

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter Tuesday, September 6, 2022

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

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON ARPA FUNDS MON SEP 12 AT 6 PM – In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING MON SEP 19 at 7 pm in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.



TODAY IS LAST DAY BEFORE PRIMARY TO REGISTER TO VOTE – The Board of Registrars will be available from 6 to 7:30 pm this evening at City Hall to register voters. Voters can also register to vote at the polls on Primary Election Day Sep 13.

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT BLASTING ON CLIFF RD CONTINUES & PAYING SAGAMORE AVE. WED SEP 7 – Due to the heavy amount of ledge, blasting is needed on Cliff Road and started Tues Sep 6. 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. Alternating one-way traffic on Sagamore Ave. Wed Sep 7 from the Tidewatch condos to Cliff Road. 7 AM to 4 PM.

PORTSMOUTH POET LAUREATE PROGRAM 23 YEARS OF MONTHLY HOOT POETRY READINGS: WED SEP 7 – At Book & Bar, 7 pm. Free and open to the public. Featuring Maggie Dietz and John Burroughs, then open mic.

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



HISTORIC CEMETERIES COMMITTEE NEXT HEADSTONE CLEANING SAT SEP 10, 8:30 AM – 12 NOON – The City Cemetery Committee invites volunteers to join the guided historic headstone cleaning effort in North Cemetery on Maplewood Avenue. Volunteers have cleaned 138 historic stones. Join the crew on the following dates: Sep 10 and Oct 1. Interested as a group? Please contact Sue Sterry sterry10@ymail.com or Deidre Forte deedee.forte@yahoo.com Or for more information go to: <https://tinyurl.com/mrwu5nxs>

NAVY HISTORY DAY AT ALBACORE PARK SAT SEP 10, 10 AM to 3 PM -- This year's theme is, "Brave Men in Iron Tubes: The Search for USS Albacore (SS-218)."



911 MEMORIAL SUN SEP 11 AT 8:46 AM – Gather in front of the Twin Towers steel beam artifact in the upper parking lot of City Hall by the flag poles at 8:40am.



PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPEN!
 Watch for school crossing guards. Elementary schools and Lister Academy start at 8 am and close at 2:30 pm. Middle School and High School open at 8:30 am and close at 3:15 pm. Go to crossing guard schedule: <https://tinyurl.com/2fj3pknv> **NEED ASSISTANCE WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES?** Contact Ellen Tully at City Hall: 603-610-7267, or etully@cityofportsmouth.com



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PROGRAM PILOT EXTENDED TO DEC 6. CITY COUNCIL SENT TO FEE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW.

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 DETOURS MAY BE NECESSARY AT TIMES -- 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 extends 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. Sidewalk removal and replacement work starts this week and expected to take 6 weeks.



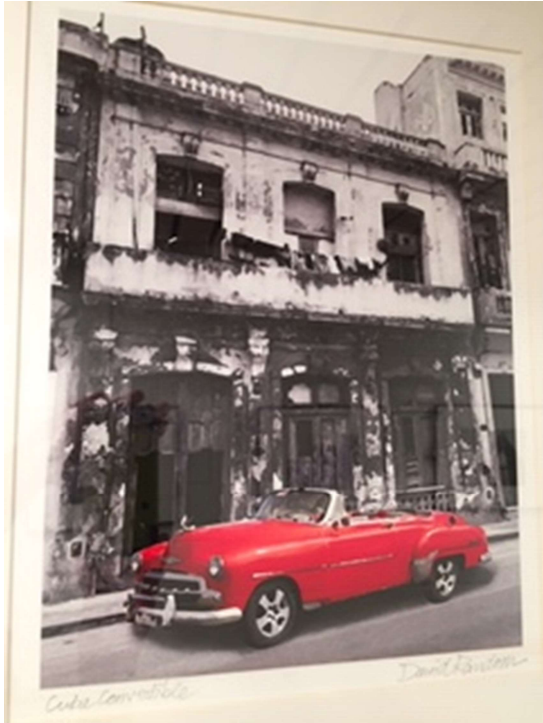
RESIDENTS INVITED TO SUBMIT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) REQUESTS. DEADLINE IS SEP 30 -- The Portsmouth City Council, Planning Board and Planning Department invite the public to provide input on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY24 to FY29 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2029). The CIP details a 6-year schedule and financing strategy for accomplishing necessary public improvements and meeting infrastructure needs. Visit the [CIP webpage](#) to review the current CIP, full background on the CIP process and this year's CIP review schedule. **The Citizen Project Request form can be filed online or can be downloaded as a pdf, completed and mailed to the Planning Department.** <https://tinyurl.com/rmk592d6>



