

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter: Monday, December 19, 2022

**HOLIDAY MUSIC FROM DEC 14 CITY COUNCIL MEETING** -- performed by Portsmouth Music and Arts Center Brewery Big Band. Go to [City YouTube channel recording](#) (at 10 min mark).

### DPW ANNOUNCES 2 NEW WINTER PROCEDURES --

1. If school is cancelled due to snow, there will be **no trash pickup** for those days, as well. School cancellations notices are posted as follows:
  - Portsmouth School Department website <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school>
  - Twitter- @portsschools
  - Instagram- portsmouthschools
  - Facebook- Portsmouth School Department
  - WMUR TV [www.wmur.com](http://www.wmur.com)
2. DPW and the Portsmouth Police Department have adopted **the new Smart 911 text, email, voicemail alert system** (replacing CodeRed). Snow parking announcements (issued six hours ahead of an anticipated snow parking ban) and alerts (issued when the parking ban goes into effect) will now be broadcast through the Smart 911 system. To receive Smart 911 notifications, go to the subscription page: <https://tinyurl.com/3m242zxb>

Portsmouth's snow plowing operations typically begin when snow accumulation exceeds two inches, at which time a citywide parking ban may go into effect in order to facilitate snow removal. Under a declared parking ban, residents are urged to take advantage of Flat Rate Parking at Hanover Garage (\$5 per exit) and Foundry Garage (\$3 per exit), good from the time an Anticipated Ban is announced until 2 hours after the Ban Cancellation is issued. For more information on parking ban logistics and available City lots for the public, please [click here](#).

**PARKING HOLIDAY CONTINUES THRU MON DEC 26** – Free parking at metered and kiosk downtown spaces, but there is still a 3-hour limit per space, to encourage turnover and downtown access to shops, restaurants and holiday events.

**CONNIE BEAN**  
**OPEN GYM**  
**SCHEDULE**  
**WEEK OF 12/19/22**

**Mon, 12/19: 3:15-4:30 pm**  
**Tues, 12/20: 3:15-4:30 pm**  
**Wed, 12/21: No Open Gym**  
**Thurs, 12/22: 12:40-5:00 pm**  
**Fri, 12/23: 1:00-8:00 pm**  
**Sun, 12/25: CLOSED**

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RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### HOLIDAY HOURS: CITY HALL

Closing at 1 pm on Fri Dec 23.  
Closed Dec 24, 25, 26 & 27. Re-opening **Wed Dec 28, 8 am to 6 pm**. Closed Dec 31, Jan 1 & Jan 2.

### PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Closed Sun Dec 25, Mon Dec 26, Sun Jan 1 and Mon Jan 2.

### DPW TRASH PICKUP:

Mon Dec 26 combined with Tues Dec 27  
Mon Jan 1 combined with Tues Jan 3

### RECYCLING CENTER:

Closing early, at 12 noon, on Thurs Dec 22. Open as usual on Sat. Dec 24.  
Closed as usual on Fridays, Sundays and Mondays.

### RECREATION FACILITIES:

All buildings closing at 1 pm on Sat Dec 24  
Closed Sun Dec 25 & Mon Dec 26. All buildings closing at 1 pm on New Year's Eve, Dec 31 and closed Sun Jan 1 & Mon Jan 2.

**CONNIE BEAN**

**OPEN GYM**

**SCHEDULE**

**WEEK OF 12/26/22**

**Mon, 12/26: Closed**

**Tues, 12/27: 1:00-8:00pm**

**Wed, 12/28: 1:00-8:00 pm**

**Thurs, 12/29: 1:00-8:00 pm**

**Fri, 12/30: 1:00-8:00 pm**

**Sat, 12/31: Closed**

**Sun, 1/1/23: Closed**

**Mon, 1/2/23: Closed**

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**HOLIDAY HEROES** – The Alliance for Greater Good collected and distributed more than 1600 personalized holiday cards for residents of local nursing homes and distributed more than 1600 warm hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to those in need. The Alliance thanks you for your generosity and holiday spirit! <https://www.allianceforgreatergood.org/>

**COAST EXTENDS BUS TRANSFER PROGRAM AND MATCHES HOLIDAY DONATIONS -**

COAST's FY23 operating budget extends the free transfer pilot program through September 30, 2023. COAST also announced that riders can now follow COAST buses in real-time on the Passio GO! App that can be downloaded for free from the Google Play or App Store. <https://coastbus.org/PassioGO>. In addition, **the COAST Cares program MATCHES INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS** by those purchasing bus tickets to donate to area non-profit agencies for the holidays.

