

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*

WEEKEND EVENTS

Due to the number of special events planned in downtown Portsmouth this weekend, City officials are urging residents and visitors to plan ahead for the possibility of scarce parking and some road closures. Five separate events are planned in the downtown area, the largest being the Portsmouth Criterium bicycle race on Sunday. A list of road closures related to Sunday's race is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news092009.htm. The High-Hanover Parking Facility will offer a flat rate of \$3 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation for information on City parking areas and other information.

The annual Telluride by the Sea Weekend Celebration of Film at the Music Hall (www.themusichall.org) kicks off Friday and continues through Sunday evening, with Chestnut Street closed from Congress to Porter Streets. The inaugural BreastCancerStories.org CELEBRATEPINK 5K Road Race and Walk begins at 9 a.m. Saturday from the Middle School. The 1st Annual New Hampshire Fish and Lobster Festival (www.nhseafood.com) is noon to 4 p.m. at Prescott Park. The Friends of the South End's 5th Annual Fairy House Tour (www.prescottpark.org/fairyhouse.cfm) also takes place at Prescott Park and through the South End from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Free parking is available on Peirce Island. Some downtown streets will be closed from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Sunday for the Portsmouth Criterium bicycle race (www.Portsmouthcrit.com).

STATE STREET MEETING-TONIGHT

There will be a public meeting tonight at 7 p.m. on the yearlong, \$3.7 million State Street Utilities Upgrade and Roadway Improvement Project along the corridor between Pleasant Street and the Memorial Bridge. All businesses will remain open during the project, which will replace and separate the aging combined sewer and water pipes while improving the safety and the appearance of the corridor. The meeting will take place in City Hall Conference Room A. Contact: 766-1416.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The City will hold its annual fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day a week from Saturday on September 26. Residents of Portsmouth, Newington and Greenland may bring unwanted household chemicals to the Department of Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Road for safe disposal between 8 a.m. and noon. Residents must show proof of residency. For the full list of what household chemicals will be accepted, click on www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm. Contact: 766-1454.

BOW-CERES STREEET WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The City has completed design, bidding and contract award for the Bow – Ceres Street Waterfront Improvement Project, with construction to start next week (week of September 21). Lyman and Sons was the successful contractor for this work. This public-private partnership will create a public waterfront park on the small City-owned lot at the corner of Ceres and Bow Streets to include seating, landscaping, pedestrian scale lighting and additional site amenities, as well as resurfacing and drainage improvements. The Ceres Street sidewalk will also be reconstructed and the public portion of Ceres Street will be resurfaced. The City has been working closely with the adjacent property owners and, as a result, the passageway between the Bow Street buildings and the Piscataqua River will also be resurfaced. Contact: 766-1441.

PARKING INPUT SOUGHT

The City's Parking Committee will host a Sept. 30 public input session regarding a proposal to reduce parking enforcement hours by 1 hour to end at 6 p.m., rather than 7 p.m., but increase the on-street parking meter rate from 75 cents to \$1 per hour. The session begins at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The committee is evaluating whether to recommend that the City Council adopt the changes. They would not be effective before July 1, 2010, even if the Council approves them after holding a public hearing. Contact: 766-1440.

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION CODE UPDATES

The Inspection Department is in the process of adopting new city construction codes. The current code books and proposed amendments may be viewed at the City Hall 3rd Floor Inspection Desk from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or at the Library's reference section. Go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/inspection to view the proposed amendments online. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments at its Oct. 5 meeting. The City currently uses the 2000 edition of the International family of codes and proposes to adopt the 2006 editions of the International building, residential, plumbing, mechanical, fire and energy conservation codes, as well as adopt updates to the State's life safety, national electric and national gas codes. For more info, contact Chief Building Inspector Rick Hopley at 610-7261.

SCHOOL FLU PRECAUTIONS

Along with offering a free seasonal flu vaccine shot or spray to all Portsmouth public schoolchildren, the School Department is urging parents and guardians to teach their children steps to prevent the spread of flu. They include frequent washing of hands with soap and water, covering coughs or sneezes, not sharing such personal items as drinks and food, knowing the signs and symptoms of the flu, and keeping kids home if sick. The School Department said it is working closely with state agencies to monitor H1N1 flu conditions. For more info, contact your child's school nurse.

RECORDS DIVISION CHANGES

The Police Department has changed the hours of its Records Division public window to better accommodate the public, as well as the Division's increasing workload. The window is now closed on Mondays, but open from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, making staff available to the public before regular business hours. Information on the Division, including accident or incident report request forms and fees, can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/recordsdivision.htm. Contact: 610-7400.

NEW LIBRARY DISPLAY

Don't miss the Library's new Sustainability and "Carbon Challenge" display of books related to how you can save money and reduce your carbon footprint. Borrow books ranging from "Green Chic: Saving the Earth in Style" and "Shopping with a Conscience" to "A Healthy House" and the "The Homeowners Guide to Energy Independence." The display, mounted in connection with Portsmouth's carbon challenge with the city of Keene, is located on the second floor across from the Reference Desk. If you haven't taken the challenge, which could help you save up to \$800 annually, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com and click on the "Take the Carbon Challenge" link. Contact the Library at: 427-1540.

