

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Visit www.cityofportsmouth.com to join the distribution list, or be removed. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

CITY BUDGET SESSION -- TONIGHT

The City Council will hold a work session tonight (May 13) to review the proposed budget for the new fiscal year beginning July 1. The work session begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers and will be broadcast live on local government access cable Channel 22. There is no opportunity for public testimony at work sessions, but the public is welcome to observe the proceedings. The Council is scheduled to adopt the final budget on June 8. The budget, as originally proposed, is online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com. Paper copies are available at the Library and City Clerk's Office.

CONCERTS -- EVENT TONIGHT

The first of two All-City Concerts is tonight (Wednesday, May 13) at 7 p.m. at Portsmouth High School. The concert will showcase the Dondero School Chorus, Grade 5 Band, PHS combo, Madrigal Singers and Concert Choir. The second All-City Concert is next Wednesday (May 20) and will feature the award-winning PHS Percussion Ensemble, New Franklin School Chorus, high school Treble Choir, Men's Ensemble and Concert Band. The Portsmouth Middle School spring concert showcasing the Grade 6 Band and Chorus, as well as the Grade 7/8 Band and Chorus, is May 27. The events begin at 7 p.m. at Portsmouth High School.

CITY HALL CLOSING EARLY FRIDAY

Portsmouth City Hall will close at 3:45 p.m. Friday (May 15) for a service of remembrance for former Mayor Evelyn Sirrell and her contributions to the City of Portsmouth. The one-hour tribute will begin at 4 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers and also will be televised live on Cable Channel 22. It will include remembrances from Mayor Tom Ferrini, City Manager John Bohenko and others. City Hall is closing 45 minutes early so that City employees may attend the commemoration.

LOTS CLOSED FRIDAY

The parking lot at the South Playground will be closed Friday (May 15) to everyone except employees of the City Hall complex. The lower City Hall parking lot will be open only to those attending the tribute to former Mayor Sirrell, which begins promptly at 4 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers,

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

This Saturday (May 16) is the spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington. Bring unwanted household chemicals to the Portsmouth Department of Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. from 8 a.m. until noon. Proof of residency is required. Do not bring asbestos, explosives or latex paints. Empty containers are not considered hazardous and may be put out for the weekly trash pickup. A list of chemicals is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm. Contact: 427-1530.

LUCIE THERRIEN

Local songwriter and recording artist Lucie Therrien will perform original songs and read from her new book "Dual Citizen-Deux Citoyennetés" in the Library's Levenson Room tomorrow evening (May 14) at 7 p.m. Therrien recently launched a new book and CD set. Contact: 427-1540.

“GOOD GRIEF!”

The Portsmouth High School Performing Arts Department will present the popular and timeless musical “You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown” on Friday and Saturday (May 15 and 16). Join them as they follow wishy-washy Charlie Brown through an ordinary day with his gang of friends – blanket-loving Linus, Beethoven-adoring Schroeder, crabby Queen Lucy, and, of course, supertime-craving Snoopy. Don’t be a blockhead! Go see this classic comic strip come to life on stage with music and dance Friday at 7 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door, or from Sandy White at 436-7100.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The final Middle School dance of the year for Portsmouth residents and chaperoned by Rec Dept. staff is Friday (May 15) from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Cost is \$4. Contact: 766-1483.

NEW YORK CITY

There are still seats available for the Recreation Department’s spring trip to New York City on Saturday (May 16). The cost is \$55 for round-trip bus service. Sign up at the Connie Bean Center or call 766-1483.

SUSTAINABILITY@HOME

As a follow-up to last weekend’s successful 2nd Annual Sustainability Fair, a self-guided home tour entitled “Sustainability@Home” has been scheduled Saturday (May 16) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tour highlights homes and organizations utilizing sustainable practices in building materials, energy use and conservation, and stormwater management practices. A \$10 donation is suggested for the tour and the brochure, which can be downloaded from www.portsmouthsustainabilityfair.org.

