

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Wednesday, October 5, 2022



TOMORROW! WORLD PREMIERE OF PORTSMOUTH-NEWMARKET HOCKEY SEASON FILM -- Joel Brown head hockey coach at Portsmouth High School sent us the alert that the entire Portsmouth High community is excited about the debut of "The Mules" on New Hampshire Day at the NH Film Festival on Thurs Oct 6 at 5:15 pm at The Music Hall. The film captures the excitement and drama as the 2021-22 Portsmouth-Newmarket Boys Hockey Team made its first ever Division-II state championship game. For tickets and information go to: <https://nhfilmfestival.com/films/mules/>

CITY FACILITIES CLOSED MON OCT 10 FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY.



PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL HONORS REP. LAURA PANTELAKOS FOR 44 YEARS OF SERVICE -- The City of Portsmouth held a reception honoring Laura Pantelakos before the City Council

meeting on Monday night. A member of the NH House of Representatives for the Rockingham 25th District, she took office in 1978 and after 44 years of service, decided not to seek re-election in 2022. Her current term ends on December 7, 2022. In addition to serving as State Rep, she was a member of the City Council from 2000 to 2010, a member of the Fire Commission for four years and served as its Chair. She was also a member of the Portsmouth City Delegation [now Legislative Subcommittee] and was its chair. Mayor Deaglan McEachern noted that election after election the citizens of Portsmouth re-elected her "because they loved her, and because Laura loved them back." Rep. Pantelakos noted the three things of which she is most proud are, "my children, my grandchildren/great grandchildren and serving the people of Portsmouth." Pictured: Rep. Laura Pantelakos (seated, at left) and Mayor McEachern at right.



CITY FINANCE DEPARTMENT EARNS GFOA TRIPLE CROWN, AGAIN -- Today the City received news that it has received Awards of Excellence from the Government Financial Officers Association for the Popular Annual Financial Report (5th year), Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (29th year) and the Budget Presentation. This is the second year in a row that Portsmouth's Finance Department has won the GFOA Triple Crown for winning all three reporting Excellence Awards and again Portsmouth is the only Triple Crown winner in NH and one of just two in New England (the other was Newport RI).



PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS LEARN ABOUT CITY WATER -- DPW Deputy Director Brian Goetz explained how and where Portsmouth gets its drinking water to 200 8th graders at Portsmouth Middle School today. Chris Rose and

Nicole Stonebrook prepared their science students well! Lots of interest and great questions.

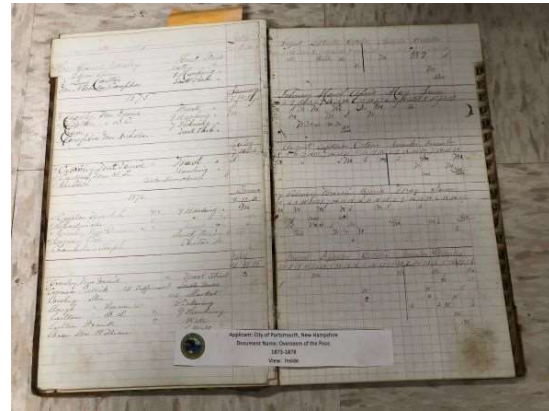


SAT OCT 8 CHAT WITH CITY MANAGER KAREN CONARD, 8-10 AM AT THE FARMERS MARKET, Upper lot at City Hall til 12 noon.

ONLINE THURS OCT 6, “UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING HATE-BASED ACTIVITY” 6-8 PM – Free and open to anyone who registers. Organizations involved include Granite State Progress, the New Hampshire Council of Churches, New Hampshire Listens, United Against Hate on Seacoast, local school districts, police departments in Kittery, Portsmouth, South Berwick, Ogunquit, Dover and from the University of New Hampshire. Registration is required for both. For the online session Thurs Oct 6, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3a89aakd>

TONIGHT! NOAA HEARING (“SCOPING SESSION”) ON RIGHT WHALE RISK REDUCTION PLANS, 6-9 PM, PORTLAND ME – The goal is to collect public input on modifications to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan to reduce the risk of death and serious injury caused by U.S. commercial fishing gear to endangered North Atlantic right whales in compliance with the mandates of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. NOAA is seeking comments from all U.S. commercial fisheries regulated by the Plan (U.S. East Coast gillnet, Atlantic mixed species trap/pot, and Mid-Atlantic and Northeast lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fisheries) on how to reach a 90% minimum risk reduction needed to bring mortality and serious injury below the potential biological removal level. In-person at **University of Southern Maine’s Abromson Community Education Center Hannaford Hall, 88 Bedford St Portland, Maine**. Comments provided at the meeting will be recorded. Written comments: You may also submit comments through the online portal, [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Deadline is October 11, 2022. While there will be more opportunities to speak to NOAA on the record regarding future rules, this will be the only face to face opportunity for you to provide input on the development of potential measures and speak to potential measures, and how they will impact your business, family and community. **NOAA can only**

consider measures that are identified through this scoping process.



