

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter

## Wednesday, August 24, 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.**

**RAYNES AVE/VAUGHAN ST ONE-WAY STARTING TOMORROW THURS AUG 25** - New signage will direct motorists to enter Vaughan St. from Maplewood Ave. and exit using Raynes to Maplewood. As approved by City Council on May 16.

**CHAT WITH THE CITY MANAGER AT PORTSMOUTH FARMERS MARKET SAT AUG 27, 8-10 AM.**

**PAUL MCEACHERN REGATTA ON NORTH MILL POND AUG 28 AT 12 NOON** – Join the community fun in anything that floats. Launching from the Paul McEachern Park on Mill Pond Way.



**OUTDOOR POOL CLOSES FOR THE SEASON ON FRI AUG 26** – Open swim during the following hours: Wed/Fri: 12-5:15 pm. Thur: 12-6:15 pm.

**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.

**STATE STREET PROJECT: MILLING WED AUG 24- FRI AUG 26.** Construction from Columbia Street to 683 State Street (near Summer St). Work includes roadway repaving and sidewalk replacement

using both brick and concrete. The road resurfacing will extend to Middle Street. **Work hours are Mon-Fri, 7 am to 5 pm with no parking in the marked work zone.** Those who park on the street should move their cars by 7 am or risk being towed. John H. Lyman & Sons of Guilford removes and replaces the sidewalks, starting the week of Aug 29. Work is expected to take 6 weeks.

**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.

**PENHALLOW STREET** – Road closed between Daniel St. and Custom House Lane daily (M-F) for the week of Aug 22, from 7 am to 1 pm. Utility pole between 30 Penhallow and 60 Penhallow will be removed, target removal date is Monday 08/29 or Tuesday 08/30. **DANIEL & PENHALLOW BUSINESSES ARE OPEN.**



**HANOVER GARAGE PROJECT SCHEDULE** – The contractor continues to install panels to reduce noise and dust. Column shoring and demolition Aug 18-19. Work takes place between 8 am and 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Subscribe to the weekly emails and submit 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 latest update, go to construction schedule:** <https://tinyurl.com/2p82rwp>

**MAPLE HAVEN SIDEWALKS PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING WED SEP 14 AT 6:30 PM** At Fire Station #2 and via Zoom. <https://tinyurl.com/yc62vdwp>

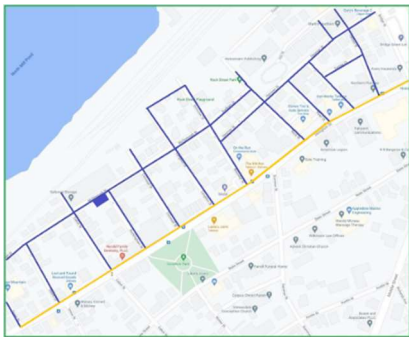
**PANNAWAY MANOR SIDEWALKS PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING WED SEP 21 AT 6:30 PM** – In City Hall Conference Room A and via Zoom. <https://tinyurl.com/2eycykzn>

**NH STATE PRIMARY TUES SEP 13: VOTING AND ABSENTEE BALLOT DETAILS** – Polls will

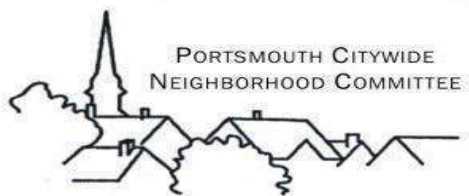
be open in Portsmouth, from 8 am to 7 pm. The location where residents vote depends on where they live. For the map of the City's five Wards, visit: <http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/documents/votingWards.pdf> Voting Locations as follows:

- Ward One – New Franklin School, 1 Franklin Drive
- Ward Two – Middle School, 155 Parrott Avenue
- Ward Three – Senior Activity Center, 125 Cottage Street
- Ward Four – Dondero School, 32 Van Buren Avenue
- Ward Five – Little Harbour School, 50 Clough Drive

New Hampshire law permits same-day registration for those 18 years of age or over, with proof of US citizenship and Portsmouth residence. **Absentee ballots for the NH State Primary are now available. Qualified registered voters may apply for an absentee ballot in person in the City Clerk's Office in City Hall or online.** To access the application, go to: <https://files.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/2022absballotapp.pdf>



### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PROGRAM PILOT EXTENDED TO DEC 6. CITY COUNCIL SENDS TO FEE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW**



**CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE WARD 3 FORUM SEP 28 at 6:30 pm** at the Senior Activity Center.

**PORTSMOUTH ARTS & NONPROFITS COMMITTEE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR NEW CULTURAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE** – Go to details and link to application form: <https://tinyurl.com/yk2tcz7w>



**CITY ISSUES RFP FOR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN CONSULTANT** – Seeking proposals from an experienced and qualified consultant to help the City create a Climate Action Plan to serve as the foundation for all climate adaptation projects and goals for the next 50 years. The plan will utilize the existing Coastal Resiliency Initiative along with new adaptation efforts to create systems to assist with benchmarking, policy evaluation, and progress tracking, and should integrate climate adaptation planning into the City's local planning and regulatory framework. Due by SEP 1 at 1 PM. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2kevp6sv>  
Questions? Contact the Finance Dept: 603-610-7227.