BOAT LAUNCH

Saturday (May 16) is opening day for the Peirce Island Boat Launch, which is free to Portsmouth residents. Season tickets may be obtained at the Spinnaker Point Recreation Center. There is a daily fee for non-residents. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/boatlaunch.htm to learn which documents are required, and the boat launch hours and fees for non-residents, or call 766-1483.

LIBRARY SUNDAYS END

Sunday (May 17) is the final Sunday afternoon that the Library will be open until fall. The 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday hours resume September 13, the first Sunday after Labor Day. Contact: 427-1540.

CARBON CHALLENGE

Portsmouth and Keene are challenging their residents to participate in a friendly competition to see which city can get the most residents to take a brief survey at www.nhcarbonchallenge.org that will provide ideas on how to save energy and money by reducing a household’s carbon footprint. The average household committing to the simple carbon reduction changes suggested could save over \$800 a year! Contact: 610-7215.

AUTHORS READ

Authors Michelle Cacho-Negrete, Krista Bremer and Jenny Doherty will read selections from the new anthology “The Mysterious Life of the Heart: Writing from The Sun about Passion, Longing, and Love” next Thursday evening (May 21) at 7 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room. The anthology, published by the monthly Sun Magazine, is comprised of 50 personal essays, short stories, and poems about passion, longing and love. Two of the authors, Cacho-Negrette and Doherty, live in Maine while Bremer lives in North Carolina and is associate publisher of Sun Magazine. Contact: 427-1540.

TREE CITY HONORS

The city of Portsmouth has been named a Tree City USA® community for the 10th year of national recognition. The Tree City program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. Every year since 2003, the City and the Blue Ribbon Committee on Trees and Public Greenery have put out a call to the public for suggested locations that could benefit from the planting of a street tree. A total of 162 trees have been planted by the City under this program thus far and additional trees will be planted this year.

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

City offices, schools, the Connie Bean Center, Indoor Pool and the Library are closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. The Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. There will be no collection of trash, yard waste or recyclables, and the Recycling Center is closed on Mondays. The Monday curbside trash and recyclables collection will be combined with Tuesday pickup, including the downtown district pickup Tuesday evening. There will be no yard waste collection on Tuesday.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

On the morning of the Friday before Memorial Day (May 22), the Middle School Band will participate in the Central Veterans Council's "Symbolic Burial at Sea" service at Prescott Park. The PMS Grade 7/8 Band and the PHS Clipper Band will march in the annual Memorial Day parade and perform at the South Cemetery ceremonies on Monday, May 25. The Veterans Council also sponsors the Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service on Monday. Roads will be temporarily closed as the parade passes. It begins at 1 p.m. at the corner of Parrott and Junkins Avenues, continues to Pleasant Street, through Market Square to Congress Street, on to Middle Street to Richards Avenue to the South Cemetery. At the conclusion of the service, the parade travels down South Street to the corner of Junkins Avenue for a review by gathered dignitaries and then concludes at Junkins and Lincoln Avenues.

SUMMER REC REGISTRATION

Registration for the Recreation Department's summer youth camps and sports (other than the pool) opens Tuesday, May 26, and continues through Friday, May 29, from 5-8 p.m. at the Greenleaf Rec Center. Registration moves to the Spinnaker Point Center beginning June 1. Program brochures are at all Rec facilities, online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm or call 766-1483. Registration for Peirce Island outdoor pool lessons free to Portsmouth residents begins Tuesday, June 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the Indoor Pool. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1545. The outdoor pool opens June 29.

DOG DEADLINE

If you do not renew your dog's license by the end of May, a \$1 late fee will be assessed to each license. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are charged \$6.50. Dog licenses are \$9 for male or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they have been neutered or spayed. Senior citizens over 65 may register one dog annually for \$2. Contact: 610-7207.

