



City Newsletter: Monday, September 26, 2022



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



**INSPECTING HEARTH APPLIANCES
WORKSHOP WED SEP 28 at 8:30 am** – This
session covers practical information on what you need
to know to inspect both HEARTH appliances and
their VENTING systems for wood, gas and pellet
appliances. In-person at City Hall or via Zoom.
Please register by Sep 26. To attend in person
RSVP to trmetivier@cityofportsmouth.com or to
register for Zoom go to: <https://tinyurl.com/44fsbf9>
Presented by Northeast Distribution. LTD for the City
of Portsmouth Inspections Department.

**RESIDENTS INVITED TO SUBMIT CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) REQUESTS.
DEADLINE IS FRI SEP 30** – To provide input on
the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for July 1, 2023
to June 30, 2029, visit the [CIP webpage](#) to review the
current CIP, 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 CIP PROJECT QR code:

ROAD WORK UPDATES:

- **HYDRANT FLUSHING STARTED SEP 19 AND CONTINUES FOR 5-6 WEEKS. SELECT AREAS ONLY DUE TO THE DROUGHT**
- **THURS SEP 29 WOODBURY AVE. & GOSLING RD. INTERSECTION LANE CLOSURE FOR THE NEXT MONTH**
- **NEW CASTLE AVE & MARCY ST. PAVING THURS SEP 29**

**FRI SEP 30 & MON OCT 3 STATE STREET
PROJECT SETTING CURB** –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 CLIFF
RD. & WALKER BUNGALOW. PAVING THE
OTHER LANE OF SAGAMORE AVE.
RESCHEDULED (TBD) DUE TO WEATHER -**
- 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 adjacent to
the treatment plant) continues. Construction
personnel and equipment in the area.

HANOVER GARAGE PROJECT SCHEDULE –
**The contractor continues to install panels to
reduce noise and dust. Noise expected from
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/5n85cuhv>
HANOVER GARAGE FAQs:

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



SUN OCT 2 ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOW, 10 AM – 1 PM – Bridge Street parking lot. To include your electric vehicle, contact Joshua@CleanEnergyNH.org



INDOOR POOL REOPENS WED OCT 5

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.

NH DHHS EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY FOR MONKEYPOX VACCINE -- The New Hampshire

DHHS has expanded monkeypox vaccine eligibility criteria to make it easier for people at risk for monkeypox to be vaccinated, and to make it easier for healthcare providers to vaccinate patients they believe are at risk. Those now recommended to get the 2-dose vaccine series include:

- Any person who identifies as gay, bisexual, queer, or is a man who has sex with men (MSM) and believes they are at risk for monkeypox virus infection.
- A person of any gender or sexual orientation whom a medical provider thinks is at increased risk for monkeypox virus infection.
- Persons who report in the prior 14 days a known exposure to the monkeypox virus.

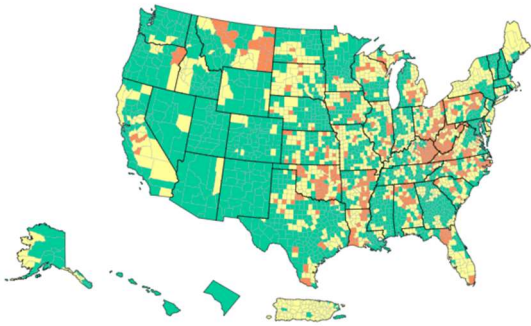
Vaccination locations can be found on the [website](#), or contact your healthcare provider. Anyone experiencing [monkeypox symptoms](#), should isolate and call their healthcare provider or call (603) 271-4496.

GO TO UPDATED FAQs ON THE “FALL COVID-19 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>

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.

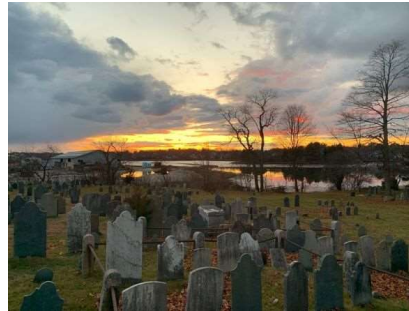
Q: How often will the group meet?

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.



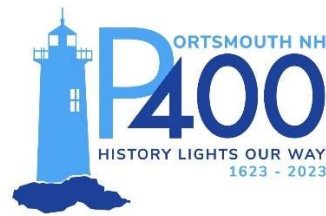
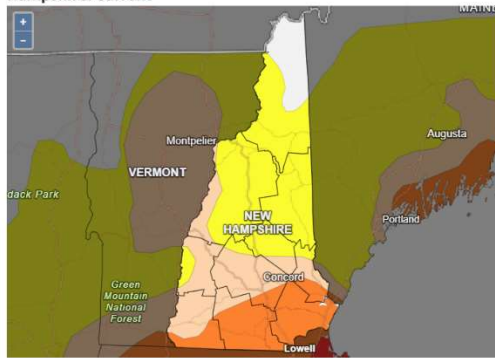
RECREATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES FALL PROGRAMS – Print copies now available at Recreation Facilities or for the online version go to: <https://tinyurl.com/34r6yxes>

PORTSMOUTH SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW THRU OCT 14, 9 AM – 3 PM -- “Photos from Afar” features work by Peter E. Randall, 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 public.



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 seacoastcrimestoppers.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](#).**

Current U.S. Drought Monitor Conditions for New Hampshire: Current



SOLD OUT! PNH400 LITTLE ITALY CARNIVAL RAFFLE -- The Portsmouth NH 400th (PNH400) Community & Neighborhoods Team is raising funds to provide free admission to all to the Little Italy Carnival they have planned for August 6, 2023 as part of the 400th Celebration. **The winner of the first raffle – Dinner for 10 at Massimo's -- will be announced on SEP 30.**

DEADLINE SEP 29 TO INCLUDE YOUR PNH400 EVENT IN THE WALL CALENDAR!

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 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

PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE -- As of September 21, 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>

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.

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 WILL BE AVAILABLE AGAIN IN OCTOBER – On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, will be setting up new reservations soon 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.

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 also eligible for other funds. You must apply through one of these Community Action Program agency to receive the assistance.

Rockingham County

- Derry [\(603\) 965-3029](tel:603-965-3029): (Derry toll free [1-855-295-4105](tel:1-855-295-4105))
- Salem [\(603\) 893-9172](tel:603-893-9172) (Salem toll free [1-800-939-9172](tel:1-800-939-9172))
- Portsmouth [\(603\) 436-3896](tel:603-436-3896) (Portsmouth toll free [1-800-639-3896](tel:1-800-639-3896))

- Seabrook [\(603\) 474-3507](tel:603-474-3507) (Seabrook toll free [1-800-979-3507](tel:1-800-979-3507))
- Raymond [\(603\) 895-2303](tel:603-895-2303) (Raymond toll free [1-800-974-2303](tel:1-800-974-2303))

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 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>