

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter is being sent early due to the holidays. It includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com. – City Manager John P. Bohenko

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices and the Library are closed Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday and Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day, but will reopen the next day. The Library also is closed tomorrow (Saturday, Dec. 23).

Portsmouth Schools do not reopen until Tuesday, Jan. 2, but the Central Office is open Wednesday, Dec. 27, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 28, from 8 a.m. until noon.

HOLIDAY TRASH

There are changes to trash collection related to the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. Each Monday's curbside collection of solid waste and recycling (including the Monday evening Business District collection) is rescheduled for Tuesday. Christmas trees will be collected curbside January 2 through January 12 on the same day as trash and recyclables. Residents also may bring Christmas trees to the Recycling Center. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm for hours and more info.

LIBRARY GRAND OPENING

All books checked out on or after Nov. 20 are due back at the new Library on Parrott Avenue on Tuesday, January 2. Everyone is invited to the grand opening celebration on Sunday, Jan. 7, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Along with the dedication and formal remarks, it will feature music, a children's program, refreshments and tours. Snow date is Jan. 14. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/index.htm or call 427-1540.

ZONING WORK SESSIONS

The Planning Board will hold a work session to discuss possible changes to the City's Zoning Ordinance on Jan. 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. It will consist of two public meetings where the Board will solicit public comment on the proposed change in building height from 50 feet to 40 feet in the Central Business A District and the proposed change that restricts Formula Businesses. The proposals are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/referrals.htm. The work session also will be broadcast live on Cable Channel 22. Contact: 610-7217.

The Planning Board also will hold a work session on Jan. 18 from 6 to 7 p.m. prior to the start of the Board's regular January meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers. The work session will discuss a proposed Nonresidential Planned Unit Development Amendment; a proposed amendment that would restrict Outdoor Entertainment; and, time permitting, continued discussion on the proposal to restrict Formula Businesses. These proposals also are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/referrals.htm.

OLD LIBRARY REUSE

A public listening session to receive input on the possible reuse of the old Library building will be held Jan. 9 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the new Library's Levenson Room by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Reuse. Information packets are available at the City Hall reception desk. The listening session will begin with a presentation of key background information and relevant financial analyses before attendees break into discussion groups. The Committee also is studying possible reuse of five other City-owned buildings. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/buildingreuse.htm or contact 610-7220.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent of Schools acknowledges the students and staff of the Portsmouth School Department for their efforts this holiday season fundraising and supporting other residents in the greater Portsmouth community.

SNOW INFO

The City may ban on-street parking when a storm drops two inches of snow or more. The beginning and official end of such bans are announced on Cable Channel 22, through a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), in announcements in the local media, at www.cityofportsmouth.com, and on signs at all

entrances to the City. Residents may obtain free coupons now to park at the High-Hanover Parking Garage for \$3 during bans. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm for more information. Other available parking is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm

PHS SPORTS

The Dec. 19 Portsmouth High School girls' basketball game with Kingswood will be aired tomorrow (Dec. 23) at 7 p.m. on local government cable television Channel 22. The boys' basketball game against Pembroke Academy on Jan. 5 will be aired on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. on Channel 22. For all the PHS athletic schedules, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm and click on the link.

REC NEWS

The Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center and the Indoor Pool are great places to work off extra holiday pounds. Information on Spinnaker Point is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/spoint.htm and on the Indoor Pool is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm. Also, the Connie Bean Community Center is in full swing with basketball games five times a week at various age levels. Call 766-1483 for more info. The next Middle School Dance is Friday, Jan. 12, at the Connie Bean Center from 7:30-10 p.m.

FAMILY SKI TRIP

The Rec Department family ski trip to the Gunstock Ski Area is Jan. 15, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Children must be at least elementary school age and accompanied by an adult. Contact: 766-1483.

BOARD OPENINGS

The City's Boards and Commissions still need volunteers from Portsmouth. There are openings on the Portsmouth Housing Authority (1), Conservation Commission (1 alternate), Planning Board (1 alternate) and Zoning Board of Adjustment (1 alternate). For an application and to learn more about the boards, contact 610-7207 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

RENOVATION WORKSHOP

Advance registration is required for a free Jan. 18 daylong workshop to learn lead-safe renovation and remodeling methods for older homes, sponsored by the NH Dept. of Health and Human Services and held at City Hall. Contractors, renovators, painters, property owners and maintenance staff are urged to attend. Contact: NH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 800-897-LEAD.

Did you know...?

Portsmouth is home to four watershed areas. When it rains, or snow melts, or water flows into the City storm water system, it ultimately reaches Portsmouth Harbor, Berry's Brook-Rye Harbor, the Winnicut River or Great Bay. Along the way, it picks up debris, chemicals - such as fertilizers and pesticides - dirt, cigarette butts and other pollutants. To see how you can help prevent storm water pollution from damaging our water resources, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/stormwater-you.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/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.