NEW ARCHIVES TASK FORCE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS -- The City Council voted unanimously to establish a Blue Ribbon Task Force to Study the Establishment of a Private/Public partnership to Properly Archive Historical Documents relating to the City of Portsmouth. They are now accepting applications from those who want to volunteer for the Committee. For more information on the Committee’s purpose and a link to the Boards, Commissions, Committees application form, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3rxkkbms>

ROAD WORK UPDATES:

- **HYDRANT FLUSHING STARTED SEP 19 AND CONTINUES FOR 5-6 WEEKS. SELECT AREAS ONLY DUE TO THE DROUGHT**
- **WOODBURY AVE. & GOSLING RD. INTERSECTION LANE CLOSURE FOR THE NEXT MONTH – One of the two left-hand turn lanes from Woodbury to Gosling.**
- **UNION ST. GRINDING TUES OCT 4, PAVING WED OCT 5**
- **GATE ST. RESET SIDEWALKS STARTING MON OCT 3**

STATE ST. SIDEWALKS PROJECT -- Construction from Columbia Street to 683 State Street (near Summer St). Work includes roadway repaving and sidewalk replacement using both brick and concrete. **Work hours are Mon-Fri, 7 am to 5 pm with no parking in the marked work zone.** Those who park on the street should move their cars by 7 am or risk being towed. Sidewalk removal and replacement work is expected to take 6 weeks.

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION CLIFF RD. & WALKER BUNGALOW. PAVING THE OTHER LANE OF SAGAMORE AVE. RESCHEDULED (TBD) DUE TO WEATHER -

- During construction travel on the streets will be limited, intermittently, to a single lane of alternating one-way travel Mon-Fri between 7 am and 6 pm. Go to the [Sagamore Ave. Project page](#) for more information.

PEIRCE ISLAND TRAIL FENCE WORK CONTINUES -- Work on the waterfront fence adjacent to the treatment plant) continues. Construction personnel and equipment in the area.

NHDOT LANE CLOSURE THIS WEEK AT SPAULDING TURNPIKE (RTE 16) TOLL BOOTH The **NHDOT** has begun roadway milling and paving operations in the area of the Dover Toll Plaza. The work will require temporarily lane closures at night for at least one week.

HANOVER GARAGE PROJECT SCHEDULE – The contractor continues to install panels to reduce noise and dust. **Noise expected from concrete sawcut and demolition thru Oct 14. Column demolition Oct 6 & 7.** 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. <https://tinyurl.com/5n85cuhv>

HANOVER GARAGE FAQs:

Q. What is the **work schedule** for the project?
A. **Construction schedule updated weekly:**
<https://tinyurl.com/27hffxz>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUSINESS SURVEY -- The Portsmouth Economic Development Commission (EDC) has launched its 2022 Business Retention and Expansion Survey. The goal is to survey the local business community to better understand the local business environment and learn more about how the EDC can help businesses in the community prosper. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. The EDC will share full survey results once they have been tabulated and analyzed. This survey is being administered by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center on behalf of the Portsmouth EDC. The Survey Center will keep your responses confidential. To participate, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ysed4ky5>

Questions? Contact Sean Clancy, Assistant City Manager for Economic Development (sclancy@cityofportsmouth.com). Technical difficulties accessing the survey? Contact Sean McKinley (sean.mckinley@unh.edu) at the UNH Survey Center.



INDOOR POOL RE-OPENED TODAY! Totally refreshed with new deck and drainage, interior paint and signage.

FITNESS • ENRICHMENT • ARTS • ATHLETICS
PORTSMOUTH
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

OPEN GYM HOURS

COMMUNITY CAMPUS
SATURDAYS, 8AM-4PM
STARTING OCTOBER 1ST

CONNIE BEAN CENTER*
SUNDAYS, 11AM-4PM
OCTOBER 9TH

FAMILY OPEN GYM
TUESDAYS, 3PM-5:30PM
OCT 18-NOV 8 @ CAMPUS

WOMEN'S PICK UP
TUESDAYS, 6PM-8PM
OCT 18-NOV 8 @ CAMPUS

*VARYING WEEKDAY OPEN COURT WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE. CHECK THE CONNIE BEAN WEBSITE FOR UPDATED SCHEDULES.



SAVE THE DATES:
PORTSMOUTH REC DEPT FALL FAMILY FUN FEST SAT OCT 29, 11 AM – 2 PM. Free at the Athletic Fields on Campus Drive.

