

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*

CANDIDATES NIGHTS

Tonight (Oct. 18), candidates for Executive Council and our State Senate district have been invited to participate in a Citizens for Voter Education Forum from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. It will be televised live at on local government access cable Channel 22. The forum for State Representative local candidates is next Wednesday (Oct. 25) at the same time and location. The forums will be rebroadcast on Channel 22 on three consecutive Monday evenings – Oct. 23, 30 and Nov. 6 – at 7 p.m. Contact: 431-0051. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm for more information and a sample ballot.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are now available for the Nov. 7 general election for residents who will be out of town that day or request them due to religious observance or physical disability. The ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. The polls will be open on Election Day from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Board of Registrars will meet on Saturday, Oct. 28, at City Hall to accept voter registration and changes. Additional election information is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm.

POLICE AUCTION

The Police Department is holding an auction of lost, stolen and unclaimed property Saturday (Oct. 21) from 10 a.m. until noon, rain or shine, under the awning in front of the Department at 1 Junkins Avenue next to City Hall. Preview and inspection begins at 9:30 a.m. There are 150 items to be sold to the highest bidder, regardless of price, including over 80 bicycles, assorted computer equipment, jewelry and clothing. You must pay by cash or check and remove items at the time of the sale.

BAND FESTIVAL

Marching bands from New Hampshire and Maine compete Saturday evening (Oct. 21) at a Portsmouth High School event sponsored by the Clipper Band and PHS Music Boosters. The football field will become a stage for highly choreographed musical and marching routines before a panel of judges. It begins at 6 p.m. and ends about 9:45 p.m. It will be held indoors in inclement weather. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and seniors. Contact: 603-436-7100, ext. 2510. It will be aired Saturday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. on Channel 22.

TV SPORTS

Friday night's football game with Plymouth will be aired Saturday (Oct. 21), beginning at 7 p.m. on local government access Channel 22. However, if the weather is too rainy to film the football game, Friday's volleyball game against Fall Mountain will be aired instead. Next Friday night's football game against Milford will be aired next Saturday (Oct. 28) at 7 p.m. For all the PHS fall athletic schedules, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

HALLOWEEN NEWS

If your Halloween decorations are up by Friday (Oct.20), you can be part of the Rec Department's Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Register at Spinnaker Point Recreation Center. Contact: 766-1483.

The 12th Annual Halloween Costume Monster Mash Family Dance is next Saturday (Oct. 28) from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m., at the Connie Bean Community Center. Children and their parents are invited to come in costume to join the fun. The cost is \$10 per family, and pictures will be available for \$3. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-conniebean.htm. Contact: 766-1483.

Trick or Treating in Portsmouth is Monday, Oct. 30, from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/halloween.htm.

LIBRARY GALA

If you'd like a peek at the new Portsmouth Library before the collection is moved in and the new Parrott Avenue facility is open to the public, plan to attend the Nov. 11 opening gala from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be an opportunity to explore, a variety of musical entertainment, appetizers and a cash bar. See

www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/gala.htm for more information and to download a ticket purchase form. Tickets also may be purchased at the Library, City Hall reception desk, Spinnaker Point Recreation Center and the offices of the High School, Middle School and Little Harbour School. Contact: 427-1540.

RECREATION NEWS

The youth ski program for children in grades 1-5 is still accepting registrations. For full program details, contact 817-9483. Numerous basketball leagues for all ages start up next month, and Spinnaker Point Recreation Center is offering a number of adult classes. Call 766-1483 for details. Registration continues at the Indoor Pool for swim lessons for all ages. Contact 427-1545. Information on programs also may be found online via www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/index.htm.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARADE

Applications are being accepted through November 17 for the 2006 annual illuminated Holiday Parade on Dec. 2. Mayor Marchand has announced this year's theme is "Portsmouth's Community Spirit." Application forms are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/index.htm or may be requested by calling the Prescott Park Arts Festival, which is organizing this year's event, at 436-2848. There is no entry fee for nonprofit or community organizations, but there is a \$30 fee for corporate/commercial entries.

WEST NILE VIRUS

The State recently announced that a dead crow collected from Suzanne Drive tested positive for the West Nile Virus (WNV). Portsmouth mosquitoes have been routinely collected and tested for WNV and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) since June. The City has a comprehensive mosquito control program, but residents should remain vigilant until a few hard frosts eliminate flying mosquitoes. For more information, see the City Health Department web page at www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/index.htm or call 610-7273.

TEENS TALK BOOKS

The next Teens Talk Books for grades 6-8 is Monday (Oct. 23) from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Library. Pizza will be served. Teens are invited to talk about good books to read. Contact: 766-1740.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Applications are being accepted for six vacancies on the City's volunteer Boards and Commissions. They are: Economic Development Commission (1); Board of Library Trustees (2); Conservation Commission (1); Portsmouth Housing Authority (1); Cable Television and Communications Commission (1 alternate). To apply, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm and click on "vacancies" or obtain an application from the City Clerk's office. Contact: 610-7207 or cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com.

WASTEWATER HONORS

The City's Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Plant is New Hampshire's "Plant of the Year." The New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association (NHWPCA) recently presented the award to the City. The plant facility and operations were judged in six categories: compliance with the discharge permit, safety, employee education, public outreach, professional participation, and a tour of the plant.

RECYCLING REMINDER

The Recycling Center is now open until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Nov. 15. It also is open from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. Contact: 427-1530.

ROADWORK

Crews are installing granite curbing and concrete sidewalks on Crescent Way, and sea grass is being removed on Newcastle Avenue as construction begins on the seawall. Traffic will be controlled by police. 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...?

The new Library will be able to consume 32.8% less energy (electricity and natural gas) than a comparable building constructed to code, thanks to its construction as a "green building." City staff, architects, the

construction manager, a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) consultant and a LEED commissioning agent worked to make the new building highly energy efficient.

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. 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. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com.