

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*

### ***NEW LIBRARY***

During these last two weeks of February, the concrete will be poured for the structural slab (first floor) and the second floor of the new Library building at 175 Parrott Avenue. Roofing, electrical and plumbing work will be done in early March as the building continues to take shape. The new Library is expected to open in November. You can continue to watch the progress through photos and information updates at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/newlibrary/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/newlibrary/index.htm).

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

Friday (Feb. 24) is the deadline to submit an application 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.

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

The Portsmouth High School men's basketball game against Goffstown will be rebroadcast at 7 p.m. Saturday (Feb. 25) on Local Government Cable Channel 22.

### ***SCHOOL VACATION***

Portsmouth public schools are closed next week for vacation and will reopen March 6.

### ***VACATION FUN***

The Portsmouth Library has free or discounted passes to 10 museums available to Portsmouth residents. Museums include the Children's Museums in Portsmouth and Portland, Maine, and the Boston Museum of Science. The full list is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/MuseumPasses.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/MuseumPasses.htm). Reserve passes in advance, especially for weekend and vacation-week use, at the Reference Department or call 766-1720.

### ***SWIMMING LESSONS***

Signups for the next series of children's swimming lessons begins Monday, March 6, at the Indoor Pool for Portsmouth residents and March 9 for non-residents. The session goes from March 20 through April 13. Register in person. Contact: 427-1546.

### ***TEENS TALK BOOKS***

Students in Grades 6-8 are invited to talk about books with their peers on Monday, March 6, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Portsmouth Library. Pizza will be served. (Snow date: March 20.) Contact Youth Services at 766-1740.

### ***SCHOOL BUDGET***

The Superintendent of Schools' proposed budget for the next school year may be viewed online by going to the City's Web site, [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) and clicking on the School Department listing on the left side of the page. A schedule of the School Board's budget work sessions also is on the site.

### ***SPRING BASKETBALL***

Registration for the Men's 35 and Older Spring Basketball League is March 13-15 at Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. The cost is \$40 for residents and \$60 for non-residents. Most games will be played on Wednesday evenings and the League runs through April. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***RED CROSS SWIMMING***

The Portsmouth Indoor Pool is taking registrations now for the following upper-level Red Cross courses:

Lifeguard Training (to become a lifeguard) – offered March 18-April 15 or May 13-May 26.  
Lifeguard Instructor (certification to teach lifeguards) – April 12-May 20.  
Water Safety Instructor (certification to teach swimming lessons) – April 2-May 11.  
Lifeguard Re-Cert (to renew your lifeguard certification for another 3 years) – May 30-June 1.  
Basic Water Rescue (for Scout leaders, daycare providers, trip leaders, etc.) – (Tentative) May 27.  
Register in person. For more info on these classes, call 427-1546 or visit  
[www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm).

### **MARCH MOVIE MADNESS**

Mark your calendar for “March Movie Madness” at the Portsmouth Library. Free movies will be shown on three consecutive evenings, beginning March 14 with the award-winning 2005 film “Cinderella Man.” It will be shown at 6:30 p.m. in the Vaughan Room. Next will be “Good Night and Good Luck” at 7 p.m. March 21 and “Capote” at 7 p.m. March 28. Popcorn and light beverages will be available. For details on the films, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-030106.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-030106.htm).  
Contact: 427-1540.

### **ASSESSOR VISITS**

Weather permitting, Assessor’s Office representatives are checking properties in areas off of Peverly Hill Road, Greenleaf Avenue and sections of Elwyn Park for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm](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.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE**

The next Portsmouth Middle School dance sponsored by the Recreation Department is Friday, March 10, from 7:30-10:00 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Contact: 766-1483.

### **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. A map of other off-street parking is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm>

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

The City of Portsmouth has a program to help first-time homebuyers. HomeTown provides closing cost and down payment assistance to individuals and families to purchase their first house or condo. To be eligible, you must have lived in Portsmouth for two years, or lived in Portsmouth for 10 years and now reside within a 30-mile radius, and meet income limits based on household size. Program guidelines can be found by going to [www.CityofPortsmouth.com/community](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com/community) and clicking on the “HomeTown” listing on the left. Contact: 610-7226.

### **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.*