PORTSMOUTH HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREATING HOURS – SUN OCT 30, 4-7 PM

PORTSMOUTH SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW THRU OCT 14, 9 AM – 3 PM -- “Photos from Afar” features work by Peter E. Randall, Robert Ortiz, Dave Turbide, Pat Kennedy Corlin, Debra Woodward, Judy Arnold, Carol Van Loon, Susan Sweetser Bank, Corinne Kubelka Wood, David Random and Bobbi Slavin. Free and public.



WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!
Latest opening is: Arborist Technician. For details go to: <https://tinyurl.com/5db3n8x9>



REMINDER: CODE RED SNOW PARKING BAN SYSTEM WILL BE DISCONTINUED THIS MONTH – SIGN UP FOR SMART 911 – If you receive snow parking ban notices by text, email or voicemail and want to continue to receive these and other alerts, please sign up for Smart911. Your registration on CodeRED cannot be transferred, you must subscribe to Smart911 instead. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2t9hn22f>

LEGAL RESEARCH DATABASE NOW AVAILABLE AT PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY -- Portsmouth Public Library now offers Westlaw Public Access, a comprehensive legal research database designed especially for use in government, law and public libraries. Westlaw access is provided through a partnership with the New Hampshire Law Library, the state's only public law library. Portsmouth is just the third public library to partner with the Law Library.

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.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH – HAVEN, our local safe space and victims' advocate reminds us that one in every 3 women and one in 4 men is abused in their lifetimes. Their **"Changing Lives" event takes place Oct 13**, featuring Jenny Johnstone, sister survivor and retired USA gymnast. Tickets at: <https://havennh.org/events/> HAVEN is NH's

largest crisis center working to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking, and to support and empower women, men, youth and families to heal from abuse and rebuild their lives. HAVEN advocates are available for free and confidential support 24-hours a day at **1-603-994-SAFE (7233)**.

NH DHHS EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY FOR MONKEYPOX VACCINE -- The New Hampshire DHHS has expanded monkeypox vaccine eligibility criteria to make it easier for people at risk for monkeypox to be vaccinated, and to make it easier for healthcare providers to vaccinate patients they believe are at risk. Those now recommended to get the 2-dose vaccine series include:

- Any person who identifies as gay, bisexual, queer, or is a man who has sex with men (MSM) and believes they are at risk for monkeypox virus infection.
- A person of any gender or sexual orientation whom a medical provider thinks is at increased risk for monkeypox virus infection.
- Persons who report in the prior 14 days a known exposure to the monkeypox virus.

Vaccination locations can be found on the [website](#), or contact your healthcare provider. Anyone experiencing [monkeypox symptoms](#), should isolate and call their healthcare provider or call (603) 271-4496.

GO TO UPDATED FAQs ON THE "FALL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE"
<https://tinyurl.com/4smxnj7>

HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD 10/5/22

NH DHHS is reporting an 8% decrease in the number of cases for the 7 days ending October 4, compared to the previous 7 days. CDC is classifying all NH Counties (map above right) as "low risk" for community infection. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3d96fast>

NH DHHS AND CDC RECOMMEND EVERYONE OVER 12 RECEIVE FALL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES – The CDC has approved the PZ05A for a modified "3-in-1" booster Pfizer vaccine for age 12+ and one from Moderna for 18+ that combine protection against the original strain P.1/S protection against Omicron BA.1/BA.2 now circulating. The new CDC vaccination recommendations (below) say anyone who has received the primary series should receive the new booster vaccine, regardless of any additional boosters or COVID-19 infections. Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/immzrv/boosters> FAQ: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-manager/vaccination-faq>

COVID-19 Vaccination for People Who Are Moderately/Severely Immunocompromised

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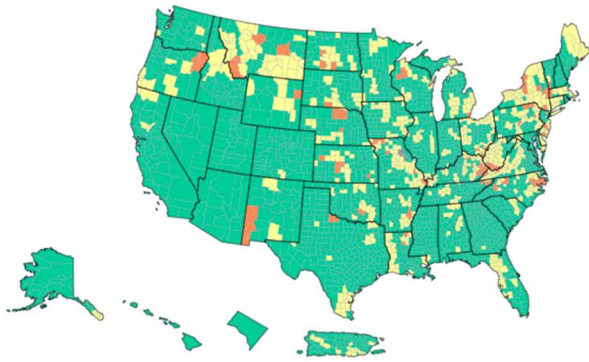
COVID-19 BOOSTERS: WHERE SITES AVAILABLE? Find the new booster by going to the interactive map at [vaccines.gov](#)

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NEW REGIONAL HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD
 – Go to a larger PDF. <https://tinyurl.com/bp8x99rh>



TRAVELING? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WITH CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK (ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LISTED AS “LOW”) -- CDC recommends using its online COVID-19 tracker: <https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba> based on hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

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 12 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. The boosters are based on clinical research with the BA.1 bivalent vaccine, conducted in humans and were found to provide increased protection against severe disease and broader protection against existing and anticipated variants.

