

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter: Tuesday, October 11, 2022



**CITY WELCOMES PAT AINSWORTH AS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TEAM** -- With more than 32 years' experience in IT and systems technology, including in the role she takes now -- transitioning an IT department from an outsourced to an in-house model designed to utilize resources more effectively -- Pat becomes the City's first Chief Information Officer. She joins the City after eight years at Salem State University, most recently as Chief Information Officer/Chief Information Security Officer CIO/CISO. Prior to that at the University of Vermont's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project Director, she led a team of thirty University staff and 25 consultants to implement the \$32 million PeopleSoft program covering UVM's Human Resources, Finance, Grants, Budget and Procurement IT needs.



**CITY CLERK PROVIDES DETAILS FOR NH ELECTION NOV 8** -- Polling hours for the NH Election on Tues Nov 8 are from 8 am to 7 pm. **Absentee ballots** for the NH Election are now available. Qualified registered voters may apply to receive an absentee ballot in person in the City Clerk's Office in City Hall or online, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhdkkxx> Once completed, Absentee Ballots must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall by 5 pm on Mon Nov 7, the day before the election.

**Sample ballots** by Ward:  
<https://tinyurl.com/3veh62f6>

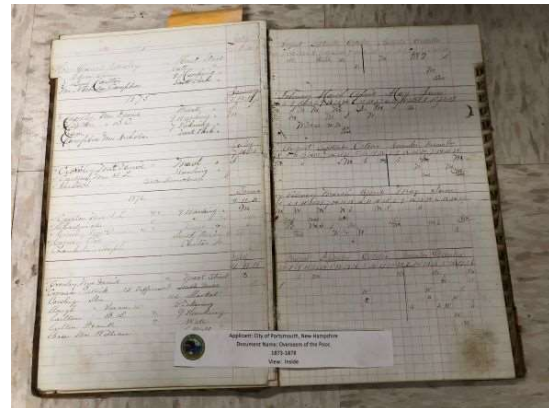
**Voter registration:** New Portsmouth voters may register in advance, during regular business hours at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall (1 Junkins Avenue) through Nov 1. On that day, the City Clerk will be available to register new voters until 4:30 pm. The Board of Registrars will also offer special hours for voter registration that evening, in the City Hall Lobby, from 6 to 7:30 pm. Same-day voter registration is also accepted at the polls on Election Day, November 8. For additional information on voting, Absentee Ballot qualifications and polling place locations, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3veh62f6> Or contact the City Clerk's Office at **(603) 610-7208** or via e-mail at [cityclerk@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:cityclerk@cityofportsmouth.com).

### **NH DOT WORK & PUBLIC MEETING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** -- The New Hampshire Transportation Council, established by NH Legislature pursuant to RSA 238-A, will hold a Public Meeting on **WED OCT 12 at 9 AM** discuss the State of New Hampshire Plan for **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment**, pursuant to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. NEVI provides funding to states to deploy electric vehicle charging infrastructure and establish an interconnected network.

**North Hampton I-95 Northbound Exit 2 CLOSED** to continue work to rehabilitate the bridge on **WED OCT 12, 9 PM to 5 AM**.

**Open House on planned improvements to former Hampton Branch railroad corridor, (NH Seacoast Greenway)** extending from the North Hampton/Hampton Town Line near the intersection of Post Road and US Route 1 to Barberry Lane in Portsmouth. The meeting will be held at the **North Hampton School at 201 Atlantic Avenue**, in North Hampton, on **THURS OCT 13, 5-8 pm**.



**NEW ARCHIVES TASK FORCE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS** -- The City Council voted unanimously to establish a Blue Ribbon Task Force to

Study the Establishment of a Private/Public partnership to Properly Archive Historical Documents relating to the City of Portsmouth. They are now accepting applications from those who want to volunteer for the Committee. For more information on the Committee's purpose and a link to the Boards, Commissions, Committees application form, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3rxkkbms>

