

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

### **THANKSGIVING SCHEDULES**

City offices, the Library and schools are closed tomorrow (Thursday, Nov. 26) and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. Schools dismiss early and the Library closes at 5:30 p.m. today (Wednesday). All Rec Department facilities are closed on Thanksgiving. The Connie Bean Center and Indoor Pool are closed Friday, but Spinnaker Point will be open. There are changes to curbside collection due to the holiday: Thursday's collection of solid waste and recycling is taking place today (Wednesday) and there is no yard waste collection for the rest of this week. All yard waste collection ends next Friday, Dec. 4.

### **THANKSGIVING SAFETY**

The Health Department reminds everyone there are no holidays for food-borne bacteria so be mindful of food safety in preparing holiday feasts. Two government food safety agencies and the non-profit Partnership for Food Safety Education have unveiled [www.holidayfoodsafety.org](http://www.holidayfoodsafety.org) filled with tips, recipes and food safety advice, as well as kid's activities and handy shopping organizers and checklists. The Meat and Poultry Hotline operated by USDA, 1-800-MPHOTLINE, will be staffed Thanksgiving Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Consumers also can consult a virtual Food Safety Information Service representative 24 hours a day at [www.fsis.usda.gov/food\\_safety\\_education/ask\\_karen/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/food_safety_education/ask_karen/). The FDA Hotline, 1-888-SAFEFOOD, is available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by email at [consumer@FDA.gov](mailto:consumer@FDA.gov). Have a food-safe holiday season!

### **TREE LIGHTING & PARADE**

Everyone is invited to the annual Holiday Tree lighting ceremony and 2009 Illuminated Holiday Parade next Saturday, Dec. 5. The Market Square tree lighting begins at 5 p.m. with holiday music, followed by the countdown to the lighting that ushers in the start of the downtown holiday season. Floats, walking units, bands and, of course, Santa Claus will step off from Plaza 800 at 6 p.m. and travel through downtown. The route is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/holiday-parade.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/holiday-parade.htm). Streets closed to parking and/or traffic between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. will be listed at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com). Postal patrons are urged to pick up their mail downtown by 4 p.m. Contact: 610-7281.

### **HOLIDAY EVENTS PARKING**

A \$3 flat-rate parking fee will be collected from each vehicle entering the High-Hanover Parking Garage on Saturday, December 5, between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Payment upon entry to the facility is expected to reduce delays for those leaving after the Tree Lighting, Holiday Parade and other downtown activities.

### **WINNING FIRE STATION**

The new District Two Fire Station project on Lafayette Road has been selected as a "Building of America Award" winner and is scheduled to be featured in the upcoming publication "Green Building of America-Northeast Green" edition. Each project featured will show how it is making a difference for its community through sustainable elements. The City's newest fire station is scheduled to be completed and ready for operations next spring.

### **NEW HISTORIC MARKERS**

The City of Portsmouth recently installed five new historic markers. One commemorating the "Great Fires of Portsmouth" was installed in the pocket park at Atkinson and Court Streets. A "Portsmouth Pier and Wharves" sign was placed in Prescott Park near the waterfront at the base of the Peirce Island Bridge. Another new marker in Prescott Park, this one near the waterfront at the parking area nearest the Memorial Bridge, is for the Sheafe Warehouse. There is a "Liberty Pole and Bridge" marker now on Marcy Street in a landscaped bed adjacent to the Liberty Pole and a "South Ropewalk" marker was installed on South Street, at the Haven School playground near Johnson Court. For more info, contact: 610-7226.

### ***ANNUAL REPORT HONORS***

The City's Annual Report recently received second place for Excellence in Annual Reports in the NH Local Government Center's annual competition for its report for the 2008 budget year, marking the second consecutive year of honors. Prior to Fiscal Year 2005, there had been no annual report in Portsmouth for almost two decades. Portsmouth's annual reports are online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm).

