

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*

### ***CDBG HEARING***

The City's Citizens Advisory Committee holds a public hearing tomorrow (Jan. 11) to hear ideas for new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. It begins at 6 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. Projects must benefit Portsmouth families earning very low, low or moderate incomes. The federal CDBG funds administered by the City also can be used for projects in neighborhoods where more than half of the residents earn low or moderate incomes, and to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Contact: 610-7226.

### ***CHRISTMAS TREES***

Friday (Jan. 12) is the final day for the City to pick up Christmas trees left curbside for collection on the same day as trash and recyclables, but residents still may bring Christmas trees to the Recycling Center. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm) for hours and more info.

### ***MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE***

The next Middle School Dance for Portsmouth residents and chaperoned by Rec Dept. staff is Friday (Jan. 12) from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Contact: 427-1549.

### ***MLK HOLIDAY CLOSURES***

City offices, Schools and the Library are closed Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. However, curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables will continue as usual, including the business district collection.

### ***ZONING WORK SESSION***

The Planning Board will hold a work session Thursday, Jan. 18, to discuss possible changes to the City's Zoning Ordinance. It will be from 6 to 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers prior to the Board's regular January meeting and will discuss a proposed Change in Height for the CBA District and a Nonresidential Planned Unit Development Amendment. The work session will be broadcast live on Channel 22. The proposals are at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/referrals.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/referrals.htm). Contact: 610-7217.

### ***PHS SPORTS***

The Portsmouth High School boys' and girls' basketball games with St. Thomas Aquinas on Tuesday, Jan. 16, will be aired Saturday, Jan. 20, 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.

### ***REC NEWS***

The Recreation Department is offering a weeklong camp for elementary-age children during the February school vacation. An information flyer will be sent home via the schools. Also, the Indoor Pool is holding registration for several programs. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm) or call 427-1545 for details. Don't forget that Spinnaker Point Adult Center is open 84 hours a week for all your fitness needs. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/spoint.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/spoint.htm).

### ***HOLIDAY THANKS***

The Welfare Department would like to thank all the generous businesses and many private citizens who contributed to the effort of making Christmas a bright occasion in the lives of many of Portsmouth's less fortunate citizens. Thank you for generously sharing the bounty of your lives with others.

### ***SPARE CALENDARS?***

Wondering what to do with all the extra calendars you have around the house? Drop off any unused, unwanted 2007 calendars, date books, and planners at the Welfare Office in City Hall. They will be distributed for use by Welfare Department clients. Contact: 610-7267 or [etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com).

### ***VALUABLE(S) DOCUMENTATION***

Residents are being offered a free service to document their valuables, thanks to Portsmouth Police and Crime Stoppers. The Bureau of Investigative Services will take close-up photographs of valuable items in your home, capturing such details as serial numbers, damage, or other specifics making them unique. The information can help police recover them if they are lost or stolen. You will receive a computer disc with digital photographs for safekeeping, along with home security tips. Call Detective Roth at 610-7419 or see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press122706a.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press122706a.htm) for more info.

### ***NEW FIRE BOAT***

The Fire Department has taken delivery of its new Firestorm-30 open-ocean and inshore high-speed fireboat. It has high-volume pumping and rescue capabilities, and can be used year-round. The 33.5-foot boat was obtained with FY05 Homeland Security Grant Program funding and replaces a 1983, 23-foot fiberglass boat acquired through government surplus and modified to provide limited fire protection capabilities. To learn more, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/press-010207.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/press-010207.htm).

### ***LAP TIMES***

A new series of Library Lap Times and Preschool Story Times begins Jan. 23 through Feb. 28. These are free drop-in programs for Portsmouth Library cardholders. Lap times are for children up to 36 months and Preschool Story Times are for children 3 and up. Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-pms.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-pms.htm) for times and other details. Contact: 766-1740.

### ***BOARD OPENINGS***

There are openings for Portsmouth residents to serve on the Portsmouth Housing Authority (1), 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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm).

### ***SNOW BANS***

If a storm drops two inches of snow or more, the City may declare a ban on on-street parking and will announce its start – and end -- on Cable Channel 22, in a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), in announcements in the local media, at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm) for more information.

### ***LEAD-FREE WORKSHOP***

There will be a free 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 on Jan. 18. Advance registration is required. Contact: NH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 800-897-LEAD.

### ***MARK YOUR CALENDAR....(Two Items)***

There will be a public listening session on proposed “Public Use Criteria & Building Stewardship Policies” Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Reuse has developed a set of draft objective criteria and guidelines for evaluating City ownership of property. There will be more information in the next edition of this newsletter in two weeks.

There will be a public listening session later this month regarding the use of Peirce Island by dogs and proposed signage on the island. It will be held Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the Levenson Room of the new Public Library. There will be more information in the next edition of this newsletter in two weeks.

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

The Library has a collection of World War II files compiled by the Portsmouth War Records Committee during the War. The collection of newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, posters, pamphlets and reports from various businesses, clubs and organizations may be perused for research. Contact: 427-1540 and ask for Special Collections Librarian Nicole Cloutier or the Reference Department to make arrangements.

**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/2007/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2007/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).*