**RAILTRAIL PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS THURS SEP 22 AND FRI SEP 23** -- To solicit public input on trailhead, or public access points to the Greenway. New Hampshire Seacoast Greenway Alliance (NHSGA) a 501(c)(3) with the mission of providing on-going stewardship of the Greenway (the "Railtrail") as a regional public recreation facility for the seven corridor communities of Seabrook, Hampton Falls, Hampton, North Hampton, Rye, Greenland and Portsmouth. NH DOT is currently overseeing the design of the improvements to the Greenway. Seeking design consensus. THURS early afternoon start at Dondero Drive for bike ride and stops at Stump Dump, Banfield Road and Ocean Road access points. On Fri: drop-in workshop at Levenson Room PPL, followed by early evening presentation.



**NEED ASSISTANCE WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES?** Contact Ellen Tully at City Hall: 610-7267 or [etully@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@cityofportsmouth.com)



**LISTER ACADEMY SEEKS PARTNERS**  
 Portsmouth Public Schools' alternative high school program, is seeking partners in the community for joint programs, tours of businesses, guest speakers and short-term internships for students. To learn more, contact Steve Krzyzanowski at Lister Academy [skrzyzanowski@sau52.org](mailto:skrzyzanowski@sau52.org)



**COME WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! NOW HIRING YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARY ASSISTANT** -- Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y8u78f4t>

**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.

put watering restrictions in place, **the City of Portsmouth and Pease Drinking Water Systems 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 continue to track and update conditions. For additional information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88pcu4>

**SAFE WATER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING – TUES AUG 30** -- In person City Hall Conference Room A and via Zoom. Go to Agenda and Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/mtj4ab5a>



**THINK BLUE! WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Go to tips for conserving water at home and keeping pollutants out of the watershed: <https://tinyurl.com/3e5vt9dn>

U.S. Drought Monitor  
 New Hampshire



August 16, 2022  
 (Released Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022)  
 10:00 a.m. EDT

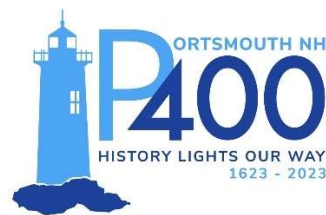
**Legend:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor Product is based on a synthesis of available information. For more information on the Drought Monitor, please visit [droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

**Author:**  
 National Drought Mitigation Center  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
 UNL  
 droughtmonitor.unl.edu

**PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE** -- As of August 16, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire reported "severe drought" conditions <https://www.drought.gov/states/new-hampshire> around the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. While the drought report prompted other communities to



**PNH400 RAFFLE SUPPORTS 2023 LITTLE ITALY CARNIVAL** -- The Portsmouth NH 400<sup>th</sup> (PNH400) Community & Neighborhoods Team announces a raffle – happening now – to raise funds for the Little Italy Carnival they have planned for August 6, 2023 as part of the 400<sup>th</sup> Celebration. **Raffle tickets are now on sale to win a seven-course dinner for ten, with wine pairings, in the Private Dining Room at Ristorante Massimo.** Tickets are \$100 each, now available at [PortsmouthNH400.org](http://PortsmouthNH400.org). Just 100 left of the 200 tickets that will be sold! The winner will be announced

on SEP 30 and the dinner (Sunday through Thursday only; holidays excluded) must be redeemed by DEC 31, 2023. To purchase raffle tickets go to: <https://tinyurl.com/n42bnsdu>

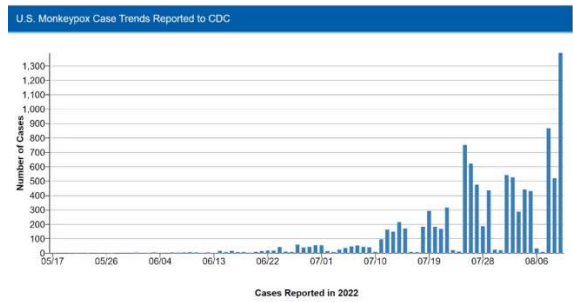


**PORTSMOUTH NH 400 SEEKS ARTISTS -- RFP FOR MARITIME-THEMED SCULPTURE GARDEN IN BOHENKO PARK** – PNH400 is soliciting proposals from sculptors interested in having their works considered for a maritime-themed sculpture garden in Bohenko Gateway Park adjacent to the Piscataqua River. Portsmouth NH 400 invites sculptors to submit designs in response to the RFP. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxuej25> Winning selections will be chosen by a committee that includes representatives from the community, city staff and others with expertise in public art, based on the city's Public Art Procedural Guidelines.

**PORTSMOUTH NH 400 SEEKING STORIES FOR COMMEMORATIVE BOOK** -- Portsmouth NH 400<sup>th</sup>, Inc. plans to bring the historical record compiled in 1973 for the City's 350<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Stories.PNH400@gmail.com) Submissions will be reviewed for accuracy and edited for length and content. The deadline is November 1, 2022.

