

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Wednesday, November 9, 2022

CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY, FRI NOV 11

VETERANS' BREAKFAST THURS NOV 10 AT SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTER, 10-11 AM – All veterans welcome to the free appreciation breakfast! 125 Cottage St. in the Assembly Hall. **To make a reservation (required), please call 603.610.4433.**



ANNUAL VETERANS DAY WREATH-LAYING, FRI NOV 11 at 11 am in Goodwin Park -- Guest speaker NH National Guest Major General David J. Mikolaities. Portsmouth High School Clipper Band performs.



PORTSMOUTH ELKS #97 THANKS YOU!
Through your generosity the Elks were able to donate 2,000 pair of socks and gloves to Liberty House and the VA hospital.

CONSTRUCTION WORK THIS WEEK:

HANOVER GARAGE Noise expected from concrete sawcut and demolition thru Nov 23 - 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](#). **Go to current work schedule:** <https://tinyurl.com/vc3s2az7>

STATE STREET SIDEWALKS PROJECT WORK CONTINUES --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. **Work hours are Mon-Fri, 7 am to 5 pm with no parking in the marked work zone.**

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT PAVING CLIFF RD. THIS WEEK. WORK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF SAGAMORE AVE. -- 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.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY SAT NOV 12, 8 AM-12 NOON -- At the Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Road. Residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington are encouraged to bring household chemicals for safe disposal between 8 am and 12 noon. Proof of residency is required. Household hazardous waste collection helps safely dispose of items that can harm residents' health, the environment and drinking water supplies. Go to [details on what is accepted and what is not](#).



WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!
Latest opening is: Utility Mechanic - Water & Sewer, Meters and Backflow Go to: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work>

RECREATION NEEDS STUDY PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2, NOV 16, 6-8 PM AT COMMUNITY CAMPUS, 100 CAMPUS DRIVE

– Get an update on the findings from community engagement efforts, data collection and analyses. Then, visit the gallery to help the City define recreational priorities for the next 10 years. **Print this flyer and bring it with you to be eligible to win a door prize:** <https://tinyurl.com/2spvkres>

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (NHSCA) COMMUNITY SURVEY –

NHSCA is in the midst of a strategic planning process and is conducting a Community Survey to gauge public opinion. Deadline is Fri Dec 2. Go to: <https://bit.ly/nhscasurvey>

PORTSMOUTH ADVOCATES HONORS NANCY CARMER WITH INAUGURAL AWARD

-- The inaugural Nancy Carmer Preservation Planning Award celebrates individuals or groups who promote innovative, vibrant, and economically sustainable uses for historic properties and is presented to its namesake: Nancy Carmer. Former Economic Development Program Manager for the City of Portsmouth, she was a champion for historic and cultural resources throughout Portsmouth.



PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY COAT SWAP --

The Library invites you to "get in the holiday spirit by helping those in the community with a donation of your unneeded cold-weather clothing." Drop offs (175 Parrot Ave.) between MON Nov 21 and WED Nov 23. Anyone who would benefit, can stop by the Library between NOV 28 and JAN 7. Free and open to all.



ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD "SHARE THE WARMTH" HAT & MITTEN DRIVE FOR GATHER FAMILIES -- The [Alliance for Greater](https://www.allianceforgreatergood.org/)

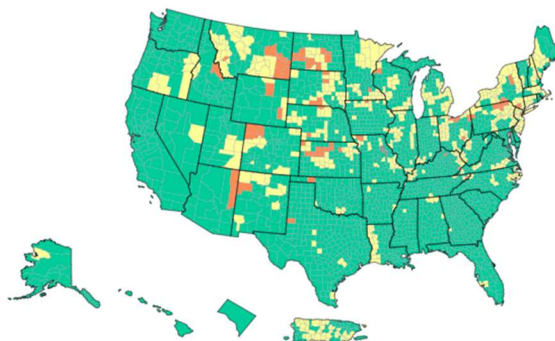
[Good](https://www.good.org/) is collaborating again with [Gather](https://www.gather.org/), the community nonprofit fighting hunger in the Seacoast, to collect **NEW** hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for adults and children. Alliance volunteers will distribute the collected items during Gather's Thanksgiving Food Distribution. **Drop off donations now through November 15** at the Senior Activity Center (125 Cottage Street) or the [YMCA of the Seacoast](https://www.ymcaoftheseacoast.org/) (555 Peverly Hill Road), Click [here](#) to learn more.

PORTSMOUTH DPW WASTEWATER SAMPLING FOR COVID-19 --

The City continues to receive weekly reports on samples from the Pease and Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facilities. **New updates posted** on the [COVID-19 Sampling page](#) on the City website.

COVID-19 BOOSTER SITES! Find locations offering the new booster by going to the interactive map at vaccines.gov

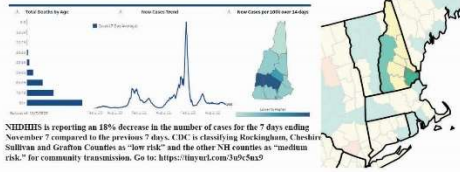
NH DHHS advises that everyone over 5 who completed the primary series vaccination 3 months ago or more should receive the new bivalent boosters. By receiving the booster (and this year's flu vaccine) you may help blunt the expected winter surge and demand on healthcare providers.



TRAVELING FOR THE HOLIDAYS? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WITH CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK.

