

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. To join the distribution list, or be removed, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). – City Manager John P. Bohenko

### ***INTERNET SAFETY FORUM***

There will be a free Internet Safety Forum for parents at the Portsmouth High School Auditorium tonight (March 7) at 7 p.m. Residents of Portsmouth, Rye, Greenland, Newington and New Castle are invited to attend. The Forum is being presented by the Police Department and School Department. The presentation will be rebroadcast Saturday March 17 at 7 p.m. on local government cable access Channel 22.

### ***PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS***

The City Council this week approved increased income limits for the elderly and the disabled to receive property tax exemptions on principal residences. Property owners must file an application with the Assessor's Office by the April 15 deadline in order to receive an exemption on the December 2007 tax bill. Income limits for single taxpayers increased from \$30,000 to \$30,600 and from \$37,000 to \$37,740 for married couples for both types of exemptions. The Council also increased the total assets limit to \$102,000 for both exemptions. For more info, see: [www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm).

### ***PHS BASKETBALL***

The Portsmouth High School boys' Class I semifinal game tonight against Hollis-Brookline will be aired Saturday, March 10, at 7 p.m. on local government cable Channel 22. If the PHS boys win tonight, Saturday afternoon's championship game at UNH also will be aired on Channel 22 Saturday night following the airing of the semifinal game. Also, their tournament victories over Oyster River and Lebanon will be aired Saturday, March 24, beginning at 7 p.m. on Channel 22. For all 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.

### ***AUTHOR VISIT***

New Hampshire author Ernest Hebert will be at the Portsmouth Library next Tuesday (March 13) to discuss his historical novel "The Old American" at 1 p.m. Hebert, a Dartmouth College professor, will join the Adult Book Discussion's monthly meeting but all are welcome to attend. For more information, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-031307.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-031307.htm).

### ***CHOCOLATE INDULGENCE***

Indulge your love for chocolate while benefitting Music Program Scholarships at Portsmouth High School by enjoying "A Galaxy of Chocolate" on Wednesday, March 14, from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at PHS. The event will feature delicious and decadent chocolate desserts donated by local restaurants, and parent and student bakers, along with vocal and instrumental performances by PHS and Middle School students. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Snow date is Thursday, March 15. For advance tickets, send cash or a check to PHS Music Boosters, PHS, Alumni Drive, Portsmouth, NH, 03801.

### ***ZONING HEARINGS***

The Planning Board will hold two public hearings on proposed changes to the City's Zoning Ordinance on Thursday, March 15, beginning at 7 p.m. The first public hearing will be on the proposed non-residential Planned Unit Development change, followed by a hearing on proposed changes to various zoning requirements pertaining to the Central Business A District, including a proposed Change in Height Requirements. The hearings will be televised live on local government Channel 22. Contact: 610-7216.

### ***MARCH MOVIE MADNESS***

It's March Movie Madness time at the Public Library, but this year the films will be shown in the brand-new Levenson Room with its exceptional sound system. "Stranger than Fiction" starring Will Ferrell and Emma Thomson will be shown March 15 at 7 p.m. Free popcorn! For more on this movie about an IRS auditor who suddenly finds himself the subject of a narration only he can hear and the other upcoming films, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies.htm).

### ***NO SCHOOL***

Portsmouth Public School students will not have classes Friday, March 16, due to a teacher workshop day.

### ***CITYWIDE PROJECTS***

There may still be snow on the ground but the City's Department of Public Works is ready with its list of 2007 projects, including paving, sidewalk reconstruction and sewer projects, that will begin once the weather improves. One spring project involves installing signage and striping to make bicycle lanes from the bike bridge on Rockingham Street at the Pease Tradeport to the Hanover Street Intermodal Facility downtown. For a look at all the projects coming up, go to <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm>.

### ***FOOD RECALLS***

A list of current national and regional food recalls that could affect Portsmouth residents is now available on the City Health Department's web site at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/foodrecalls.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/foodrecalls.htm).

### ***REC NEWS***

The Recreation Department will be offering numerous spring youth programs. If you can't wait for the spring brochure scheduled for release on April 1, call 766-1483 for specific programs and registration dates. Registrations are being taken now for the spring 35 years and older basketball league at the Spinnaker Point Adult Center. Call 766-1483 for league information and costs. Also, a new round of swim lessons is beginning soon at the Indoor Pool. Call 427-1575 for details.

### ***SCHOOL MEALS***

Want to know what's on the breakfast and lunch menus at your child's school this month? Take a look at the Portsmouth School Nutrition Department's recently updated Web site, [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/meals/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/meals/index.htm).

### ***SCHOOL MUSIC***

Portsmouth will celebrate Music in our Schools on Wednesday, March 21, with a 7 p.m. concert at Portsmouth High School for the Middle School choral and instrumental groups, and the jazz band. Contact: Contact: 431-5080.

### ***BUILDING REUSE***

The City-owned Plains School and Creek Athletic Club buildings will be the subjects of a March 27 public input session held by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Reuse. It will begin at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Information packets on the sites will be available at the Library and City Hall prior to the meeting date. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/buildingreuse.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/buildingreuse.htm) or contact 610-7220.

### ***BOARD OPENINGS***

Applications are being accepted for two openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. One is for an alternate member on the Planning Board and the other is for an alternate on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm) to learn more.

### ***SUMMER LEAGUE***

Girls entering Grades 7, 8 and 9 next fall are eligible to participate in the Police Department's Middle School Girls Summer League at the South Mill Pond Courts on Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. from June 21 through August 9. Registration forms are available at the Middle School or contact Detective Kim Surr, 610-7510 or [KSurr@pd.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:KSurr@pd.cityofportsmouth.com). The league is open to girls from Portsmouth, Rye, Greenland, New Castle and Newington. The cost is \$20.

### ***SNOW BANS***

The City may declare a ban on on-street parking if a storm drops two inches of snow or more, and will announce its start – and completion -- 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.

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

Drop-in Mahjong is back at the Portsmouth Public Library through the end of March. The games are held every Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon, but you should go a little earlier if you want instruction in the centuries-old Chinese pastime. All playing levels are welcome to participate in the games held in the Library's upstairs Hilton Garden Inn Room. Contact: 427-1540.

**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).*