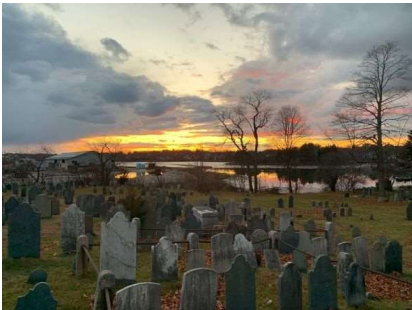


## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

**TONIGHT: 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>



**NORTH CEMETERY VANDALISM – Want to  
Help?** 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 [seacoasterimestoppers.com](http://seacoasterimestoppers.com) or use the  
“P3” mobile app. **If you would like to make a  
donation to the ongoing cemetery  
preservation and restoration effort, go to the  
[City's online donation portal](#).**

### ROAD WORK UPDATES:

- **HYDRANT FLUSHING STARTED SEP 19 AND CONTINUES FOR 5-6 WEEKS. SELECT AREAS ONLY DUE TO THE DROUGHT**
- **UNION & WILLARD WORK NEXT WEEK**

**STATE STREET PROJECT SETTING CURB  
NEXT MON-TUES** – 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) has begun. Expect construction  
personnel and equipment in the area and the possible  
closure of the overlook area. The work should take  
about three weeks.

DON'T OVERLOAD THE COMMODE	
DO	DON'T
Dispose of non-flushable, non-degradable items in the trash can!	Flush non-degradable products or chemicals, such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, paper towels and pharmaceuticals
Only flush human waste and toilet paper	

Do your part, be Septic Smart.  
More info at [Getpumpednh.com](http://Getpumpednh.com)



**NATIONAL SEPTIC SMART WEEK SEP 19-23** -  
- Getting your septic system pumped doesn't just help  
to keep it functioning properly. It also helps your  
community stay safe by keeping waste water out of  
local waterbodies. Learn more here:  
<https://getpumpednh.com>  
#SepticSmartWeek #GetPumpedNH



### **RAIL TRAIL PUBLIC INPUT SESSION 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. On Fri, the public is invited to a drop-in workshop in the Levenson Room at the Library 11:30 am to 1 pm and a presentation in the same location, 5-6:30 pm. Go to City website information: <https://tinyurl.com/7uuk6syt>

### **EVENTS THIS WEEKEND!**

**SAT SEP 24 & SUN SEP 25, FAIRY HOUSE TOURS – Prescott Park, Strawberry Banke Museum, Gov. Langdon Mansion. 10 AM – 3 PM**

**SAT SEP 24 STILETTO SPRINT 1-4 PM Fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters.**

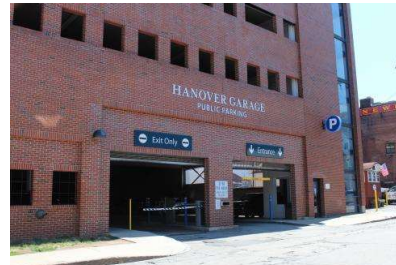
**SAT SE- 24 & SUN SEP 25 MARITIME FOLK FESTIVAL NOON -5 PM**

**SAT SEP 24 SEACOAST CENTURY BIKE RIDE, 7 AM – 4 PM**

**SUN SEP 25 SEACOAST WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S 10 AM TO 1 PM**

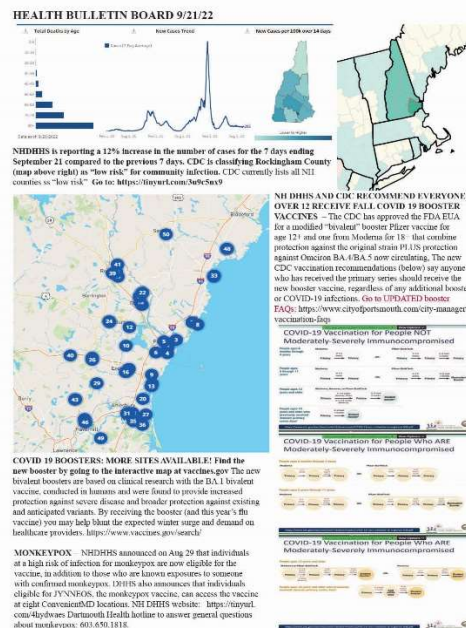
**Go to Community Event Calendar on the City website for details: <https://tinyurl.com/yb2x6sk7>**

**SAT SEP 24 ANNUAL SEACOAST VETERANS CONFERENCE, 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. Concrete sawcut and demolition Sep 19 – Oct 7.** 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/5n85cuhw>  
**HANOVER GARAGE FAQs:**

Q. What is the **work schedule** for the project?  
A. **Construction schedule updated weekly:** <https://tinyurl.com/yd2k9pe7>



**HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD – Go to larger PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/5n89rcwc>**

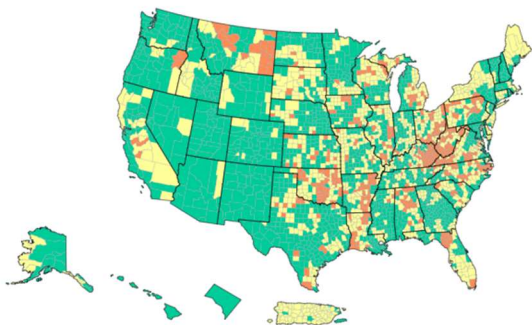
**MORE COVID-19 BOOSTER SITES AVAILABLE! Find locations offering the new booster by going to the interactive map at vaccines.gov** NH DHHS advises that everyone over 12 who completed the primary series vaccination 3 months ago or more should receive the new bivalent boosters. By receiving the booster (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 existing and anticipated variants.

**GO TO UPDATED FAQs ON THE “FALL BOOSTER VACCINE”**

<https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7>

**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: Deputy Public Works Director – Operations and Engineering. For details go to: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work>

**RESIDENTS INVITED TO SUBMIT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) REQUESTS. DEADLINE IS NEXT FRI SEP 30** -- 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:**



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

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: I’m not a Portsmouth resident, can I apply to be a part of the Cultural Plan committee?**

A: Yes. When completing the application, where you’re asked how long you’ve been a resident, please detail your connections to the city’s arts & cultural community, i.e. business owner, work with arts/cultural nonprofit, etc.

**Q: How long will the group meet to complete the Cultural Plan?**

A: The committee will begin meeting this fall and complete the work by December 31, 2023.

**Q: How often will the group meet?**

A: The main Cultural Plan Committee will meet monthly, and possibly shift to more frequent meetings as needed. There will also be subgroups of the committee who will set their own schedules and report back to the main committee.



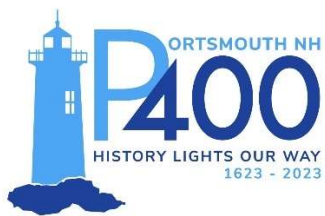
drought" conditions

<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>



**JUST 17 TICKETS LEFT AS OF NOON TODAY FOR PNH400 LITTLE ITALY CARNIVAL RAFFLE** -- 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 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.

## 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://www.eversource.com/billhelp) to find the right plan for them. To learn about the many energy saving programs available, visit [Eversource.com](https://www.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 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>

## 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>