ROCKINGHAM, CHESHIRE, SULLIVAN AND GRAFTON COUNTIES LISTED AS "LOW RISK." ALL OTHERS AS "MEDIUM RISK" -- CDC recommends using its online COVID-19 tracker: <https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba>

HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD 11/9/22



NH DHHS is reporting an 18% decrease in the number of cases for the 7 days ending November 7 compared to the previous 7 days. CDC is classifying Rockingham, Cheshire, Sullivan and Grafton Counties as "low risk" and the other NH counties as "medium risk." for community transmission. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3d9c5a9>

COVID-19 Booster Doses
The best way to protect yourself from COVID-19, including Omicron, is to get vaccinated and boosted.
Who: Everyone ages 18 and older should get a booster.
When: An initial booster should be given 2-3 months after your second Pfizer or Moderna shot or 4 months after Johnson & Johnson.



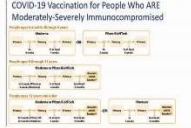
NH DHHS and CDC RECOMMEND EVERYONE OVER 5 RECEIVE FALL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES The CDC has approved the FDA EUA for a modified "bivalent" booster Pfizer vaccine for age 5+ and one from Moderna for 6+ that combines protection against the original strain P1.U.S. protection against Omicron BA.4 BA.5 now circulating. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/3d9c5a9> for more info. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-managers-vaccination-faq>

COVID-19 Vaccination for People NOT Moderately-Severely Immunocompromised

COVID-19 BOOSTERS: MORE SITES AVAILABLE! Find the new booster by going to the interactive map at vaccines.gov

COVID-19 Vaccination for People WHO ARE Moderately-Severely Immunocompromised

EARLY SURGE IN RSV AFFECTING INFANTS AND SENIORS –For most healthy people, RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, is a cold-like nuisance. But for the very young, the elderly and people with certain health problems, it can be serious, even life-threatening. The virus can infect deep in the lungs, causing pneumonia, and in babies it can impede breathing by inflaming tiny airways. Several companies are creating RSV vaccines but Pfizer and rival GSK are furthest along. Both companies recently reported final-stage testing in older adults. The competing vaccines are made somewhat differently, but each proved strongly effective, especially against serious disease. Both companies plan to seek regulatory approval in the U.S. by the end of the year, as well as in other countries.



MONKEYPOX VACCINE – Find vaccination locations here: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/gov/files/ohbent176/files/monkeypox2/monkeypox-vaccine-locations.pdf> or contact your healthcare provider. Anyone experiencing monkeypox symptoms, should isolate and call their healthcare provider or call (603) 271-4496.

“MEMORIES” FOR PORTSMOUTH NH 400 COMMEMORATIVE BOOK DEADLINE

EXTENDED TO NOV 30 -- 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.

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THE MARITIME-THEME SCULPTURE GARDEN AS A PNH400 LEGACY PROJECT?

– Go to more details: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8nkmf8>

Go to [the latest news on plans for the Portsmouth NH 400th anniversary](#). Follow [@PortsmouthNH400](#) on social media.

REGIONAL HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD: Go to a larger PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/2z28xhfu>

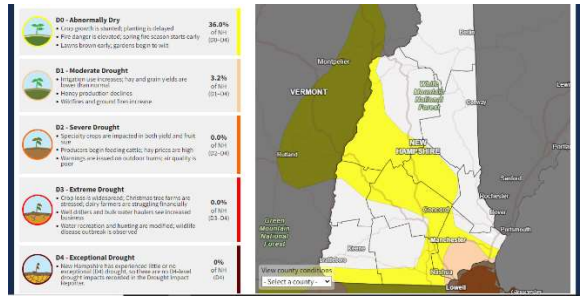
BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS – Call On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, at 603.826.6500 to make an appointment, or go to <https://www.on-sitemedservices.com/vaccine>

GO TO FAQs ON THE “FALL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE”
<https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7>



A HISTORY OF PORTSMOUTH NH IN 101 OBJECTS BOOK-SIGNING THURS NOV 10 AT PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 6-8 PM – Meet more than 50 authors and photographers who contributed to the PNH400 Legacy Project. RiverRun Bookstore will have books for sale at the pre-publication price of \$24.99 (\$5 off the cover price. Free and open to the public.

PNH400 COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOODS TEAM ANNOUNCES BRGR BAR RAFFLE – Here’s your chance to win one of THREE \$500 gift cards! Fundraiser for the Little Italy Carnival August 6, 2023. Only 300 tickets are being sold. A \$500 gift card winner will be selected for each 100 tickets sold. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/mypkmu>



PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE -- As of November 1, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire had reduced the limits of the “abnormally dry” conditions area

<https://www.drought.gov/states/new-hampshire> around the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. The **City of Portsmouth and Pease Drinking Water Systems** ask water customers to be as efficient as possible when using our precious water resources. City Water operations staff continue to track and update conditions. For additional information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88pcu4>

CURBSIDE YARD WASTE/LEAVES PICKUP
Bagged leaves and other yard waste are 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 biodegradable 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/25rwwer8r>

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.

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, Thurs, 12 noon to 1 pm dine inside. 12:30 pm for bag lunch pickup in the St. John's parking lot (100 Chapel St.).

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.

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER – Portsmouth Rotary is hosting its 51st Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, free on Thurs Nov 24. No sit-down dinner. Pickup 11 am – 12:30 pm at St. Nicholas Church. Call 603-205-0901 or email: rotarythanksgiving@gmail.com

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 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>