

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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). – City Manager John P. Bohenko

### ***ALL-CITY CONCERT***

The All-City Winter Concert is tonight (Dec. 13) at 7 p.m. in the Portsmouth High School auditorium. Elementary and high school ensembles, including the award-winning PHS band and the New York City-bound PHS Concert Choir, will present a wide variety of holiday instrumental and choral music. Contact: 431-5080.

### ***CITY BUILDING REUSE***

Information packets regarding possible reuse of the old library building will be available Friday (Dec. 15) at the City Hall reception desk in advance of the Jan. 9 public listening session by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Reuse. It will begin at 7 p.m. at City Hall with a presentation of key background information and relevant financial analyses before attendees break into discussion groups to provide input on the building's reuse. Also being studied are the South Meeting House, Creek firehouse on Bartlett Street, Plains School, Rock Street public works garage and the Lafayette School. Contact: 610-7220.

### ***NEW LIBRARY***

The new Library at 175 Parrott Avenue opens at 9 a.m. Monday (Dec. 18). There will be a grand opening celebration on Jan. 7. (Snow date is Jan. 14.) Books checked out on or after Nov. 20 are not due until Jan. 2. During the transition, Library staff members are available via e-mail and telephone. For more info: [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/movingnews.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/movingnews.htm) or call 427-1540.

### ***HELPING THE NEEDY***

The Welfare Department thanks those Portsmouth citizens, businesses and organizations that already have offered to help needy Portsmouth residents this holiday season. Unfortunately, there are still six families that have not been "adopted" yet. You can help by purchasing gifts for a family or supplying gift cards so the parents can shop themselves. The Welfare Department would like to have everyone adopted by Monday (Dec. 18) if possible. Contact: 610-7267 or [etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com).

### ***FREE PARKING***

Parking is free at downtown meters from now until Christmas, thanks to the City Council. However, meter posted time limits will be enforced. For more time, consider the High-Hanover Parking Facility. Several merchants offer customers up to four hours of free parking at the High-Hanover garage as part of the Downtown Parking Validation Program. The merchants display a blue sticker with a "P" in their storefront windows. Contact: 766-1440.

### ***LETTERS TO SANTA***

Next Wednesday (Dec. 20) is the deadline for sending a letter to Santa Claus in care of the Rec Department. Santa will send a letter in reply if your children send theirs to: Santa Claus at the North Pole, 135 Daniel Street, Portsmouth, NH, 03801. Make sure a full name and address is included so Santa can write back!

### ***FIT SUGGESTIONS***

Both the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center and the Indoor Pool are offering gift certificates for the holidays. Stop in at either facility and pick up gift certificates to help you and your loved ones stay fit.

### ***PHS SPORTS***

The Portsmouth High School girls' basketball game with Kingswood on Tuesday (Dec. 19) will be aired Saturday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. on local government cable television Channel 22. For all the PHS athletic schedules, go to [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm) and click on the link.

### ***MUSEUM PASSES***

When the Library reopens Monday, Dec. 18, reservations may be made for free and discounted passes to museums in the area and the region. For a list, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/MuseumPasses.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/MuseumPasses.htm).

### ***BASKETBALL CAMP***

The Recreation Department is registering now for a non-competitive basketball camp for boys and girls in Grades 2 through 4. It will be held at the Connie Bean Center on December 27 and 28. The session for girls will be 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., and for boys from noon-1:30 p.m. For more details, contact: 766-1483 or see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-conniebean.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-conniebean.htm).

### ***SWIM LESSONS***

Registration has begun for January swim lessons at the Indoor Pool and non-residents may register beginning tomorrow (Thursday, Dec. 14). The lessons will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from Jan. 4 through Jan. 30. Life-guarding classes also will be offered, beginning Jan. 3, on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Click on the link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm) or call 427-1546.

### ***HOLIDAY CLOSURES***

City offices and the Library will be closed Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday. The Library is also closed next Saturday (Dec. 23). Portsmouth schools are closed the week of Dec. 25 and reopen Tuesday, Jan. 2.

### ***HOLIDAY TRASH***

There will be some changes to curbside collection related to the Christmas holiday. The Monday curbside collection of solid waste and recycling (including the Monday evening business district collection) has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 26. Christmas trees will be collected from the curbside from January 2 through January 12 on the same day that the trash and recyclables are collected. Residents also may bring Christmas trees to the Recycling Center for disposal. For hours and more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm).

### ***DUI PATROLS***

Portsmouth Police and NH State Police are intensifying efforts to apprehend those Driving Under the Influence (DUI) on city streets and highways during this holiday season. Authorities ask that you please drink responsibly and use a designated driver, or call a cab. Contact: Police Lt. Fred Hoysradt, 610-7628.

### ***SNOW BAN INFO***

When a storm drops two inches of snow or more, the City may declare a ban on on-street parking to facilitate snow removal. The Public Works Department announces the ban on Cable Channel 22, through a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com), in announcements in the local media and on signs at all entrances to the City. The ban's end is announced the same way. A map of parking lots open during bans is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm). Residents may obtain free coupons now to park for just \$3 at the High-Hanover Parking Facility during snow bans. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm) or contact: 610-7229.

### ***CLIMATE CONTROL***

Mayor Marchand recently signed resolutions making Portsmouth the first municipality in the Seacoast – and one of only a handful in the state – to formally pledge to take steps to reduce global warming. Portsmouth will be joining the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and has agreed to the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The City Council unanimously approved both resolutions at a meeting last month. For more info, see: [www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/climateprotection.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/climateprotection.htm).

### ***2007 TREES***

If you would like a tree planted along a City street in front of your property or know of another location that could benefit from the 2007 planting of a street tree, the Public Works Department and the Mayor's Committee on Trees and Greenery want to hear from you. Email [eskern@pw.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:eskern@pw.cityofportsmouth.com) or call 766-1428.

## **BOARD OPENINGS**

There are openings on four of the City's volunteer Boards and Commissions. They are: Portsmouth Housing Authority (1), Traffic and Safety Committee (1), Zoning Board of Adjustment (2) and the Planning Board (1 alternate). For an application and to learn more about the boards, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm) or contact: 610-7207.

## **ROADWORK**

Work continues on the Newcastle Avenue seawall replacement and roadway project. The latest information on City road projects is at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com/projects/index.htm](http://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.

## **RENOVATION WORKSHOP**

Contractors, renovators, painters, property owners and maintenance staff are urged to attend a free Jan. 18 workshop to learn lead-safe renovation and remodeling methods for older homes. It is sponsored by the NH Department of Health and Human Services and will be held at City Hall. The HUD-approved course will go from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and lunch will be provided. Advance registration is required. Contact: NH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 800-897-LEAD.

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

When inspected, 9 out of every 10 child car seats are found to be installed improperly. Portsmouth Police want your children to be safe this holiday and year-round. Call 610-7KID for an appointment to have your child's car seat inspected.

**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 [www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2006/index.htm](http://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](http://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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com).*