

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



City Newsletter

Monday, May 16, 2022

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>



CELEBRATING NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK, MAY 15-21!

TONIGHT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 7 PM
– In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. For Agenda and Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/3tcbpsv3>

CITY COUNCIL LISTENING SESSIONS ON FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET CONTINUE– The budget document and accompanying interactive user guide are posted to the City website: <https://tinyurl.com/4mpcrj2w>

Wed, May 18, Water, Sewer, Stormwater Budget. In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/2s2xu2dj>

THURS MAY 19: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIALOGUES -- At three locations dispersed among the city's neighborhoods: **5:30-6:30 pm at Portsmouth Middle School (155 Parrott Avenue); and 7-8 pm at the Senior Activity Center (125 Cottage Street) and Fire Station 2 (3010 Lafayette Road).** Members of the City Council and City management will be on hand to discuss the budget and respond to feedback from residents in an informal manner, designed to maximize input and share information. **Also:** Mon, May 23, City Council Work Session, Review Tues, May 31, City Council Work Session (if needed)

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS -- Starting today, the Inspections Department office hours are: Monday through Friday, 8 to 10 am and Monday evening, 5 to 6 pm. By providing set office hours, the Inspections Department is more available for discussing projects with property owners and contractors, and more efficient. Inspectors can work to answer questions and discuss the permitting process at the start of each day, before heading out into the field (and on the extended work-day on Mondays).

COAST BUS SERVICE CHANGE EFFECTIVE SAT MAY 21 --Due to an acute shortage of CDL-qualified operators, COAST regrettably has announced that they must suspend Saturday service on all fixed routes, ADA paratransit, and other demand response services, and must reduce the weekday frequency of service on Routes 40/43 (Portsmouth/Newington) and Routes 1/33 (Dover/Somersworth/Berwick). Saturday Route 7 On Demand service will shift to Tuesdays for the time being. COAST is encouraging anyone with a CDL-license who wants to work for an employer that is focused on serving the community and providing an essential service, to please visit [their website](#).

CONSTRUCTION WORK STARTING TODAY:
For information about each of the seasonal DPW projects now underway, click on the drop down Projects menu on the DPW page on the City website.

EVERSOURCE MARKET STREET PROJECT -- The project involves installing subsurface conduit to connect to transformers that are housed in the Hanover Street Garage to provide enhanced electrical power to that area of downtown. **The initial phases will be on Market Street which will impact the availability of parking to allow continuous one lane traffic around the work zones. Work hours will be 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.** Work will be complete before Memorial Day Weekend with roadway patching and temporary sidewalks for the summer. Final repairs to this area will occur in the fall. After Memorial Day, the work will shift to Ladd Street and will limit traffic on High and Ladd Streets between Congress and Market Street. Flaggers will be on-site throughout all phases of the work to aid vehicle and pedestrian travel and to assure access to all business.. **The on-site project contacts are:** For Eversource: Nick Kosko, 603-842-0416; for the City of Portsmouth, DPW: Marc Batchelder, 603-498-8449

SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT -- Severino Construction will start work affecting City streets in the Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension Project area, impacting Sagamore Avenue, Shaw Road, Cliff Road and Walker Bungalow Road. Excavation work starts on Sagamore Ave., continuing

onto the other streets as work advances. During construction travel on the streets will be limited, intermittently, to a single lane of alternating one-way travel Mon-Fri between 7 am and 6 pm. Flaggers, signs, and portable traffic lights will be used to control traffic. Pedestrian movement may be interrupted over this time period. Vehicles and pedestrians traveling on Sagamore Avenue should expect minor delays. Go to the [Sagamore Ave. Project page](#) for more information on this project and to subscribe to regular communications about the project.

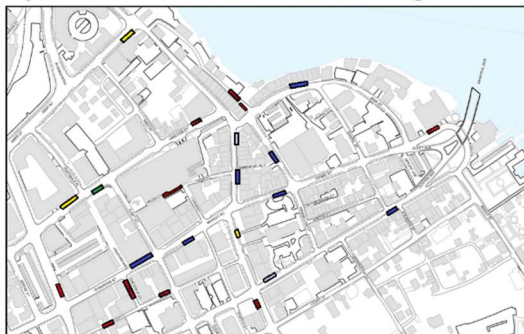
DODGE AVE/HARVARD ST./PRINCETON ST. (NEAR RTE 33 PARK 'N RIDE) – Reclamation and repaving project expected to take about two weeks.

