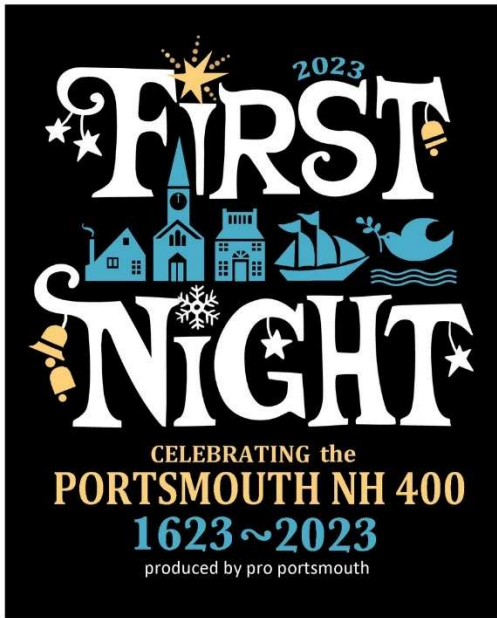


CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Tuesday, December 27, 2022



FIRST NIGHT PORTSMOUTH DEC 31 – Pro Portsmouth presents ice sculpture carving in Market Square starting at 2 pm and fireworks at 7:30 pm. Sat Dec 31: no parking on Parrott Ave from 12 noon to 9 pm, no traffic from 7-9 pm. The dog park will close at 12 noon. \$3 flat rate at Foundry Garage, 3-8 pm. Go to details: <https://tinyurl.com/353n6h8u>

HOLIDAY HOURS: CITY HALL

Closed Dec 31, Jan 1 & Jan 2.

RECREATION FACILITIES:

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 Jan 1 and Mon Jan 2.

DPW TRASH PICKUP:

Mon Jan 2 combined with Tues Jan 3

RECYCLING CENTER: Closed as usual on Fri Dec 30, Sun Jan 1, also Mon Jan 2.



CITY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2023 PRESCOTT PARK SEASONAL BOAT SLIP RENTALS LOTTERY DEADLINE JAN 5 AT 4 PM -- 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.

CITY SETS PROPERTY TAX RATE—DETAILS ON TAX BILL PAYMENT –Tax bills ARE DUE JAN 4. 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>

HANOVER GARAGE: FLEET STREET. ENTRANCE TEMPORARILY CLOSED THRU JAN 4. 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/2jz6bst4>



PORTSMOUTH NH 400 KICKOFF PARTY ON FRI 1.6.23! Starting in the public forum area of Prescott Park (closest to Memorial Bridge) at 4 pm with a lighting of Memorial Bridge in “PNH400 blue.” Followed with an illuminated “History Lights Our Way” procession to South Church where PNH400 will present a grand “reveal” of what’s in store for 2023. Live entertainment is planned for the bridge lighting, the procession and the reveal. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served in the South Church community hall immediately following the preview of PNH 400 events. Free registration at <https://tinyurl.com/mphnd28f> (Image: Jay Benjamin)



NOW AVAILABLE! OFFICIAL PORTSMOUTH NH 400TH COMMEMORATIVE 2023

CALENDAR – Available at the Portsmouth Historical Society, 10 Middle Street. Open daily thru Fri Dec 30, 10 am – 4 pm. \$24.95.

Quantities are limited! Or order online, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/3b3jskfe>

And check out all the other cool PNH400 merchandise for sale online.

“MEMORIES” FOR PORTSMOUTH NH 400 COMMEMORATIVE BOOK DEADLINE

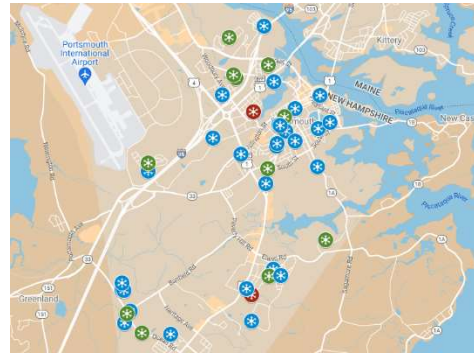
EXTENDED TO DEC 31 -- Short essays of 400 words or less are welcome. Anyone who wants to participate in the Commemorative Project should submit a story of 400 words or less, as a Word document or link, in an email to Stories.PNH400@gmail.com Submissions will be reviewed for accuracy and edited for length and content.



