

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# City Newsletter

## Monday, February 14, 2022

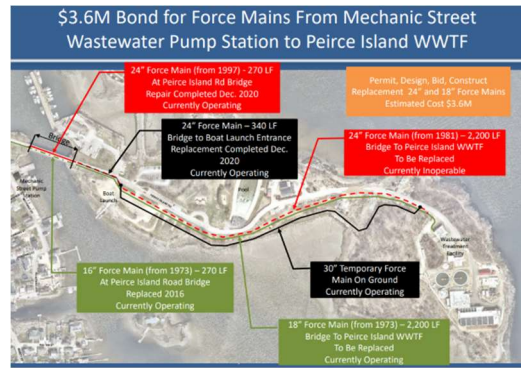
## Happy Valentine's Day!



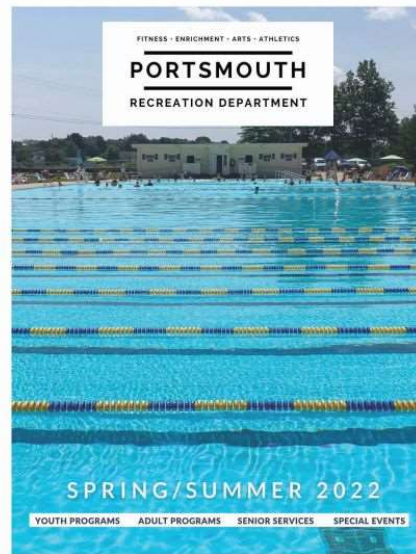
**PORTSMOUTH'S TREE OF LOVE HAS RETURNED!** Find your Valentine on the holiday tree, take a photo and post it with the hashtag #PortsmouthRecreation. Portsmouth Police Officer Mulcahey and Councilor Rich Blalock joined Mayor McEachern, City Manager Conard and parents, teachers and children from the Treehouse School to hang Valentines on the tree.

**Celebrating Black History Month**  
**Portsmouth is a Racial Justice Municipality.**  
**Read more about what that means, here:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/2p89mvy2>

**Questions about a City Department, program or issue? Suggestion? Email your comment to [hotmail@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotmail@cityofportsmouth.com) and you'll receive an immediate response, or we'll find the right person who can answer your question.**



**PEIRCE ISLAND ROAD WORK FOR SEWER FORCE MAINS PROJECT** -- Work continues on the project to replace the force mains to the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/peirce-island-sewer-force-mains-project> That work requires closing Peirce Island Road, parking and trail access beyond the Outdoor Pool, on a daily basis, 7 am to 4 pm. The public is advised that access is obstructed in the area past the pool.



**REC DEPT SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAM AND CAMP INFORMATION!** -- Spring/Summer info NOW AVAILABLE on the Rec Dept webpage: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation> Printed copies of the program guide also available at City Hall, the library and at all Recreation facilities. **SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION opens TODAY MON FEB 14 at 9am** and **Summer Program/Camp Registration opens TUES FEB 22 at 9am** for residents and Mon Mar 7 for non-residents. **INDOOR POOL SPRING SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION opens TUES FEB 15 FOR RESIDENTS** and Mon Feb 28 for non-residents.



**OUTDOOR DINING 2022 -- RESTAURANT MEETING FRI FEB 18 AT 10:30 AM** – The Chamber Collaborative is hosting a Zoom meeting to discuss the City’s draft of the 2022 outdoor dining plan with the Portsmouth restaurant community and get their feedback. This meeting will include City Manager Karen Conard, Economic Development Director Nancy Carmer and other involved City staff. All Portsmouth restaurants who are considering outdoor dining in 2022 (not just Chamber members) are encouraged to attend this free session. For the Zoom registration, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/5xzauwvx>



**SAFE WATER ADVISORY GROUP RESUMES WED FEB 23 AT 6:30 PM** – In person in City Hall Conference Room A and via Zoom. For the agenda and Zoom registration, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2awhaw26>



**ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD HOSTS VIRTUAL MARDI GRAS PARTY MAR 1 TO BENEFIT WOMENAID** -- The [Alliance for Greater Good](https://www.allianceforgreatergood.org) is holding its second virtual **Cocktails for a Cause** on March 1 to benefit [Womenaid of Greater](https://www.womenaid.org)

[Portsmouth](https://www.allianceforgreatergood.org/events). A \$50 donation provides access to a fun and safe way to celebrate Mardi Gras at home. Gather friends and family and learn from The Kitchen’s bar manager Charlotte Capra how to make three creative cocktails while dancing to some great live music from Jamsterdam. For tickets: <https://www.allianceforgreatergood.org/events>

**AARP TAX PREP ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE**  
AARP Tax Prep is drop-off only this year. Envelopes are available at the Senior Activity Center and Portsmouth Public Library, and drop-offs should be made at the Senior Center ONLY, February 1 – April 10, during the following times:

- Sundays, 11 am – 12 noon
- Tuesdays, 4-5 pm

For detailed instructions on what you need for filing, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p87ee45>  
As the 2021 Tax Year filing period opens, the IRS is encouraging taxpayers to file electronically. They estimate that refunds on electronic filings without errors will be processed in 21 days, but caution the IRS still has a backlog of 6 million unprocessed returns.



