

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter: Monday, September 19, 2022

### **TONIGHT! CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 7 PM**

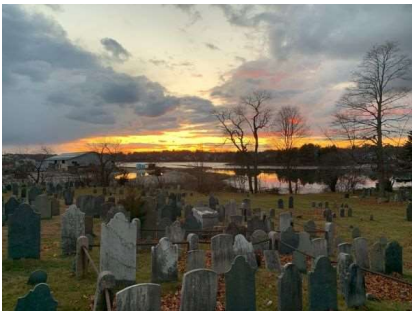
In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. Go to Agenda and Zoom registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/4w4wetry>

Including recognition of:

- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Camila Sacco 2022 Miss New Hampshire USA
- Thomas Kozikowski as NHIAA Division 1 Athletic Director of the Year

**City Council will consider a request from 64 Vaughan St. property owner Novocure to use 650 square feet of the alley that abuts the Property and connects Hanover Street to the Worth Lot to set a crane from TUES SEP 20 thru JAN 1, 2023 and to reserve ten parking spaces in the Worth Lot to create a safe work area for steel erection, façade and roof installation from OCT 1 thru JAN 1, 2023.**



**NORTH CEMETERY VANDALISM** – The Cemetery Committee has worked to clean nearly a quarter of the 1800 historic headstones in North Cemetery, which is on the National Register of Historic places. Many of those stones were knocked over and broken by vandals on Thurs-Fri night. Police are asking anyone who saw anything that could help identify the vandal or vandals to call (603) 431-1199, report tips via [seacoastcrimestoppers.com](http://seacoastcrimestoppers.com) or use the “P3” mobile app. Rewards of up to \$1,000 may be paid for tips leading to an arrest or indictment.

**TUES SEP 20: NHDOT WORK ON I-95 AT HAMPTON TOLLS, 6 am to 3 pm** -- The NHDOT will temporarily close both the northbound and southbound Open Road Toll (ORT) lanes at the Hampton Toll Plaza on I-95 for routine maintenance work.

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

### **ROAD WORK UPDATES:**

- **CATE & BARTLETT ST. INTERSECTION PAVING STARTS FRI SEP 16.**
- **MARCY/NEW CASTLE AVE. COMPLETING WORK**
- **UNION & WILLARD WORK NEXT WEEK**

**STATE STREET PROJECT SETTING CURB NEXT MON-TUES** – Removing curbing and sidewalks from Cabot Street to the end of the work area. Construction from Columbia Street to 683 State Street (near Summer St). Work includes roadway repaving and sidewalk replacement using both brick and concrete. **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 is expected to take 6 weeks.

**SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT BLASTING ON CLIFF RD. PAVING THE OTHER LANE OF SAGAMORE AVE. THURS SEP 22** -- 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.

**PEIRCE ISLAND TRAIL FENCE WORK THIS WEEK** -- Work on the waterfront fence extension along the North Shoreline Trail (adjacent to the treatment plant) is scheduled to begin next week. Expect construction personnel and equipment in the area and the possible closure of the overlook area. The work should take about three 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). 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> **Or use this QR code:**



### **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. Go to City website information: <https://tinyurl.com/7uuk6syt>

**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.

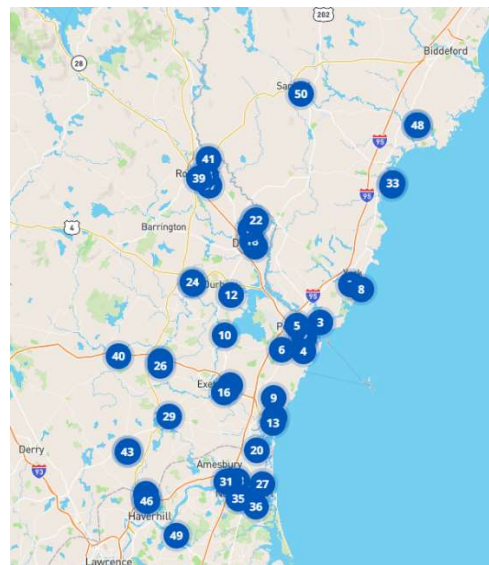


**HANOVER GARAGE PROJECT SCHEDULE** – The contractor continues to install panels to reduce noise and dust. **Column and concrete repair Sep 12-16.** Work takes place between 8 am and 5 pm, Mon-Fri. Subscribe to the weekly emails and submit questions on the Hanover Garage Project page. <https://tinyurl.com/5n85cuhv>  
**HANOVER GARAGE FAQs:**  
Q. What is the **work schedule** for the project?

