

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. 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

COLUMBUS DAY

City Hall offices, including the Library, will be closed Monday (Oct. 9) in recognition of Columbus Day. Although there will be no change to Monday's curbside collection of trash and recyclables, yard waste will not be collected on Monday and the Recycling Center is closed. Portsmouth Schools are closed Monday for Columbus Day, as well as this coming Friday (Oct. 6) for a Teacher Workshop.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Next Saturday (Oct. 14) is Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at the City's Recycling Center from 8 a.m. until noon. Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington residents may bring unwanted household chemicals to the Center behind the DPW at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. No explosives, asbestos or latex paints. More information is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm or call 427-1530.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Citizen volunteers are needed to fill vacancies on four City boards and commissions. Vacancies exist on the Citywide Neighborhood Steering Committee (1); Economic Development Commission (2); Board of Library Trustees (2); Cable TV and Communication Commission (1 alternate). Application forms are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm by clicking on "vacancies" or can be obtained from the City Clerk's office. Contact: 610-7207 or cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com.

TV SPORTS

Friday night's Portsmouth High football game against Souhegan will be aired Saturday (Oct. 7) at 7 p.m. on local government access Channel 22. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm for all PHS fall athletic schedules.

CANDIDATE NIGHTS

Two candidate nights are planned this month for those running for office in November. The Executive Council and State Senate candidates forum is Oct. 18 and State Representative candidates are invited to an Oct. 25 session. The forums hosted by Citizens for Voter Education will be 7-9 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers and televised live via Channel 22, and also rebroadcast at later dates. Audience members at the forums will be able to submit written questions after each candidate speaks. Contact: 431-0051 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm#cand.

LIBRARY GALA

The new Portsmouth Library will host an opening gala on November 11, from 7 p.m.-10 p.m., before the new Parrott Avenue facility officially opens to patrons in December. The gala will feature musical entertainment, appetizers and a cash bar. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/gala.htm for more information and a ticket purchase form. Tickets also may be purchased after Oct. 9 at the City Hall reception desk, Library and the High School, Middle School and Little Harbour School offices. Contact: 427-1540.

HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS

If your house is decorated for Halloween by Oct. 20, you can be part of the Rec Department's Holiday Home Decorating Contest and possibly win a gift certificate. Register at Spinnaker Point Recreation Center and also say whether you'd like to have your home address posted on the Rec Dept. web page for others to enjoy your decorations. Contact: 766-1483.

MORE HALLOWEEN FUN

Registration opens Tuesday (Oct. 10) for the Oct. 20 Halloween Haunted Hayride trip for ages 7-12. Also, the 12th Annual Halloween Costume Monster Mash Family Dance will be Oct. 28, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m., at the Connie Bean Community Center. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-special.htm for more information on both events.

MORE REC NEWS

The Rec Department is accepting registrations for its Nov. 11 shopping day trip to New York City at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$45, including round-trip coach bus. Contact 766-1483 for more info. Also, there is a \$20 field trip for children in grades K-5 on the no-school day Friday (Oct. 6). The Indoor Pool is offering a number of classes for all ages this fall. Contact 427-1545 for the full schedule. Several adult programs are underway at the Spinnaker Point Adult Center. Check the Rec Dept. brochure online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com by clicking on the Rec Dept. listing on the left side of the Web page.

POLICE HONORS

Three members of the Portsmouth Police Department received the Unit Citation Award presented at the NH Congressional Law Enforcement Awards ceremony at the NH Police Standards and Training Council. Lieutenant Rodney McQuate, and Detectives Mark Newport and Stephen Arnold were honored, along with detectives from Hooksett, NH, and Lewiston, ME, for an investigation that resulted in the May 3rd seizure of \$40,000 worth of marijuana and three felony arrests.

POLICE EXPLORERS

The Portsmouth Police Explorer Post recently won second place overall in the state's annual Police Explorer Weekend Challenge. Eleven members competed against 10 other teams in such events as pistol competition, motor vehicle stops, obstacle course, first aid and building searches. The Portsmouth team now moves on to the New England competition. The Explorers program is open to youths 14 and older who have completed eighth grade. They meet weekly at the Police Department for activities on various law enforcement topics coordinated by Portsmouth Police officers. Contact: Det. Robert Munson, 610-7506.

MAINS FLUSHING

The fall program to flush sediment from the City's water mains is continuing. If you see Water Department trucks in your neighborhood between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, refrain from drawing water as it may have a reddish tint. Let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

ROADWORK

Paving work is scheduled this week at Hanover and High Streets, Cutts Avenue and Brigham Lane, and the intersection at South and Miller Streets with Sagamore Avenue. The latest information on City road projects is at www.CityofPortsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Every effort is made to prevent disruption of general traffic flow. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays. Contact: 427-1530

Did you know...?

Since 2001, 39 Portsmouth homeowners have been assisted through the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program, which provides low-interest and deferred loans to eligible residents to repair plumbing, heating, electrical and structural deficiencies. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/programs-hrp.htm or call 610-7299.

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 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The School Department Central Office (431-5080) is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. schedule. 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.

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