### ROAD WORK UPDATES:

- **HYDRANT FLUSHING STARTED SEP 19 AND CONTINUES. SELECT AREAS ONLY DUE TO THE DROUGHT**
- **WOODBURY AVE. & GOSLING RD. INTERSECTION LANE CLOSURE FOR THE NEXT MONTH – One of the two left-hand turn lanes from Woodbury to Gosling.**
- **STATE & UNION FINAL PAVING NEXT WEEK. UNION & PINEHURST SIDEWALK WORK STARTS NEXT WEEK**

### STATE ST. SIDEWALKS PROJECT THRU OCT

-- 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** -- 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 CONTINUES** -- 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 thru Oct 14.** 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>

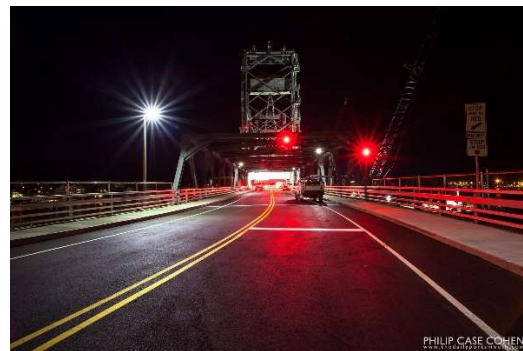
### HANOVER GARAGE FAQs:

Q. What is the **work schedule** for the project?  
A. **Construction schedule updated weekly:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/3zaft62f>

**60 PENHALLOW WORK OCT 17-19** -- Additional drainage work along Daniel St in the alley east of Moe's Sandwich shop will require shifting pedestrian traffic to the other side of Daniel.



**WATCH FOR "SCARECROWS ON THE PORT" APPEARING OCT 16!**



**MEMORIAL BRIDGE LIGHTINGS:**  
**OCT 12 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS**  
**OCT 13 METASTATIC BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUSINESS SURVEY** -- The Portsmouth Economic Development Commission (EDC) has launched its 2022 Business Retention and Expansion Survey. The goal is to survey the local business community to better understand the local business environment and learn more about how the EDC can help businesses in the community prosper. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. The EDC will share full survey results once they have been tabulated and analyzed. This survey is being administered by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center on behalf of the Portsmouth EDC. The Survey Center will keep your responses confidential. To participate, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yse4ky5>  
Questions? Contact Sean Clancy, Assistant City Manager for Economic Development ([sclancy@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:sclancy@cityofportsmouth.com)). Technical difficulties accessing the survey? Contact Sean McKinley ([sean.mckinley@unh.edu](mailto:sean.mckinley@unh.edu)) at the UNH Survey Center.

**PORTSMOUTH HOUSING AUTHORITY REPORTS RESULTS OF COMMUNITY HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY** – Nearly 600 people

participated! Thanks for your input!  
<https://tinyurl.com/vc7ux4m6>



**INDOOR POOL NOW OPEN!** Totally refreshed with new deck and drainage, interior paint and signage.



**“LIGHTING THE PATH FORWARD”** -- To officially christen the new lights at the Athletic Fields, a “Flip the Switch” ceremony took place on Thurs Oct 6. The Mayor, City Manager, Councilor Rich Blalock and other members of the Recreation Board, Recreation Director, DPW staff who coordinated the installation and Little Clippers players participated.



**SAVE THE DATES:**  
**PORTSMOUTH REC DEPT FALL FAMILY FUN FEST SAT OCT 29, 11 AM – 2 PM. Free at the Athletic Fields on Campus Drive.**

**PORTSMOUTH HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREATING HOURS – SUN OCT 30, 4-7 PM**

**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.



**WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!**  
**Latest opening is: Library Assistant in Youth Services.** Go to [details](#).



**REMINDER: CODE RED SNOW PARKING BAN SYSTEM WILL BE DISCONTINUED THIS MONTH – SIGN UP FOR SMART 911** – If you receive snow parking ban notices by text, email or voicemail and want to continue to receive these and other alerts, please signup for Smart911. Your registration on CodeRED cannot be transferred, you

must subscribe to Smart911 instead. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2t9hn22f>

**LEGAL RESEARCH DATABASE NOW AVAILABLE AT PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY** -- Portsmouth Public Library now offers Westlaw Public Access, a comprehensive legal research database designed especially for use in government, law and public libraries. Westlaw access is provided through a partnership with the New Hampshire Law Library, the state's only public law library. Portsmouth is just the third public library to partner with the Law Library.

**SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE LOCAL CONTACTS** -- **Recent tragedies in Portsmouth prompt the City to remind everyone:** If you need help, **please call or text the Suicide Hotline Number AT 1-833.710.6477 or reach out to nh988.com.** PLEASE NOTE that the new federal 988 system routes callers to the crisis center closest to their area code, not their physical location. So, if your phone is not an area code 603 number you should call the New Hampshire crisis center directly for immediate help.

**OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** – HAVEN, our local safe space and victims' advocate reminds us that one in every 3 women and one in 4 men is abused in their lifetimes. Their **"Changing Lives" event takes place Oct 13**, featuring Jenny Johnstone, sister survivor and retired USA gymnast. Tickets at: <https://havennh.org/events/> HAVEN is NH's largest crisis center working to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking, and to support and empower women, men, youth and families to heal from abuse and rebuild their lives. HAVEN advocates are available for free and confidential support 24-hours a day at **1-603-994-SAFE (7233)**.

**NH DHHS EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY FOR MONKEYPOX VACCINE** -- The New Hampshire DHHS has expanded monkeypox vaccine eligibility criteria. Those now recommended to get the 2-dose vaccine series include:

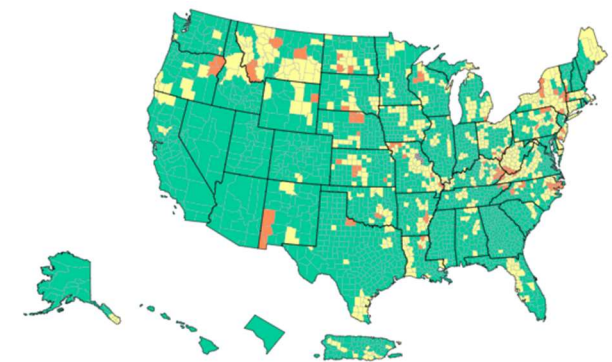
- Any person who identifies as gay, bisexual, queer, or is a man who has sex with men (MSM) and believes they are at risk for monkeypox virus infection.
- A person of any gender or sexual orientation whom a medical provider thinks is at increased risk for monkeypox virus infection.
- Persons who report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



**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.

**COVID-19 BOOSTER SITES! 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.

**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?**

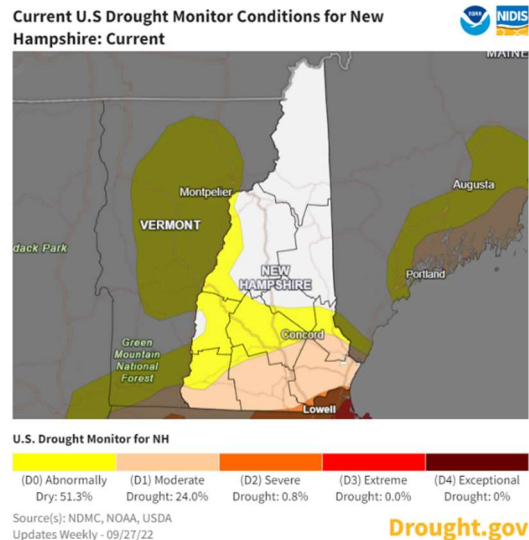
A: The committee will begin meeting this fall and complete the work by December 31, 2023.

**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.



**PORTSMOUTH NH 400 SEEKING STORIES FOR COMMEMORATIVE BOOK --** 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.



**PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE --** As of September 21, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire is now reporting "moderate 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>

**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](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 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:6039653029): (Derry toll free [1-855-295-4105](tel:18552954105))
- Salem ([603\) 893-9172](tel:6038939172) (Salem toll free [1-800-939-9172](tel:18009399172))
- Portsmouth ([603\) 436-3896](tel:6034363896) (Portsmouth toll free [1-800-639-3896](tel:18006393896))
- Seabrook ([603\) 474-3507](tel:6034743507) (Seabrook toll free [1-800-979-3507](tel:18009793507))
- Raymond ([603\) 895-2303](tel:6038952303) (Raymond toll free [1-800-974-2303](tel:18009742303))

**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>