

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*

SURPLUS VEHICLES

Friday (Feb. 10) at 2 p.m. is the deadline for the public to submit sealed bids for any of the seven surplus vehicles being sold by the City of Portsmouth. The bids will be opened at that time. Five police cars and two Public Works cars are for sale “as is.” Information on the cars and how to submit a written bid is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/purchasing.htm>. Contact: 610-7227.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

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

PHS SPORTS ON TV

The Portsmouth High School hockey game against Conval will be rebroadcast Saturday (Feb. 11) at 7 p.m. and the women’s basketball game against Winnacunnet will be shown Saturday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. on Local Government Cable Channel 22.

SCHOOL BUDGET

The Portsmouth School Board will be working on its 2006-2007 budget throughout the month of February. There will be a public hearing on the budget next Tuesday (Feb. 14) at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The Superintendent’s proposed budget may be viewed online at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/Initial-BUDGET2006-2007.pdf>

PRESIDENTS’ DAY

City Hall, the Library and the City’s Recycling Center will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of Presidents’ Day. However, Portsmouth schools will be open. In addition, curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables will continue as usual, including the business district collection.

SCHOOL VACATION

Portsmouth public schools will be closed for February vacation the week of Feb. 26 and reopen March 6.

VACATION CAMP

The Rec Department is offering a February vacation day camp for children in Grades K-5. Registration begins Monday (Feb. 13) at 6 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Cost is \$100 and includes all activities and bus transportation. Contact: 766-1483.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

For a look at the City’s proposed Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2007-Fiscal 2012, go to the Planning Department’s Web page at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/index.htm>. The Capital Improvement Plan identifies and schedules the City’s short and long-term improvements and infrastructure needs over a six-year time frame.

SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS

There is a Feb. 24 deadline at 5 p.m. for applications for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Public Service Agency Grant program administered by the City’s Community Development Department and funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). 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. Contact: 610-7226.

VETERANS' DIPLOMAS

World War II or Korean War veterans who left Portsmouth High School before graduation to enlist, or were drafted into the service, may be eligible to receive a high school diploma under a Portsmouth School Department program. Qualified candidates receive graduation certification during the next PHS graduation ceremony in June. One requirement is that candidates meet briefly with a Veterans Diploma Committee to share their experiences of leaving high school and joining the military. Contact: 431-5080.

ASSESSOR VISITS

Weather permitting, Assessor's Office representatives are checking properties for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. They continue to work in Woodbury Ave. and Maplewood Ave. neighborhoods, moving to a new section that includes Dennett and Bartlett Streets. All the specific streets are listed 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.

PARKING BAN PROGRAM

During snow emergencies, City residents may now park at the High-Hanover Parking Facility for just \$3 if they obtain a coupon in advance from the Parking Clerk's Office at City Hall. The City-issued discount allows the bearer to park at the garage up to two hours before the official start of an on-street parking ban but the vehicle must be moved within two hours afterward in order to receive the \$3 rate. To obtain the coupons, residents must show proof of residency. Their name is put on the coupon, which is non-transferable. Residents show the coupon and identification to the parking attendant. A map of other off-street parking is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm>

Did you know...?

Half of Portsmouth's residents work within the city limits. Another 23% go to work somewhere else in Rockingham County, 11% are employed elsewhere in the State and 16% leave the State to work.

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.