

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



**City Newsletter:
Monday, December 5,
2022**

TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING MON DEC 5 AT 7 PM – In person in City Council Chambers and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration see the City website calendar. Go to the Agenda and Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/bdh2acyy>

NHDOT LANE CLOSURES ON I-95 BRIDGE STARTING MON DEC 5 – NHDOT is inspecting the bridge starting Mon Dec 5 and continuing, Mon thru Fri until complete or until Fr Dec 23. Temporary lane closures will be required during the next three weeks.

NHDOT ROLLING ROAD BLOCK ON SPAULDING TPKE THURS DEC 8 -- To facilitate over-lashing a new cable between existing poles across the Turnpike in the vicinity of Exit 8. Traffic will be impacted Northbound and Southbound for one night.

TOMORROW, TUES DEC 6: 5TH ANNUAL INNOVATE NH FORUM WITH SEN MAGGIE HASSAN, 9-10 AM via Zoom – This “Future of Innovation: Investing in STEM” roundtable brings innovators, businesses and resource providers from around the state together to discuss the latest investments in STEM and how NH will continue to lead in innovative research, development, and manufacturing. Go to registration: <https://www.hassan.senate.gov/innovatenh>

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>

SAFE WATER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING WED DEC 7, 6-8 PM AT PEASE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY – In person or via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ymrc4thd>

PORTSMOUTH ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE/PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY POWER MEETING THURS DEC 8, 6:30-8 PM, Conference Room A at City Hall – In person and via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/5cat8f3f>



HOLIDAY HEROES -- Thanks to all the multiple City Departments, staff and volunteers who helped make the Tree-Lighting and Illuminated Holiday Parade a success. From collecting and installing the 35-foot blue spruce donated by the Fratamico Family "in loving memory of Rose Zubkus." to Access Navigators who proposed the idea of a special ADA-accessible viewing area for the parade. They wrote, "The seated space at the top of the Bridge St lot, on the sidewalk along Islington, coupled with the six temporary accessible spaces in the Bridge Street lot, made for a very nice experience for people not accustomed to being treated like a VIP."

HOLIDAY DONATIONS OF GIFT CARDS FOR UNDER-SERVED OLDER KIDS -- This holiday season will likely be a difficult time for many families in this community. For a number of years now, the City's Welfare Office has collected donations of gift cards for families who have older kids who are not typically been served by other holiday programs in town. 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!

WED DEC 14: "COCOA WITH A COP" AT THE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER, 9-10:30 AM -- Free and open to the public. Please RSVP to 603-610-4433.

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.



DEADLINE DEC 10 TO REGISTER FOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST! The contest is open to every Portsmouth resident. There are three categories this year and the judges will select which one is most appropriate for each entry they view.

- 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. Residents are invited to register to participate in the contest by completing the form on the Holiday Lights Contest 2022 webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/37fk59uh> Or, for a printable pdf of the entry form and more information, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2rpthntn> Print the form, scan it and email it to hotline@cityofportsmouth.com or mail c/o City Manager's Office, City Hall, One Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth NH 03801.

FREE VINTAGE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND SHUTTLE DEC 10-11, 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. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec 10-11 and 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>

DEC 12 DEADLINE FOR ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD "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. Go to details: <https://tinyurl.com/4cqv9hha>

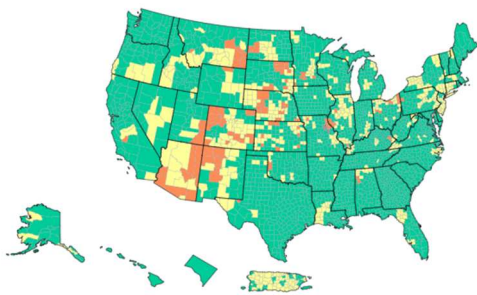
CITY SETS PROPERTY TAX RATE—DETAILS ON TAX BILL PAYMENT –Tax bills were mailed on Dec 1 Thursday and the first half is due January 4, 2023. Taxpayers can pay their bills anytime from now until January 4, 2023 without accruing interest. The second half of the bill will be due June 1, 2023. The tax rate 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.



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 19. 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>



TRAVELING? CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK. ALL NH COUNTIES (EXCEPT COOS) AND 78% 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/4smxnjf7>



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.

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 ([603 965-3029](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))

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 on the link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>



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