

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*

STATUE DEDICATION—TOMORROW NIGHT

Everyone is invited to the formal dedication and unveiling of the “Vigilance” sculpture and fountain at the Central Fire Station tomorrow evening (Thursday, Oct. 15). The event begins at 6:30 p.m. at the 170 Court Street station. The City began the campaign to raise funds for the monument five years ago. The sculpture and fountain were designed by Emile Birch, a well-known artist from Canaan, NH. To RSVP, contact 610-7353 or tefreeman@cityofportsmouth.com.

FLU SHOTS

Portsmouth Regional Hospital and the City of Portsmouth have teamed up to offer a seasonal flu shot clinic Saturday (Oct. 17) from noon to 3 p.m. at Portsmouth High School. Flu shots are \$30 unless covered by accepted insurance plans. Participants must be 9 years of age or older. This is a vaccine that protects against the seasonal flu but does not confer protection against H1N1, also known as “swine flu.” More info on the clinic is at www.cityofportsmouth.com.

FALL PRECAUTIONS

As the days grow shorter and darkness creeps more into commuting times, the Police Department is urging motorists to be extra attentive to their surroundings. It will soon be dark when children are leaving athletic practices and people are getting out of work so drivers need to use extra caution in order to prevent tragic accidents.

STATE STREET TRAFFIC INTERRUPTIONS

Work is scheduled to begin next week on the yearlong, \$3.7 million State Street Utilities Upgrade and Roadway Improvement Project along the corridor between Pleasant Street and the Memorial Bridge, and some traffic interruptions should be expected. There will be only one lane of traffic open during water line installation at the Pleasant Street intersection, but water service should not be disrupted. Crews next will begin installing sewer, drainage and stormwater devices at the Marcy Street intersection. Once work begins, regular updates will be posted at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/9.htm. All local businesses will remain open and accessible during the construction work. Contact: 766-1413.

BARTLETT STREET WORK

Construction work is beginning in the Bartlett Street area to install new water, sewer and drainage pipes in a yearlong project that will eventually include a portion of Islington Street at the intersection of Bartlett Street and also at Islington Street and Jewell Court. Most of the pipe installation during the first months will be conducted at night between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. to minimize disruptions to traffic and area businesses. Motorists are urged to be attentive to changes in traffic patterns and road surface conditions. Contact: 766-1413.

NPR'S BILL LITTLEFIELD TO SPEAK

Nationally known author and veteran sports commentator Bill Littlefield, host of the National Public Radio show “Only A Game,” will speak at the Library a week from Monday on Oct. 26, and sign copies of his book by the same name. The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. The program can be heard locally at 7 a.m. Saturday mornings on NHPR (89.1) and WBUR (90.9). To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm#littlefield or contact 427-1540.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are now available for the Nov. 3 municipal election. Applications may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm#a-ballots for registered voters unable to get to the polls in person between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day because they will be working, out of town, or request an absentee ballot due to religious observance or physical disability. To be counted, absentee ballots must be returned to the City Clerk's Office in person by 5 p.m. on Nov. 2 or by mail by 5 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3. Sample ballots may be viewed at the Clerk's Office, City Hall Public

Notice Board, Library and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm#sample. All nine City Council positions, five School Board openings and two positions each on the Fire and Police Commissions are up for election. Contact: 610-7245.

CANDIDATE NIGHTS

The Citizens for Voter Education group is sponsoring a “Candidates Night” at City Hall next Wednesday (Oct. 21) for those running for Fire Commission, Police Commission and the School Board in the Nov. 3 election, and another for City Council candidates the following week on Oct. 28. The forums begin at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers and will be televised live on Cable Channel 22. They will be rebroadcast on Oct. 24, Oct. 31 and on Monday, Nov. 2, all at 7 p.m. Contact Citizens for Voter Education at 431-0051. The Friends of the South End will hold a forum for City Council candidates Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. at the Library following a refreshment period beginning at 6:30 p.m. Contact Steering Committee member Lee-Ann McQuilken at 430-4096 for more info. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm for general election information.

PRESERVING MEMORIES

In recognition of National Archives Month, the Library is offering a free workshop on “Preserving Memories: Maintaining Family Photographs and Memorabilia” at 2 p.m. next Sunday (Oct. 25) in the Hilton Garden Room. Professional archivist Melissa Mannon, owner of ArchivesInfo, will discuss how to care for family treasures so they can be passed down to future generations, explain what makes items deteriorate, and how to identify, organize, preserve and document personal papers. The workshop is limited to 20. Register at the Reference Desk or call 766-1720. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm#preserving.

DELAYED OPENING

Next Wednesday, Oct. 21, is a scheduled Portsmouth Public School delayed opening when students come to school two hours late according to the established delayed opening schedule in each school. Teachers will be using the time for focused professional development to better meet the needs of all students and increase student learning. Additional information is posted at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm.