WELFARE THANK-YOU

The Welfare Department would like to thank all the individuals, civic organizations and church groups that donated to its back-to-school drive. The unprecedented response of the community has eased the burden of many families facing difficulty providing school supplies for their children while struggling to buy food and pay rent. Thanks to the generosity of the public, the Welfare Department was able to offer a wide variety of the many necessary school supplies that today's students need. By the end of the first week of school, 150 children from preschool to college age had been assisted with back-to-school needs.

FLUSHING MAINS

The Water Department will begin the fall program of flushing water mains next Monday (Sept. 21) and it is expected to continue through October. Crews open fire hydrants between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, releasing water with enough velocity to carry sediment out. It can cause a reddish tint to tap water, which may stain clothing. Residents should let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

FALL FLICKS

The Library's "Fall Flicks" series opens next Thursday night (Sept. 24) with "Trouble the Water," a documentary about Hurricane Katrina's effects on residents who could not escape New Orleans. The 93-minute film begins at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room, which offers a state-of-the-art sound system. The film was nominated for an Academy Award and intersperses gritty footage by an amateur photographer with live news reports. Contact: 427-1540.

INDOOR POOL INFO

There are still openings in most swim lessons that begin next week. Call the pool at 427-1545 for details or click on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm. Also, the Indoor Pool is now on its fall/winter/spring schedule. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm for more info or call 427-1575.

BOAT LAUNCH CLOSING

The Peirce Island Boat Launch will close for the season on Saturday, Oct. 3. For information about the launch, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/boatlaunch.htm.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Want an easy way to get to New York City for a day of fun? Registration opens at 1 p.m. on Oct. 5 at the Connie Bean Center for the Rec Department's annual fall bus trip to the Big Apple, which this year is Saturday, Nov. 7. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The bus leaves Portsmouth at 6 a.m. and returns about 11:45 p.m. Cost is \$50. The trip is limited to 50 people. Contact: 766-1483.

MEDITATION RESUMES CANCELED FOR THIS MONTH

The monthly free, guided meditation classes with Martha Nossif at the Library will resume on the first Monday in October, Oct. 5, 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.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The fall Portsmouth Community Education brochure with offerings available between Oct. 13 and Dec. 17 is now online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/PortsAdultEd_Fall2009.pdf.

SCARECROWS OF THE PORT

Residents and businesses are invited to participate in Portsmouth's 2nd Annual Scarecrows of the Port harvest celebration by decorating a scarecrow and displaying it from Oct. 17-31. To learn more, visit www.scarecrowsoftheport.com or call 436-4146.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Register now to vote in the Nov. 3 municipal elections by going to the City Clerk's office at City Hall between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or you can register on Election Day. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm for details, including what information is necessary to register. Voting will be between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. for City Council (9 positions), the Police and Fire Commissions (2 each), and the School Board (5). Citizens for Voter Education will hold Candidates' Nights on Oct. 21 and Oct. 28 in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The events will be televised live on Channel 22. Contact: 610-7207.

POLICE PROMOTIONS

The Police Commission recently promoted Sergeant Russell Russo and Sergeant Michael Maloney to the rank of lieutenant. Russo joined the Department in 1993 and has served in a number of areas, including the Detective and Patrol Divisions. He also is the Honor Guard Commander and coaches varsity football at Portsmouth High. Russo will now serve in the Patrol Division. Maloney joined the Department in 1998 and has been a member of the Patrol Division, most recently serving as Patrol Sergeant, and is a member of the Seacoast Emergency Response Team. He will serve in the Detective Division.

SCHOOL MASTER CALENDAR

The School Department has an online "All Schools Activities Calendar" that lists events at the High School, Middle School and elementary schools. The calendar can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm.

BOARD VACANCIES

There are a number of openings for volunteers on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. For a list of the openings, the duties of the boards and commissions, and how to apply, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

ROADWORK

The Raleigh Way Streetscape Project continues with the installation of concrete sidewalks, tree planting, and loam and seed work. Also, the final coat of asphalt will be applied during the next two weeks. City work projects may cause temporary traffic delays during work hours. Weather and other factors can cause project delays. Info on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 766-1412.

Mark your calendar... (4 items)

The first Middle School dance of the new school year is Oct. 2 and the hours this year are 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. City Hall offices, including the Library, will be closed Monday, Oct. 12, in recognition of Columbus Day. Portsmouth Schools also will be closed Oct. 9 for a Teacher Convention. The 15th Annual Halloween Costume Monster Mash Family Dance is Oct. 31.

Did you know...

There are some great places to take nature walks in Portsmouth, including the Great Bog. This area of over 500 acres is home to one of the more unique wetland areas in the region that can be enjoyed from fairly well-established trails. The Great Bog is actually a seepage swamp, purifying water while it filters through the ground to the aquifer below. The best access to the Great Bog is through the Buckminster Way neighborhood off of Ocean Road south of the Route 95 overpass. At Heather Lane, you'll see a few posts marking the entrance to the Great Bog and a signboard a little farther down the pathway. The trail heads down a hill, through a slightly wet area, then back up a hill to the location of an old farm.

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 CALENDARS: The School Department's Activities Calendar for all schools is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm. A link to the Portsmouth High fall sports schedule is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.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 from 8 a.m. to 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 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.