

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 Winter Solstice



HOLIDAY HERO: HAPPY HANUKKAH! Rabbi Berel Slavaticki from the Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center brought a menorah and traditional holiday treats to City Hall this week, where he invited Mayor McEachern, City Manager Karen Conard and office staff to join in lighting the first candles of the celebration.



“STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING... between the woods and frozen lake, the darkest evening of the year” – by Robert Frost, New Hampshire’s poet. (Image of the life-sized bronze of Frost, in Hanover)

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.

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.

PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY:

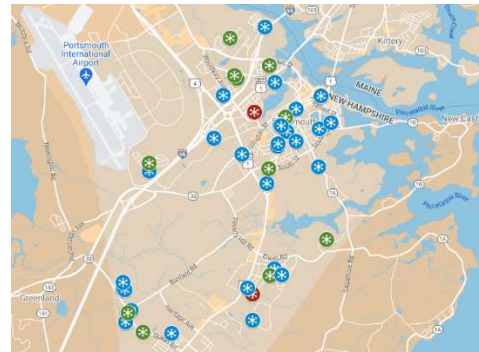
Closed Sun Dec 25, Mon Dec 26, Sun Jan 1 and Mon Jan 2.

DPW TRASH PICKUP:

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

RECYCLING CENTER:

TOMORROW: Closing at 12 noon. Open as usual Sat Dec 24. Closed as usual on Fri Dec 23, Sun Dec 25, Mon Dec 26, Fri Dec 30, Sun Jan 1, also Mon Jan 2.



HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST WINNERS! – Mayor McEachern today announced the winners saying “The Holiday Lights Contest is a wonderful way to bring neighborhoods together and to celebrate with one another. Each year, so many families put so much time and effort into the displays and into the judging, helping to bring holiday spirit and light up our beautiful City. I would like to thank our business community, who came together to support this holiday contest: Jay and Amanda McSharry of the JGroup donated \$500, Ed Hayes of Ricci Lumber donated \$500 and McKinnons, Hannafords and Market Basket each donated \$250. The generous support of these Portsmouth businesses is greatly appreciated. In addition, Seacoast Media Group was an in-kind sponsor, providing publicity and advertising.”

- **Best Traditional: John Chavez, 80 Pine St.**
- **Most Creative: Matt & Nicole Beyer, 580 F.W. Hartford Dr.**
- **Kids’ Choice: Ray Clauson, 33 Madison St.**

Honorable Mention winners included (* indicates a Kid's Choice): Heather Pettis,* Polly Dale,* Joe & Linda Arsenault,* Lyndsey Bouzakine,* Tim MacCannell, Mike Lianza, Kris Kraft, Cindy Ward, Molly Shaw Wilson, Julie McCann and a special commendation to Al Bailey. Take a walk or drive to tour the neighborhood lights. The locations will be obvious, but use this interactive map with the winners marked with red snowflakes and honorable mentions in green: <https://tinyurl.com/mshhx88d>
Or this printable PDF map with addresses to guide you. <https://tinyurl.com/yhnmhjef>

FIRST NIGHT PORTSMOUTH DEC 31 – Pro Portsmouth presents ice sculpture carving in Market Square starting at 2 pm and fireworks at 7:30 pm. Go to details including street closures, parking bans and \$3 flat rate at Foundry Garage, 3-8 pm.:
<https://tinyurl.com/353n6h8u>



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.

CITY SETS PROPERTY TAX RATE—DETAILS ON TAX BILL PAYMENT –Tax bills ARE DUE JAN 4. 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>

HANOVER GARAGE: FLEET STREET. ENTRANCE TEMPORARILY CLOSED THRU JAN 4. 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/2jz6bst4>

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.



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 Street.

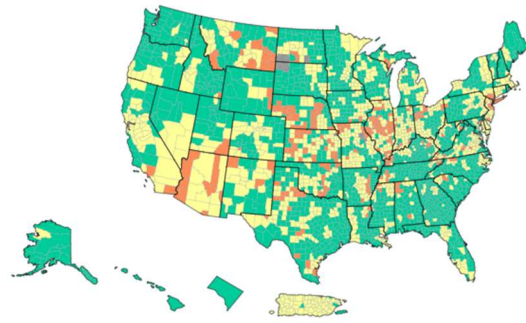
LAST CHANCE! PNH400 COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOODS TEAM: BRGR BAR RAFFLE

– 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 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 AND MOST OF MASSACHUSETTS ARE 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 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/4smxnj7>

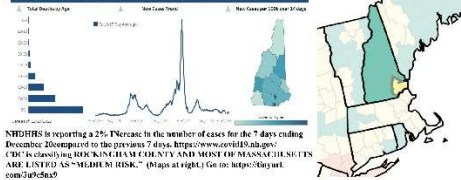
SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE LOCAL CONTACTS

-- 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

HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD 12/21/22



COVID-19 Booster Doses

The best way to protect yourself from COVID-19, including Omicron, is to get vaccinated and boosted.

Who: Everyone ages 18 and older should get a booster.

When: At least 1 month after your second Pfizer or Moderna shot, or 2 months after Johnson & Johnson.

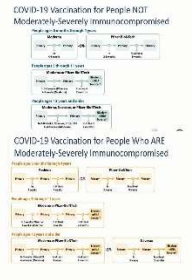


NH DHHS AND CDC RECOMMEND EVERYONE OVER 5 RECEIVE FALL COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES – The CDC has approved the FDA EUA for a modified booster: Pfizer vaccine for age 5+ and for those 18+ who receive a second Pfizer shot. The original shot Pfizer vaccine against Omicron has a 92% success rate. Go to [LEADERS BOOSTER FAQ](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/boosters/): <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/boosters/>

COVID-19 BOOSTERS: MORE SITES AVAILABLE! Find the new booster by going to the interactive map at <https://vaccines.gov>

VACCINE CLINIC scheduled for January 18, 2023 at the Senior Activity Center in Portsmouth (25 College Street) from 9am to 5pm. Pfizer and Moderna boosters as well as initial series and vaccines for children available.

NEIGHS IN RISK AND RISKY AFFECTING MEMBERS of our most frail people, RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, is a cold-like infection. But for the very young, the elderly, and people with certain health conditions, it can be serious, even life threatening. The virus can affect deep in the lungs, causing pneumonia, and in high-risk people, breathing by itself can be very difficult. Several companies are offering RSV vaccines but Pfizer and Moderna are far ahead along with companies plan to reach regulatory approval in the U.S. by the end of the year as well as in other countries. **NH DHHS RECOMMENDS** this season’s FLU shots for everyone. The formulation is proving effective against this year’s strains and provides for all who have had limited exposure to flu over the past years of the pandemic.



REGIONAL HEALTH BULLETIN BOARD – Go to a larger PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/4zca9xdy>

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))



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 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>