

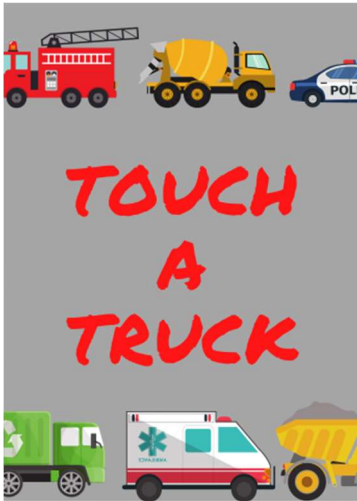
## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter

## Wednesday, July 27, 2022

**Questions for City staff? Email [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com) and your question will be referred to the appropriate City staff for reply.**



**FRI JUL 29 TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT AT PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 10:30 AM – 12 NOON** -- Free! Stop by and meet some of the Portsmouth DPW, Police and Fire fleet and the City staff who operate them.

**PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE** -- As of July 19, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire <https://tinyurl.com/2p882uya> reported "moderate drought" conditions around the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. This is predominantly due to low snowfall over the winter and the fact that the majority of the state has received less than 50% of normal precipitation. The recent hot and dry weather intensified these already dry conditions, resulting in rapid development of drought. While the drought report prompted other communities to put watering restrictions in place, **the City of Portsmouth and Pease Drinking Water Systems are not implementing any restrictions at this time but do ask water customers to be as efficient as possible when using our precious water resources.**

The City's Water Operations staff continues to implement an "integrated water system management plan" which has helped to maintain above-normal water levels in the City and Pease drinking water wells. Reservoir levels and conditions are also near normal for this time of year. However, the hot weather does elevate the reservoir's water temperature, which requires more vigilant monitoring and adjustments to the treatment process at the Madbury Water Treatment Facility.

Portsmouth's Water System also benefits from the additional water supply from the reactivation of the Haven Well as a supply to the Pease Water System made possible by the new Pease Water Treatment system. Finally, leak detection and water main replacement efforts by the City have reduced water loss throughout the system, meaning less demand on our available supplies. City Water operations staff will continue to track and update conditions throughout the summer. For additional information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88pcu4>



**OUT ON A LIMB? CITY TREE WORK REMINDER** – While the most dramatic impact of last week's storm may have been the tree (and power) brought down on Middle Street, there may be other City trees you're concerned about. This latest "Think Blue" video from DPW may provide helpful information on what to do – now or in the future. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzLSIqsOGfg>

**SEASONAL TREE TRIMMING UNDERWAY** DPW continues to work trimming shrubs and tree branches that are overhanging or extending into the public sidewalks and other public rights-of-way.

**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.

**ATLANTIC HEIGHTS PAVING PROJECT HALTED TEMPORARILY** – The contractor's milling equipment has broken down on Kearsarge Way, forcing the cancellation of work this week. Project is tentatively scheduled to start back up on MON AUG 1. Go to a larger PDF of the map. <https://tinyurl.com/8fjuca77>



**HANOVER GARAGE PROJECT SCHEDULE** – Work will take place between 8 am and 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Partitions are being placed to reduce construction noise and dust. Subscribe to the weekly emails and submit comments and questions on the Hanover Garage Project page. <https://tinyurl.com/5n85cuhv>  
**HANOVER GARAGE FAQs:**

Q. Is there a work schedule for the project?  
 A. Yes. Updates to the work schedule are posted to the Hanover Garage Project page with forward-looking plans, each week. **For the construction schedule, as of July 26, go to:** <https://tinyurl.com/3nex4t66>

**LANG ROAD TRAFFIC RECONFIGURATION STARTS FRI JUL 29** – New traffic pattern for accessing Route 1 South.

**PENHALLOW STREET – DANIEL & PENHALLOW BUSINESSES ARE OPEN.**

**SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT** -- Impacting Sagamore Avenue, Shaw Road, Cliff Road and Walker Bungalow Road. 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.



**CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUG 2, 5-8 pm** -- National Night Out gives families in the 17 City neighborhoods an evening full of block-party-style fun. The Police, Fire and Public Works Departments

bring fire trucks, police vehicles and highway equipment to each location, on a rotating schedule, so kids can ‘touch a truck’ and meet McGruff, The Crime Dog. The events are free and open to the public. PPD Officer Lynn Thomas helps get the word out. Go to details on participating neighborhoods and event locations: <https://tinyurl.com/23suvnpx>

**PLANNING BOARD WORK SESSION ON ZONING AMENDMENTS, MON AUG 8 at 6:30 PM** -- In-person at City Hall Council Chambers or via Zoom. On April 18, 2022, the City Council approved the regulatory amendment work plan which includes three phases of zoning amendments focused on advancing the city’s goals and diversifying the housing stock. Phase 1 amendments are focused on improving the structural foundation of the Zoning Ordinance to address conflicts and gaps in the regulations and to adjust ambiguous sections that have resulted in unintended outcomes.

Phase 1 Amendments include the following:

1. **Building Height Map.** Assign standards to new streets, modify streets and add building heights for civic and municipal properties.
2. **Building Height Standards.** Clarify the building height standards for corner, through or waterfront lots.
3. **Civic Districts.** Apply the CD4 development standards to civic properties.
4. **Definitions.** Add definitions for public places and modify definitions relating to the measurement of building height.

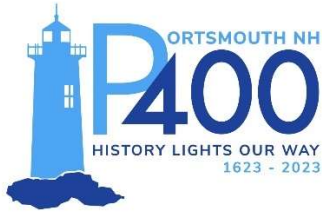
Phase 2 Amendments will be focused on updating city Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations. The Public Involvement Summary Report can be found [here](#).



**FREE GUIDED TOURS OF PRESCOTT PARK GARDENS EVERY FRIDAY, 11 am – 12 pm and 1-2 pm.** Meet at the Liberty Pole entrance on Marcy Street. Led by the City interns who designed and planted the gardens.

**CHAMBER COLLABORATIVE streetlife! IS NOW “SUMMER DETOUR” ON THURS AUG 4, 5-9 PM** -- Celebrate the local business community at Jimmy’s Jazz & Blue Club with a band, heavy appetizers, lighthearted fun and meaningful awards for members including Large Business,

Small But MIGHTY Business, Volunteer of the Year; Collaborator of the Year and the live award for the evening: the Building a Better Community Award! Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/yvhutmd8>



**PORTSMOUTH NH 400 – BECOME AN OFFICIAL PROGRAM PARTNER!** Organizations, groups and anyone planning a Portsmouth NH 400 celebration program, project or event is invited to submit information using the Program Partner Application. \*<https://tinyurl.com/mw5664bm>  
**Listings for the 2023 commemorative print calendar being accepted thru Sep 29. Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate! For more details, visit:**  
<https://www.PortsmouthNH400.org>

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS AND PAYMENT HELP** – On **Aug 1**, New Hampshire electric customers will see an increase in the supply portion of their bill, which will be more than double last August's supply rate. This significant rate increase is due to record-high natural gas prices and the global economy. Natural gas is the primary fuel for generating electricity in the region. Eversource offers the following suggestions for keeping costs down this summer and details on payment plans for those who need assistance.

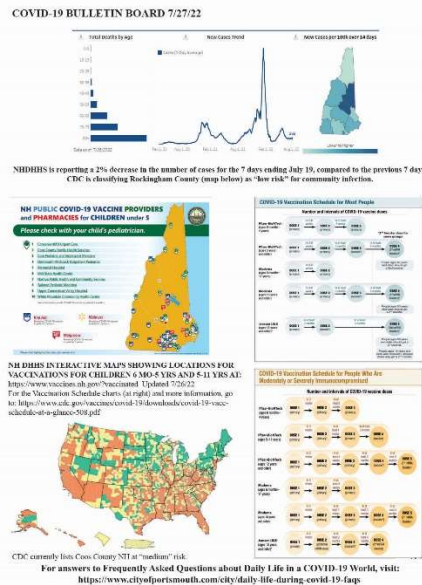
- Use the new [Cooling Calculator on Eversource.com](#) to understand how much electricity their current cooling system uses.
- Keep air conditioners set at or near 78 degrees For every degree higher on the thermostat, the air conditioner will use 1-3% less electricity.
- Keep air vents clear of obstructions such as furniture, curtains and rugs.
- Operate major appliances during the cooler parts of the day when there is less demand on the electric system.
- Using curtains, shades, and blinds can lower indoor temperatures by up to 20 degrees.
- Switch to ENERGY STAR® certified LED lights which run cooler and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lights.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise and at a higher speed in the summer.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR rating when purchasing new appliances including air conditioners. An oversized or undersized AC unit is less effective and uses more energy.

