

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

SPIRITS 2006

The Civil War will be featured tonight (Wed., March 22) when “Spirits 2006 – Bringing the Dead to Life,” sponsored by the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee, continues at Strawberry Banke’s Stoodley Tavern. Reenactor Chris Benedetto appears as Portsmouth Civil War veteran Chas. W. Moulton, Co. K, 3rd NH Volunteers, and Sharon Wood presents “A Mother’s Story.” On April 5, Lee Fisher as Dr. Hall Jackson and map categorizer Roberta Ransley-Matteau will offer “One More and Then Some -- Publick Houses and Taverns.” Admission is \$5 for the 7-8:30 p.m. programs. Seating is limited. Call 436-5096 to reserve seats.

EXERCISE FREE

Portsmouth residents can enjoy a free week of exercise at Spinnaker Point Recreation Center beginning next Monday (March 27). It’s an opportunity for residents 18 and over and out of high school to see what Spinnaker Point has to offer: indoor pool, indoor track, full weight and cardiovascular rooms, basketball, volleyball, steam, sauna and hot tub, and more. Bring a photo ID as proof of residency on Monday to obtain a free access pass for the week. Contact: 766-1483. Annual memberships beginning April 1 are \$120 for adults and \$60 for Senior Citizens 60 and over.

MOVIE MADNESS

The final film in the Library’s “March Movie Madness” series will be “Capote,” shown next Tuesday (March 28) at 7 p.m. in the Vaughan Room. The movie is free, and so are the popcorn and drinks. Movie details are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-030106.htm. Contact: 427-1540.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Portsmouth School System (SAU 52) and SAU 50 (Greenland, Newington, New Castle and Rye) will host the fifth annual Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament on April 1-2. Opening ceremonies are at 9 a.m. April 1 in the Portsmouth High gym. Everyone is welcome. Contact: rlister@portsmouth.k12.nh.us.

DOG LICENSES

The City Clerk’s Office will begin issuing 2006 Dog Licenses on April 3. Contact: 610-7207.

CABLE HEARING

The City of Portsmouth and its Cable Commission will hold a second public hearing Tuesday, April 4, at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers on future cable television franchise-related needs and interests, including the possible establishment of a community access channel to carry non-governmental, locally produced programming. The information will be used to evaluate Comcast’s renewal proposal. Tuesday’s hearing will focus on cable-related needs of municipal departments and nonprofit organizations but everyone interested in cable issues is encouraged to attend. Contact: 610-7255.

FIELD HOCKEY

Register now for the Rec Department’s girls’ youth field hockey program for those in Grades 3-5. The program begins April 12 and runs once a week for seven weeks. Contact: 766-1483.

UPPER-LEVEL SWIM CLASSES

Registrations are still being accepted for upper-level Red Cross courses being offered at the Portsmouth Indoor Pool. Register in person for: Water Safety Instructor (certification to teach swimming lessons) – April 2-May 11; Lifeguard Instructor (certification to teach lifeguards) – April 12-May 20; Lifeguard Training (to become a lifeguard) – May 13-May 26; 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). Contact: 427-1546 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm.

WRITING MEMOIRS

Register now for the free, four-week workshop on the “The Art of Writing Memoirs” beginning April 6 at the Library and continuing through April 27. Writer Nancy Eichorn will lead the Thursday workshops from 10 a.m. until noon. Each week will focus on a different facet of writing. Details are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-0406.htm. Sign up at the Library or call 427-1540.

ASSESSOR VISITS

Weather permitting, Assessor’s Office representatives will be checking properties near New Castle Avenue and the Islington, Brewster and Cabot Streets area 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.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The City is seeking volunteers to serve on its various Boards and Commissions. A list of the Boards and Commissions, vacancies, and an application form are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm or contact the City Clerk’s Office at 610-7207.

LIBRARY BENEFIT

The New Hampshire Folk Festival benefiting the new Library’s capital campaign will be held April 29 at The Music Hall. Featured performers include Celtic music legend Tommy Makem and Grammy nominee Bill Morrissey. Tickets are \$29 and \$34, available at The Music Hall box office or online at www.themusichall.org.

GRADUATION DATES

The Portsmouth High School graduation date has been set for Friday, June 16, and Portsmouth Middle School will hold its 8th grade graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 15.

SNOW BANS

During a snow emergency when parking on City streets is prohibited, residents may park at the High-Hanover Parking Facility for just \$3 total with a coupon obtained in advance from the Parking Clerk’s Office at City Hall. A map of other available off-street parking is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm.

Did you know...?

The answer to the recycling math challenge offered in the last edition by the City’s Solid Waste Division? Here’s the problem again: 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? (Hint: Recycling one aluminum can will save the energy equivalent of one cup of gasoline. Sixteen cups equal one gallon.)

ANSWER: 180 miles.

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 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.