

# CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



## City Newsletter Thursday, July 7, 2022

**Questions for City staff? Email [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com) and your question will be referred to the appropriate City staff for reply.**

**NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING MON JUL 11 AT 7 PM.** In person in City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. Go to Agenda and Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/274mucae>

### **SOUTH STREET WORK:**

- **PAVING -- Paving the last section, Sagamore to Lafayette on WED Jul 13.**
- **TUES JUL 12 PAVE PRINCETON ST.**



**NOTE: DOG PARK ADJACENT TO LEARY FIELD NOW OPEN!** Thank you Parks & Greenery Division for completing the maintenance early.



**FREE GUIDED TOURS OF PRESCOTT PARK GARDENS EVERY FRIDAY STARTING JUL 8: 11 am – 12 pm and 1-2 pm.** Meet at the Liberty Pole entrance on Marcy Street. Led by the City interns who design and planted the gardens.



**PEIRCE ISLAND OUTDOOR POOL NOW OPEN –** Go to daily schedule. <https://tinyurl.com/4dykjz2d>

**PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY LIFTS MASK REQUIREMENT --** Masks are no longer required in the library building. This change reflects both the decreased rates of transmission in our county and the availability of vaccines for children under the age of five. All decisions regarding service changes and policies at Portsmouth Public Library are made in conjunction with the City Manager, City Health Officer, Legal Department, and the library's Board of Trustees. The Library noted, "We invite and encourage those who wish to continue wearing masks to do so. If you are feeling unwell or experiencing cold or flu symptoms, please consider wearing a mask or waiting until you're recovered to visit the library."



**HANOVER GARAGE SAFETY, DUST AND NOISE PANEL PLACEMENT STARTING JUL 11 –** Work will take place between 8 am and 4 pm, Mon-Fri. Partitions are being placed to reduce construction noise and dust. To stay informed about this project, subscribe to the weekly emails and submit comments and questions on the Hanover Garage Project page. <https://tinyurl.com/5n85cuhy>



**CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO) ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WED JUL 13 AT 6:30 PM --** For neighborhood

representatives and NNO volunteer block party organizers, to answer questions and provide additional information on the August 2nd event. Event Planner: Elaine Apatang. Police, Fire and PW coordinators will be attending. For Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/3486s9th> For more information, contact Elaine Apatang: [cncportsmouth@gmail.com](mailto:cncportsmouth@gmail.com)



**NEXT HISTORIC CEMETERIES HEADSTONE CLEANING OPPORTUNITIES SAT JUL 9** – The City Cemetery Committee invites volunteers to join the guided historic headstone cleaning effort in North Cemetery on Maplewood Avenue on the following dates: Jul 9, Aug 6, Sep 10 and Oct 1. There are also dates reserved for groups. Please contact Sue Sterry [sterry10@ymail.com](mailto:sterry10@ymail.com) or Deidre Forte [deedee.forte@yahoo.com](mailto:deedee.forte@yahoo.com) Or for more information go to: <https://tinyurl.com/mrwu5nxs>

**TRY MASTERS SWIMMING AT PORTSMOUTH INDOOR POOL IN JULY** -- The Portsmouth Recreation Department with Great Bay Masters hosts **at two FREE workouts**. The USMS Try Masters Swimming initiative **welcomes anyone who can swim!** For more information, please contact Coach Crystie at [GreatBayMastersSwimTeam@gmail.com](mailto:GreatBayMastersSwimTeam@gmail.com)

**CONSTRUCTION WORK THIS WEEK:** 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.

**LANG ROAD - LONGFELLOW ROAD INTERSECTION CONSTRUCTION** Opening access to new traffic pattern to Route 1 end of next week.

**EVERSOURCE PROJECT WORK IN LADD ST -**  
**- Work hours are 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. The work limits traffic on High and Ladd Streets between Congress and Market Street. The on-site project contacts are:** For Eversource: Nick Kosko, 603-842-0416; for the City of Portsmouth, DPW: Marc Batchelder, 603-

498-8449. Go to [Eversource Project](#). Note: Construction debris from this project being deposited at Eversource facility on Maplewood Ave. prior to permanent removal.

**PENHALLOW STREET -- DANIEL & PENHALLOW BUSINESSES ARE OPEN. Pedestrian access maintained.**

**SAGAMORE AVE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT** -- Impacting Sagamore Avenue, Shaw Road, Cliff Road and Walker Bungalow Road. 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. Go to the [Sagamore Ave. Project page](#) for more information.

**MARCY STREET-NEW CASTLE AVE PAVING PROJECT RESUMES WED JUL 13.**

**SEASONAL TREE TRIMMING UNDERWAY**  
DPW will be working over the next several weeks to trim shrubs that are overhanging or extending into the public sidewalks and other public rights-of-way.



