

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter Monday, August 8, 2022

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

TONIGHT: PLANNING BOARD WORK SESSION ON ZONING AMENDMENTS at 6:30 PM -- In-person at City Hall Council Chambers or via Zoom. On April 18, 2022, the City Council approved 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](#).

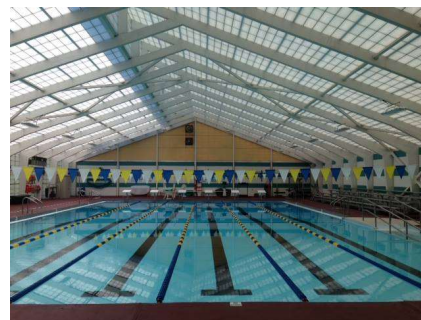


SAIL PORTSMOUTH AUG 11-16 – The parade of sail is **THURS AUG 11** starting at 10:15 am.

Ships open for tours Aug 12-14 (\$12 adults, free to children under 12) at the Fish Pier near Prescott Park. Go to ticket information: <https://sailportsmouth.org/> Free shuttle from the Foundry Parking Garage and Hanover Garage to the Fish Pier. Go to parking shuttle map: <https://tinyurl.com/5n963ua7> There is ADA-accessible parking at the **Hanover Garage** as well as the **Foundry Garage**, and limited space at the lot at **Little Harbor School**. All parking is first come/first served. **There is no parking (ADA or otherwise) at Peirce Island** Event goers should not seek parking options on Peirce Island, at the boat ramp, or on Four Tree Island. Two of three shuttles on the route will be ADA-equipped, with a goal to maintain a 20-minute maximum wait time. **Note:** There will be a 1.5 hour period each day (lunchtime) when only two shuttles are operating while the drivers take their breaks in succession.

STAY COOL! PEIRCE ISLAND OUTDOOR POOL Go to daily schedule. <https://tinyurl.com/4dykjjz2d> **And keep these cooling tips in mind.** <https://tinyurl.com/bdz7pjzj>

PROJECT COOLAIR -- Cooling assistance is available to those 60+ and anyone whose health is adversely affected by the heat. Often, those in need of air conditioning “do without” because they do not have the funds or know where to seek assistance. Through Project CoolAir, Area HomeCare makes air conditioners available to low income, medically-challenged and 60+ residents in Rockingham County. Make arrangements now rather than waiting for a critical need to develop. For more information, contact Ellen Tully at City Hall: 610-7267 or etully@cityofportsmouth.com



PORTSMOUTH INDOOR POOL CLOSED THRU TUES SEP 6 -- For annual cleaning and maintenance. This year the work is focusing on the pool deck with installation of new deck drains and resurfacing. The target date for re-opening is TUES Sep 6. Reopening details will be announced.

PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE -- As of August 5, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire <https://www.drought.gov/states/new-hampshire>

reported "severe drought" conditions around the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. 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.** **NOTE: Portsmouth Water System customers in RYE must comply with that town's watering restrictions.** City Water operations staff will continue to track and update conditions throughout the summer. For additional information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88pcu4>



HANOVER GARAGE PROJECT SCHEDULE – The contractor continues to install panels to reduce noise and dust. Next week the engineers will begin inspection of the steel structure. Work takes place between 8 am and 5 pm, Mon-Fri. 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. **For the construction schedule, go to:** <https://tinyurl.com/3nex4t66>

INFO OPPORTUNITY FOR NONPROFITS 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 13th 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



A snowy scene on a hot day is a reminder to sign up for the City's new Smart911 system, replacing CodeRED for emergency notifications, snow parking bans and other alerts.

SMART 911 SYSTEM REPLACES CODERED –

To continue to receive emails, text and/or voicemail emergency notices, Police Department alerts and snow parking ban notices, please sign up for City's new Smart 911 system. CodeRed accounts are NOT automatically transferred and that system will be discontinued this fall. Go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/2t9hn22f>

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 WED AUG 10, weather-permitting

No on-street parking in the work zones, between 6 am and 5 pm. Go to a larger PDF of the map. <https://tinyurl.com/8fjuca77>

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT –

Road work continues to impact 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.

LANG ROAD-RTE 1 INTERSECTION TRAFFIC RECONFIGURATION NOW IN PLACE – New traffic pattern for accessing Route 1 South.

PENHALLOW STREET –No road closures. DANIEL & PENHALLOW BUSINESSES ARE OPEN.



ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE --

Collaborating again with the City Welfare Department to provide school supplies for children whose families are struggling to make ends meet. The goal is to raise a minimum of \$2,000 by Aug 15 to purchase backpacks and school supplies for high school students who are often overlooked. Click here to make a donation of any amount and the **Alliance** will take care of the rest.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/367489389657>

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Contact Ellen Tully at City Hall: 610-7267 or etully@cityofportsmouth.com



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.

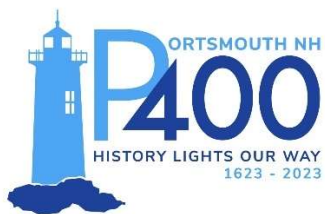


OUT ON A LIMB? CITY TREE WORK -- While the most dramatic impact of recent storms may have been the tree (and power) brought down on Middle Street, there might be other City trees you're concerned about. Any time you have a work request, go to Click 'n Fix for response and tracking.

<https://tinyurl.com/26rysda5>

This latest "Think Blue" video from DPW may provide additional helpful information on what to do – now or in the future.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzLSIqsOGfg>



PORTSMOUTH NH 400 SEEKING STORIES FOR COMMEMORATIVE BOOK -- Portsmouth NH 400th, Inc. plans to bring the historical record compiled in 1973 for the City's 350th anniversary up-to-date in 2023 with a Commemorative Book, filling in the history of the past fifty years. The Portsmouth NH 400 committee is now collecting those accounts from everyone who would like to participate in the project. Short essays of 400 words or less are welcome. Anyone who wants to participate in the Commemorative Project should submit a story of 400 words or less, as a Word document or link, in an email

to Stories.PNH400@gmail.com Submissions will be reviewed for accuracy and edited for length and content. The deadline is November 1, 2022.



Piscataqua Savings Bank and PNH400 executives look over an 1878 ledger from the bank's archives, with a backdrop of the bank's "River of Time" sculpture by Peter Happny and Salamandra Glass. (Left to right, PNH Community Engagement Officer Susan Labrie, PSB Vice President, Business Development Officer Ben Wheeler, PSB President Joan Gile and PNH400 Managing Director Valerie Rochon.)

PORTSMOUTH NH 400TH INC. ANNOUNCES PISCATAQUA SAVINGS BANK AS

"LUMINARY" SPONSOR – Piscataqua Savings Bank President and CEO Joan Gile commented, "Since 1877, Piscataqua Savings Bank has sustained the goal of being a vital member of the Portsmouth community. Our founders were some of Portsmouth's most philanthropic residents and their commitment to the community is embedded in our core values. Portsmouth's 400th anniversary is an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate, and I am asking the banking community to do what we have always done: help support the communities we serve. Because of the Bank's rich local history, we were compelled to be a leader in the fundraising for this event and we look forward to your joining us."

BECOME AN OFFICIAL PNH400 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 supply rates increased to 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](#) to find the right plan for them. To learn about the many energy saving programs available, visit [Eversource.com](#).

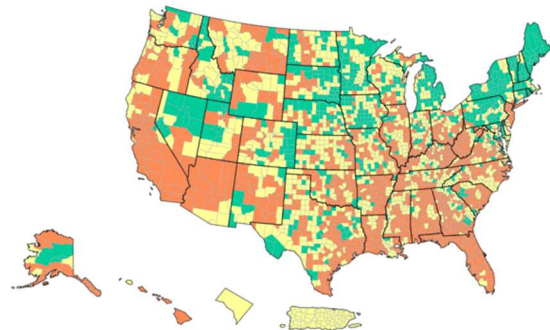
COME WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! NOW HIRING FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF OPERATIONS -- Go to [details](#).

NHDHHS UPDATES MONKEYPOX INFORMATION -- While the CDC has elevated its concern about monkeypox to a national health emergency, there have been 15 cases of monkeypox reported in NH (7,510 confirmed in the US). NH DHHS says the state is prepared if the outbreak spreads, NH has received 327 doses of the vaccine and expects to receive 1,140 more doses with the first of three shipments arriving soon. Right now vaccine is being allocated to persons with known exposure. When the additional doses arrive, the state can expand coverage to high-risk individuals before they are exposed. The current outbreak is affecting primarily men ages 20 to 40 who identify as gay, bisexual or men having sex with men.

New NH DHHS

website: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/disease-prevention/infectious-disease-control/monkeypox>

Dartmouth Health hotline to answer general questions about monkeypox: 603.650.1818



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."

10TH 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.

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.



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.

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:
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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>