed due to the Festival will be posted with regard to parking restrictions. Any vehicles parked on the streets closed as part of the Festival will be towed at the owner's expense. **The following streets will be closed to on-street parking from 4 am through 6 pm on Market Square Day:** Congress Street, Market Street (Bow Street to the Square), Ladd Street, Fleet Street, Chestnut Street (Congress to Porter), Porter Street, Church Street, Pleasant Street (State Street to the Square), Penhallow Street and Daniel Street (Chapel Street to the Square). Special parking rates for the **Foundry Garage: flat rate \$3 between 6 am and 4 pm on Sat. Jun 4.** Hanover Garage – regular hourly rates apply. Metered parking is enforced on Market Square Day, from 9am – 8pm. For full details: <https://tinyurl.com/vtk3m8xk>
FREE WALK-UP VACCINES, 9 AM to 4 PM – Available at the corner of Fleet and Congress Streets on Market Square Day. City Manager Conard assisting with information. All three vaccines and booster doses available, free, for those age 5+.

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.

REVISED TRAFFIC PATTERN ON FLEET STREET-- ONE-WAY traffic from Congress to Hanover WITH RESTORED ACCESS to the Hanover garage from Hanover Street. Effective through Nov 27. All Fleet Street businesses are open and sidewalks are open to pedestrians.

SOUTH STREET WORK THURS JUN 9-- Curbing installation, weather-permitting (may extend to Fri Jun 10) between Pinehurst and Union Streets. Prep detail in place on Tues Jun 7.

EVERSOURCE PROJECT WORK IN LADD ST - - Work hours are 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. The work limits 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](#).

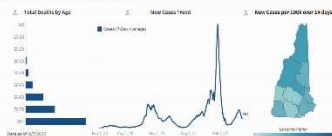
PENHALLOW STREET – Rescheduled setting of the Eversource electric pole at Sheafe St. this week, weather-permitting. PENHALLOW CLOSED between Custom House Lane and Daniel St. on WED Jun 8 and THURS Jun 9 for the delivery of drywall. 4-hour window each day and reopened once unloading is complete. Masonry 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.**

LONGMEADOW ROAD NEARING COMPLETION -- Binder paving and curbing this week in preparation for opening the new road on Jun 20.

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT -- Impacting Sagamore Avenue, Shaw Road, Cliff Road and Walker Bungalow Road. Excavation work starts on Sagamore Ave. 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. Go to the [Sagamore Ave. Project page](#) for more information.

MARCY STREET-NEW CASTLE AVE GAS LINE REPLACEMENT – Until gas company work continues 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).

COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD 6/18/22



NH DHHS is reporting a 21% decrease in the number of cases for the 7 days ending June 8, compared to the previous 7 days. CDC is classifying Rockingham County (map below) as "medium risk" for community infection.



County	Community Level	Color
Alcock	Low	Green
Belknap	Low	Green
Carroll	Low	Green
Cheshire	Low	Green
Coös	Low	Green
Crawford	Low	Green
Dartmouth	Low	Green
Deepland	Low	Green
Franklin	Low	Green
Grafton	Low	Green
Hillsborough	Low	Green
Merrimack	Low	Green
Morris	Low	Green
Moultonborough	Low	Green
Nash	Low	Green
Rockingham	Medium	Yellow
Sherburne	Low	Green
Stratham	Low	Green
Townsend	Low	Green
Warren	Low	Green
Washington	Low	Green
Westchester	Low	Green
White	Low	Green
York	Low	Green

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, consult this map, updated every Thursday.

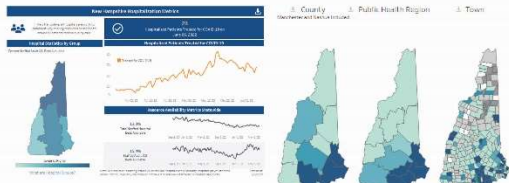
Where the community level is High, CDC recommends:

Wear a mask indoors in public

Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines

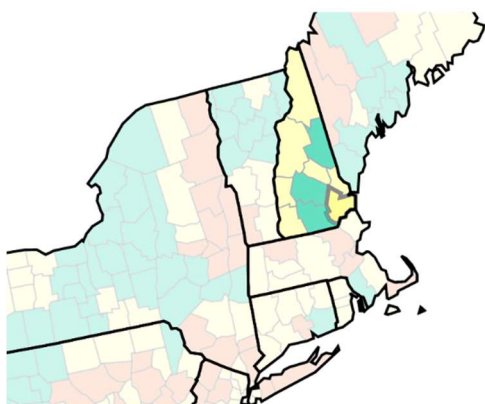
Get tested if you have symptoms

Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness



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/2pwd8w99>



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK: ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LISTED AS “MEDIUM” -- 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.

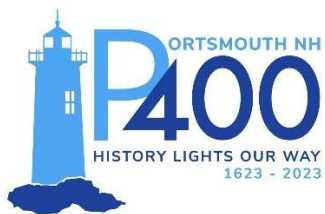
FREE TEST KITS BY MAIL -- Order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the Federal government website: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> which also offers 'how to test' instructions. **NH SOURCES FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS** – To order a free kit, visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/>

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) .

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

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).

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>

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).

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 link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>