TUES MAY 17: MARCY STREET-NEW CASTLE AVE GAS LINE REPLACEMENT – Unutil gas company will be mobilizing on Tue and starting work on Wed May 18 to replace the gas main, all the gas services under the road and all of the main tie ins to the side streets (Pray, Partridge, Holmes, Walden and Humphreys). This work will take about three weeks. After that, Advanced Paving will return for the rebuilding and repaving project.

STATE STREET AREA -- Bartlett Street and Islington Street Intersection, also East Side, Albany Street to Dover Street: Raising of castings. Columbia Street Area and State Street **sidewalk work on Tues May 17 and Wed May 18.**

BRIDGE STREET LOT – SCHEDULED TO OPEN END OF NEXT WEEK. The work includes reconstruction of the paved area, handicapped accessibility upgrades, subsurface preparations that would allow for EV charging stations and landscaping.

City of Portsmouth Downtown Loading Zone Map



	Loading Zone Hours	Parking Hours
	Mon-Sat: 6am - 3pm Sunday: 6am - Noon	After 3pm After Noon
	Mon-Sat: 6am - 9am Sunday: 6am - Noon	After 9am After Noon
	Mon-Sat: 6am - 11am Sunday: 6am - Noon	After 11am After Noon
	Mon-Sat: 6am - 7pm, then Taxi Stand Sunday: 6am - 7pm, then Taxi Stand	None None
	24 hour	None

EVENING PARKING SPACES NOW AVAILABLE IN SELECT LOADING ZONES -

- The City Council approved the Parking & Traffic Safety Committee recommendation in March, and the new loading zone parking spots are now identified by signage and loaded into the ParkMobile system. The new loading zone parking spots are identified on the map above. Parking rates vary by zone, consistent with the parking rates for other spaces in that location.



JOIN THE OPENING DAY CELEBRATION

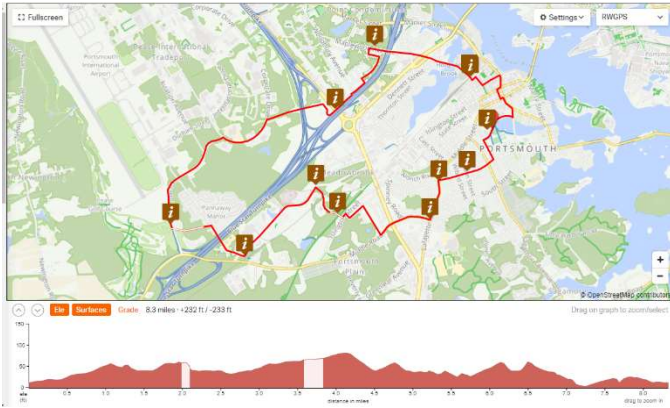
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony
- Refreshments
- Seedlings for sale by the Herb Farmacy (10% of sales donated to the Portsmouth Community Garden)
- Bumper stickers, t-shirts and more for sale to benefit the Portsmouth Community Garden



Saturday, May 21
10 AM | Rte. 33 Park & Ride

COMMUNITY GARDEN RIBBON-CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE SAT MAY 21, 10 am – Rte. 33 adjacent to the Park 'n Ride.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY SAT MAY 21, 8 am to 12 noon – At DPW, 680 Peverly Hill Road. Residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington are encouraged to bring household chemicals for safe disposal. Proof of residency is required. Residents remain in their vehicles and staff will remove disposable items from car trunks. Residents will be asked verbally about their town of residence for survey purposes, in compliance with EPA requirements. To learn more about what is accepted and what is not: <https://tinyurl.com/2x6tscby>



MAYOR’S BIKE RIDE FOR NATIONAL BIKE MONTH, SAT MAY 21 STARTING AT 11 am –

Participants should meet at the Portsmouth Middle School/Public Library parking lot to join Mayor Deaglan McEachern. The ride follows a family-friendly, 8-mile loop (map: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/39232630>) along some of the City’s best bicycle routes, as well as revealing some hidden gems. Police will assist with ensuring safety on the route. Registration is not required. Participants should just “show up,” with their bikes and helmets, ready to ride.



RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY NOW

ONLINE! The City of Portsmouth and the Recreation Department/Board are currently working on a study to determine the types of community services, sports and facilities the City needs to meet the demands of residents today and into the future. **Complete the survey and become part of the plan:**

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfuzk7s>

To learn more about the project and how you can participate, please visit [the project website](#).

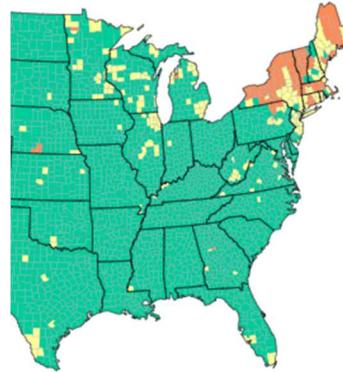


INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT FIRE PROTECTION ALARMS & SPRINKLERS WORKSHOP MAY 26 from 8 am to 12 noon in City Hall Council Chambers. Portsmouth Fire Department Fire Prevention Officer Chad Putney is the instructor for the training. This course explains

the basic components of fire alarms and sprinkler systems and what the inspector as well as the installer should be looking for. Chad has 20+ years of professional fire service experience and over a decade as a licensed fire alarm contractor in several states. Advance registration required. <https://tinyurl.com/3uw7wndv>

OUTDOOR DINING -- These **32 restaurants** are approved for outdoor dining permits include: 110 Grill, Black Trumpet, BRGR BAR, Cafe Espresso, Cava, Dwyer's Pub, Elephantine Bakery, Fezziwig's Food & Fountain, Jumpin' Jay's Fish Café, Kaffee VonSolln, La Caretta Portsmouth, Moxy, Popovers on the Square, Portsmouth Feed Company, Portsmouth Gas Light Co., Raleigh Wine Bar + Eatery, Rosa Restaurant, Row 34, The Sol, Stroll Café, The Clipper Tavern, The District, The Goat, The Goods Market & Café, The Green Room, The Hammer Pub & Grille, The Portsmouth Brewery, The Press Room, Thirsty Moose Taphouse, Tjs Food and Spirits, Toscana, Tuscan Market. Be sure to check first before visiting, as outdoor dining continues to be set up. Planters will be added mid-May.

WE NOTE WITH SADNESS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PASSED THE 1 MILLION MARK IN RECORDING DEATHS FROM COVID-19.



CDC GUIDANCE ON ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK – CDC recommends using its online tool -- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) based on hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. **The City Manager encourages the use of masks indoors in City facilities. Please note that masks are still required in the Portsmouth Public Library.**

CDC GUIDANCE ON OPTIONAL SECOND BOOSTER -- On March 30, 2022 The CDC updated their [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) to allow for a 2nd booster dose in certain persons:

- Persons 12 or older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may choose to receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster
- All persons 50 years of age or older may choose to receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster. The **second booster is recommended for those age 60+**
- Persons 18-49 years of age who received the J&J COVID-19 vaccine for both their primary series and 1st booster may receive a 2nd mRNA booster at least 4 months after their J&J booster.

FDA LIMITS USE OF J&J VACCINE -- Due to the ongoing risk of rare but serious blood clots. The problem occurs in the first two weeks after vaccination. Under the new FDA instructions, J& J's vaccine could still be given to people who had a severe allergic reaction to one of the other vaccines and can't receive an additional dose. J& J's shot could also be an option for people who refuse to receive the mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, and therefore would otherwise remain 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/>

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 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.



PORTSMOUTH NH 400 PHOTO CONTEST! PNH400 is now accepting submissions from Portsmouth-based photographers so the calendar showcases the best local talent, professional and amateur. There are thirteen prizes – feature placement of the winners' images in the printed calendar. One photograph per month plus a cover image will be selected. The calendar will also include the dates of all signature PNH400 events and special observances, along with fun historical facts and figures. *For submission details and the online form, [click here](#).* **The Submission Deadline is June 30, 2022. 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>
Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate!
For more details, visit:
<https://www.PortsmouthNH400.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:

- **DAILY LIFE DURING COVID-19** -- <https://tinyurl.com/2m463dne>
- **VACCINATION FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4smxnjf7>
- **TESTING FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx>
- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs**, [click here](#)

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

For more information, visit City's page on COVID-19: <https://tinyurl.com/2ywc6ab>

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>