**PORTSMOUTH NH 400 PRINT CALENDAR 2023 LISTINGS ACCEPTED THRU SEP 29** – Organizations, groups and anyone planning a Portsmouth NH 400 celebration program, project or event is invited to submit information using the Program Partner Application.

\*<https://tinyurl.com/mw5664bm>

**Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate!**

**For more details, visit:**

<https://www.PortsmouthNH400.org>

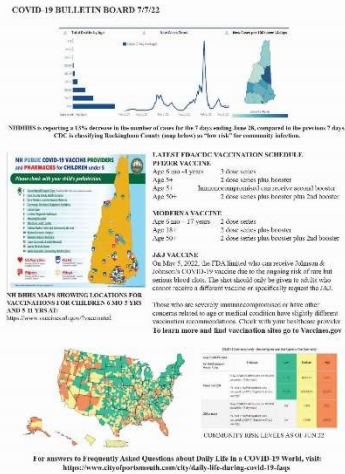
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS AND PAYMENT HELP** – On **Aug 1**, New Hampshire electric customers will see an increase in the supply portion of their bill, which will be more than double last August's supply rate. This significant rate increase is due to record-high natural gas prices and the global economy. Natural gas is the primary fuel for generating electricity in the region. Eversource offers the following suggestions for keeping costs down this summer and details on payment plans for those who need assistance.

- Use the new [Cooling Calculator on Eversource.com](#) to understand how much electricity their current cooling system uses.
- Keep air conditioners set at or near 78 degrees For every degree higher on the thermostat, the air conditioner will use 1-3% less electricity.
- Keep air vents clear of obstructions such as furniture, curtains and rugs.
- Operate major appliances during the cooler parts of the day when there is less demand on the electric system.
- Using curtains, shades, and blinds can lower indoor temperatures by up to 20 degrees.
- Switch to ENERGY STAR® certified LED lights which run cooler and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lights.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise and at a higher speed in the summer.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR rating when purchasing new appliances including air conditioners. An oversized or undersized AC unit is less effective and uses more energy.

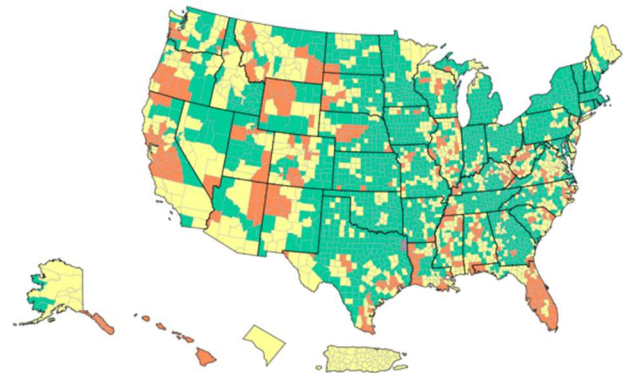
**Help is available for customers who need it:**

- **Budget Billing Plan** – to avoid seasonal spikes
- **Discount Rate** – for customers who meet certain income guidelines
- **Flexible Payment Plans** – to pay past-due balances over a period of time and protect from service interruptions.
- **New Start** – Income-eligible customers can reduce or eliminate their enrolled, outstanding balance in as little as 12 months when they make on-time monthly payments and Eversource will make up the difference.

Regardless of financial need, customers are eligible for various payment programs and are urged to call Eversource at 844-273-7760 or visit [Eversource.com/billhelp](#) to find the right plan for them. To learn about the many energy saving programs available, visit [Eversource.com](#).



**REGIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN BOARD -- For a larger PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/3d5j8tzz>**



**VACATIONING? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WITH CDC TOOL FOR ASSESSING COMMUNITY RISK (ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LISTED AS "LOW") -- 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. Map as of June 22, 2022.**



**ALLIANCE FOR GREATER GOOD YOGA AT SUNSET JUL 26 FUNDRAISER FOR BACK TO SCHOOL BACK PACKS FOR CITY WELFARE DEPT --** Yoga-enthusiasts can attend [Yoga @ Sunset](#) on Tues Jul 26. 6:30 – 7:30 pm on the grounds of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion on Little Harbor Rd. or make a [direct donation](#).

**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).

**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 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.



**HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE** -- In addition to the NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program, there is 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>

**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).

**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>

**RECENTLY UPDATED:**

- **DAILY LIFE DURING COVID-19** -- <https://tinyurl.com/2m463dne>
- **VACCINATION FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4smxnj7>
- **TESTING FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx>
- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs**, [click here](#)

**VACCINE DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND** – For 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/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 link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>