

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Monday, November 21, 2022

TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PROGRAM AT 6 PM -- In person in Council Chambers and via Zoom. Go to the Agenda and Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/32dywpx5>

RECREATION NEEDS STUDY – COMMENTS WELCOME IN THE COMMUNITY CAMPUS LOBBY, 100 CAMPUS DRIVE – An update on the findings from community engagement efforts, data collection and analysis was presented Nov 16. Go to the meeting video: <https://tinyurl.com/3b95jzf6>
Comment boards will remain in the Community Campus lobby through NOV 23 for posting additional input.

CITY SETS PROPERTY TAX RATE -- The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration has approved the City's 2022 tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 of \$15.20 per \$1,000 of valuation. The tax rate of \$15.20 is \$0.17 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. City Manager Karen Conard announced, "The 2022 tax rate increased by \$0.17, or 1.6%, from the prior year's tax rate of \$15.03 and is \$0.10 lower than the tax rate of \$15.30 that was anticipated at the time the City Council adopted the FY23 annual budget this past June." For the online property tax calculator go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yh96zpw8>

CITY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE STARTS PROPERTY DATA COLLECTION AFTER THANKSGIVING – The process of inspecting and measuring buildings will take the next 18 months. Notices going out now with details for homeowners on how the inspectors will be identified and what's involved. The survey will proceed neighborhood by neighborhood with the schedule posted on the Assessor's Data Collection webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/2ytw3fw6>



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



PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY COAT SWAP DROP-OFF NOV 21-23-- Help those in the community with a donation of your unneeded cold-weather clothing. **PICKUP** -- Anyone who would benefit, can stop by the Library (175 Parrott Ave.) between NOV 28 and JAN 7. Free & open to all.

HOLIDAY TREE GOES UP IN MARKET SQ. WED NOV 23 -- A 35-foot blue spruce donated by the Fratamico Family in loving memory of Rose Zubkus.



TREE-LIGHTING & ILLUMINATED HOLIDAY PARADE SAT DEC 3 STARTING AT 5 PM IN MARKET SQUARE -- The parade route begins at Plaza 800 on Islington St. at 6 pm and proceeds downtown via Congress St., continuing through Market Square to Pleasant St., crossing State St. before concluding on Junkins Ave. **On-street parking bans and road closures will be in effect on SAT DEC 3 (or the rain date DEC 4).** Go to [parking restrictions and other details](https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation).

WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE RESERVED SEATING FOR PARADE

-- The City is working with Access Navigators to provide a wheelchair-accessible seated viewing area for the parade. Reserved for people who have difficulty standing, along with their companions, the reserved area is on the sidewalk along Islington Street between Maplewood and Bridge Street. Space and seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. Nearby public parking includes the Bridge Street Lot, Worth Lot and Foundry Garage. Access Navigators are the hosts of this first-time effort, providing assistance and holiday cheer while collecting comments from users about accommodations for future events. For more details go to <https://accessnavigators.com/> Or @Access Navigators on Facebook.



ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD LAUNCHES "SHARE THE JOY" HOLIDAY CARD-WRITING CAMPAIGN

-- The [Alliance for Greater Good](#) is once again seeking to involve community card writing "elves" in sending warm holiday wishes to nursing home and long-term care facility residents. Volunteers will be assigned 10-12 names to whom they will write personalized holiday cards. Drop off completed cards by **Dec 12**. Go to details: <https://tinyurl.com/4civ9hha>

CONSTRUCTION WORK THIS WEEK:

HANOVER GARAGE Noise expected from concrete sawcut and demolition thru Dec 2 -

- 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/yc36x7ke>

STATE STREET SIDEWALKS

PROJECT WORK CONTINUES --Those who park on the street should move their cars by 7 am or risk being towed. **Work hours are Mon-Fri, 7 am to 5 pm with no parking in the marked work zone.**

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>

WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!

Latest opening is: Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I- Pumping Stations and Treatment Facilities. Go to:

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work>

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES FROM NH

DOT – NH DOT advises: "Prepare your car (ice scrapers, wiper fluid, snow tires), buckle up, slow down, and give yourself extra time to get where you are going. Check the weather and road conditions before you head out to work, shopping, or holiday travels. The [New England 511 Traveler Information System website](#) provides real-time traffic and weather information and can alert users via text or email to issues on roads throughout Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont."

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (NHSCA) COMMUNITY SURVEY

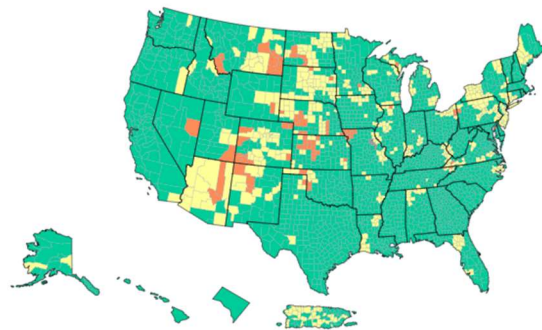
– NHSCA is in the midst of a strategic planning process and is conducting a Community Survey to gauge public opinion. Deadline is FRI DEC 2. Go to: <https://bit.ly/nhscasurvey>

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.



TRAVELING FOR THE HOLIDAYS? CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK.

ALL NH COUNTIES (AND 80% OF THE COUNTRY) LISTED AS "LOW RISK." -- CDC recommends using its online COVID-19 tracker: <https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba>

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-sitemedicalservices.com/vaccine>

GO TO FAQs ON THE “FALL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE”

<https://tinyurl.com/4smxnj7>



MAPLE HAVEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

-- The Citywide Neighborhood Committee (CNC) and Maple Haven residents are pleased to announce the re-establishment of the Maple Haven Neighborhood Association (MHNA) led by Maple Haven resident co-chairs: Colleen O'Leary and Sarah Jarvis, Secretary Chuck Raye, Community Outreach Joanna Kelley and Member Susan Saurman. For details go to MHNA Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/494983002516149 or send email to

maplehavenportsmouthnh@gmail.com If you would like to learn more about (re-)establishing your neighborhood association, contact CNC at cncportsmouth@gmail.com.



PNH400 COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOODS TEAM: 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 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.

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 November 8, the U.S. Drought Monitor for the state of New Hampshire had reduced the limits of the “abnormally dry” conditions area

<https://www.drought.gov/states/new-hampshire> around the Seacoast region of New Hampshire City Water operations staff continue to track and update conditions. For additional information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88pcu4>

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 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!

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](tel:6039653029)) [965-3029](tel:6039653029): (Derry toll free [1-855-295-4105](tel:18552954105))
- Salem ([603](tel:6038939172)) [893-9172](tel:6038939172) (Salem toll free [1-800-939-9172](tel:18009399172))
- Portsmouth ([603](tel:6034363896)) [436-3896](tel:6034363896) (Portsmouth toll free [1-800-639-3896](tel:18006393896))
- Seabrook ([603](tel:6034743507)) [474-3507](tel:6034743507) (Seabrook toll free [1-800-979-3507](tel:18009793507))
- Raymond ([603](tel:6038952303)) [895-2303](tel:6038952303) (Raymond toll free [1-800-974-2303](tel:18009742303))

PORTSMOUTH ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE BUTTON UP NH PRESENTATION

– Go to the tips and techniques presented at the Nov 3 workshop.
<https://tinyurl.com/2p9832a9>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS AND PAYMENT HELP – NH electric supply rates have increased to more than double last August's supply rate. **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 -- 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>

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>