

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*

***VEHICLE SALE***

The City of Portsmouth will be selling seven surplus vehicles, including five police cars, through a sealed bid process open to the public. A description of the vehicles, information on how to submit a written bid and the bid deadline will be posted Monday (Jan. 30) on the City Purchasing Department's web page at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/purchasing.htm>. Contact: 610-7227.

***SNOW BAN PARKING***

The City now offers a \$3 flat rate for City residents to park at the High-Hanover Parking Facility during snow emergencies if they present a City-issued discount coupon bearing their name. Vehicles may be parked for up to two hours before the official start of an on-street parking ban and must be moved within two hours afterward in order to receive the \$3 rate. Coupons must be obtained in advance from the Parking Clerk's Office at City Hall by showing proof of residency. 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>

***BUILDING ACTIVITY***

The City's Inspection Department reports it issued 886 permits representing \$117 million in construction in 2005. That compares to 844 building permits with a value of \$55 million in 2004. The increased activity last year also included 616 electrical permits and 616 plumbing/mechanical permits for a total of 2,118 permits issued by the Department. This resulted in a large increase in permit fees to the City for a 2005 total of \$595,429. That is the most collected in six years and far above the 2004 total of \$380,650.

***SPECIAL OLYMPICS***

Portsmouth Special Olympics athletes will participate in the regional winter relays at Coe Brown Academy in Northwood on Sunday (Jan. 29) from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Events include snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing. Contact: 431-5080.

***LIBRARY KIDS***

A new series of Lap Times and Preschool Story Times begins Tuesday (Jan. 31) at the Library and continues through March 9. Lap Times for children up to 36 months, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, are Tuesdays, 9:30-10:15 and 10:30-11:15 a.m., and Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Preschool Story Times for children 3 and up, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, are Wednesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m., and Thursdays, 1:00-1:45 p.m. The free drop-in programs are open to Portsmouth Library cardholders. If schools are closed due to weather, the programs also are canceled. Contact: 766-1740.

***CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLUB***

The Rec Department has a cross-country ski program to experience different trails throughout New Hampshire twice a month. The next outing is Friday, Feb. 3. It costs just \$3 for transportation. You pay your own ticket and rental costs. The group leaves the Greenleaf Rec Center at 7 a.m. on the first and third Fridays of the month through March 16. Sign up at the Spinnaker Point front desk or contact: 766-1483.

***MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE***

The next Middle School Dance sponsored by the Rec Department is Friday, Feb. 3, from 7:30-10:00 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Contact: 766-1483.

***FAMILY SKATE PARTY***

The Rec Department is planning another Family Skate Party next Saturday (Feb. 4), 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., at the Park and Ride on Greenland Road in Portsmouth. The Portsmouth High hockey team will be on the ice to help with the children. There also will be free coffee, hot cocoa and cookies. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***PHS SPORTS ON TV***

The Portsmouth High School hockey game against Belmont-Guilford will be rebroadcast on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. on Local Government Cable Channel 22.

### ***FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE***

The 12th annual Father-Daughter Valentine's Day Dance is Saturday, Feb. 11, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. All girls in Grades K-5 and their dads are invited. Cost is \$10 per couple. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***BOOK DISCUSSION***

The next book discussion for adults at the Library will be Monday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. The book is "Little Scarlet" by Walter Mosley. Contact: 766-1740.

### ***ASSESSOR VISITS***

Weather permitting, Assessor's Office representatives are continuing to check properties for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. They are working in the Maplewood Avenue, Kearsarge Way and Leslie Drive areas. 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.

### ***COMMUNITY EDUCATION***

The Portsmouth Community Education's new spring brochure listing a wide variety of inexpensive classes is available online via [http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/PortsAdultEd\\_Spring06.pdf](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/PortsAdultEd_Spring06.pdf)

### ***SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS***

The Community Development Department is accepting applications until Feb. 24 for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Public Service Agency Grant program. The competitive grant program makes grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to non-profit public service agencies serving Portsmouth individuals and families earning very low, low, or moderate incomes. Funding is provided by a Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Contact: 610-7226.

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

The Police Department will fingerprint Portsmouth residents, people employed by a Portsmouth business and those seeking employment in Portsmouth (provided they have appropriate documentation). Fingerprints are taken at the Police Station at 3 Junkins Ave. every Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon. Contact: 427-1500, ext. 417 or 412.

### ***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/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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) or on the local government cable channel Channel 22.*