### ***YARD WASTE***

Weekly curbside collection of fall yard waste ends next Friday, Dec. 4. Yard waste pickup is the same day as trash and recycling collection. Bring yard waste to the Recycling Center year-round, although the extended Recycling Center hours on Tuesdays have ended for the year. See

[www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-ywi.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-ywi.htm) or call 427-1530.

### ***SENIOR CITIZENS ACADEMY***

The final Citizen Police Academy for Senior Citizens seminar is next Thursday morning (Dec. 3). There will be a Taser demonstration, Portsmouth District Judge Sawako Gardner will speak and information will be presented about various organizations and agencies that provide services relevant to area senior citizens. There is no need to pre-register for the free academy that begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Library's Levenson Room and is sponsored by the Police Department and Crime Stoppers. Coffee, pastries and juice will be provided. Contact: 610-7612.

### ***HOLIDAY HELP***

Do you feel like you are able to give a little extra during the holidays? Adopting a family for the holidays may be more than you can offer from your time or your pocketbook. Local programs are often unable to provide Christmas gifts to older children and teenagers and many of their parents seek help from the Welfare Department. Gift cards, in any denomination, from any store, are always appreciated. Hats, gloves, and socks for adults would be most welcomed. Your donations will go directly to needy Portsmouth citizens. Contact Ellen at 610-7267 or [etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com).

### ***CITYWIDE DECORATING***

The Portsmouth Holiday House Decorating Contest sponsored by the Portsmouth Citywide Neighborhood Committee is back! Neighborhood residents should submit their favorites by Dec. 14 to Steering Committee Chair Cristy Cardoso at [CNCChair@gmail.com](mailto:CNCChair@gmail.com). On Tuesday, December 15, members of the Citywide Neighborhood Committee will travel Portsmouth to view and judge all homes on the Favorites list. Creativity is encouraged and residents are reminded to keep their holiday decorations plugged in for judging! On Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. Cardoso and municipal officials will announce the winners on Portsmouth Community Radio WSCA LP 106.1. Contact: [CNCChair@gmail.com](mailto:CNCChair@gmail.com) or 433-5059.

### ***HOLIDAY CONCERTS***

The Middle School Concert is Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Portsmouth High School auditorium (snow date Dec. 11). The All-City Concert is Monday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. in the PHS auditorium (snow date Dec. 22).

### ***ALL ABOARD!***

Tickets for the Dec. 12 "Holiday Express" are now on sale for \$6 each and \$20 per family at all three elementary schools and the Community Campus. The North Pole has been busy preparing for the trains to arrive this year, so don't miss your chance to see the holiday classic from author Chris Van Allsburg, "The Polar Express," come to life before your eyes! The event begins at 4 p.m. and hundreds of children and "children at heart" are expected to hop on board. Proceeds go toward literacy programs in our schools and the Patricia N. Wojnar Scholarship. Tickets won't last long. Contact: Amy Noble at the Central Office at 431-5080.

### ***FREE METERS DOWNTOWN***

The City Council has authorized the traditional free holiday parking period at downtown meters from Monday, Dec. 14, through Saturday, Jan. 2. However, posted time limits at metered spaces will be enforced. If you want to spend more time downtown than meters allow, consider using the High-Hanover Parking Facility. Downtown merchants with a blue sticker with the letter "P" in their storefront windows belong to the Downtown Parking Validation Program and can provide customers with up to four hours of free garage parking. Contact: 766-1440.

### **LETTERS TO SANTA**

Santa is waiting to hear from your children! If they write to him between Dec. 1 and Dec. 19, Santa will send a letter in reply. Send letters to: Santa Claus at the North Pole, 135 Daniel Street, Portsmouth, NH, 03801. Make sure your child's letter includes a full name and return address so that Santa can write back!

### **GREEN HOLIDAYS**

There are many ways to make the holiday season more "green." Avoid using disposable dishes and utensils when entertaining. Place easily identifiable recycling and compost containers at your celebration so guests can recycle soda cans, bottles, and paper products, and compost food scraps. When shopping, tell store clerks you don't need a bag for small or oversized purchases, or bring your own, to help reduce the thousands of shopping bags that end up in landfills every year. To learn more about the City's sustainability initiatives, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm). And don't forget to take the Carbon Challenge at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) so you can save up to \$800, we can beat Keene and you can win prizes by forwarding the receipt to [carbonchallenge@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:carbonchallenge@cityofportsmouth.com).

