

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter: Monday, October 17, 2022

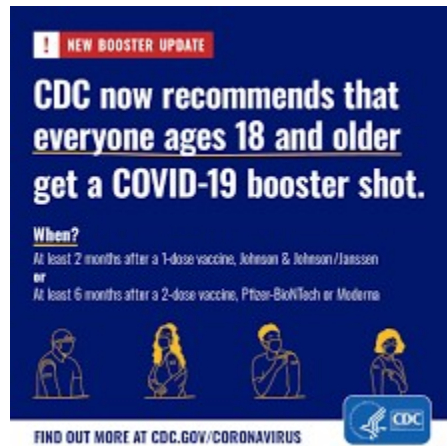
**TONIGHT! CITY COUNCIL WORKS SESSION ON FEASIBILITY OF A STORMWATER UTILITY, AT 6 PM** – In person in Council Chambers and via Zoom. Go to Agenda and Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/4kutj92c>

**NOTICE: The Rye Water System “boil water” order does NOT apply to Portsmouth.** For more information go to: <https://ryewaterdistrict.com/>

**DANIEL STREET CLOSURE MON OCT 17 --** Additional drainage work along Daniel St in the alley east of Moe’s Sandwich shop will require closing Daniel Street between Penhallow and Market St. and shifting pedestrian traffic to the other side of Daniel. **The complete job is expected to take 2-3 days but the street closure is in effect Mon and possibly Tues. Daniel St.** will be reopened at the end of the workday. Once this drainage work has been completed, Eversource will install a new pole in this alley on Thurs Oct 20. In addition, on **Mon Oct 17, the sidewalk along the new 60 Penhallow building will be disrupted by prep work for the installation of well points. A drilling rig to prep and install the well points will be positioned on Penhallow St.** On Tues Oct 18 an additional two well points will be prepped in the south alley of 60 Penhallow. The actual well point installation will take place Mon Oct 24 on Penhallow and Tues Oct 25 in the south alley.



**STARTING TODAY PRESCOTT PARK GROUND SITE WORK** – Portsmouth DPW in conjunction with Prescott Park Master Plan Phase1A implementation consultant Weston & Sampson and archaeology firm Independent Archaeological Consulting, LLC (IAC) is in the process of digging five trenches near the Shaw Warehouse in Prescott Park, starting Mon Oct 17 as part of the investigation required to implement the Prescott Park Master Plan. The work is expected to take several days, starting at 9 am (weather-permitting) each day. Each trench will be dug and filled the same day and the excavated dirt will be temporarily removed to a truck and then replaced to limit the impact on the surrounding grass. The area will be fenced off as a safety precaution.



**MOBILE COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE CLINICS IN PORTSMOUTH –**  
**TUES OCT 25, MIDDLE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, 18 Court Steet, 9 am to 4 pm**  
**THURS OCT 27, NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, 263 Peverly Hill Rd., 9 am to 4 pm.** Free and open to the public. No appointment necessary. The clinic will offer the Pfizer and Moderna booster vaccines and will have limited quantities of the Pfizer and Moderna primary series vaccines. Please remember to bring your photo ID and your vaccination card (if you have one.)



**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCARECROWS ON THE PORT, OCT 16-NOV 6!**



difficulties accessing the survey? Contact Sean McKinley ([sean.mckinley@unh.edu](mailto:sean.mckinley@unh.edu)) at the UNH Survey Center.



### 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).

### CURBSIDE YARD WASTE/LEAVES PICKUP

Bagged leaves and other yard waste is collected by DPW through Nov 30 on the same day as your normal Solid Waste/trash. **PLEASE NOTE:** Use only paper or plastic biodegradable bags. If you opt to use the plastic bio-degradable bags, the bags must be factory-labeled "biodegradable." Yard waste bags, when placed curbside, shall not weigh more than 50 pounds each. **PLEASE DO NOT dispose of leaves or clippings in or near storm drains, drainage channels (where water drains rain or melting snow), wetlands or water bodies!** Check out what "Blue" has to say about yard waste:

<https://tinyurl.com/25rww8r>

### NH SAVES BUTTONUP ENERGY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP AT PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY NOV 3, 6:30 PM --

The Rye Energy Committee and the Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee (PEAC) are hosting this free workshop for area residents. The workshop is a 1.5 hour presentation for NH residents wishing to use energy more efficiently, conserve

### VIRTUAL PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST NOW OPEN!

Residents are invited to show off their jack o'lantern masterpieces to win a prize from local businesses. To enter, simply review the contest rules, decorate a real pumpkin and submit a digital photo of the entry by 12 noon on Sat Oct 22. Online Pumpkin Decorating Voting begins on Mon Oct 24. Finalists will be announced on Fri Oct 28 on the Recreation Department Facebook page. For the contest rules and more information: <https://tinyurl.com/ywjhpwr>

### 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

**ADVANCE NOTICE: MON OCT 31 --** Due to the Halloween Parade, downtown businesses should place their trash and recycling curbside **by 1 pm** on October 31, 2022.