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

The approximately 1,660 students at Portsmouth’s middle and elementary schools are being urged to walk to school on Thursday, Oct. 29, as part of the celebration of International Walk to School Day. The event begins 30 minutes before the start of the school day with kids, parents and community leaders walking from a location approximately one-half mile from each school and arriving at the school approximately 15 minutes later for a celebration. The event is sponsored by Portsmouth’s Safe Routes to School Committee. Contact: 766-1415.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COURSE

A free national course on developing SRTS for walking and bicycling, which will conclude with making an action plan for the Middle School, is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (snacks and lunch will be provided) at the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at City Hall. Students, parents, school officials, community leaders, fire and police officials and neighbors are urged to register by next Friday (Oct. 23) by sending an e-mail to dafinnigan@cityofportsmouth.com or call 766-1415.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL MEETING

There will be an Oct. 28 citywide meeting to present draft recommendations for Safe Routes to School sidewalk and intersection improvements, education and encouragement programs, and better enforcement near the City’s elementary and Middle Schools, as well as St. Patrick School. The meeting, a follow-up to workshops held earlier this month, begins at 7 p.m. at the Middle School. Contact: 766-1415.

ADULT SWIM CLASSES

Adult swim classes are back! Tuesday evening “Advanced Beginner” and “Stroke Proficiency” classes begin next Tuesday (Oct. 20) and continue through Dec. 8. Classes are \$30 for residents, \$15 for residents who are pool members, \$50 for non-resident pool members and \$85 for non-residents. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm or call 427-1546.

MORE REC NEWS

Registration for Grades 1-4 girls' and boys' Rec Department youth basketball leagues is Oct. 26-30, 1 p.m.-7 p.m., at the Connie Bean Center. Cost is \$30. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-4.htm or call 766-1483. Don't forget to check out the Indoor Pool (www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm) and the adult Rec Center at Spinnaker Point (www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/spoint.htm). A number of great programs are offered at these facilities, with both open over 80 hours per week. Also, parents and Middle School students are reminded to make sure those attending the Rec Department's Middle School dances bring their school identification cards, which speeds up the process for entering the dance. Contact: 766-1483.

SCARECROWS OF THE PORT

The 2nd annual "Scarecrows of the Port" festival begins Saturday (Oct. 17) and continues through Nov. 1. Businesses and residents are invited to participate by decorating their properties with fall harvest decorations and unique scarecrows. For more info, visit www.scarecrowsoftheport.com or call 433-4680.

HALLOWEEN INFO--UPDATE

There has been a time change for the 15th Annual Halloween Costume Monster Mash Family Dance scheduled Saturday, Oct. 31, at the Connie Bean Recreation Center. The dance will now be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. so everyone can attend the downtown Halloween Parade that begins at 7 p.m. For information on the costume dance, contact 766-1483 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm. Trick or treating in Portsmouth is Friday, Oct. 30, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARADE DEADLINE

There is a Nov. 16 application deadline for Portsmouth's 2009 illuminated Holiday Parade on Dec. 5. Applications are on the "Mayor" page on the left side of www.CityofPortsmouth.com. This year's theme is "A Portsmouth Christmas." To have an application e-mailed to you, contact parade@cityofportsmouth.com. The 6 p. m. parade will be preceded by the holiday tree lighting at 5 p.m. in Market Square. Contact: 610-7281.

TELEVISED PHS SPORTS

The Portsmouth High volleyball game against Somersworth will be broadcast Saturday (Oct. 17) on Channel 22 at 7 p.m. The Portsmouth vs. Milford football game will be shown Nov. 7 at 7 p.m., and Portsmouth's volleyball game against Oyster River will be shown on Nov. 14, also at 7 p.m. None of the games are broadcast live. For the full PHS athletic schedule, click on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

"DOUBT"

The movie "Doubt," which was nominated for five Academy Awards, is the next film in the Library's "Fall Flicks" series and will be shown next Thursday (Oct. 22) at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Set in 1964, the movie starring Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman centers on a nun who confronts a priest after suspecting him of abusing a black student. Contact: 427-1540.

PEIRCE ISLAND VACANCIES

The Peirce Island Committee needs four new members. It meets on the second Monday of the month for approximately one hour and reviews preservation, enhancement and funding for the Island. There are a number of openings for volunteers on the City's additional volunteer boards and commissions. For a list of openings, the duties of many of the boards and commissions, and how to apply, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/BoardsCommissions.htm or call 610-7245.

ROADWORK

Work continues on the Ceres Street improvements and waterfront park, as well as the Commercial Alley (Market Street to Penhallow Street) Reconstruction Project where a new drain line and planters will be installed with new brick work throughout. The Commercial Alley project is expected to take approximately three weeks to complete. Sidewalk replacement on Deer and High Streets is expected to finish up next week. Be aware that 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.

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.

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