### **YOUTH BASKETBALL INFO**

Registration for boys and girls in grades 7-12 who want to play recreation league basketball this winter will be held Nov. 30-December 4 at the Connie Bean Center from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Leagues are broken down into middle and high school divisions. The cost is \$30 for residents and \$50 for non-residents from Newington, Newcastle, Rye and Greenland, only. Contact: 766-1483. The Connie Bean is now open on Sundays for open court basketball play from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for children in grades K-5 and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for grades 6-12.

### **HANDMADE NATION PREMIERE**

The Seacoast premiere of the indie film "Handmade Nation" is next Saturday (Dec. 5) at 2 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. The Library and Goodwill Industries of Northern New England will host the free screening of the 65-minute documentary that chronicles the rise of do-it-yourself art, craft and design. It will be followed by a cupcakes and coffee reception where attendees can peruse a curated display of vintage and new art/craft/design books from the Library's collection. Goodwill encourages artists and crafters to visit its stores as a resource for recycled art and crafting. Contact the Library at 427-1540.

### **"WORDS OF FIRE"**

Chautauqua performance storyteller Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti will visit the Library Dec. 9 to perform as Maria W. Stewart delivering her famous 1832 speech in Boston. Stewart was the first African-American woman to author a political manifesto, break the taboo against women's participation in public political dialogues, and lecture in defense of women's rights. The event held in collaboration with the NH Humanities Council begins at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Stewart was a pioneer black abolitionist, a woman of profound religious faith, a champion of women's rights, and a forerunner to Fredrick Douglas, Sojourner Truth and Frances Harper. Contact: 427-1540.

### **STAR TREK**

You can go back in science fiction time when the Library's "Fall Flicks" series concludes Thursday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. with "Star Trek." The 127-minute, PG-13 movie chronicles the early days of James T. Kirk and his fellow USS Enterprise crew members and contains stunning special effects. The movie will be shown in the Levenson Room. Contact: 427-1540

### **DIVE-IN MOVIES**

The Indoor Pool will be featuring two "Dive-In Movies" in December – "Jaws" on Dec. 10 and "Finding Nemo" on Dec. 15, both from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., for moviegoers 13 and up who will watch from inner tubes in the darkened pool or from the pool deck. Cost is \$5 for Portsmouth residents and pool members, \$8 for everyone else. Pizza slices and drinks will be sold for \$1 each. Maximum of 40 participants who must pre-register and pay in advance at the pool's front desk.

### **PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

Bring your children ages 6 to 11 (12 if attending with a younger sibling) to the Indoor Pool for swimming and fun for four hours on Saturday, Dec. 19, while you shop or have dinner exactly a week before Christmas. Drop

them off between 5 and 6 p.m. and pick them up at 9 p.m. The \$10 cost includes pizza, snacks and drinks. Kids can swim until 7:15 p.m. and then watch a movie or decorate holiday cards. The event is limited to 30 children and parents must sign up and pay in advance at the pool's front desk, beginning at noon on Dec. 1 for residents, and on Dec. 8 for non-residents. Contact: 427-1546.

### ***SPINNAKER REDONE***

The Spinnaker Point Adult Rec Center has reopened after a week of maintenance. The facility had a makeover with new carpeting, flooring and painting in the pool area. Stop by the facility and check it out. Both Spinnaker and the Indoor Pool are offering gift certificates for the holidays. Stop in at either facility and pick up gift certificates to help you and your loved ones stay fit.