PORTSMOUTH ARTS & NONPROFITS COMMITTEE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR NEW CULTURAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE – Go to details and link to application form: <https://tinyurl.com/yk2tcz7w>

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: I’m not a Portsmouth resident, can I apply to be a part of the Cultural Plan committee?

A: Yes. When completing the application, where you’re asked how long you’ve been a resident, please detail your connections to the city’s arts & cultural community, i.e. business owner, work with arts/cultural nonprofit, etc.

Q: How long will the group meet to complete the Cultural Plan?

A: The committee will begin meeting this fall and complete the work by December 31, 2023.

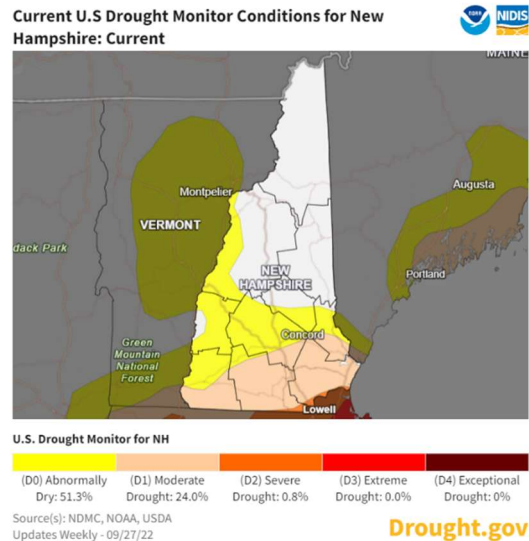
Q: How often will the group meet?

A: The main Cultural Plan Committee will meet monthly, and possibly shift to more frequent meetings as needed. There will also be subgroups of the committee who will set their own schedules and report back to the main committee.



RECREATION DEPARTMENT FALL PROGRAMS – Print copies now available at Recreation Facilities or for the online version go to: <https://tinyurl.com/34r6yxes>

PORTSMOUTH NH 400 SEEKING STORIES FOR COMMEMORATIVE BOOK -- 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. The deadline is November 1, 2022.



PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE -- As of September 21, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire continues to report "severe drought" conditions <https://www.drought.gov/states/new-hampshire> around the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. While the drought report prompted other communities to put watering restrictions in place, **the City of Portsmouth and Pease Drinking Water Systems ask water customers to be as efficient as possible when using our precious water resources. NOTE: Portsmouth Water System customers in RYE must comply with that**

town's watering restrictions. City Water operations staff continue to track and update conditions. For additional information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88pcu4>

FREE TEST KITS BY MAIL -- Order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the Federal government website: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> which also offers 'how to test' instructions. **NH SOURCES FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS** – To order a free kit, visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/>

BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AGAIN IN OCTOBER – On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, will be setting up new reservations soon at [603-338-9292](tel:603-338-9292) .

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 pickup in the St. John's parking lot (100 Chapel St.) Thurs, 12 noon to 1 pm.

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS AND PAYMENT HELP – On **Aug 1**, New Hampshire electric supply rates increased to more than double last August's supply rate. This significant rate increase is due to record-high natural gas prices and the global economy. Natural gas is the primary fuel for generating electricity in the region. **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 to find the right plan for them. To learn about the many energy saving programs available, visit Eversource.com.



HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE -- In addition to the NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program, there is 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>

EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITIES ASSISTANCE – The [NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) (NHERAP) provides funds to renters who cannot pay their rent and utilities during the pandemic. The program works with tenants and landlords. Program changes as of October 1, 2021:

- Households may qualify for assistance for past-due and future rent and utility payments for a period not to exceed 18 months.
- At least one person in the household must have qualified for unemployment benefits, had their income reduced, had significant costs, or had other financial hardship during the pandemic. Certain income requirements must be met.

WHAT THE PROGRAM COVERS

- Past-due rent including reasonable late and legal fees.
- Three months of future rent payments if needed for housing stability.
- Utilities, such as electricity, home heating costs, water, sewer, trash.
- Other housing-related costs such as internet and relocation expenses (including rental application fees, utility hook-up fees, and security deposits).

- Households may qualify for utility assistance even if they do not receive or need rental assistance.

For more information on how to apply for emergency funds available to renters in NH, click here:

<https://www.capnh.org/covid19> The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has also launched a tool (click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4hawaxf4>) that allows renters and landlords to find rental assistance programs in their area. Applications are handled through NH Community Action Partnership (CAP).

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>