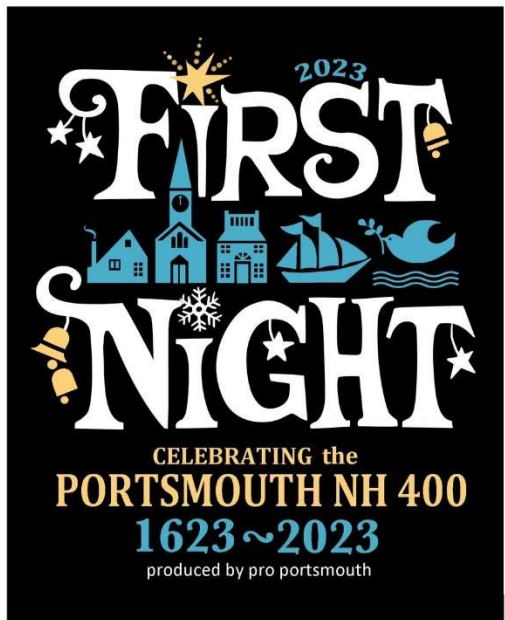


CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter: Thursday, December 29, 2022



FIRST NIGHT PORTSMOUTH DEC 31 – Pro Portsmouth presents ice sculpture carving in Market Square starting at 2 pm and fireworks at 7:30 pm. Sat Dec 31: no parking on Parrott Ave from 12 noon to 9 pm, no traffic from 7-9 pm. The dog park will close at 12 noon. \$3 flat rate at Foundry Garage, 3-8 pm. Go to details: <https://tinyurl.com/353n6h8u>

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>

HOLIDAY HOURS: CITY HALL

Closed Dec 31, Jan 1 & Jan 2.

RECREATION FACILITIES:

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 Jan 1 and Mon Jan 2.

DPW TRASH PICKUP:

Mon Jan 2 combined with Tues Jan 3

RECYCLING CENTER: Closed as usual on Fri Dec 30, Sun Jan 1, also Mon Jan 2.

NEW CITY PUBLIC ART REVIEW COMMITTEE SEEKING APPLICANTS --

Following the recommendations of the Governance Committee, the Portsmouth City Council has directed the creation of a new Public Art Review Committee (PARC) to assist the City in reviewing proposals for public art and conducting practical assessments of the feasibility of installing and maintaining such art works in the public sphere. The PARC will consist of six to ten community volunteers and one member of City staff, whom the City Manager has designated is Sean Clancy, Assistant City Manager for Economic Development. The Committee is now seeking applicants for consideration for appointment. Applicants should demonstrate their experience in the fine arts, architecture, art criticism, engineering or structural analysis, art history, graphic arts, interior design, landscape architecture, town planning, or other art and design-related fields, or who have demonstrated a strong interest in the visual arts and civic improvement. PARC members will be appointed by the Mayor, with approval from the Council, to staggered terms varying from two to three years. The PARC will be chaired by a member of the local arts community for a term of one year, with eligibility for reelection for two additional terms. **Interested candidates should complete the application form on the City Clerk's webpage and return it as directed.**

<https://tinyurl.com/yh5fm88r>

For more information on PARC, including the ordinance's definition of "public art," go to: <https://tinyurl.com/h9krxwp8>



CITY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2023 PRESCOTT PARK SEASONAL BOAT SLIP RENTALS LOTTERY DEADLINE JAN 5 AT 4

PM -- 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.

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS **DUE JAN 4** --

Taxpayers can pay their bills anytime from now until January 4, 2023 without accruing interest. **For the online property tax calculator go to:**
<https://tinyurl.com/yh96zpw8>



PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS BABYSITTING COURSE FRIDAYS JAN 6-FEB 3, 3:30-5:15 PM-- This free, 5-session course is open to students entering 6th grade through high school. Students must attend **all 5 sessions** to graduate and receive the certificate. The course covers child development, behavior, play, emergency situations and business basics, with plenty of hands-on experiences and room for questions. Plus snacks! Registration required – registration for the first day covers all 5 sessions. Go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/yf59j664>



