

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Wednesday, December 14, 2022

TONIGHT: WED DEC 14 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 7 PM – In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. This is the last meeting of 2022, rescheduled from Dec 19 to keep from interfering with the start of Hanukkah. Includes holiday music performed by Portsmouth Music and Arts Center Brewery Big Band. Go to Agenda and Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ns52cawz>



NHBOA CODE OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR -- City of Portsmouth Building Inspector Tim Metivier (above left, with City Manager Karen Conard) was named Code Official of The Year by the New Hampshire Building Officials Association (NHBOA). His award was unanimously approved by the awards committee of his NHBOA peers as a code official who "has gone above and beyond to promote the profession of code administration, NH state codes, community safety and the Association."

INDOOR POOL SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! Resident registration opened on Dec 13. Non-resident opens Dec 27. Registration closes Sun Jan 15, 2023. For details, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2p95sdbt>

INDOOR POOL & SPINNAKER POINT 2023 MEMBERSHIP FEES – New 2023 Membership fees for use of the Indoor Pool are now posted: <https://tinyurl.com/y6e25nws> also for Spinnaker Point: <https://tinyurl.com/2sznbpty>

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.

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.

HOLIDAY HOURS: CITY HALL

Closing at 1 pm on Fri Dec 23.
Closed Dec 24, 25, 26 & 27. Re-opening **Wed Dec 28, 8 am to 6 pm**. Closed Dec 31, Jan 1 & Jan 2.

RECREATION FACILITIES:

All buildings closing at 1 pm on Sat Dec 24
Closed Sun Dec 25 & Mon Dec 26. All buildings closing at 1 pm on New Year's Eve, Dec 31 and closed Sun Jan 1 & Mon Jan 2.

PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Closed Sun Dec 25, Mon Dec 26, Sun Jan 1 and Mon Jan 2.

DPW TRASH PICKUP:

Mon Dec 26 combined with Tues Dec 27
Mon Jan 1 combined with Tues Jan 3

RECYCLING CENTER:

Closed as usual on Mon Dec 26 & Mon Jan 2



HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST MAP! Take a drive to tour the neighborhood lights. The locations will be obvious, but use this interactive map <https://tinyurl.com/mshhx88d> Or this printable PDF map with addresses to guide you. <https://tinyurl.com/yhnmhjef>

Between now and Dec 19, the judges will be selecting the winners in three categories:

- 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.



CITY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2023 PRESCOTT PARK SEASONAL BOAT SLIP RENTALS LOTTERY DEADLINE JAN 5 -- 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.

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 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.

OPERATION BLESSING WARMING CENTER, WEEKEND HOT MEALS AND FOOD PANTRY/CLOTHING ROOM -- Operation Blessing, INC at 600a Lafayette Rd opens its 8-bed warming center from 7 pm to 7 am when the temperature is 25 degrees or below. Weekend Hot Meals - just walk in - on Saturdays from 11 am to



HOLIDAY HEROES – 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!

FREE VINTAGE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND SHUTTLE DEC 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. Saturday and Sunday, Dec 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>

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

12:30 pm and Sundays from 3 pm to 4:30 pm. The Operation Blessing, INC Food Pantry and Clothing Room is open Mon-Fri 10 am to 4 pm and Saturdays from 9 am to 12 noon. Any questions? Please call 603-430-8561 or 603-988-2671.



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.

HANOVER GARAGE: FLEET STREET ENTRANCE TEMPORARILY CLOSED THRU DEC 22. Noise expected from concrete sawcut and demolition thru Dec 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/mry6kh2z>

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>



NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER OFFICIAL PORTSMOUTH NH 400TH COMMEMORATIVE 2023 CALENDAR – Delivered in time for Christmas. \$24.95. Quantities are limited! To order, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3b3jskfe>

And check out all the other cool PNH400 merchandise for sale online AND available at the Portsmouth Historical Society museum gift shop at 10 Middle Road.

LAST CHANCE! PNH400 COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOODS TEAM: BRGR BAR RAFFLE – Here’s your chance to win a \$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.

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

HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD 12/14/22

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 5 months after Johnson & Johnson.

NH DHHS AND CDC RECOMMEND EVERYONE OVER 5 RECEIVE FALL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES The CDC has approved the J&J J23 for a second booster vaccine for age 5+ and one from Moderna for for their combine booster against the original strain P.1. S protection against Omicron BA.4/BA.5 now circulating. Go to U.P.D.ATED booster FAQs: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-managers-office/health-services>

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

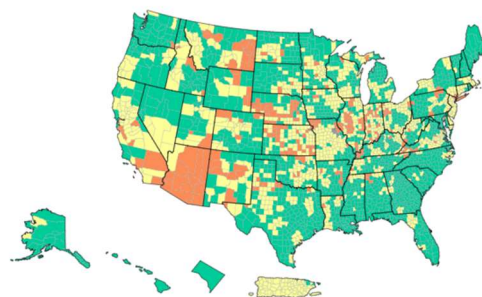
VACCINE: CLINIC scheduled for January 18, 2023 at the Senior Activity Center in Portsmouth 125 Cottage Street from 9 am to 5 pm. Pfizer and Moderna boosters, as well as initial series and vaccines for children available.

SURGES IN FLU AND RSV AFFECTING 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 trigger breathing by int. among the authors. Several countries are creating RSV vaccines but Pfizer and J&J GSK are furthest along. Both companies plan to seek regulatory approval in the U.S. by the end of the year, as well as in other countries. NH DHHS RECOMMENDS this season’s P.1. shots for everyone. The formulation is proving effective against this year’s strains and protective for all who have had limited exposure to the over the past years of the pandemic.

COVID-19 Vaccination for People NOT Moderately-Severely Immunocompromised

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

REGIONAL HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD – Go to a larger PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/mw8xefwv>



National Guard building, 801 McGee Drive in Portsmouth.

TRAVELING? CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK. ALL NH COUNTIES AND 55% 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 "COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE" <https://tinyurl.com/4smxnj7>

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

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))



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 to sign up for the City Newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>