

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements and is part of our continuing effort to communicate more extensive and timely information to the public. Editions are e-mailed every other Wednesday. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

***SNOW PARKING BANS***

Reminder: A storm that drops two inches of snow or more may result in a citywide on-street parking ban so that snow can be removed. The Department of Public Works issues a warning of a possible ban six to twelve hours in advance, and posts it on Local Government Cable Channel 22, through a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) and in announcements in the local media. The actual ban is announced in the same way, and also is posted on signs at all entrances to the City. A similar procedure is followed to announce the end of the ban. A map of parking lots open during parking bans is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm>

***DECORATING CONTEST***

Register by Friday, Dec. 16, to be part of the Rec Department's Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Register at Spinnaker Point or by calling 766-1483. Winners will be notified by phone.

***SANTA LETTERS***

Tuesday, Dec. 20, is the deadline for children to send a letter to Santa Claus and receive his reply before Christmas. The letter must include the child's name and return address. Send letters to "Santa Claus, North Pole, 135 Daniel Street, Portsmouth, NH, 03801." Contact: 766-1483.

***HOLIDAY CLOSURES***

The Library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 24. City Hall, the School Department's Central Office and the Library all will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, in recognition of Christmas and on Monday, Jan. 2, in recognition of New Year's Day.

***SCHOOL CLOSURES***

Portsmouth Public Schools are closed Dec. 23-Jan. 2, reopening on Tuesday, Jan. 3. In addition, the School Department's Central Office closes at noon on Friday, December 23, and is open the following week only on Wednesday, Dec. 29, and Thursday, Dec. 30. The Office is also closed on Monday, Jan. 2.

***HOLIDAY TRASH***

There will be no change in curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables during the holiday period. Rubbish and recyclables will be collected as usual on Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, January 2. However, the Recycling Center will be closed on those days.

***CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP***

Christmas trees will be collected curbside beginning Tuesday, Jan. 3, through Friday, Jan. 13. All decorations should be removed. The tree should not be put in a bag. Residents also may bring their Christmas trees to the Recycling Center for disposal. Contact: 427-1530.

***HELP THE NEEDY***

The City Welfare Department has a list of Portsmouth families unlikely to benefit from various traditional organizations' food and gift programs. The deadline for contributions is Dec. 19. Gift cards are especially welcome for teenagers, who often are overlooked by traditional programs. Contact: 610-7267 or [etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com).

### ***INTENSIVE DUI ENFORCEMENT***

Portsmouth Police are joining with the NH State Police in an intensive effort to apprehend Driving Under the Influence (DUI) violators during the holiday season. Portsmouth Police will have additional "DUI Hunter" patrols on the City's streets and highways. Their message is: "If you drink and drive, we'll provide the chaser!" Since Jan. 1, Portsmouth Police and local State Troopers have made almost 500 DUI arrests between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

### ***RECYCLING STICKERS***

It's time for residents to apply for 2006 vehicle stickers to use the City's Recycling Center. Residents should fill out applications at the Recycling Center behind the Department of Public Works on Peverly Hill Road on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There is no charge, but proof of residency (such as a driver's license) is required.

### ***ASSESSOR VISITS***

Assessor's Office representatives are working in the area including Maplewood Avenue, Leslie Drive and Cutts Street to check properties for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm> Every property owner is notified by letter in advance of the arrival of a data collector to measure their property's exterior and seek permission to inspect the interior and other buildings. Information will be used to make each property reflect fair market value, effective April 1, 2006, for the Nov. 1, 2006, tax bills. Contact: 610-7249.

### ***HOMELAND SECURITY***

The Police Department recently received a Homeland Security Grant of approximately \$49,000 to equip the Department and its personnel to respond to a homeland security threat or incident in Portsmouth. Some of the federal funding will go toward the purchase of various types of equipment, including barricades and barricade tape, traffic cones, chemically protective garments, air packs, and mask voice amplifiers.

### ***LEASH-LESS DOGS***

Portsmouth has eight public locations where dogs are allowed to be off their leashes as long as they are under voice control and observation of their owners. They are: Haven Park on Pleasant St.; Langdon Park across the street from City Hall; Peirce Island (except for the playground); Ward Park at the intersection of Ward Place and Middle Road near Lafayette School; South Mill Pond area across the street from City Hall; Goodwin Park on Islington St.; Atlantic Heights under the I-95 Bridge (off Kearsarge Way to Ranger Way); and the Great Bog off Buckminster Way. Maps are available at the City Clerk's Office.

### ***Did you know...?***

Questions regarding "Lost and Found" in the Portsmouth area may be directed to the Portsmouth Police Department's Property & Evidence Technician, Jim Gaskell, at 610-7439.

### ***MEETINGS***

To see a list of upcoming City-related meetings, agendas for future meetings and minutes of past meetings, always check the City's Web site, [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com), or the Meetings Calendar at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2005/index.htm>

### ***HOURS***

Portsmouth City Hall (431-2000) is open from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The School Department Central Office (431-5080) is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

*The City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter is published by the City of Portsmouth. It is not intended to provide legal advice. It is a compilation of the best available information at the time of publication. Events may be subject to change without notice in the time between publication of this e-newsletter and the actual event. Whenever possible, changes will be posted on [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) or on the local government cable channel Channel 22.*

