

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

CITY BUDGET

A copy of the proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Budget for the period of July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007, and the schedule of budget meetings is online at: www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm. Copies of the budget also are at the Library.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Saturday (May 6) is Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington should bring unwanted household chemicals to the Portsmouth DPW facility at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. from 8 a.m. until noon. Proof of residency required. Don't bring explosives, asbestos or latex paints. The list of accepted chemicals is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm. If your item isn't on the list, call 427-1530 to discuss options. Dispose of empty containers in your regular trash.

LIBRARY KICKOFF

Portsmouth residents of all ages are encouraged to attend the Library's fundraising kick-off celebration Sunday (May 7) from 1 p.m.-2 p.m. on the field next to the new facility at 175 Parrott Avenue. There will be refreshments, and children ages 5 to 10 can enter a drawing to be a VIP at the new Library ribbon-cutting ceremony later this year. Mayor Steve Marchand will be there Sunday to pick the lucky winner. The New Library Capital Campaign co-chairs will bring attendees up-to-date on progress in raising \$500,000 to furnish and equip the new Library and meet the City's environmental goal of building a "green building."

CHILDREN'S DAY

Due to the annual downtown Children's Day celebration Sunday (May 7), the High-Hanover Parking Facility will have a flat rate of \$3 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. No parking will be allowed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Pleasant Street between State Street and Market Square; at the parking lot at the corner of Market and Hanover Streets; and on Market Street from the Market and Bow Street intersection to The Isles of Shoals Steamship Company. Information on the noon-4 p.m. event is at www.proportsmouth.org.

EMERGENCY EXERCISE

More than 100 volunteers are needed Saturday, May 13, to play victims with survivable injuries during "Seacoast Response 2006" --- a full-scale emergency response exercise at Pease International Airport involving the Fire, Police and Emergency Medical Services of Portsmouth and other Seacoast towns. The exercise will simulate a hijacked airplane and subsequent bomb detonation after landing at Pease. Volunteers must be at least 12. The exercise will go from 7 a.m. until 1 or 2 p.m., and includes a free lunch. To learn more or volunteer, visit: <http://volunteer.united-e-way.org/uwgs/survey/may13exercise>.

MOTHER-SON DANCE

The 10th annual Mother-Son Dance is Saturday, May 13, from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Boys in Grades K-5 and their dates are welcome. Cost is \$10 per couple and includes a corsage for all Moms. Contact: 766-1483.

STEP IT UP

Adults and children of all ages and fitness levels are invited to join a 2.5-mile-walk through Portsmouth's most scenic areas beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays through May 31. Meet at South Mill Pond Playground. The route includes Prescott Park, Bow Street, Market Square, and Richards Avenue. Free Step It Up Seacoast T-shirts and Walking Passports are given to all walkers. For more info, call the Community Campus at 422-8200, or visit www.StepItUpSeacoast.org and also download a passport for 11 area walks. Passports also can be obtained at several locations, including City Hall and the Library.

TEEN BOOKS

The next Teens Talk Books at the Library is Monday, May 15, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be free pizza. www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/teens-talk.htm.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

The public is encouraged to attend a Community-Wide Workshop on Sustainability on Saturday, May 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Portsmouth High School. The City's recently adopted Master Plan highlights the importance of sustainability policies, such as improving energy efficiency, preserving open space, reducing water consumption and protecting natural resources. The workshop sponsored by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices is designed to engage residents, business owners and other stakeholders in the ongoing discussion in our community about sustainability principles. Contact: 610-7226 or visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/workshop-052006.html.

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The Water Division has begun the spring flushing of water mains to remove sediment. Crews will open select fire hydrants this month between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, to release water with enough velocity to carry sediment out of the pipes. If you see Water Division trucks in your neighborhood during that time period, refrain from drawing water until they leave. The flushing can cause a reddish tint to tap water, which may stain clothing. Open faucets and let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

SANDLOT BASEBALL

The Sandlot Baseball Program for boys and girls ages 6-9 is held on Sundays from 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m. at the New Franklin School field. The kids bring their baseball gloves, choose sides and play in this free program supervised by the Rec Department. No game on Mother's Day, May 14. Contact: 766-1483.

DOG DEADLINE

Owners have until May 31 to renew their dogs' licenses with the City Clerk or risk a possible civil forfeiture fine of \$25, plus late fees and a District Court summons if they don't respond within 15 days. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office. Licenses are \$9 for male or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they were 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.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Spraying has begun to control the mosquito population within the city. Program information is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/mcontrol.htm. If you don't want your property sprayed, you must say so in writing to Public Works Director Steve Parkinson, 680 Peverly Hill Rd., Portsmouth, NH 03801. Also, due to concerns about possible illness, do not handle dead birds but instead contact Mosquito Control at 431-0008 and/or the City Animal Control Officer at 610-7441 for pickup.

MASTER PLAN

The 2006 Master Plan Implementation Annual Update is now online at: www.cityofportsmouth.com/masterplan/MasterPlanAccomplishmentsApril2006.pdf

ASSESSOR VISITS

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

Did you know...?

The Portsmouth Police Department has a citizen safety Web page that includes links to resources on ensuring the safety of young people when they travel the Internet. There also are resources with safety information on a variety of other topics, including alcohol abuse and vacation home safety. It's all at www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/cro.htm.

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/2005/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. Library hours are: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and closed Sunday.

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.