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



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.



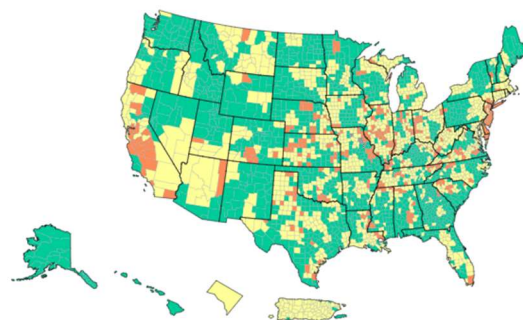
HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST WINNERS! – Mayor McEachern today announced the winners, thanking the business community, who came together to support this holiday contest: Jay and Amanda McSharry of the JGroup donated \$500, Ed Hayes of Ricci Lumber donated \$500 and McKinnons, Hannafords and Market Basket each donated \$250. Seacoast Media Group was an in-kind sponsor, providing publicity and advertising.

- **Best Traditional: John Chavez, 80 Pine St.**
- **Most Creative: Matt & Nicole Beyer, 580 F.W. Hartford Dr.**
- **Kids’ Choice: Ray Clauson, 33 Madison St.**

Honorable Mention winners included (* indicates a Kid’s Choice): Heather Pettis,* Polly Dale,* Joe & Linda Arsenaunt,* Lyndsey Bouzakine,* Tim MacCannell, Mike Lianza, Kris Kraft, Cindy Ward, Molly Shaw Wilson, Julie McCann and a special commendation to Al Bailey. Use this interactive map with the winners marked with red snowflakes and honorable mentions in green:

<https://tinyurl.com/mshhx88d>

Or this printable PDF map with addresses to guide you. <https://tinyurl.com/yhnmhjef>



TRAVELING? CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK. CARROLL, BELKNAP, MERRIMACK, HILLSBOROUGH AND ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, AND MOST OF MASSACHUSETTS ARE LISTED AS “MEDIUM RISK.” -- CDC recommends using its online COVID-19 tracker: <https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba>

HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD 12/27/22

COVID-19 Booster Doses
The best way to protect yourself from COVID-19, including Omicron, is to get vaccinated and boosted.

WHO? Everyone aged 18 and older should get a booster.
When? At least 3 months after your previous dose of booster, shot, or 2 months after a previous booster.

NH DHHS AND CDC RECOMMEND EVERYONE OVER 5 RECEIVE FULL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES. The CDC has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech (PFC) booster for ages 18 and older and Moderna (M) for ages 18 and older. The original PFC and M booster series are still available. The original PFC and M booster series are still available. The original PFC and M booster series are still available.

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

VACCINE CLINIC scheduled for January 18, 2023 at the Seacoast Community Center in Portsmouth. Locations: Seacoast Community Center, Pease and Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

STRENGTHEN FLU AND RSV AFFECTING SENIORS. The most healthy people, B50, or respiratory syncytial virus, is a cold-like infection. But for the very young, the elderly and people with certain health problems it can be serious, even life-threatening. The virus can lead to pneumonia, bronchitis, ear infections and hospitalizations. For all adults 65 and older, getting vaccinated for COVID-19, flu and RSV is important. Both COVID-19 and RSV vaccines are regularly approved in the U.S. To the end of the year, you will get a flu shot. NH DHHS and CDC have the science, PFC shots for everyone. The vaccination is proving effective against this year's strains and protective for all who have had limited exposure to the virus the past years of the pandemic.

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.

CROSS ROADS HOUSE 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. And 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 are given a warm meal and a cot. Before leaving the facility by 8 am, Cross Roads House offers each person the services of a case manager who can assist and direct them to local social services. Rockingham County residents 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 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.

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 Episcopal 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.). **NEW! STARTING MON JAN 9 FREE HOT BREAKFAST AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 7-8 AM. The Breakfast Club will serve a hot, sit-down breakfast in Thaxter Hall, every Monday.**
- **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.

REGIONAL HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD – Go to a larger PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/jhdv7b28>

VACCINE CLINIC WED JAN 18 AT SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER, 9 AM–3 PM – Free and open to the public, 125 Cottage Street. Pfizer and Moderna boosters as well as initial series and vaccines for children available.

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/4smxnjf7>

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.

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

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