

The City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter Issue 9 Nov. 16, 2005

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements and is part of our continuing effort to communicate more extensive and timely information to the public. Editions are e-mailed every other Wednesday. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

MEDICARE DRUG PLAN

There will be a symposium Thursday (tomorrow, Nov.17) to help explain the changes facing seniors under the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. It will be held from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. in the Portsmouth City Council Chambers, and is free and open to the public. The symposium also will be broadcast live on local Government Cable TV Channel 22, and rebroadcast at 7 p.m. on Nov. 26 and Dec. 3. Contact: 610-7260.

LIBRARY POETS

The Portsmouth Public Library will present poets Karen Nelson of Newton and Trina Daigle of Newmarket Thursday (tomorrow, Nov. 17) at 7 p.m. They will perform original works in tandem and as soloists. For more info: <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-111705.htm>

FLU SHOT- UPDATE

Due to the limited flu vaccine supply nationwide, the State has changed the focus of the Emergency Vaccination Exercise planned Saturday (Nov.19) at Portsmouth High School to now concentrate on providing flu shots to citizens at high-risk for medical complications if they contract the flu. The shots, which prevent seasonal flu strains, will be available from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. to high-risk residents of Portsmouth, Rye, Greenland, New Castle and Newington. Please monitor local news media reports and www.cityofportsmouth.com for possible additional updates. Contact: 427-1515.

TURKEY SHOOT

The 14th Annual Turkey (basketball) Shoot sponsored by the Portsmouth Recreation Department is Saturday (Nov.19) at the Connie Bean Community Center. Children in Grades K-5 who live in Portsmouth are invited to shoot “fowl” shots to win a turkey. It’s free, but participants are asked to bring a canned good to donate. There will be boy and girl winners in each grade. “Fowl”-shooting times are: Grades K-1, 9 a.m.; Grades 2-3, 9:45 a.m.; and Grades 4-5, 10:30 a.m. Contact: 766-1483.

TV SPORTS

The Portsmouth High School volleyball games with Timberlane and Spaulding will be broadcast on local government Cable Channel 22 on Saturday (Nov. 19), beginning at 7 p.m.

THANKSGIVING

City Hall offices and Portsmouth schools will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, in recognition of Thanksgiving. There will be no curbside rubbish collection on Thanksgiving. Rubbish normally collected on Thursdays will be picked up Wednesday that week. There is no change to the Friday collection. However, the Recycling Center is closed on Thursday and Friday. Contact: 427-1530.

YARD WASTE

There will be no yard waste collection on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving week. Curbside yard waste collection resumes Monday, Nov. 28, for the final week of the year. However, yard waste is accepted year-round at the Recycling Center behind DPW on Peverly Hill Rd. Contact: 427-1530.

REC DEPARTMENT

Basketball registration for boys and girls in Grades 7-12 begins the week of Nov. 28 at the Connie Bean Center. For costs and program specifics, call 766-1483. Also, the Portsmouth Indoor Pool is offering numerous swim lessons for all ages. For a schedule of upcoming classes, call 427-1545.

LIBRARY KIDS

A new series of Lap Times and Preschool Story Times has begun at the Portsmouth Library and continues through Dec. 21. Lap Times for children up to 36 months, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, are Tuesdays, 9:30-10:15 and 10:30-11:15 a.m., and Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Preschool Story Times for children 3 and up, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, are Wednesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m., and Thursdays, 1:00-1:45 p.m. The free drop-in programs are open to Portsmouth Library cardholders. Contact: 766-1740.

TRAFFIC DELAYS

Work continues through the end of the month on Gosling Road from Woodbury Ave. to the Spaulding Turnpike in anticipation of PSNH's wood power plant project. Traffic delays are likely between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Newington & Portsmouth Police will control traffic. Weather and other factors may cause schedule changes. Contact: 766-1412 or see <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm>

HOLIDAY PARADE

Portsmouth's 2005 annual illuminated holiday parade is Saturday, Dec. 3. Floats, walking units, and marching bands will join Santa Claus in the parade beginning at 6 p.m. This year's theme is "Peace in Portsmouth." Parade Chairman George Hosker will again direct the parade. Contact: 610-7275.

HELP THE NEEDY

The City's Welfare Department has a list of 10 families unlikely to benefit from traditional organizations' holiday gift and food programs. The Department helps with basic emergency needs and tries to guide people to financial independence, but does not use tax dollars to provide life's extras that could help these hard-working families enjoy the holiday season. Several teenagers are involved so donated gift cards are welcome. Welfare also has family "wish lists." Contact: 610-7267 or etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com

2005 TAXES

The 2005 property tax assessments and a "tax calculator" to determine your taxes for the tax bills due Dec. 1 and June 1, 2006, are online at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/tax/calculator.htm>

ASSESSOR VISITS

Assessor's Office representatives are continuing work in the neighborhoods off of Woodbury and Maplewood Avenues, and will move next to the area including Leslie Drive and Cutts Street, to check properties for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm> Every property owner is notified by letter in advance of the arrival of a data collector to measure their property's exterior and seek permission to inspect the interior and other buildings. Information will be used to make each property reflect fair market value, effective April 1, 2006, for the Nov. 1, 2006, tax bills. Contact: 610-7249.

Did you know...?

The Portsmouth Public Library holds monthly daytime and evening book discussions, and also has online book clubs. In December, Anna Quindlen's book "Blessings" will be discussed at the Library at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12, and at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 13. For more info on this and the online book clubs, see <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/books-rc.htm> or 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, or the Meetings Calendar at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2005/index.htm>

HOURS

Portsmouth City Hall (431-2000) is open from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The School Department Central Office (431-5080) is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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.