

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter

Monday, February 7, 2022

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

TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 7 PM
(INCLUDING CIP PUBLIC HEARING) – In person and via Zoom For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/bddva6e9>

Public Health Directive on Face Coverings now in effect: <https://tinyurl.com/yckthu46>
Masks are required for all indoor public spaces. For a PDF sign to post at your business, click here:
<https://tinyurl.com/y98rmxj8>

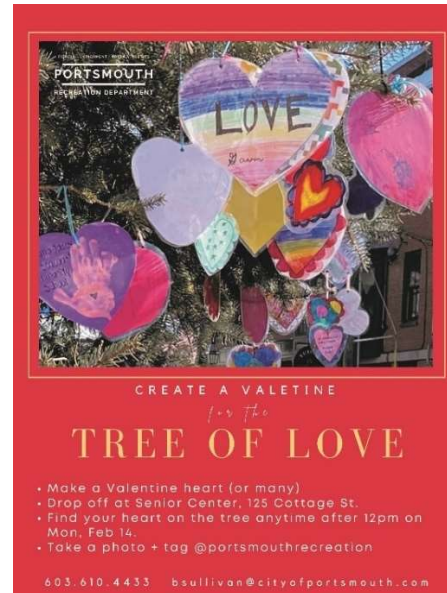
Questions about a City Department, program or issue? Suggestion? Email your comment to hotmail@cityofportsmouth.com and you'll receive an immediate response, or we'll find the right person who can answer your question.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AS DPW WORKS TO CLEAR SIDEWALKS AND CATCH BASINS. Please use the [Click 'n Fix system](#) to report any issues.

WHAT'S A SNOW LOADOUT? -- DPW shows you how it's done! It will be immediately apparent why a parking ban is needed: <https://tinyurl.com/4dffcjhv>

SIGN UP FOR FUTURE SNOW PARKING BAN ALERTS -- To sign up for text and/or email notices in advance, when a snow parking ban is declared, and when it is lifted, [click here](#). Snow Phone Hotline: 603.766.7669.



TREE OF LOVE RETURNS! Make a paper Valentine heart (or many). **Drop off at the Senior Activity Center or City Hall by Thurs Feb 10.** Find your Valentine on the holiday tree after 12 noon on Mon Feb 14. Take a photo #PortsmouthRecreation Design your own, or to download a heart template, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p89ubzj>



PRESCOTT PARK MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION WED FEB 9 AT 6:30 PM – In-person or via Zoom. For the Agenda and Zoom registration, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2kwaw2m9>



SENIOR CENTER ART SHOW -- Display open to the public Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.
 Winter 2022 Artists: Gerry Bresnahan, Pat Corlin, Mary Crump, Patricia Dateo, Jane Fithian, Joe Flaherty, Anita Freeman (above), Gary Gansburg, Carol Kuzminski, Janice Michienzi, Nancy Reiss, and Michael Sterling.

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.



FREE N95 MASKS AT LOCAL PHARMACIES -- From some CVS stores starting Jan. 27, and from some Walgreens starting Jan. 28. **Just 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.

Background and Definitions

- Decreasing Isolation and Quarantine to 5 days requires a “package” of interventions be implemented
- Up-To-Date (UTD) on COVID-19 vaccination: A person is “up to date” on COVID-19 vaccination when they have completed a primary COVID-19 vaccine series AND any booster shots which they are eligible for and recommended to receive.
 - CDC has information about [staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccination](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html) and who should get a booster shot.
- Under NH guidance, only Household Contacts (HHCs) who are unvaccinated or NOT Up-To-Date on all recommended vaccines need to quarantine
- Healthcare workers have separate guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html>

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>

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.

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.

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
- **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](#)

NH SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROGRAMS: [Pathway to Micro](#) – individualized and confidential advising on how to start a micro business for unemployed or underemployed individuals. [FAME \(Finance Accelerator Marketing Expeditor\)](#) – the SBDC connects existing and new clients with independent financial and marketing consultants for up to 5 hours of no-cost advising.

IRS & EDA EDUCATION FOR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, FEB 17 – IRS - “Hearing all Voices Small Business Workshop & Listening Session.” The Workshop will cover a variety of tax concerns for businesses including: income, deductions, employment taxes, recordkeeping and preparation for the 2022 filing season.

The session for NH businesses will be Feb 17 at 1PM. More details can be found [here](#).

EDA - “Future Focused Economic Planning for Rural America” Feb 17 at 2PM. Experts from the Center on Rural Innovation and Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. will discuss technologically driven trends and strategies for rural communities. More details and registration can be found [here](#). **Also Feb 17 at 11AM on equity investing and supply chain financing** which can be found [here](#).

NH SBA DISTRICT YEAR IN REVIEW TUES FEB 22 AT 2 PM – They plan to discuss their goals for this year on a webinar. To register: <https://www.sba.gov/events/1703315>

WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH! To review job postings and benefits, [click here](#). **For example, one of the current job openings is: Firefighter.** The City of Portsmouth is actively recruiting men and women for full-time Firefighter openings! Being a Firefighter can be a very rewarding experience, with opportunities for career advancement. Candidates for this position must deliver independently and as part of a team, to coordinate fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue, hazmat, public education and other emergency related services under general and specific direction during duty tours and as otherwise required. 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 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.

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>

