

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter

Monday, June 13, 2022

Questions? Email hotline@cityofportsmouth.com and your question will be referred to the appropriate City staff for reply.



TOMORROW TUES JUN 14: FLAG DAY OBSERVANCE, 9 AM. Marcy St. opposite the Liberty Pole, at Strawberry Banke.

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUES JUN 21 at 7 pm. In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK FORCE SEEKING COMMUNITY MEMBERS -- The City Council has voted to establish the Blue Ribbon Committee COVID-Response Task Force (BRC CRTF) for six months to evaluate challenges and identify low-cost, high-impact, recovery solutions that might be addressed with City ARPA monies. The new committee will be composed of citizens of Portsmouth, local non-profit representatives and the City Manager as an ex-officio member to incorporate city staff and resources, as needed. The BRC-CRTF will be soliciting input from residents via public meetings in various locations and times throughout the city. Those interested in serving on the BRC-CRTF should complete the [City's Board and Commission Application](#). The deadline is Wednesday, June 15 at 12 noon. Applications should be returned to the City Clerk via email (cityclerk@cityofportsmouth.com) or by mail to Portsmouth City Hall, Attention: Mayor's Office, 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, NH-03801. Those with any questions regarding the application process, should contact the City Clerk's Office at 603.610.7245.

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

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."

Benefits of Community Power

Local Control	Lower Costs	Renewables	Resilience & Innovation
 Democratizing energy procurement to the community level	 MA, NY, CA and other markets have demonstrated lower rates than regulated utilities	 Build & Buy Clean Energy Support more local renewables	 New Technologies Market Competition Price Signals Customer Empowerment

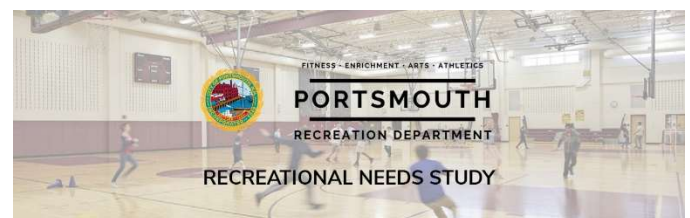
COMMUNITY POWER INFORMATIONAL EVENT, WED JUN 29 at 7 on at 3S Artspace - Join the Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee and Portsmouth Smart Growth for free a community event with Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) featuring:

- Sam Evans-Brown, ED, Clean Energy NH
- Julia Griffin, Town Manager, Town of Hanover, a CPCNH community
- Henry P. Herndon, Consultant, CPCNH

Go to event details & ticket information:

<https://tinyurl.com/mr24u9st>

Go to the Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/44zmzun2>



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>

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.

GREENLAND ROAD (RTE 33) ROAD WORK ON TUES JUN 14 FROM PEVERLY HILL RD TO URBAN COMPACT/OXFORD ST.

SOUTH STREET MILLING WORK STARTING WED JUN 15– Grinding preparation for paving between Junkins Ave. and Lafayette Rd.

STATE STREET AREA – Bartlett and Islington St. intersection; East Side - Albany Street to Dover Street: Driveway preparation on Mon Jun 13 and Tues Jun 14 then final paving.

ISLINGTON STREET PAVING, WED JUN 15 – SAT JUN 18 – Salem to Bartlett Street.

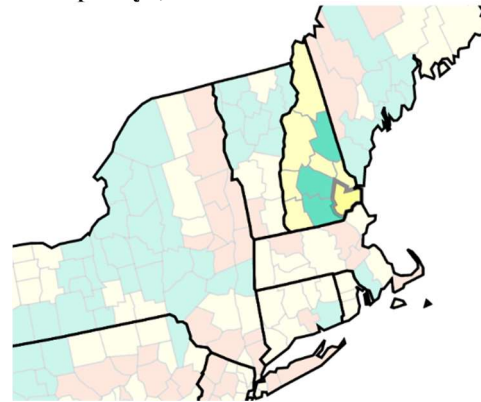
EVERSOURCE PROJECT WORK IN LADD ST - - Work hours are 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. The work limits traffic on High and Ladd Streets between Congress and Market Street. Flaggers will be on-site throughout all phases of the work to aid vehicle and pedestrian travel and to assure access to all business. **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 TUES Jun 14 - FRI Jun 17 for the delivery of glass partitions. 4-hour window each day and reopened once unloading is complete. **DANIEL STREET CURBING MON Jun 13 and TUES Jun 14, plus SIDEWALK BRICK WORK** this week. 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).



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.**

FDA MEETING ON VACCINES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5, JUN 14-15; CDC REVIEW JUN 17-18 – NH DHHS planning distribution of vaccines for this age group starting Jun 20. Vaccines will be administered primarily through primary care pediatricians’ offices due to their familiarity with the patients/families and with vaccinating small children. The pharmacies that have been participating in Federal vaccine programs will also be providing vaccinations though their policies vary. Check [Vaccines.gov](#) for more details.

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**

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.

City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>

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](https://tinyurl.com/3yhreymk)

For more information, visit City's page on COVID-19: <https://tinyurl.com/2ywc6ab>

CITY HALL FACEBOOK PAGE:

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<https://www.facebook.com/CityHallPortsmouthNH>

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