HANOVER GARAGE PROJECT SCHEDULE – The contractor continues to install panels to reduce noise and dust. **Column shoring and demolition Sep 2-8.** 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. **NEW construction schedule:** <https://tinyurl.com/4w2nyc22>

MAPLE HAVEN SIDEWALKS PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING WED SEP 14 AT 6:30 PM At DPW Training Room, 680 Peverly Hill Rd. and via Zoom. <https://tinyurl.com/79ff9jff>

**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>



**PORTSMOUTH SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER
PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW THRU OCT 14** --
“Photos from Afar” features work by Peter E. Randell,
Robert Ortiz, Dave Turbide, Pat Kennedy Corlin,
Debra Woodward, Judy Arnold, Carol Van Loon,
Susan Sweetser Bank, Corinne Kubelka Wood, David
Random (photo above) and Bobbi Slavin. Free and
open to the public, Mon-Fri, 9 am to 3 pm. Senior
Activity Center, 125 Cottage St.



**COME WORK WITH THE CITY OF
PORTSMOUTH! NOW HIRING RECREATION
SUPERVISOR** -- Go to details:
<https://tinyurl.com/3rdkxcvw>



While the COAST public transit system does not provide transportation to each individual polling station directly, they encourage voters to get to the polls and participate in voting by eliminating the barrier of transportation costs. All passengers need to do is tell their driver that they are on their way to vote, or on the way back from voting, and they will not be charged for the ride. COAST will be following an honor system. Go to: <https://coastbus.org/>



**NH STATE PRIMARY TUES SEP 13: VOTING
AND ABSENTEE BALLOT DETAILS** – Polls will
be open in Portsmouth, from 8 am to 7 pm. **Note: K-
8 schools that are polling places are closed on
Sep 13.** The location where residents vote depends on
where they live. For the map of the City’s five Wards,
visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2z4j3sdm>

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.** For the application, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhdckxx>

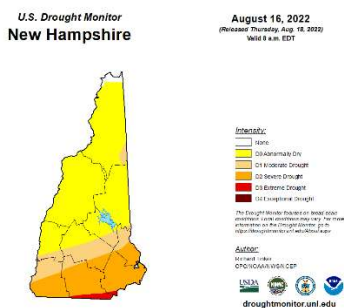
RAIL TRAIL PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS

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.

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.



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



PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE -- As of August 23, 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 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>



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>



PNH400 RAFFLE SUPPORTS 2023 LITTLE ITALY CARNIVAL JUST A FEW TICKETS LEFT! -- The Portsmouth NH 400th (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 400th 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. Just 200 tickets 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>

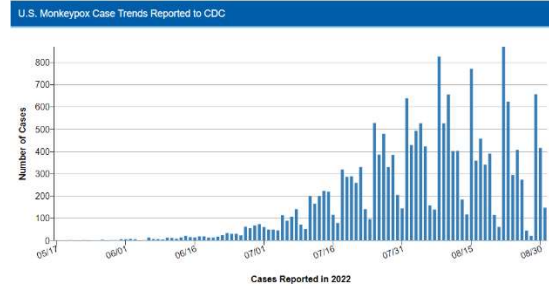


PORTSMOUTH NH 400 SEEKS ARTISTS -- RFP FOR MARITIME-THEMED SCULPTURE GARDEN IN BOHENKO PARK – PNH400 is soliciting proposals from sculptors interested in having their works considered for a maritime-themed sculpture garden in Bohenko Gateway Park adjacent to the Piscataqua River. Portsmouth NH 400 invites 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 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.

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>



NHDHHS 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. Count is currently 22 cases reported in NH. **NH DHHS has identified these vaccine sites:** <https://tinyurl.com/bcbpseje>

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

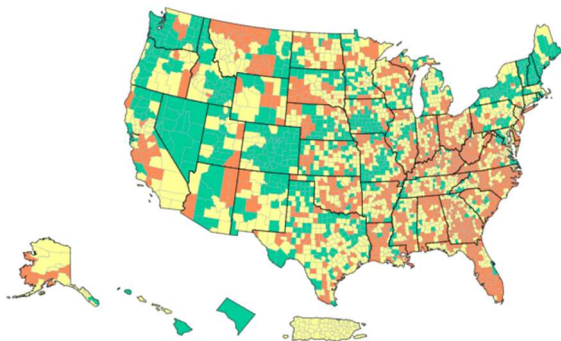
CDC APPROVES COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES – CDC has endorsed the FDA approval of EUA for Pfizer's modified vaccine for age 12+ and Moderna's vaccine for 18+ for fall boosters that are more effective against the original strain and the Omicron variant. Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House Covid response coordinator, 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.

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



TRAVELING? 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.

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.

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. **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>