

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*

CONCERT -- TONIGHT

The Portsmouth Middle School spring concert is tonight (May 27) at 7 p.m. at Portsmouth High School. It will showcase the Grade 6 Band and Chorus, as well as the Grade 7/8 Band and Chorus.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The City of Portsmouth needs help from individuals, organizations and local businesses to spread the word about having our residents take the Carbon Challenge survey that could save them over \$800 a year. There will be a meeting at 4 p.m. tomorrow (May 28) at the Library's Levenson Room to talk about the campaign. The brief survey is at www.nhcarbonchallenge.org and gives suggestions on how to reduce a household's carbon footprint. Portsmouth and Keene are challenging each other to see which community gets the highest rate of participation. Contact: 610-7215 or plbritz@cityofportsmouth.com if you want to help, but cannot attend.

ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Believing that in difficult economic times it's important to have access to good information about job opportunities, health insurance and other services, the Library's Reference Department has put together a page of online resources at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/orec.htm. There are employment, financial, housing and health tools, as well as resources for parents, seniors, veterans and the homeless. Contact: 427-1540.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Portsmouth Water Division's 2008 Annual Water Quality Report is now available online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/waterqualityreports.htm. The six-page report can be read online or downloaded in PDF format. Contact: Water/Sewer Divisions City Engineer Peter Rice, 427-1530.

WALK NH WEEK

Next week is "Walk NH Week 2009" and there will be a number of walks in Portsmouth to celebrate, including the 2.5-mile Step it Up Seacoast walk Tuesday (June 2) beginning at 4:45 p.m. from the South Mill Pond Parking Lot. The route is mostly flat and would be considered an easy walking trail. To learn more about the Portsmouth events, visit walknh.org/fhc/initiatives/walknh/walks_portsmouth.php.

FREE MOVIE -- TOMORROW NIGHT

The Library will show the Academy Award-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire" free tomorrow (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?" On June 4, the Library will offer a comedy "wild card" surprise movie. Contact: 427-1540.

DOG DEADLINE FRIDAY

You have until 4:30 p.m. Friday (May 29) to renew your dog's license at the City Clerk's Office or face a late fee of \$1 assessed against each dog license as of Monday, June 1. There also could be a civil forfeiture fine of \$25 and a Portsmouth District Court summons if you do not respond within 15 days. Contact: 610-7207.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Want to throw a block party? Want to meet your local police officers and make your neighborhood safer? Meet at the Police Department's training room June 9 at 7 p.m. for a National Night Out planning meeting. NNO is held in August. Contact: Citywide Neighborhood Committee Chair Cristy Cardoso, 512-3634, or cncchair@gmail.com.

SUMMER REC REGISTRATION

Registration for summer Recreation Department camps and sports programs (other than the pool) continues through Friday (May 29) from 5-8 p.m. at the Greenleaf Recreation Center. Beginning June 1, register at the

Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. Program brochures are at all Rec Department facilities and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. Contact: 766-1483.

MEDITATION

Enjoy a free, guided mediation class with Martha Nossif at the Library on Monday (June 1) at 7 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Room. Beginners are welcome. Dress comfortably and bring the cushions or pillows you prefer for meditating. Chairs are also available. To learn more, contact Nossif at gleeful@comcast.net or 430-9426.

DAYTIME SWIM LESSONS

Free daytime swim lessons will be available to Portsmouth children at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool again this year, and evening classes also will be available for a fee for the first time (see item below). Registration for Session One swim lessons opens Tuesday (June 2) 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Indoor Pool next to Portsmouth High and continues daily during normal pool hours until all classes are filled. Non-residents may register beginning June 8. Daytime lessons run three days per week for four weeks, beginning June 29 and ending July 24. Session Two runs from July 27 to Aug. 21. For registration policy and program details, including what to bring, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1546.

EVENING SWIM LESSONS

The Recreation Department will be offering evening swim lessons at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool on a trial basis this summer. The cost is \$20 for Portsmouth residents and \$50 for non-residents. Lessons will be held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. from June 30 to July 22. Space is limited. See the above news item for registration information. To learn more, click on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm.

POETRY READING

Past and present Poet Laureates of Portsmouth Mimi White and Mark DeCarteret will read original works next Thursday (June 4) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Hilton Garden Room. White was Poet Laureate from 2005 to 2007 and DeCarteret was named Poet Laureate earlier this year. Contact: 427-1540.

GRADUATIONS

The Portsmouth Alternative Secondary School (PASS) graduation is next Friday, June 5, at 10:30 a.m. at PASS/Sherburne School. Middle School graduation will be Thursday, June 11, at 6 p.m. in the High School's Stone Gymnasium. Portsmouth High graduation is Friday, June 12, at 5:30 p.m. in the Stone Gymnasium.

LAFAYETTE SCHOOL RENOVATION

The Lafayette School Senior Apartments project is progressing on schedule and is expected to be completed in July. The City and the Lafayette School Limited Partnership, which was established by the Portsmouth Housing Authority to develop the project, entered into a 98-year lease for the purpose of redeveloping the vacant Lafayette School Building into 10 affordable apartments for seniors 62 or older who earn less than 60% of median family income. The \$2.6 million project is funded with Low Income Housing Tax Credits, as well as federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Federal Home Loan Bank funds. Contact: 610-7226.

LIBRARY SUNDAYS OVER

The Library is now closed on Sunday afternoons until the Sunday after Labor Day (Sept. 13). Contact: 427-1540.

CLOSURES (3 items)

Ceres Street will be closed from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. next Saturday (June 6) for the Piscataqua Waterfront Festival and the Bridge Street Parking Lot will be closed from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for the Seacoast Local Festival. Also, much of downtown Portsmouth will be vehicle-free and pedestrian-friendly the following Saturday, June 13, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. for Market Square Day.

ROADWORK

Continuing public works projects may result in temporary traffic delays during work hours but local traffic will be allowed during brick sidewalk work on Hancock Street, road grading and granite curb installation on Gates Street, drainage installation on Washington Street (Pleasant-Hancock) and paving work on Howard Street.

Direct questions to Tom Richter at 766-1412. Also, final paving operations will begin on Woodbury Avenue and work continues on the Route 33 bridge replacement and roadwork. Information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Weather and other factors can cause delays. Contact: 766-1411.

Mark Your Calendar...

- 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.
- RSVP by June 18 for the Art-Speak Symposium at the Fire Station scheduled June 23, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Central Fire Station. RSVP to 610-7222 or scobler@cityofportsmouth.com.
- The final day of school for Portsmouth Public School students is June 19.

Did you know...

The City of Portsmouth recently was awarded its 16th “Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting” for the annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is prepared at the end of each fiscal year. The award from the Government Finance Officers Association is for the period ending June 30, 2008. The CAFR and the Annual Budget documents can be found on the Finance Department’s page on 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; and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

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.