**Help is available for customers who need it:**

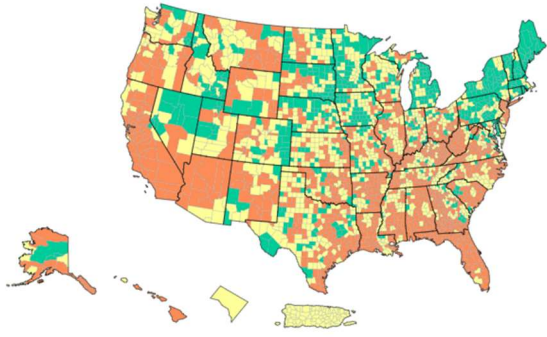
- **Budget Billing Plan** – to avoid seasonal spikes
- **Discount Rate** – for customers who meet certain income guidelines
- **Flexible Payment Plans** – to pay past-due balances over a period of time and protect from service interruptions.
- **New Start** – Income-eligible customers can reduce or eliminate their enrolled, outstanding balance in as little as 12 months when they make on-time monthly payments and Eversource will make up the difference.

Regardless of financial need, customers are eligible for various payment programs and are urged to call Eversource at 844-273-7760 or visit [Eversource.com/billhelp](https://Eversource.com/billhelp) to find the right plan for them. To learn about the many energy saving programs available, visit [Eversource.com](https://Eversource.com).

**PORTSMOUTH DPW WASTEWATER SAMPLING FOR COVID-19** -- The City continues to receive weekly reports on samples from the Pease and Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facilities. They are posted on the COVID-19 Sampling page on the City website: <https://tinyurl.com/5pw8manb>



**REGIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD** – Go to a larger PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/237ukc5j>



**VACATIONING? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WITH CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK (ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LISTED AS “LOW”) -- 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. Map as of June 22, 2022.

**Note:** There is concern about the infectiousness of COVID-19 variant Omicron BA 5 which now accounts for 95% of all COVID-19 cases in the US. <https://tinyurl.com/4khcxwmj>

Vaccination does not prevent infection but does significantly reduce the impact, severe illness and hospitalizations. In the current “community transmission” map above, CDC now considers most of the southern half of the country as “high risk.”

**INFO OPPORTUNITY AT ECO DAY AT PORTSMOUTH FARMERS MARKET SAT AUG 13**

Seacoast Eat Local plans to host a special “Eco Day” at the farmers’ market on August 13<sup>th</sup> as an educational event for the public using space not filled by vendor stalls. If your organization (nothing that has a political affiliation) would like to participate, please contact Morgan Morani, Food Coordinator [morgan@seacoasteatlocal.org](mailto:morgan@seacoasteatlocal.org)

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SEACOAST VETERANS CONFERENCE SAT SEP 24, 8:30 AM TO 2:30 PM**

At Service Credit Union, 3003 Lafayette Road Portsmouth, NH. The day is dedicated to educating veterans on resources to better their health and well-being. To discuss VA Health Care Enrollment with a VA Benefits expert, bring your DD214.



**COME WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! PLUMBING/MECHANICAL**

**INSPECTOR NEEDED** -- Check out this one and all the other great jobs currently available.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work>

**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](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.



**HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE** -- In addition to the NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program, there is a program for NH homeowners who are struggling to pay their mortgage, property taxes and other home expenses, and utilities. For more information, go to:

<https://homehelpnh.org/homeowners>

**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.

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

#### 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 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