

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter: Monday, November 28, 2022



### **PETER BRITZ NAMED DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT**

-- PETER BRITZ NAMED DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT -- effective January 3, 2023. He is currently Assistant Director, Environmental Planner and Sustainability Coordinator, and previously served as Interim Planning Director from September to December 2021. Peter Britz joined the Portsmouth Planning Department in 2000 as Environmental Planner for the City, having served as an environmental consultant working in NH and Massachusetts. In 2008, with sustainability efforts becoming a priority for the city, he was named Sustainability Coordinator. In that role, his responsibilities have included serving as Planning Department liaison to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices, which is dedicated to improving residents' awareness of initiatives the City pursues as an Eco-Municipality.

### **HANOVER GARAGE: FLEET STREET ENTRANCE TEMPORARILY CLOSED STARTING MON NOV 28. Noise expected from concrete sawcut and demolition thru Dec 2.**

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/yc36x7ke>



**HOLIDAY TREE IN MARKET SQ.** -- A 35-foot blue spruce donated by the Fratamico Family in loving memory of Rose Zubkus.

**50<sup>TH</sup> PORTSMOUTH ROTARY CHRISTMAS TREE SALE** – Trees in all sizes, wreaths and ornaments with all profits going back to the community! Planet Fitness parking lot, 775 Lafayette Rd. – Mon-Thurs, 12-6 pm. Fri-Sun, 11 am – 8 pm.

**FREE VINTAGE CHRISTMAS SHUTTLE RETURNS FOR 2022!** – The free shuttle provided by TransAction Corporate Shuttles, compliments of the City of Portsmouth, is making a 15-minute loop connecting the parking lots, garages, downtown and key holiday events including Candlelight Stroll at Strawberry Banke, “Elf” at The Music Hall and the Gingerbread Contest Exhibition at Portsmouth Historical Society. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec 3-4, 10-11 and 17-18 between 1:30 and 10:30 pm (except 4-8 pm on Sat. Dec 3 because of the Holiday Parade). There will be thirteen stops along the downtown route, all of which will be marked with sidewalk signage. To download the map and a summary of Vintage Christmas events, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3kdk8wb>



**DEB ANTHONY NAMED GRAND MARSHAL -- TREE-LIGHTING & ILLUMINATED HOLIDAY**

**PARADE SAT DEC 3 STARTING AT 5 PM IN MARKET SQUARE** -- Mayor Deaglan McEachern is pleased to announce that Deb Anthony, who recently retired after 8 years as executive director of Gather, is the 2022 Grand Marshal. In making the announcement, Mayor McEachern said, “Deb Anthony is the embodiment of the spirit of generosity for which Portsmouth is known, having guided Gather and the community through some of its most challenging demands since its founding two hundred years ago. The pandemic added enormously to the food insecurities of Seacoast families – increasing the number served to more than 2,000 families per month -- but also inspired all those who donated, volunteered and advocated for Gather and the needs it serves. Deb is one of those champions of this City of the Open Door who makes sure we hold the door open, whenever and wherever we can.”

The parade route begins at Plaza 800 on Islington St. at 6 pm and proceeds downtown via Congress St., continuing through Market Square to Pleasant St., crossing State St. before concluding on Junkins Ave. **On-street parking bans and road closures will be in effect on SAT DEC 3 (or the rain date DEC 4).** Go to [parking restrictions and other details](#).

**WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE RESERVED SEATING FOR PARADE** -- The City is working with Access Navigators to provide a wheelchair-accessible seated viewing area for the parade. Reserved for people who have difficulty standing, along with their companions, the reserved area is on the sidewalk along Islington Street between Maplewood and Bridge Street. Space and seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. Nearby public parking includes the Bridge Street Lot, Worth Lot and Foundry Garage. Access Navigators are the hosts of this first-time effort, providing assistance and holiday cheer while collecting comments from users about accommodations for future events. For more details go to <https://accessnavigators.com/> Or @Access Navigators on Facebook.



**ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD LAUNCHES "SHARE THE JOY" HOLIDAY CARD-WRITING CAMPAIGN** -- The [Alliance for Greater Good](#) is once again seeking to involve community card writing “elves” in sending warm holiday wishes to nursing home and long-term care facility residents.