**Public Health Directive on Face Coverings in effect:** <https://tinyurl.com/yckthu46>  
**Masks are required for all indoor public spaces.** The City Council held a Second Reading of the proposed ordinance on Feb 7 and will hold the Third and Final Reading at their meeting on Feb 22. They amended the ordinance to say that masks will not be required if the Portsmouth positivity rate drops to 8% or lower. But until then, the Public Health Directive to wear masks in public indoor spaces remains in effect.

**A NOTE ON NH DHHS DATA TRACKING** -- On February 10, NH DHHS reported they are in the process of reworking how they report COVID-19 infection incidence and are currently working through a backlog, so [their NH Dashboard](#) is not fully up-to-date. NH DHHS expects to have a better sense of how to present data and community transmission “in a couple of weeks” but recommends watching the trends rather than individual data points.

**FREE N95 MASKS AT LOCAL PHARMACIES --** Look for signs that indicate your nearest stores have some available. The US-made masks will continue to roll out in more states as the week progresses, but the program, which will ship a total of 400 million N95s across the country, will be fully operating by early February.

**NOTE ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL** – Unlike CDC, NH DHHS does NOT recommend a 5-day quarantine following international travel or for those who are exposed to COVID-19. Quarantine is recommended ONLY if the infected person is part of your household and all are unvaccinated.

**FREE TEST KITS BY MAIL --** Order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the Federal government website: <https://www.covidtests.gov/> which also offers 'how to test' instructions.

**NH SOURCES FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS** – To order a free kit, visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/>  
For a list provided by NH DHHS of FDA-Emergency Use Authorized at-home antigen test kits, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/ymzjbj2r>

**FREE COVID-19 TESTING SITE AT FOX RUN MALL IN NEWINGTON**–**Note: This site is closed when school is closed because of weather.** Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 3 pm in the parking lot behind the JC Penney store. 48-hour results. For other free testing center, click here:

**DAILY WALK-IN VACCINATION & BOOSTER CLINIC IN ROCHESTER** -- Spaulding Commons, 306 N. Main Street. Hours: 10am-7pm weekdays, 9-2 on Saturdays, closed on Sundays. For additional local pharmacies and same-day sites, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/kbvemrbk> including in Concord, 273 Loudon Rd. opposite Steeplegate Mall. **NH Dept of Public Health expects to keep this fixed site in place through March 2022.**

**BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS** –Call On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, at [603-338-9292](tel:603-338-9292) or book an appointment online at the On-Site Medical website: <https://www.on-sitemedservices.com/>

#### **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 pickup in the St. John's parking lot (100 Chapel St.) Thurs, 12 noon to 1 pm.

**GATHER COMMUNITY MARKET, FRIDAYS, 10 am – 1 pm** – A FREE 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.

**GRANTS FOR ARTISTS!** The NH Council on the Arts reminds artists of two grant programs currently accepting applications:

[NH CARES Artist-Led Project Grants](#)

Grants to individual artists for specific, definable projects that connect artists and organizations to local initiatives. This program will support employment opportunities for artists impacted by COVID-19 by building new structures and partnerships that will help to sustain New Hampshire's creative sector. **Deadline: March 4, 2022.**

[Artist Entrepreneurial Grant](#)

#### **WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!**

To review job postings and benefits, [click here](#). For example, one of the current job openings is: **Business Administrator for Regulatory Compliance**. This position is responsible for assisting the City Engineer and DPW Senior Management with a variety of short and long term projects. This role is responsible for overseeing tasks assigned by the City Engineer are completed on time, all regulatory requirements are met, and long term document retention processes are maintained.

The City offers a generous compensation and benefits package that includes retirement, generous paid time off including vacation, holidays, medical & dental insurance, flexible spending account, professional development, career growth, longevity incentives, and more! For details and to apply, click here:

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



#### **PORTSMOUTH NH 400 ACCEPTING OFFICIAL PROGRAM PARTNER APPLICATIONS**

– Organizations, groups and anyone planning a Portsmouth NH 400 celebration program, project or event is invited to submit an Official Program Partner Application.

