

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

RECYCLE COOKING OIL

Residents can recycle used cooking oil under a new City pilot project with a company that will convert it into bio-fuel for vehicles and home heating. Used or unwanted cooking oil may be taken to the Recycling Center behind the Public Works Department at 680 Peverly Hill Road, where City personnel will provide assistance. The Recycling Center is open 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/faq.htm or call 427-1530.

HISTORIC ARTIFACTS

A pamphlet on who to call if you find artifacts that might be of historic value on public or private property in Portsmouth is now available online at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/artifact.htm> and at the Planning and Inspection Departments. Artifacts are objects made by humans, such as pottery, ironware, art and household items. If the historic artifact is on public land, leave it undisturbed and call the City of Portsmouth at 610-7230 or 610-7204 but if it's on private land, contact the State's Department of Cultural Resources at 271-3483.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The next Portsmouth Middle School dance sponsored by the Recreation Department will be Friday night (March 10) at the Connie Bean Community Center from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. Contact: 766-1483.

SPRING BASKETBALL

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

MOVIE MADNESS

"March Movie Madness" begins Tuesday (March 14) at the Portsmouth Library with a free 6:30 p.m. showing of "Cinderella Man" in the Vaughan Room. There also will be free popcorn and light beverages. The next movie is "Good Night and Good Luck" at 7 p.m. on March 21, followed by the March 28 showing of "Capote," also at 7 p.m. Details on the films are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-030106.htm. Contact: 427-1540.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

The Citywide Neighborhood Committee meets Tuesday (March 14) at 7 p.m. in Conference Room A at City Hall. Beth Wheeler from the Foundation for Healthy Communities will talk about the local "Step It Up Seacoast" project and City Recreation Director Rus Wilson will discuss City parks and outdoor recreation opportunities in our many neighborhoods. There also will be reports from the Steering Committee and each neighborhood representative on his or her Association's activities and initiatives. Contact: 433-5923 or citywideneighborhood@comcast.net.

SPIRITS 2006

"Spirits 2006 -- Bringing the Dead to Life" opens its season next Wednesday evening (March 15) when Daryll Cauchon and Barbara Griswold present versions of the "The Smuttynose Murders." The programs sponsored by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee are held from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Strawberry Banke's Stoodley Tavern. The following Wednesday, March 22, re-enactor Chris Benedetto appears as Portsmouth Civil War veteran Chas. W. Moulton, Co. K, 3rd NH Volunteers, and Sharon Wood presents "A Mother's Story." Admission is \$5. Seating is limited. Make reservations by calling 436-5096.

NO SCHOOL

Portsmouth Public School students will not have classes Friday, March 17, due to a teacher workshop day.

HISTORIC GALA

Rub elbows with local historic figures from the past at "Spirits Past and Present II" -- the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee Gala on Saturday, March 18, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the William Pitt Tavern at

Strawbery Banke. There will be food, beverages, folk singers Jeff Warner and Bob Kilhum, the dulcimer strains of P.J. Hale, a wine tasting, a silent auction and you can “meet” Gov. John Langdon, William Whipple, Benjamin Franklin, Dr. Hall Jackson, and others for \$20 admission. Reservations are limited. Contact: 436-5096.

KIDS’ SWIM LESSONS

The next series of Indoor Pool swimming lessons for children is March 20 through April 13. Register now in person at the Indoor Pool. Contact: 427-1546.

UPPER-LEVEL SWIM CLASSES

The Portsmouth Indoor Pool is taking registrations now for several upper-level Red Cross courses. Register in person at the Pool. The courses are: Lifeguard Training (to become a lifeguard) – offered March 18-April 15 or May 13-May 26; Water Safety Instructor (certification to teach swimming lessons) – April 2-May 11; Lifeguard Instructor (certification to teach lifeguards) – April 12-May 20; 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.) – May 27 (tentative). For more info on the classes, call 427-1546 or visit

www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm.

ANNUAL REPORT

For a closer look at what the City’s departments do and their accomplishments during the previous fiscal year, see the City of Portsmouth’s Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2005 now online at

www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The City is looking for volunteers to serve on its various Boards and Commissions. For a list of the Boards and Commissions, the vacancies, and an application form, visit

www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm or contact the Office of the City Clerk at 610-7207.

NEW LIBRARY

Roofing, electrical and plumbing work has begun at the new 38,000-square-foot Library building expected to open in November. The concrete has now been poured for the floors of the structure at 175 Parrott Avenue. Updated pictures of the progress are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/newlibrary/index.htm.

ASSESSOR VISITS

Weather permitting, Assessor’s Office representatives will be checking properties in the Woodlands neighborhood and areas off of Elwyn Road for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at 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.

MEMOIR WRITING

A free, four-week workshop on the “The Art of Writing Memoirs” will be held Thursdays from 10 a.m. until noon, April 6 through April 27, at the Library. Writer Nancy Eichorn will lead the program focusing on a different facet of writing each week. Space is limited. Sign up in advance at the Library or call 427-1540. Workshop details are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-0406.htm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Celtic music legend Tommy Makem and Grammy nominee Bill Morrissey are among the talented Granite state musicians scheduled to perform next month at the New Hampshire Folk Festival benefiting the new Library’s capital campaign. Others planning to perform at the April 29 benefit at the Music Hall are Deidre Randall, High Range, Dan Blakeslee, Craig Werth, Jon Nolan, and the Press Room Gang. Tickets are \$29 and \$34, available at The Music Hall box office or online at www.themusichall.org.

SNOW BANS

A map of available off-street parking for residents during snow emergencies is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm. Residents also may park at the High-Hanover Parking Facility for \$3 during a ban by obtaining a coupon in advance from the Parking Clerk's Office at City Hall.

Do you know...?

If a car can go 30 miles on one gallon of gas, how far could it travel on the amount of gasoline saved by recycling just eight aluminum cans each month for one year? (Here's a hint from the City's Solid Waste Division: Recycling one aluminum can saves the energy equivalent of one cup of gasoline. Sixteen cups equal one gallon.) The answer will be in the next edition transmitted on March 22.

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 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The School Department Central Office (431-5080) is open 8 a.m.-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 local government cable channel Channel 22.