**BECOME AN OFFICIAL PNH400 PROGRAM PARTNER!** Organizations, groups and anymore 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>

## U.S. Epi Curve (# of Cases Reported by Day)



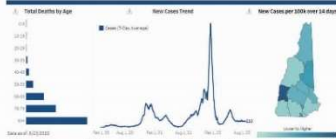
## NH DHHS MONKEYPOX INFORMATION --

While the CDC has elevated its concern about monkeypox to a national health emergency, NH DHHS says the state is prepared if the outbreak spreads. 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. U.S. health officials on Aug 9 authorized a new strategy that would allow health professionals to vaccinate up to five people – instead of one – with each vial. The approach uses just a fraction of the typical amount of vaccine and administers it with an injection just under the skin rather than into deeper tissue. Recipients would still get two shots a month apart. The current outbreak is affecting primarily men ages 20 to 40 who identify as gay, bisexual or men having sex with men. NH DHHS website: <https://tinyurl.com/4hydwaes> Dartmouth Health hotline to answer general questions about monkeypox: 603.650.1818

## FALL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES --

Pfizer is requesting EUA for a modified vaccine for age 12+ and Moderna has asked for EUA for a vaccine for 18+ -- for fall boosters -- more effective against the original strain and the Omicron variant. Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House Covid response coordinator, has said the new shots will become available to the public by early to mid-September. Pfizer said it can ship the omicron BA.4/BA.5 boosters as soon as the FDA authorizes them. The U.S. government has secured 105 million doses of Pfizer's updated shots and 66 million doses of Moderna's new vaccine.

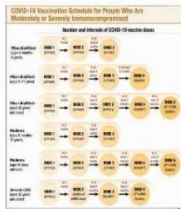
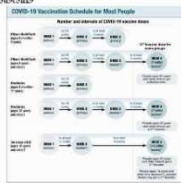
## COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD 8/24/22



NHDEHS is reporting a 9% decrease in the number of cases for the 7 days ending August 23 compared to the previous 7 days. CDC is classifying Rockingham County (map below) as "low risk" for community infection. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/5p5fag9>

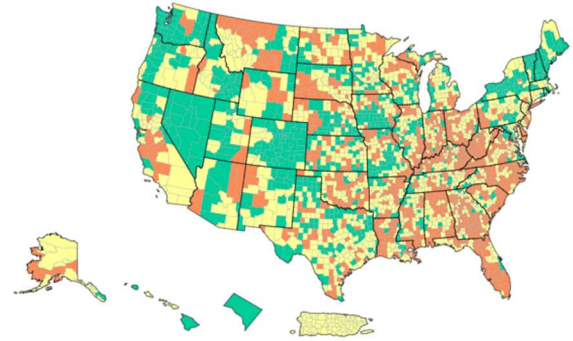
### CDC updated guidelines on August 11, 2022:

- Stress the importance of being up to date with vaccination to protect against serious illness, hospitalization and death.
- Recommend against quarantine for anyone exposed to COVID-19. Instead, wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.
- Recommend those who have, or suspect they have, COVID-19: stay home for at least 5 days, isolate in your household and wear a mask when around others (through day 10 if you tested positive). You may end isolation when:
  - If tested, you receive a negative test result and
  - If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms.
- If you have contact with people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 that you isolate from them until at least day 11.
- Recommend those who experience moderate illness (shortness of breath or had difficulty breathing) should isolate through day 10.
- Recommend those who had severe illness or have a weakened immune system should consult a doctor before ending isolation.
- Recommend that if your COVID-19 symptoms worsen after ending isolation, you should start another 5 days of isolation.
- Discontinue screening tests for asymptomatic people without known exposures.



CDC currently lists all NH counties as "low risk."

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>



## VACATIONING? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WITH CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK (ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LISTED AS "LOW") -- CDC recommends using its online COVID-19 tracker:

<https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba>

based on hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

## REGIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD – Go to larger PDF <https://tinyurl.com/4fmeH5ad>

### UPDATED CDC GUIDANCE ON COVID-19

- Stresses the importance of being up to date with vaccination to protect against serious illness, hospitalization and death.
- Recommends against quarantine for anyone exposed to COVID-19. Instead: wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.
- Recommends those who have, or suspect they have, COVID-19: stay home for at least 5 days, isolate in your household and wear a mask when around others (through day 10 if you tested positive). You may end isolation when:
  - If tested, you receive a negative test result and
  - If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms,
  - If you have contact with people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 that you isolate from them until at least day 11.
- Recommends those who experience moderate illness (shortness of breath or had difficulty breathing) should isolate through day 10.
- Recommends those who had severe illness or have a weakened immune system should consult a doctor before ending isolation.
- Recommends that if symptoms worsen after ending isolation, start another 5 days of isolation.
- Discontinues screening tests for asymptomatic people without known exposures

**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.

**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:**

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](#).



**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>

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