Volunteers will be assigned 10-12 names to whom they will write personalized holiday cards. Drop off completed cards by **Dec 12**. Go to details: <https://tinyurl.com/4cqv9hha>



**PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY COAT SWAP PICKUP NOW THRU JAN 7** -- Anyone who would benefit, can stop by the Library (175 Parrott Ave.). Free & open to all.

**CITY SETS PROPERTY TAX RATE** -- The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration has approved the City’s 2022 tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 of \$15.20 per \$1,000 of valuation. The tax rate of \$15.20 is \$0.17 more than Tax Year 2021, which results in the median single-family home valued at \$480,100 will pay \$7,298 or \$82 more in Tax Year 2022. The rate is \$0.10 lower than the tax rate of \$15.30 that was anticipated at the time the City Council adopted the FY23 annual budget this past June.” For the online property tax calculator go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yh96zpw8>

**CITY ASSESSOR’S OFFICE STARTS PROPERTY DATA COLLECTION THIS WEEK** – The process of inspecting and measuring buildings will take the next 18 months. Notices going out now with details for homeowners on how the inspectors will be identified and what’s involved. The survey will proceed neighborhood by neighborhood with the schedule posted on the Assessor’s Data Collection webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/2ytw3fw6>

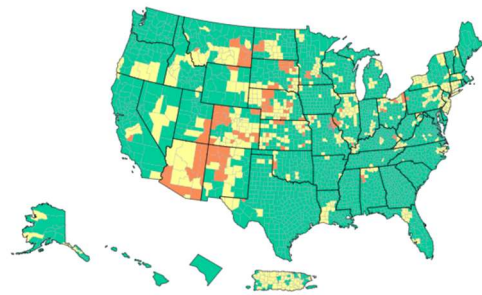
**BARTLETT STREET PUBLIC MEETING, THURS DEC 8 AT 6:30 PM. DPW TRAINING ROOM, 680 PEVERLY HILL RD.** – In person, or via Zoom. For the Zoom registration, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8j3kyr>

**WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! Latest opening is: Health Inspector. Go to:** <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work>

**WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES FROM NH DOT** – NH DOT advises: “Prepare your car (ice scrapers, wiper fluid, snow tires), buckle up, slow down, and give yourself extra time to get where you are going. Check the weather and road conditions before you head out to work, shopping, or holiday

travels. The [New England 511 Traveler Information System website](#) provides real-time traffic and weather information and can alert users via text or email to issues on roads throughout Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.”

**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>



**TRAVELING? CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK. ALL NH COUNTIES (EXCEPT COOS) AND 78% OF THE US ARE LISTED AS “LOW RISK.”** -- CDC recommends using its online COVID-19 tracker: <https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba>

**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 are 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.

**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>



**TOMORROW NOV 29 IS GIVING TUESDAY! LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO PNH400** -- Portsmouth NH 400th was formed to bring our community's voices together to celebrate Portsmouth's 400th anniversary in 2023, and they'd like you to join in! PNH400's Giving Tuesday goal is to generate ten new "Shoalers 400 Club" memberships (@ \$400), and five new "1623 Revolutionaries Club" memberships (@ \$1,623). Still, ANY amount you wish to contribute is welcome. [Make a donation](#) today! 2023 is right around the corner!

**PNH400 COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOODS TEAM: 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>

**“MEMORIES” FOR PORTSMOUTH NH 400 COMMEMORATIVE BOOK DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DEC 31** -- 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.

**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.

**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](http://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.

#### 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](tel:6039653029)) 965-3029: (Derry toll free [1-855-295-4105](tel:18552954105))
- Salem ([603](tel:6038939172)) 893-9172 (Salem toll free [1-800-939-9172](tel:18009399172))
- Portsmouth ([603](tel:6034363896)) 436-3896 (Portsmouth toll free [1-800-639-3896](tel:18006393896))
- Seabrook ([603](tel:6034743507)) 474-3507 (Seabrook toll free [1-800-979-3507](tel:18009793507))
- Raymond ([603](tel:6038952303)) 895-2303 (Raymond toll free [1-800-974-2303](tel:18009742303))

#### PORTSMOUTH ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE BUTTON UP NH PRESENTATION

– Go to the tips and techniques presented at the Nov 3 workshop. <https://tinyurl.com/2p9832a9>

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS AND PAYMENT HELP

– NH electric supply rates have increased to more than double last August's supply rate. **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 --** 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>

#### 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>