

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*

### ***SPIRITS 2006***

President and Mrs. Lincoln will reflect upon their lives tonight (April 19) at “Spirits 2006 -- Bringing the Dead to Life,” sponsored by the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee, at Strawberry Banke’s Stoodley Tavern. Admission is \$5 for the 7 p.m. event. Contact: 436-5096.

### ***FUN & GAMES***

Registration for the Rec Department’s Fun & Games Program continues through Friday (April 21) from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Children in Grades K-3 are eligible to participate in the outside program on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. at Little Harbour School. The 5-week program begins May 2. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***PHS SPRING SPORTS***

The Portsmouth High sports schedule is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/2006springathlsch.pdf](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/2006springathlsch.pdf).

### ***SCHOOL VACATION***

Portsmouth Public Schools will be closed for Spring Break during the week of April 24-28.

### ***VACATION CAMP***

There is still room in the Rec Department’s day camp for Grades K-5 during next week’s Spring vacation (April 24-28). Register at Spinnaker Point Recreation Center. The cost is \$100 for all activities.

### ***LIBRARY FOLK BENEFIT***

Don’t miss the New Hampshire Folk Festival benefiting the new Library’s capital campaign next Saturday evening (April 29). Several talented New Hampshire musicians are slated to perform, including Celtic music legend Tommy Makem, Grammy nominee Bill Morrissey, 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](http://www.themusicHall.org).

### ***MORE MEMOIRS***

A second free, four-week workshop on the “The Art of Writing Memoirs” will be held Thursdays from 10 a.m. until noon, May 4 through May 25, at the Library. The April workshop is full. Writer Nancy Eichorn also will lead the May program focusing on a different facet of writing each week. Space is limited. Register at the Library or call 427-1540. Details are at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-050606.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-050606.htm).

### ***HAZARDOUS WASTE***

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington will be Saturday, May 6. Bring unwanted household chemicals to the Portsmouth Department of Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. from 8 a.m. until noon. Proof of residency required. A list of chemicals is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm). Don’t bring explosives, asbestos or latex paints. If the item you want to dispose of isn’t on the list, call DPW at 427-1530 to discuss options. Empty containers are not hazardous and may be disposed of in your regular trash.

### ***FIRE PERMITS***

A fire permit is required to burn brush or woody debris, and for camp or cooking fires. Permits may be obtained on the burning day at any of the City’s three fire stations and are valid that day only. Applicants must be at least 18 and if not the landowner, must have the owner’s written permission. No open burning is allowed in Portsmouth between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. unless it’s raining. Leaves may never be burned. Permits aren’t needed for gas grills or charcoal fires in containers off the ground. For more information on prohibited materials, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/firepermit.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/firepermit.htm) or contact 427-1515.

### ***DOG LICENSE DEADLINE***

It's time to renew your dog's license. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office. The renewal deadline is May 31. Dog licenses are \$9 for male or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they have been neutered or spayed. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are charged \$6.50. Senior citizens over 65 may register one dog annually for \$2. Contact: 610-7207.

### ***GRAFFITI INITIATIVE***

The City, Chamber of Commerce and ServPro of the Seacoast recently signed a three-year agreement extending their pilot public/private partnership for graffiti removal. The pilot program between May and October of last year also raised awareness of the graffiti issue. The City can only remove graffiti from City-owned property. In exchange for referrals and publicity from the Chamber and City, ServPro provides free cost estimates and graffiti removal services to Portsmouth business owners at reduced pricing within guaranteed timeframes. Call Police at 427-1500 to report graffiti incidents on public and private property.

### ***SUMMER RECREATION***

Information on all upcoming summer Recreation Department programs, special events, adult programs, and the Peirce Island pool schedule can be found in the new Summer Brochure available at all Rec Department facilities and online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/summer2006program.pdf](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/summer2006program.pdf).

### ***BOARD & COMMISSION VACANCIES***

Volunteers are needed to serve on the City's voluntary Boards and Commissions. A list of the vacancies, descriptions of the Boards and Commissions, and an application form, are at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm). Contact the City Clerk's Office at 610-7207.

### ***CONSTRUCTION SEASON***

If you want to know where Department of Public Works construction crews will be working in the coming months, take a look at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/project-map.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/project-map.htm) for a map of the planned projects and information about them. Some projects may cause traffic disruptions.

### ***WATER & SEWER STUDY***

The Water and Sewer Rate Study recently presented by private consultants to the City Council may be viewed at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/watersewerratestudy06.pdf>.

### ***ASSESSOR VISITS***

Assessor's Office representatives will next be checking properties in New Castle Avenue area neighborhoods for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are 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.

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

The residents of Portsmouth generated over 9,873 tons of trash last year. That works out to about 2.66 pounds per person each day!

### ***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.*