### CALLING ALL PORTSMOUTH BUSINESSES! 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:

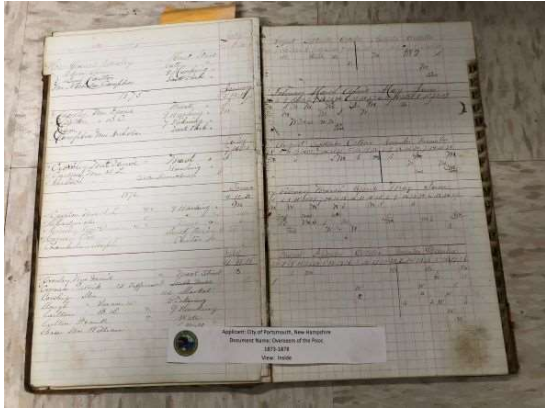
<https://tinyurl.com/ysed4ky5>

Questions? Contact Sean Clancy, Assistant City Manager for Economic Development ([sclancy@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:sclancy@cityofportsmouth.com)). Technical



energy and save money on their heating and cooling bills. **In person in the Levenson Room** and via Zoom. Register in advance for the Zoom option at <https://tinyurl.com/479kb4v7>

**PORTSMOUTH HOUSING AUTHORITY REPORTS RESULTS OF COMMUNITY HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY** – Nearly 600 people participated! Thanks for your input! <https://tinyurl.com/yc7ux4m6>



**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:

- **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/5n85cuhy>

#### HANOVER GARAGE FAQs:

Q. What is the **work schedule** for the project?

A. **Construction schedule updated weekly:**

<https://tinyurl.com/3zaft62f>

**CASHLESS TOLLS ON SPAULDING STARTING IN ROCHESTER MON OCT 17 & DOVER TUES OCT 18 at 10 pm** -- NHDOT will cease cash toll collection at the toll booths on the Spaulding Turnpike, northbound and southbound. To avoid fees motorists are encouraged to create NH E-ZPass accounts. NH account holders with a funded account receive a 30% discount for passenger cars on all NH toll roads.



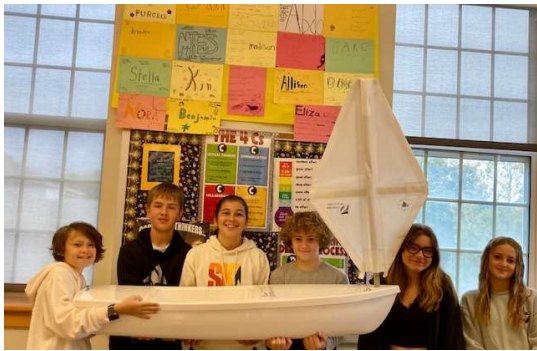
**WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!** Latest opening is: **Administrative Clerk- Tax Department.** Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/a86hrshp>



**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>

**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. 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).**



**PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL MINI-BOAT BECOMES ‘MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE’ WHILE STUDYING THE ATLANTIC --** The 7th grade STEM classes at Portsmouth Middle School have built a mini-boat that will brave the Atlantic and, hopefully, reach Europe or Africa. The project is part of an international effort Educational Passages that lets students track their boat with GPS to study ocean currents. <https://educationalpassages.org/> The unmanned mini-boat *The Clipper Ripper* will be filled with small items that represent Portsmouth – and the students invite your suggestions! The cargo can’t weigh more than 5 pounds nor can it be larger than about half a cubic foot (the size of a shoebox). **The students plan to launch the boat in early November so if you have any suggestions, make sure to email Emily Sherman, within the next few weeks.** She can be reached at [esherman@sau52.org](mailto:esherman@sau52.org).

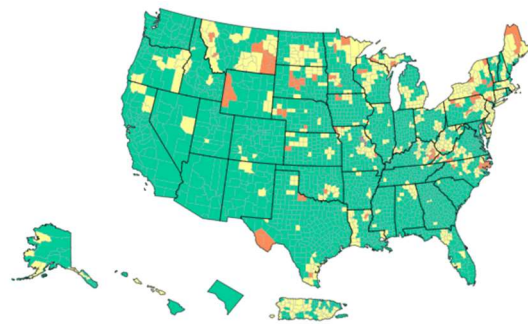
**NH DHHS EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY FOR MONKEYPOX VACCINE --** The New Hampshire DHHS has expanded monkeypox vaccine eligibility

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?**

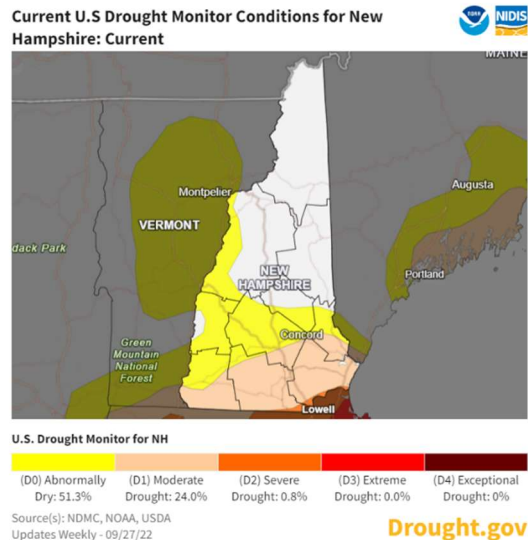
A: The committee will begin meeting this fall and complete the work by December 31, 2023.

**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://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 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>