

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Wednesday, December 7, 2022



CITY NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2023 PRESCOTT PARK SEASONAL BOAT SLIP RENTALS LOTTERY -- The application period is December 5, 2022 through 4 pm January 5, 2023. To download the application package, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6adh59> Each year, twelve boat slips are made available for seasonal rental. Slips are first awarded to Portsmouth residents in a lottery drawing on Friday January 6, 2023 at 9 am. If there are any slips available after the Portsmouth Resident drawing, a second lottery is then held for non-residents. Notifications are sent immediately after the drawing on January 6.

TONIGHT: WED DEC 7, SAFE WATER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING, 6-8 PM AT PEASE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY – In person or via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ymrc4thd>

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PROGRAM PILOT ENDED ON DEC 6

PARKING HOLIDAY DEC 17-26 – At its meeting this week, the City Council voted to offer a parking enforcement holiday, from Sat Dec 17 thru Mon Dec 26. There is still a 3-hour limit per space, to encourage turnover and downtown access to shops, restaurants and holiday events.

‘ROUND THE CLOCK WORK AT PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD – The Shipyard is advising that “The work being done during the day to support the Multi-Mission Dry Dock Project has been extended to around the clock shift work for the next several weeks. During this time the

same noises heard during the day, which consist of drilling and pile installation, will extend periodically into the overnight hours. We apologize for the impact this may have on our surrounding neighbors.”

NHDOT LANE CLOSURES ON I-95 BRIDGE STARTED DEC 5– NHDOT is inspecting the bridge, Mon thru Fri until complete or until Fri Dec 23. Temporary lane closures will be required for the next three weeks.

NHDOT ROLLING ROAD BLOCK ON SPAULDING TPKE THURS DEC 8 -- Traffic will be impacted Northbound and Southbound to facilitate over-lashing a new cable between existing poles across the Turnpike in the vicinity of Exit 8.

TOMORROW: 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>

TOMORROW: PORTSMOUTH ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE/PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY POWER MEETING THURS DEC 8, 6:30-8 PM, Conference Room A at City Hall – In person and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/5cat8f3f>

MCINTYRE PROJECT UPDATE – City Attorney Susan Morrell’s memo to the City Manager and DRAFT Community Plan design both shared with the City Council at their Dec 5 meeting are posted to the McIntyre page: <https://tinyurl.com/3w6st6k6>



HOLIDAY HEROES – Thanks to all the “elves” writing personalized holiday cards for seniors and shut-ins. The Alliance for Greater Good provides volunteers with details from 12 intended recipients so you can make each card an individual expression of

holiday cheer. **There's still time to sign up!**
Deadline for completed cards is DEC 12. Go to details: <https://tinyurl.com/4civ9hha>

HOLIDAY DONATIONS OF GIFT CARDS FOR UNDER-SERVED OLDER KIDS -- This holiday season will likely be a difficult time for many families in this community. The Welfare Department is seeking gift cards in small denominations for things like movie tickets, coffee houses, stores such as Old Navy, Gamestop, Kohl's and others in the Mall at Fox Run. Please contact Ellen Tully, 603-610-7267, etully@cityofportsmouth.com. Thank you for helping make the holiday season bright for your neighbors!

WED DEC 14: "COCOA WITH A COP" AT THE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER, 9-10:30 AM -- Free and open to the public. Please RSVP to 603-610-4433.

THURS DEC 15: SENIORS' HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT COMMUNITY CAMPUS -- Seating at 10 AM, holiday musical entertainment and sing-along with Journey Song Choir at 11 and catered lunch with choice of soup, breads and garden salad served at 11:30 AM. Pot luck dessert -- bring a dessert to share! Residents \$5/non-residents \$7. Reservations required -- please call 603-610-4433.



DEADLINE DEC 10 TO REGISTER FOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST! The contest is open to every Portsmouth resident. There are three categories this year and the judges will select which one is most appropriate for each entry they view.

- Traditional Light Display
- Creative Light Display
- Kids' Choice

The top three winners each receive a \$500 gift certificate, with preference given to first-time winners. Honorable mention winners each receive a \$25 gift card. Residents are invited to register to participate in the contest by completing the form on the Holiday Lights Contest 2022 webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/37fk59uh> Or, for a printable pdf of the entry form and more information, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2rpthntn> Print the form, scan it

and email it to hotline@cityofportsmouth.com or mail c/o City Manager's Office, City Hall, One Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth NH 03801.

FREE VINTAGE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND SHUTTLE DEC 10-11, 17-18 -- 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. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec 10-11 and 17-18 between 1:30 and 10:30 pm. To download the map and a summary of Vintage Christmas events, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3kdsk8wb>

CITY SETS PROPERTY TAX RATE--DETAILS ON TAX BILL PAYMENT --Tax bills were 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 tax rate of \$15.20 is just 17 cents 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>

CROSS ROADS HOUSE TO PROVIDE WARMING CENTER FOR ROCKINGHAM COUNTY HOMELESS -- Starting immediately the warming center will open from 7 pm to 8 am on any day the forecast temperature or wind chill dips to 28 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, or if heavy snowfall accumulates to six inches. The warming center will also be open in those temperature conditions when there is an inch or more of heavy rainfall, or when ice or sleet accumulates to half an inch or more. People coming to the warming center in those conditions will be met and given a warm meal and a cot. Before leaving the facility by 8 am Cross Roads House will offer each person the services of a case manager who can assist and direct them to local social services. Rockingham County residents will have priority.



PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY COAT SWAP PICKUP NOW THRU JAN 7 -- Anyone

Stories.PNH400@gmail.com Submissions will be reviewed for accuracy and edited for length and content.

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:(603)965-3029): (Derry toll free [1-855-295-4105](tel:1-855-295-4105))
- Salem [\(603\) 893-9172](tel:(603)893-9172) (Salem toll free [1-800-939-9172](tel:1-800-939-9172))
- Portsmouth [\(603\) 436-3896](tel:(603)436-3896) (Portsmouth toll free [1-800-639-3896](tel:1-800-639-3896))
- Seabrook [\(603\) 474-3507](tel:(603)474-3507) (Seabrook toll free [1-800-979-3507](tel:1-800-979-3507))
- Raymond [\(603\) 895-2303](tel:(603)895-2303) (Raymond toll free [1-800-974-2303](tel:1-800-974-2303))



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>

Questions about a City-related matter? Email to hotline@cityofportsmouth.com and we'll get you an answer.

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>