<https://tinyurl.com/mw5664bm>

The goals of the Application Process are:

- To help Portsmouth NH 400 Management Team keep track of events, projects and programs (including any fund-raising efforts in 2022)
- To maintain a central calendar on the [PortsmouthNH400.org](https://www.portsmouthnh400.org) website
- To connect organizations and artists who seem to be working on similar themes and ideas
- To coordinate fund-, fun- and friend-raising efforts
- To coordinate marketing efforts

Official Programs Partners will be asked to sign the [Official Program Partner Agreement](#) to confirm that they will abide by a few simple criteria that revolve around the goals, values, and themes of the commemoration. The PNH400 Management Team will also require that Program Partners comply with [Brand Standards](#). **Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate! For more details, visit:** <https://www.PortsouthNH400.org>

### **EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITIES ASSISTANCE**

– The [NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) (NHERAP) provides funds to renters who cannot pay their rent and utilities during the pandemic. The program works with tenants and landlords. Program changes as of October 1, 2021:

- Households may qualify for assistance for past-due and future rent and utility payments for a period not to exceed 18 months.
- At least one person in the household must have qualified for unemployment benefits, had their income reduced, had significant costs, or had other financial hardship during the pandemic. Certain income requirements must be met.

### **WHAT THE PROGRAM COVERS**

- Past-due rent including reasonable late and legal fees.
- Three months of future rent payments if needed for housing stability.
- Utilities, such as electricity, home heating costs, water, sewer, trash.
- Other housing-related costs such as internet and relocation expenses (including rental application fees, utility hook-up fees, and security deposits).
- Households may qualify for utility assistance even if they do not receive or need rental assistance.

For more information on whether you qualify and how to apply for emergency funds available to renters in NH, click here: <https://www.capnh.org/covid19>  
The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has also launched a tool (click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4hawaxf4>) that allows renters and landlords to find rental assistance programs in their area. Applications are handled through NH Community Action Partnership (CAP).



### **RECENTLY UPDATED:**

- **VACCINATION FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7>
- **TESTING FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx>
- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs**, [click here](#)

**KIDS AND COVID FAQs**, [click here](#)

**POST-VACCINATION FAQs** – For the latest information on breakthrough infections, boosters and vaccine effectiveness against the Omicron variant, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/uurbmrse>

**VACCINE DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND** – For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines were developed, tested and approved, [click here](https://tinyurl.com/3yhreymk).

**PROOF-OF-VACCINATIONS: What should you do if you discover your vaccination is not recorded properly in the NH DHHS database? Or if you need more than your vaccination card because some travel destinations require the full record?** Contact NHIIS (NH Immunization Information System) at 603-271-4028, by email at [nhiis.support@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:nhiis.support@dhhs.nh.gov) or click here for the NH DHHS website <https://tinyurl.com/rva3tphc> for the immunization information system (NHIIS). On this site, select the correction forms for your PCP to verify your vaccine card, DOB, etc. You will need to get the form notarized and before sending it back to NHIIS. Once your record is corrected, you can request an official vaccine and immunization record. For more answers to Frequently Asked Questions, [click here](#).

**I LOST MY PROOF-OF-VACCINATION CARD. NOW WHAT?** All vaccination records are kept on file in the CDC National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) system. NH DHHS advises that you can replace a lost vaccination card in either of two ways:

1. Download and complete the vaccination card replacement request form here: <https://tinyurl.com/4pj4chcz> Note that the completed form MUST BE NOTARIZED before sending it back to NH DHHS.

2. If your healthcare provider has access to the NHIIS, ask him/her to print out the record directly from NHIIS.

3. **A NOTE ON COMMERCIAL TESTING**

**CHARGES – If a commercial urgent care center says that COVID tests are not going to be covered by insurance, NH DHHS advises that **patients may request the urgent care center submit a bill to the carrier under the code Z20.828.**** This covers suspected exposure to viral communicable disease. Their advice is based on this CDC guidance: "If the provider documents 'suspected,' 'possible,' 'probable,' or 'inconclusive' COVID-19, do not assign code U07.1. Assign a code(s) explaining the reason for encounter (such as fever) or Z20.828, Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases." **Private health insurers are now required to cover up to eight home COVID-19 tests per month for people on their plans.** Under the new policy, Americans are able to either purchase home testing kits for free under their insurance or submit receipts for the tests for reimbursement, up to the monthly per-person limit.



**For DHHS VACCINE FAQs, click here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/tkvaksnw>

**For Testing FAQs click here.**

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/testing-faqs>

**For Ventilation FAQs click here.**

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/ventilation-faqs>

**For more information, visit City's page on**

COVID-19: <https://tinyurl.com/2ywcu6ab>

**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 QR code or link below to sign

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