



City Newsletter: Wednesday, November 2, 2022



TOMORROW: NH SAVES BUTTONUP ENERGY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP AT PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY NOV 3, 6:30 PM -- The Rye Energy Committee and the Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee (PEAC) are hosting this free workshop for area residents. The workshop is a 1.5 hour presentation for NH residents wishing to use energy more efficiently, conserve energy and save money on their heating and cooling bills. In person in the Levenson Room and via Zoom. Register in advance for the Zoom option at https://tinyurl.com/479kb4v7

TOMORROW: CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON CITIZEN REQUESTS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROJECTS NOV 3 AT 6 PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM A AT CITY HALL -- Go to the Agenda and Zoom registration: https://tinyurl.com/2p9aae9m



ELECTION DAY TUES NOV 8 -- Polling hours for the NH Election on Tues Nov 8 are from 8 am to 7 pm -- Same-day voter registration is also accepted at the polls on Election Day, November 8. Absentee ballots for the NH Election are now available. Qualified registered voters may apply to receive an absentee ballot in person in the City Clerk's Office in City Hall or online, go to: https://tinyurl.com/bdhdckxx Once completed, Absentee Ballots must be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall by 5 pm on Mon Nov 7, the day before the election.

Sample ballots by Ward:

https://tinyurl.com/3veh62f6

For additional information on voting, Absentee Ballot qualifications and polling place locations, go to:

https://tinyurl.com/3veh62f6 Or contact the City Clerk's Office at (603) 610-7208 or via e-mail at cityclerk@cityofportsmouth.com.

COAST BUS FREE RIDES TO THE POLLS ON NOV 8 -- While the COAST public transit system does not provide transportation to each individual polling station directly, they encourage voters to get to the polls and participate in voting by eliminating the barrier of transportation costs. All passengers need to do is tell their driver that they are on their way to vote, or on the way back from voting, and they will not be charged for the ride. COAST will be following an honor system. Go to: https://coastbus.org/

REGIONAL HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD -- Go to a larger PDF: https://tinyurl.com/bdf6y2r6

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/4smxnj7>

SEACOAST MANUFACTURERS’

ROUNDTABLE WED NOV 9, 11:30 am – 1 pm at Great Bay Community College, 320 Corporate Dr., Portsmouth.

A collaborative effort between Great Bay Community College, City of Portsmouth, and the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth to discuss and work on solutions to challenges facing local manufacturers.

Representatives from local and state government, education and workforce leaders will participate in the roundtable alongside industry representatives. Free and includes lunch. Go to registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdeyhbzp>



PORTSMOUTH ELKS #97 COLLECTS SOCKS & MITTENS FOR VETERANS -- Bring donations to Portsmouth Elks, 500 Jones Avenue.

VETERANS’ BREAKFAST THURS NOV 10 AT SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTER, 10-11 AM

– All veterans welcome to the free appreciation breakfast! 125 Cottage St. in the Assembly Hall. **Annual Veterans Day Wreath-Laying, FRI Nov 11 at 11 am in Goodwin Park.** Guest speaker NH National Guest Major General David J. Mikolaitis. Portsmouth High School Clipper Band performs.

CONSTRUCTION WORK THIS WEEK:

HANOVER GARAGE Noise expected from concrete sawcut and demolition Nov 2-

11. 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/yc49vsdb>

STATE STREET SIDEWALKS

PROJECT WORK CONTINUES --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. **Work hours are Mon-Fri, 7 am to 5 pm with no parking in the marked work zone.** Construction from Columbia Street to 683 State Street (near Summer St). Work includes roadway repaving and sidewalk replacement using both brick and concrete.

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION

PROJECT PAVING CLIFF RD. NEXT WEEK. WORK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF SAGAMORE AVE. BEGINS TUES NOV 1

-- 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.



WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!

Latest opening is: Wastewater Treatment Operator. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/t2zznxcw>

SAVE THE DATE! RECREATION NEEDS STUDY PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2, NOV 16, 6-8 PM AT COMMUNITY CAMPUS, 100 CAMPUS DRIVE

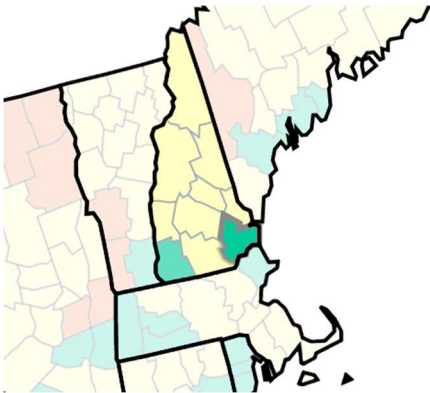
– Get an update on the findings from community engagement efforts, data collection and analyses. Then, visit the gallery to help the City define recreational priorities for the next 10 years. **Print this flyer and bring it with you to be eligible to win a door prize:** <https://tinyurl.com/2spvkres>

INDOOR POOL CLOSED MON NOV 7 THRU WED NOV 9 FOR EMERGENCY BOILER REPAIR

-- Members are allowed to use the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center while the Portsmouth Indoor Pool is closed. Swim lessons rescheduled to the week of Nov 21. Please call if you have questions: 603.427.1546.



ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD "SHARE THE WARMTH" HAT & MITTEN DRIVE FOR GATHER FAMILIES -- The [Alliance for Greater Good](#) is collaborating again with [Gather](#), the community nonprofit fighting hunger in the Seacoast, to collect **NEW** hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for adults and children. Alliance volunteers will distribute the collected items during Gather's Thanksgiving Food Distribution. **Drop off donations now through November 15** at the Senior Activity Center (125 Cottage Street) or the [YMCA of the Seacoast](#) (555 Peverly Hill Road), Click [here](#) to learn more.



TRAVELING? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WITH CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK. ROCKINGHAM & CHESHIRE COUNTY LISTED AS "LOW RISK." ALL OTHERS AS "MEDIUM RISK" -- CDC recommends using its **online COVID-19 tracker**: <https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba>

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 DPW WASTEWATER SAMPLING FOR COVID-19 -- The City continues to receive weekly reports on samples from the Pease and Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facilities. **The state is in the process of changing over to a new dashboard, resulting in reporting delays. New updates will be posted** on the [COVID-19 Sampling page](#) on the City website.

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

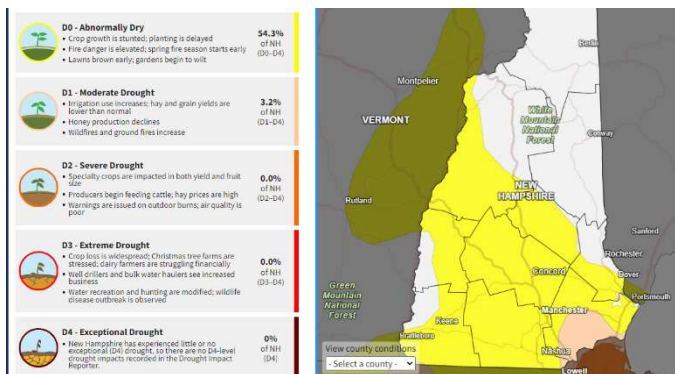


PNH400 COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOODS TEAM ANNOUNCES BRGR BAR RAFFLE – Here's your chance to win one of THREE \$500 gift cards! Fundraiser for the Little Italy Carnival August 6, 2023. Only 300 tickets are being sold. A \$500 gift card winner will be selected for each 100 tickets sold. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/mypkmu>

"MEMORIES" FOR PORTSMOUTH NH 400 COMMEMORATIVE BOOK DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOV 30 -- 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.



PORTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY UPDATE -- As of October 25, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire is reporting "abnormally dry" conditions

<https://www.drought.gov/states/new-hampshire>

around the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. The **City of Portsmouth and Pease Drinking Water Systems** ask water customers to be as efficient as possible when using our precious water resources. City Water operations staff continue to track and update conditions. For additional information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88pcu4>



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY SAT NOV 12, 8 AM-12 NOON

-- At the Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Road. Residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington are encouraged to bring household chemicals for safe disposal between 8 am and 12 noon. Proof of residency is required. Household hazardous waste collection helps safely dispose of items that can harm residents' health, the environment and drinking water supplies. Go to [details on what is accepted and what is not](#).

CURBSIDE YARD WASTE/LEAVES PICKUP

Bagged leaves and other yard waste are collected by DPW through Nov 30 on the same day as your normal Solid Waste/trash.

PLEASE NOTE: Use only paper or plastic biodegradable bags. If you opt to use the plastic biodegradable bags, the bags must be factory-labeled "biodegradable." Yard waste bags, when placed curbside, shall not weigh more than 50 pounds each. **PLEASE DO NOT dispose of leaves or**

clippings in or near storm drains, drainage channels (where water drains rain or melting snow), wetlands or water bodies! Check out what "Blue" has to say about yard waste:

<https://tinyurl.com/25rww8r>

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 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.

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER – Portsmouth Rotary is hosting its 51st Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, free on Thurs Nov 24. No sit-down dinner. Pickup 11 am – 12:30 pm at St. Nicholas Church. Call 603-205-0901 or email: rotarythanksgiving@gmail.com

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))

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>