

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Wednesday, November 30, 2022

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MON DEC 5 AT 7 PM – In person in City Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration see the City website calendar.

CITY SETS PROPERTY TAX RATE – DETAILS ON TAX BILL PAYMENT – Tax bills are being mailed on Dec 1 Thursday and the first half is due January 4, 2023. Taxpayers can pay their bills anytime from now until January 4, 2023 without accruing interest. The second half of the bill will be due June 1, 2023. 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. For the online property tax calculator go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yh96zpw8>



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



TREE-LIGHTING & ILLUMINATED HOLIDAY PARADE – IF POSTPONEMENT TO SUN DEC 4 IS NEEDED, THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE BY NOON ON FRI DEC 2. DEB ANTHONY NAMED GRAND MARSHAL --

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.”

PARADE PARKING BAN AND ROAD CLOSURES will be in effect on SAT DEC 3 (or the rain date DEC 4). 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. Go to [parking restrictions and other details](#). **SMART 911 ALERT SYSTEM** – The City issued an alert yesterday about the parade parking ban. **If you did not receive an email, text or voicemail and want to be on the distribution for future snow parking bans notices and other alerts, sign up at SMART 911:** <https://tinyurl.com/3m242zxb>
The old CodeRed system is no longer in use.

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.



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/3kdsk8wb>

50TH 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.



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/4civ9hha>

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

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.

ENR New England

New England Best Projects

Best Water/Environment and Best Project Excellence in Safety: Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade



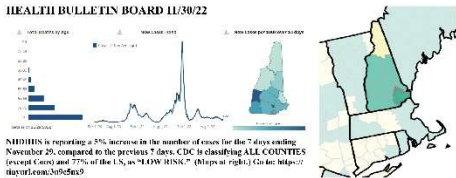
Photos courtesy of Methuen Construction

PEIRCE ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY WINS ENR “BEST PROJECT” AWARDS -- *Engineering News-Record (ENR) New England*, reporting news, data, rankings and analysis for the global construction industry for the past 140 years, named the City of Portsmouth Peirce Island WWTF Upgrade project, AECOM and Methuen Construction, project engineers as the winner of its “Best Project: Water/Environment” award and the “Best Project: Excellence in Safety” award.

HANOVER GARAGE: FLEET STREET ENTRANCE TEMPORARILY CLOSED THRU DEC 19. 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/vc36x7ke>

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>

5TH ANNUAL INNOVATE NH FORUM WITH SEN MAGGIE HASSAN TUES DEC 6, 9-10 AM via Zoom -- Join the Senator virtually for this “Future of Innovation: Investing in STEM” roundtable discussion with innovators, businesses, and resource providers from around the state about the latest investments in STEM and how New Hampshire will continue to lead in innovative research, development, and manufacturing. Go to registration: <https://www.hassan.senate.gov/innovatenh>

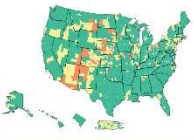


COVID-19 Booster Doses

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? At least 6 months after your second Pfizer or Moderna shot, or 3 months after Johnson & Johnson.



NH DPHS AND CDC RECOMMEND EVERYONE OVER 5 RECEIVE FULL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES. The CDC has approved the RIA, EUA for a modified booster Pfizer vaccine for age 5+ and one from Moderna for 18+. It is common sense to support the original study PLUS protection against Omicron BA.4/BA.5 now circulating. Go to <https://www.nh.gov/press-releases> for more information.

COVID-19 Vaccination for People NOT Moderately/Severely Immunocompromised

Who should get a booster:

- People aged 18 and older
- People aged 65 and older
- People with certain medical conditions
- People who are in long-term care facilities
- People who are in congregate settings
- People who are in high-risk environments
- People who are in high-risk occupations
- People who are in high-risk communities

COVID-19 BOOSTERS: MORE SITES AVAILABLE! Find the new booster by going to the interactive map at <https://www.vaccines.gov> search.

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

Who should get a booster:

- People aged 18 and older
- People aged 65 and older
- People with certain medical conditions
- People who are in long-term care facilities
- People who are in congregate settings
- People who are in high-risk environments
- People who are in high-risk occupations
- People who are in high-risk communities

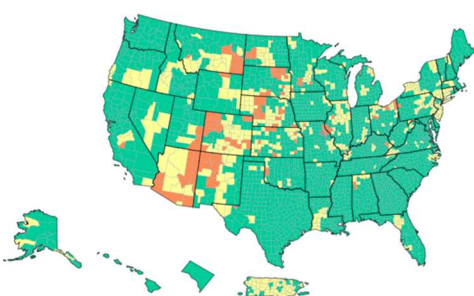
EARLY SURGE IN RSV AFFECTING INFANTS AND SENIORS -- In non-healthy people, RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, is a common infection that for the most part, the elderly and people with certain health problems, it can be serious, even life-threatening. The virus can be very deep in the lungs, causing pneumonia, and as a result, it can trigger breathing by itself, leading to chronic lung disease. Both respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza (flu) are common viruses that cause the RSV vaccine for 18 and older and the RSV vaccine for 60 and older. Both companies recently reported it is being tested in 65 and older. The emerging vaccine is made somewhat differently but may prove strongly effective, especially against serious disease. Both companies have an ongoing regulatory approval in the U.S. by the end of the year, as well as in other countries.

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

Who should get a booster:

- People aged 18 and older
- People aged 65 and older
- People with certain medical conditions
- People who are in long-term care facilities
- People who are in congregate settings
- People who are in high-risk environments
- People who are in high-risk occupations
- People who are in high-risk communities

REGIONAL HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD -- Go to a larger PDF.



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](https://www.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>

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 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**. 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\) 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))

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://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 -- 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>