

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. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

INPUT SOUGHT

A public hearing is scheduled Thursday (tomorrow, Jan. 12) by the City of Portsmouth's Citizens Advisory Committee to seek ideas for new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects for Fiscal Years 2006-2007. The hearing will be in the Planning and Community Development Conference Room on the Third Floor of City Hall. CDBG funds are provided to the City by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development each year. CDBG projects must benefit Portsmouth individuals and families who earn very low, low and moderate incomes. Contact: 610-7226.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Friday (Jan. 13) is the final day for curbside pickup of Christmas trees. Residents may bring Christmas trees to the Recycling Center for disposal after that date. PLEASE do not bag them. Contact: 427-1530.

MLK HOLIDAY

City Hall, Portsmouth Schools, the Library and the City's Recycling Center will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. However, curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables will continue as usual, including the business district collection.

MLK MARCH

The 5th Annual March for Justice and Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will be held Monday, Jan. 16. The march through downtown Portsmouth begins following an 11 a.m. rally at Portsmouth Middle School. Participants will return to the Middle School for activities. Police say no disruption of traffic is expected.

FAMILY SKI DAY

The Rec Department has scheduled a family day of skiing on Monday, Jan. 16 (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday), at King Pine Mountain. Cost is \$42 for adults and \$32 for children and it includes lift ticket and bus transportation. Contact: Barry Foley, 817-9483.

MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Rehabilitation options for the Memorial Bridge that carries U.S. Route 1 from Portsmouth over the Piscataqua River to Kittery will be discussed at an informational meeting Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Portsmouth High School. The NH Department of Transportation will inform public officials and citizens about the proposed rehabilitation project for the bridge owned by the States of New Hampshire and Maine. The project may have an effect on historic properties, according to the NHDOT. Replacement/rehabilitation options for the City's approach bridge that carries US Route 1 over Scott Avenue also will be discussed. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Contact NHDOT: 271-6495.

SNOW EMERGENCIES

City residents may park in the High-Hanover Parking Facility during snow emergencies for just \$3 by presenting a City-issued coupon that bears their name. Coupons must be obtained in advance from the Parking Clerk's Office at City Hall by showing proof of residency. Payment is made upon exiting the garage. Vehicles may be parked for up to two hours before the official start of the on-street parking ban and must be moved within two hours afterward in order to receive the \$3 rate. Residents present the coupon and show identification to the parking attendant. Coupons are non-transferable. A map of other off-street parking is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm>

SWIM LESSONS

Registration has begun for upcoming swim lessons at the Portsmouth Indoor Pool. Contact: 427-1485.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The Rec Department is sponsoring a Middle School Dance Friday (Jan. 13) from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Contact: 766-1483.

PHS SPORTS ON TV

The Portsmouth High School hockey game against Monadnock will be rebroadcast on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. on Local Government Cable Channel 22.

FAMILY SKATE PARTIES

Join the Rec Department's Family Skate Party on Saturday, Jan. 21, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the NH Park and Ride on Greenland Road in Portsmouth. There will be a bonfire for warmth, along with free coffee, hot cocoa and cookies. The Portsmouth High hockey team will be on the ice to help with the children. An afternoon Family Skate Party is planned Saturday, Feb. 4, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact: 766-1483.

PORTSMOUTH SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Portsmouth Special Olympics athletes will participate in the regional winter relays at Coe Brown Academy in Northwood on Jan. 29. The events will be held between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., and will include snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing. Contact: 431-5080.

WELFARE THANK-YOU

The City's Welfare Department was overwhelmed by the generous response of newsletter readers who provided Christmas gifts to local residents in need. Ten individuals and families donated gifts and gift cards that were distributed to 15 families, including 50 children. In addition, Womanaid of the Seacoast donated \$1,000 in gift certificates after reading our call for help. Employees in several City departments also responded. Thanks to all who helped make things brighter this Christmas. Gift cards from local stores are always welcomed by the Welfare Department staff for year-round needs. Contact: 610-7267 or etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com.

ASSESSOR VISITS

With the holidays over, Assessor's Office representatives have resumed checking properties for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. They will be in the areas of Maplewood Avenue, Kearsarge Way and Leslie Drive. Specific streets are at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm> Property owners are notified by letter in advance of the arrival of a data collector to measure their property's exterior and seek permission to inspect its 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.

Did you know...?

The average annual temperature in Portsmouth is 46 degrees. In January, the average is 35 degrees but in July it is 72 degrees.

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, or the Meetings Calendar at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2006/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 or on the local government cable channel Channel 22.