

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. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

SCHOOL MUSIC

Celebrate “Music in Our Schools Month” with tonight’s (March 21) 7 p.m. concert at Portsmouth High School for the Middle School choral and instrumental groups, and the jazz band. Contact: 431-5080.

MORE MOVIE MADNESS

There’s more “March Movie Madness” ahead in the Public Library’s Levenson Room. The film tomorrow night (March 22) is “Half-Nelson” starring Ryan Gosling about an inner-city junior high school teacher with a drug habit who forms an unlikely friendship with a student after she discovers his secret. The 107-minute, R-rated film begins at 7 p.m. with free popcorn. “Babel” is on the marquee for next Thursday (March 29) at 6:30 p.m. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies.htm.

INTERNET SAFETY EVENT

On Friday (March 23), New Hampshire U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono will be at the Middle School to unveil a nationwide Public Service Announcement campaign warning children of the dangers of on-line predators who cruise sites like “My Space” for potential victims. Interested residents are invited to attend the presentation of “Think Before You Post” at 9 a.m. at the Middle School gym. As the headquarters for the Northern New England Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Portsmouth Police also will be supporting the event with their presence.

DOG LICENSES

Dog license renewals will be mailed to all existing owners on Friday (March 23). The City Clerk’s Office will begin issuing 2007 licenses on Monday, March 26. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk’s Office. The licensing year is April 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008.

PHS BASKETBALL

The Portsmouth High School boys’ Class I 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 and click on the link.

BUILDING REUSE

The Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Re-use will hold a public listening session next Tuesday (March 27) to gather input on the future use of Creek Athletic Club and Plains School. It will be from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room. Key background information and relevant financial analyses will be presented before public input begins. Information packets on the sites are available at the Library and City Hall. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/buildingreuse.htm or contact 610-7220.

ZONING SESSION

The Planning Board will hold a work session Thursday, April 5, on the Rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance with its consultant, Taintor Associates, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at City Hall. Because it is a board work session, there will not be an opportunity for public input. However, it will be televised live on local government cable channel 22. Contact: 610-7216.

CALLING ARTISTS

The City has issued a “call to New Hampshire professional artists” to submit proposals to design, execute and install an outdoor sculpture to honor Portsmouth firefighters past, present and future near the Central Fire Station. The \$75,000 project is being funded through a grant, private donations, and matching donations from the City. Project details are at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/purchasing.htm>.

SPRING/SUMMER RECREATION

Copies of the Spring/Summer brochure will be available in all Recreation facilities April 2. It also will be available online soon afterward at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/index.htm.

REC NEWS

Girls in Grades 3-5 can still register for a spring youth field hockey program. The eight-week program begins April 11. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m. at the Portsmouth High School gym. Contact: 766-1483. Also, the Indoor Pool is offering a wide variety of spring swim lessons. Call 427-1545 for the schedule of classes. Spring is coming and so are some new programs at the Spinnaker Point Adult Center. Stop by the center and check them out or call 766-1483.

FOREIGN FILMS

The Library will be showing foreign films every other Wednesday afternoon in April and May, beginning April 4. Each will begin at 1 p.m. and followed by a discussion at their conclusion. The first film in the series is the action-packed Danish film "Brothers" shown in the Levenson Room with its big-screen movie viewing and high-quality sound. Contact: 427-1540 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies1.htm.

HAIKU

Here's your chance to learn to read and write the Japanese form of poetry called haiku. The Library is hosting a workshop on three consecutive Thursdays – April 5, 12 and 19 – from 7-8:45 p.m. No pre-registration is required, but participants are encouraged to attend all three sessions. The only requirement is curiosity about the lovely and extremely brief form of literary art. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-haiku.htm or call 427-1540.

SPRING REMINDER

Police Chief Michael Magnant would like to remind all motorists that spring weather will lead to an increase in activity such as children playing outdoors, bicyclists and joggers on the streets and a larger volume of traffic. It's important that motorists drive with caution and regard for the safety of themselves and others. Portsmouth Police are planning to soon announce initiatives aimed at keeping city streets safe from speeders and drunk drivers.

CONGRESS SIDEWALKS

The City will be replacing the Congress Street sidewalks from High Street to Maplewood/Middle with brick and period streetlights, with work beginning the first week of April. Information on the project is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/1.htm.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The City's annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 7, at Langdon Park located across from Portsmouth City Hall. Preschool children will hunt at 10:30 a.m., followed by the K-Grade 2 crowd at 11:30 a.m. If it rains, the event will move to the Portsmouth Middle School gym. Contact: 766-1483.

BOARD OPENINGS

There are still two openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions: an alternate member for the Planning Board and an alternate for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

SCHOOL BOARD

Agendas and minutes of all School Board meetings can be found on the City's web site at www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2007/index.htm. Also, past meetings can be viewed via any computer with a connection to the Internet by clicking on www.cityofportsmouth.com/webcast/index.htm.

Did you know...?

For the eighth year, the City of Portsmouth has been named a Tree City USA community for its commitment to community forestry. This national recognition requires communities to have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance. The program is

sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

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.