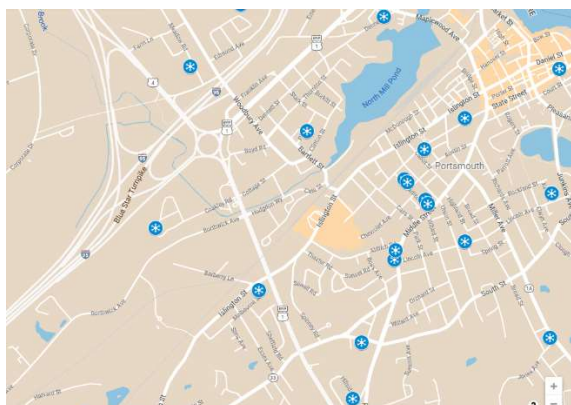
**WORK WITH THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!**

**Latest opening is: Health Inspector. Go to:** <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work>



**CITY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2023 PRESCOTT PARK SEASONAL BOAT SLIP RENTALS LOTTERY DEADLINE JAN 5** -- The application period is December 5, 2022 through 4 pm January 5, 2023. 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.



**HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST MAP!** Take a drive to tour the neighborhood lights. The locations will be obvious, but use this interactive map <https://tinyurl.com/mshhx88d> Or this printable PDF map with addresses to guide you. <https://tinyurl.com/yhnmhjef>

**The Mayor will announce the winners in the three categories on WED DEC 21:**

- 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.

**CITY SETS PROPERTY TAX RATE—DETAILS ON TAX BILL PAYMENT –Tax bills were mailed on Dec 1 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 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>

**INDOOR POOL SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!** Resident registration opened on Dec 13. Non-resident opens Dec 27. Registration closes Sun Jan 15, 2023. For details, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2p95sdbt>

**INDOOR POOL & SPINNAKER POINT 2023 MEMBERSHIP FEES** – New 2023 Membership fees for use of the Indoor Pool are now posted: <https://tinyurl.com/y6e25nws> also for Spinnaker Point: <https://tinyurl.com/2sznbpty>

**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.

**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.



**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 28.** Concrete pouring this week will cause obstruction on Fleet Street. Noise expected from concrete sawcut and demolition thru Dec 23. 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/mry6kh2z>



**NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER OFFICIAL PORTSMOUTH NH 400TH COMMEMORATIVE 2023 CALENDAR** – Delivered in time for Christmas. \$24.95. Quantities are limited! To order, go to:

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

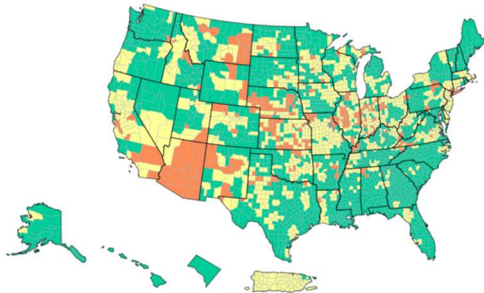
And check out all the other cool PNH400 merchandise for sale online AND available at the Portsmouth Historical Society museum gift shop at 10 Middle Road.

**LAST CHANCE! PNH400 COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOODS TEAM: BRGR BAR RAFFLE** – Here's your chance to win a \$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](mailto: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.



**TRAVELING? CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY IS NOW LISTED AS “MEDIUM 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 CLINIC WED JAN 18 AT SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER, 9 AM TO 3 PM**  
**Find other locations offering the new booster by going to the interactive map at [vaccines.gov](http://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/4smxnj7>

**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](mailto: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))



**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](mailto: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>