PORTSMOUTH NH 400 KICKOFF PARTY ON FRI 1.6.23! Starting in the public forum area of Prescott Park (closest to Memorial Bridge) at 4 pm with a lighting of Memorial Bridge in “PNH400 blue.” Followed with an illuminated “History Lights Our Way” procession to South Church where PNH400 will present a grand “reveal” of what’s in store for 2023. Live entertainment is planned for the bridge lighting, the procession and the reveal. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served in the South Church community hall immediately following the preview of PNH 400 events. Free registration at <https://tinyurl.com/mpnd28f>
(Image: Jay Benjamin)

NOW AVAILABLE! OFFICIAL PORTSMOUTH NH 400TH COMMEMORATIVE 2023 CALENDAR – Available at the Portsmouth Historical Society, 10 Middle Street. **Open daily thru Fri Dec 30, 10 am – 4 pm.** \$24.95. Quantities are limited! Or order online, go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/3b3jskfe>
And check out all the other cool PNH400 merchandise for sale online.

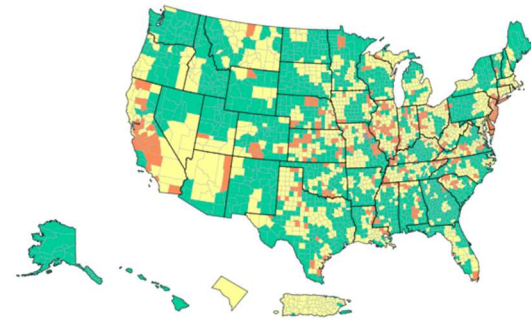
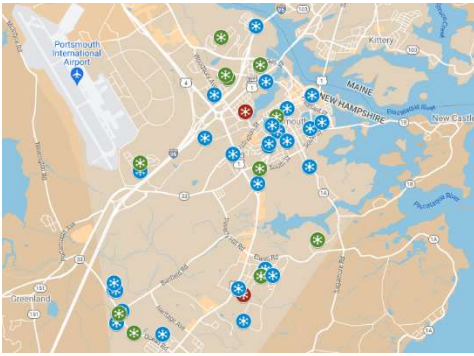
“MEMORIES” FOR PORTSMOUTH NH 400 COMMEMORATIVE BOOK DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DEC 31 -- Short essays of 400 words or less are welcome. Anyone who wants to participate in the Commemorative Project should submit a story of 400 words or less, as a Word document or link, in an email to Stories.PNH400@gmail.com 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.



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.



HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST WINNERS! – Mayor McEachern today announced the winners, thanking the 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. 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. 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>

I GOT BRIDGED HOSTS SPECIAL GUEST JOHN BRODERICK ON SAT JAN 7, 8:30-10 AM

AM -- *I Got Bridged*, the Portsmouth non-profit that “bridges the gap for people in need on the Seacoast” welcomes distinguished guest speaker John Broderick, Dartmouth-Health Senior Director of External Affairs and former Chief Justice of the NH Supreme Court, to their monthly “Time4Joy” Fellowship Group at the First United Methodist Church (129 Miller Ave.) on Sat Jan 7, 8:30 – 10 am. The event is free and open to the public, with a complimentary breakfast and La Mulita coffee. For more information on *I Got Bridged*, go to: www.igotbridged.com

TRAVELING? CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK. CARROLL, BELKNAP, MERRIMACK, HILLSBOROUGH AND ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, AND MOST OF MASSACHUSETTS ARE LISTED AS “MEDIUM RISK.” -- CDC recommends using its online COVID-19 tracker: <https://tinyurl.com/57p5j3ba>

Please note that hospitalization levels and staff shortages are high in NH. Health professionals advise residents to take extra care – and get a flu shot as well as a COVID-19 booster.

VACCINE CLINIC WED JAN 18 AT SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER, 9 AM–3 PM – Free and open to the public, 125 Cottage Street. Pfizer and Moderna boosters as well as initial series and vaccines for children available.

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 current booster.

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>

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.

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.

CROSS ROADS HOUSE 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. And 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 are given a warm meal and a cot. Before leaving the facility by 8 am, Cross Roads House offers each person the services of a case manager who can assist and direct them to local social services. Rockingham County residents 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.

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 Episcopal 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.).
NEW! STARTING MON JAN 9 FREE HOT BREAKFAST AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 7-8 AM. The Breakfast Club will serve a hot, sit-down breakfast in Thaxter Hall, every Monday.
- **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>