

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter 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

CITY BUDGET

Work continues on developing the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2008, which begins July 1, 2007. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm for dates of the City Hall budget meetings, which also are televised on local government cable Channel 22. The Police Commission will hold a hearing on the proposed Police Department budget tomorrow (Feb. 8) at 7 p.m. and the School Board will hold its next public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Girls in Grades K-5 and their dads are invited to take part in the 13th Annual Father-Daughter Dance Saturday (Feb. 10) from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. The cost is \$10 per couple. Call the Rec Department at 766-1483 to learn more.

FEBRUARY CAMP

Registration opens Monday (Feb. 12) at 6 p.m. for the Recreation Department's February school vacation camp for 40 Portsmouth children in Grades K-5. Sign up at the Connie Bean Community Center. The \$100 cost includes all activities and bus transportation. Contact: 766-1483.

ZONING ISSUES

The Planning Board will hold a work session next Thursday, Feb. 15, on the proposed Zoning Ordinance rewrite; nonresidential Planned Unit Development, which would function as an overlay in the Office Research and Industrial Districts; and regulation of amusement parks/outdoor recreation. There will not be an opportunity for public input during this 6 p.m.-7 p.m. work session prior to the Board's regular meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers. Contact: 610-7216.

SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS

Applications for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Public Service Agency Grant program must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16. The program administered by the City's Community Development Department and funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) makes grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to non-profit public service agencies serving Portsmouth individuals and families earning very low, low, or moderate-incomes. Contact: 610-7226.

PRESIDENTS' DAY

City Hall, the Library and the Recycling Center will be closed Monday, Feb. 19, in observance of Presidents' Day. However, curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables will continue as usual, including the central business district collection. Also, Portsmouth public schools will be open but will be closed the following week of Feb. 26 for the winter recess.

POPS CONCERT

The Portsmouth High School Pops Concert is Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the PHS Auditorium. The concert begins at 7 p.m. and will feature the PHS Band, Choir, Madrigal Singers, and Men's Ensemble. Tickets are available at the door and are \$2 for adults, \$1 for senior citizens and students. The snow date is Feb. 22. Contact: 436-7100, ext. 2506.

READING MOVIES

Escape into the world of film with an expert for three Wednesday afternoons at the Library. Carol Glaser, film critic and film discussion facilitator, will lead a three-part "How to Read a Movie" workshop beginning Feb. 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. Part two is Feb. 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. and part three is March 7 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The workshop is open to members of the Library and there is no limit to class size. Call 427-1540 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library.

FEELING POETIC?

If you'd like to nominate yourself or someone else to be Portsmouth's next Poet Laureate, you must do so by March 1. Nominees must live or work in Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, Greenland or Newington and have a history of sharing their poetry in some way with the public. Letters or e-mails of recommendation should briefly describe why the nominee will do well as Portsmouth Poet Laureate. See www.pplp.org/.

PHS SPORTS

The Portsmouth High School boys' hockey game with Somersworth on Saturday (Feb. 10) will be aired Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. on local government cable Channel 22. For all the PHS athletic schedules, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm and click on the link.

WINTER EXERCISE

The Portsmouth Indoor Pool is a great place to work out this winter. Call 427-1545 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm. Also, check out Spinnaker Point Adult Center's programs and top-notch equipment. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/spoint.htm or call 766-1483.

BOARD OPENINGS

There are still three openings on the City's boards and commissions: Portsmouth Housing Authority (1), Planning Board (1 alternate) and Zoning Board of Adjustment (1 alternate). To learn more, contact 610-7207 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (3 items)

The Police Department and the School Department will present a free forum on Internet safety for parents Wednesday, March 7, at 7 p.m. at the Portsmouth High School Auditorium. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press012407.htm.

Dartmouth College professor and author Ernest Hebert will participate in the Library's Adult Book Group discussion of his book, "The Old American" on Tuesday, March 13 at 1 p.m.

The Library's 2nd Annual March Movie Madness will be on three Thursdays in March: March 15, 22 and 29. Stay tuned for more details.

Did you know...?

The State of New Hampshire has an interesting web site to answer your questions about controlling and reducing household hazardous waste. See www.des.nh.gov/hhw/ to learn more. The City's solid waste information is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle.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/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 or on the local government cable channel Channel 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com.