EXPLORER HONORS

The Portsmouth Police Explorers took top honors in the recent 2009 NH Law Enforcement Explorers competition, winning first place overall out of 21 teams, and last week took fifth place out of 35 agencies, many of them much larger than Portsmouth, at the Regional Challenge in Connecticut. The team competes in such events as Drill and Ceremony, Motor Vehicle Stop, Building Search, Firearms, First Aid, Obstacle Course, Cruiser Push, Unknown Call, and a Written Exam. It is comprised of Capt. Kyle Brake, Lt. Richie Cady and Cadets Alison Rahn and Micah Beringer. The Explorers program is for young adults interested in police work. Contact: Detective Robert Munson at rmunson@cityofportsmouth.com or 610-7506.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The Portsmouth Police Department recently graduated 30 people, ranging from teenagers to senior citizens, who attended the Citizen Police Academy, sponsored by Crime Stoppers, to get a greater understanding of how police departments work. The eight-week collaborative effort involved the communities and police departments of Portsmouth, Greenland, Rye, Newington and New Castle. The academy was free, thanks to a grant from Crime Stoppers. For more information, see www.seacoastcrimestoppers.org.

WOJNAR SCHOLARSHIP

There will be a fund-raising event for the Patricia A. Wojnar Memorial and Scholarship Fund Tuesday, May 26, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Momma D's Casa di Pasta on the Route 1 Bypass. Wojnar was a longtime School Department employee who died suddenly last year. Direct event questions to the School Dept. Central Office: 431-5080.

“SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE”

The Academy Award-winning film “Slumdog Millionaire” will be shown free at the Library on Thursday, May 28, at 6:45 p.m. in the Levenson Room. The two-hour, R-rated film tells the story of street kid Jamal Malik (Dev Patel), who is arrested for suspicion of cheating on India’s version of “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” During interrogation, the viewer witnesses flashbacks that explain how he was able to answer the questions correctly. The Library will offer a comedy “wild card” mystery movie on June 4. Contact: 427-1540.

ART-SPEAK SYMPOSIUM

Art-Speak, the City of Portsmouth’s Cultural Commission, and the Portsmouth Fire Department are inviting the public to a June symposium on the process and progress of the city’s newest piece of public art, “Vigilance,” being installed this summer at the Central Fire Station. The “Fired Up: Celebrating Portsmouth’s Newest Public Art Sculpture” symposium is June 23, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Central Fire Station at 170 Court Street. Space is limited and the public is asked to RSVP by June 18 to 610-7222 or scobler@cityofportsmouth.com.

ROAD CLOSURE

Chestnut Street will be closed Saturday from 7 a.m. (May 16) until noon on Sunday (May 17) for a private event at The Music Hall.

ROADWORK

Work has begun on a number of public works projects that could result in temporary traffic delays. Local traffic will be allowed during construction on Gates Street, Washington Street (Hancock-Pleasant), Hancock Street, and Howard Street over the next two weeks. Contact Tom Richter at 766-1412. In addition, work is beginning on the Aviation Avenue pavement reconstruction at the Pease Tradeport and in Atlantic Heights on Kearsarge, Oak, Mangrove, Orange and Birch Streets. Work continues on the Route 33 bridge replacement and roadwork, and paving continues on Market Street near the salt pile, Maplewood near Dennett Street, State Street near the Rockingham and on Woodbury Avenue. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm for information on all road projects. Weather and other factors may cause delays. Contact: 766-1411.

Mark Your Calendar...

- The Portsmouth Alternative School (PASS) graduation is Friday, June 5, at 10:30 a.m. at Sherburne School. Middle School graduation is Thursday, June 11, at 6 p.m. at Portsmouth High School. High School graduation is Friday, June 12, at 5:30 p.m.
- The Dondero Lawn Fete is Saturday, June 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine, with games, food and lots of fun. Proceeds benefit the Dondero PTA.
- The final day of school for Portsmouth Public School students is June 19.

Did you know...

This is the 100th edition of the City of Portsmouth’s Community Newsletter. Since its launch in July 2005, readership of this free electronic newsletter compiled and distributed by the City of Portsmouth has grown to over 1,800 people. Interested residents also may download the biweekly editions from www.CityofPortsmouth.com.

BOARD VACANCIES

The most recent list of openings on the City’s volunteer boards and commissions can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.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/2009/index.htm.

SCHOOL CALENDAR: The School Department’s Activities Calendar for all schools is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.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 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-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 Sunday (May 17 only) from 1 p.m. to 5 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 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com.