### ***MORE POOL ACTIVITIES***

Portsmouth residents may sign up beginning Dec. 14 for the January session of swim lessons for all ages, and non-residents may do so beginning Dec. 17. The schedule will be available by Dec. 11 at the Indoor Pool and online at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm>. Registration opens Dec. 1 for the Red Cross Lifeguard Training Course that will be held in January on Sundays and either Wednesdays or Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Space is limited. Also, the Indoor Pool will close at 4 p.m. on Christmas and New Year's Eve and be closed all day on Christmas and New Year's Day. It will be open for normal hours on other days, except that a Holiday Open Swim is being added for Thursday, Dec. 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Contact: 427-1546.

### ***SWIMMING TECHNIQUE CLINICS***

The Indoor Pool will offer a swimming technique clinic Dec. 1 and on Dec. 3, 5:30 to 7 p.m. You can watch stroke technique videos and have your swimming videotaped so you can see how it compares. General technique tips will be given by two on-deck coaches who will do the analyzing. This is not a super-detailed analysis session and participants may drop in at any time during the time period. Due to the popularity of this event, two days are being offered. Two underwater time-delay cameras will be used: one on each side of the pool. There will be a third monitor showing stroke technique videos on deck. Cost is \$4 for residents and pool members, \$6 for everyone else. Contact: 427-1546.

### ***MORE POLICE PROMOTIONS***

The Portsmouth Police Commission recently promoted Sergeants Mark Newport and Darrin Sargent to the rank of lieutenant. Newport has been with the department for over 14 years as a patrol officer and a detective. He has received numerous awards and commendations, including two Congressional Awards for Outstanding Performance of Duty, and will serve as a lieutenant in the Patrol Division. Sergeant has been a police officer for 14 years, 10 of them in the Portsmouth PD's Patrol Division. He has been assigned to serve as the lieutenant of Personnel and Training.

### ***POLICE EXPLORER HONORS***

The Portsmouth Police Explorers Post recently received NH's 2009 "Community Service Post of the Year" for donating over 1,500 hours of community service. This is the second consecutive year the post received the award. Also, Captain Kyle Brake received the "Learning for Life Leadership Award" and the Silver "E" Award, the state's highest award for an individual Explorer cadet. Cadets Brian Jowett and Micah Beringer received the "Career Achievement Award in Law Enforcement"; the post's advisor, Detective Robert Munson, also received the Golden "E" Award; and former Chief Mike Magnant received the William Spurgess Award for his years of service to Exploring. For more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/explorer/index.html](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/explorer/index.html) or contact Scott Study at 610-7653.

### ***PARKING COUPONS***

With winter approaching, Portsmouth residents are urged to obtain coupons now that will allow them to pay just \$3 if they park at the High-Hanover Parking Facility during snow emergencies and snow removal periods. Proof of residency is required to obtain the coupons from the Parking Office at City Hall (open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). The coupons can be used only by the person to whom they are issued. Residents must present a coupon and show identification to the parking attendant to receive the \$3 rate payable upon exiting the garage. Contact: 610-7229.

### ***PARKING EASE***

If you're looking for a way to make your Portsmouth parking experience easier, check out the new prepaid "iPark" in-vehicle electronic parking device that allows drivers to park at any Portsmouth meter without having to visit it to insert money. The device may be purchased for \$25 from the City Hall Parking Services Office or from the iPark link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation). Parking time may be purchased online in \$25, \$50 or \$100 increments, plus a service charge. See the iPark link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation) or contact: 766-1440.

### ***MORE PAY & DISPLAY METERS***

Single space parking meters are being replaced by Pay & Display parking meters in the following locations: Pleasant Street, from Court to Market Square; Daniel Street, from Chapel Street to Market Square; Wright Ave. Lot; Congress Street angled parking area; Ladd Street Lot; Hanover Street Lot; and Deer Street, from High Street to Market Street. These replacements are anticipated to be complete by the end of next week. Contact: 766-1440.

### ***ROADWORK***

Construction for the Bow-Ceres Streets Project will wrap up for the winter by mid-December, with the remaining work planned for early spring. As always, weather and other factors can cause project delays. Info on City road projects is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm](http://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](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com), or the Meetings Calendar at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2009/index.htm](http://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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm). A link to the Portsmouth High sports schedule is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm](http://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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) or on the local government cable Channel 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com).*