**A. Construction schedule updated weekly:** <https://tinyurl.com/2m843jew>



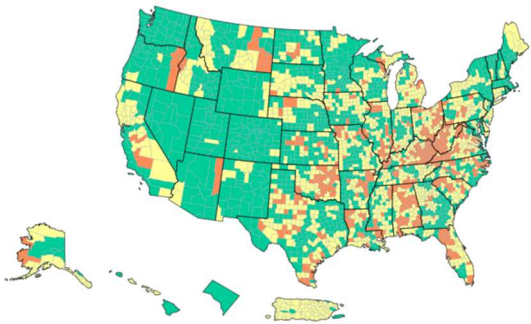
**WHAT IS PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY WORTH TO YOU?** Calculate the value of YOUR library use with this fascinating interactive form! How much the services the library provides to you cost if you had to pay for them directly? To find out, just fill in the number of times you or your family use each of the services listed. The worksheet calculates the estimated retail value of each service to determine the total value of your library use at the bottom of the worksheet. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/libraryvalue>



**MORE COVID-19 BOOSTER SITES AVAILABLE!** Find locations offering the new booster by going to the interactive map at **vaccines.gov** NH DHHS advises that everyone over 12 who completed the primary series vaccination 3 months ago or more should receive the new bivalent boosters. By receiving the booster (and this year's flu vaccine) you may help blunt the expected winter surge and demand on healthcare providers. The boosters are based on clinical research with the BA.1 bivalent vaccine, conducted in humans and were found to provide increased protection against severe disease and broader protection against existing and anticipated variants.

## CURRENT 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

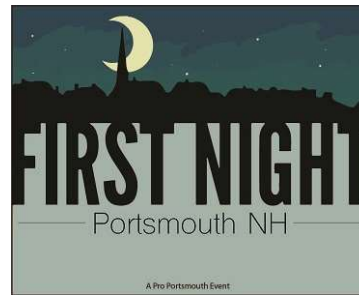


**TRAVELING? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WITH CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK (ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LISTED AS “LOW”) -- CDC recommends using its online COVID-19 tracker: <https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba>** based on hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.



## WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!

Latest opening is: Tree Supervisor/Arborist. Go to details: <https://tinyurl.com/5djh9v55>



## PRO PORTSMOUTH LAUNCHES “FIRST NIGHT PORTSMOUTH 2023” LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

– Deadline is Oct 21. \$300 prize. On Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, the Seacoast will say farewell to 2022 and greet 2023 with the celebration of First Night Portsmouth. As has become the tradition with all Pro Portsmouth events, the artists of the Seacoast are invited to submit their work for consideration to become the logo for First Night Portsmouth 2023. “This event marks the beginning of Pro Portsmouth’s 46<sup>th</sup> year of producing events on the Seacoast and once again, the organization looks forward to working with the artistic community in creating this year’s First Night logo which will be part of our commitment to honor the City’s 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary with event logos throughout 2023.” Go to for more information:

<https://proportsmouth.org/first-night-logo-contest/>  
Entries should be mailed to Barbara Massar – Pro Portsmouth, Inc. – P.O. Box 967 – Portsmouth, NH 03802 or emailed (as JPG) to: [info@proportsmouth.org](mailto:info@proportsmouth.org)

## PORTSMOUTH ARTS & NONPROFITS COMMITTEE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR NEW CULTURAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

– Go to details and link to application form:

<https://tinyurl.com/yk2tcz7w>

## 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 and Bobbi Slavin. Free and open to the public, Mon-Fri, 9 am to 3 pm. Senior Activity Center, 125 Cottage St.



**RECREATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES FALL PROGRAMS** -- For full details go to: <https://tinyurl.com/34r6yxes>



**CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE WARD 3 FORUM SEP 28 at 6:30 pm** at the Senior Activity Center. Go to Agenda: <https://tinyurl.com/msn3bsar>



**NH SBDC BUSINESS RESILIENCY SURVEY** -- The 2022 New Hampshire Small Business Survey is LIVE and waiting for feedback from local business owners. The Greater Portsmouth Chamber Collaborative is partnering with the NH Small Business Development Center on this year's Small Business Survey to assess how NH business owner are facing old and new challenges with workforce, supply chain, cybersecurity, energy needs and finances. Go to the 10 min survey: <https://tinyurl.com/3884ctxt>

U.S. Drought Monitor  
New Hampshire

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



**PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE** -- As of September 6, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire continues to report "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 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. 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>

**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>



**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.

**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.

**STATE AID CREDIT ON ELECTRIC BILLS** -- The NH Legislature has approved allocating \$35 million to NH residents earning from 60% to 75% of the state's median income (\$75,000 to \$93,000 per year for a family of four). Those who are eligible and apply will get \$200 credits on their electric bills and \$450 for heating assistance. Residents with incomes below that threshold already are eligible for other funds. To learn more about the fuel and electricity aid and apply, go to: [xxx](#)

**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](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).



**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>