

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*

***WEATHER POSTPONEMENTS -- TONIGHT***

Due to inclement weather, tonight's Middle School Concert is rescheduled to tomorrow (Dec. 10) at 7 p.m. in the Portsmouth High School auditorium. Also, the Library performance of Chautauqua storyteller Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti performing as Maria W. Stewart has been postponed and likely will be rescheduled in the spring. Contact the Library at 427-1540.

***HOLIDAY EXPRESS -- CANCELED***

The Portsmouth "Holiday Express" event scheduled Saturday (Dec. 12) has been canceled. Contact: 431-5080.

***H1N1 CLINIC***

The Greater Portsmouth All Health Hazards Region and the Families First Health and Support Center are sponsoring an H1N1 Influenza Clinic, by appointment only, for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland, Rye, North Hampton, New Castle and Newington on Saturday (Dec. 12) from 9 a.m. until noon at Families First on 100 Campus Drive. Individuals eligible to receive vaccinations include those ages 6 months to 24, adults ages 25 to 64 with underlying health problems, pregnant women, healthcare workers and anyone who cares for or lives with infants younger than 6 months (including partners of pregnant women). To make an appointment to receive the free vaccine, call 610-8477. For more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/h1n1clinic.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/h1n1clinic.htm).

***PUBLIC ACCESS TV BOARD***

The City Council has endorsed the Cable Commission's plan to form a nonprofit organization to introduce public access television to Portsmouth and to make a cable channel available when it is established. The new endeavor, to be called Portsmouth Public Media, Inc., will also make programming available via the Internet. The next step is to establish a Board of Directors and individuals with communications, arts, nonprofit board, financial, and legal experience are encouraged to apply. To learn more and download an application, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/cable.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/cable.htm). An information meeting for interested candidates is planned Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Library.

***HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS***

Every year, the Welfare Department receives requests from needy Portsmouth residents seeking help to buy holiday gifts for their children who do not qualify for other traditional holiday assistance programs. There are more requests than ever this year, but fewer donations. Please consider donating a gift card for \$5, \$10, \$15 but no more than \$25 to help these families. Contact Welfare at 610-7267 or [etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com).

***HOLIDAY PARADE BROADCAST***

A videotape of the 2009 Portsmouth Illuminated Holiday Parade will be broadcast at 7 p.m. this Saturday (Dec. 12) and next Saturday (Dec. 19) on local government cable Channel 22. More than 60 floats, bands, vehicles and walking units participated in the Dec. 5 event. The parade broadcast is approximately 35 minutes long. Contact: 610-7281.

***FREE SPINNAKER USE***

Portsmouth residents are invited to enjoy all the amenities at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center free of charge Dec. 21 –Dec. 31 just by showing proof of residency. Spinnaker offers cardio equipment, weight room, indoor pool, hot tub, steam room and sauna, running track, basketball court, fitness classes and much more. Also, college students who are Portsmouth residents may use the facility anytime for a \$1 daily fee by displaying their driver's license and college ID card. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) HEARING***

The Citizens Advisory Committee plans Thursday (Dec. 10) to hold the first of two sessions to solicit public input on the CDBG Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2011 to 2015, and also the Annual Action Plan for FY 2011, regarding the City's housing and community development needs. The public hearing begins at 6 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. CDBG projects must benefit Portsmouth families who earn very low, low or moderate incomes. Funds also can be used for projects in neighborhoods where more than half of the residents earn low or moderate incomes and to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Contact: 610-7226.

### ***REC FIELDS SESSION***

The Recreation Board has scheduled another community input session for the Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study, this one focusing on outdoor recreation fields, next Wednesday (Dec. 16) at 6:30 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Needs assessment findings related to the outdoor fields will be presented and the public is invited to ask questions and make comments. Additional information on the study and a form to comment online can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/parksinput.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/parksinput.htm). Future sessions will be scheduled on indoor facilities and pools. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***DOWNTOWN EVENTS***

The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Downtown Events wants your opinion! The 13-member panel was formed to examine the pros and cons of downtown events and their impact on downtown life and economic activity. The public is invited to submit comments at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/downtownevents.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/downtownevents.htm) through Dec. 31. Comments that are specific, and provide quantitative and qualitative input, will be most appreciated. The committee also will be soliciting input at a public meeting to be scheduled in January 2010.

### ***FREE DECEMBER COMPUTER CLASSES***

The December computer class schedule for the Library's free, hands-on computer classes is now online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm). Each class is a onetime workshop that can be repeated if necessary. To register for a class, call 766-1720.

### ***CARBON CHALLENGE DEADLINE***

The deadline is fast approaching to take the Carbon Challenge and be eligible for prizes donated by local businesses supporting the initiative to reduce the city's carbon footprint and save households up to \$800 annually. Any Portsmouth resident who completes the brief online survey at [www.nhcarbonchallenge.org](http://www.nhcarbonchallenge.org) and forwards a copy of the confirmation receipt to [CarbonChallenge@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:CarbonChallenge@cityofportsmouth.com) is eligible for a drawing when Portsmouth's friendly competition with Keene draws to a close at the end of December. Prizes include a \$40 Portsmouth Brewery gift certificate, a \$25 "market money" certificate that can be redeemed at any Seacoast Growers Association farmers' market, and Music Hall tickets, among others. Contact: 610-7215.

### ***GIFT TO THE ENVIRONMENT***

Did you know that Americans generate 25% more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's than during the rest of the year? You can help reduce holiday trash through such simple steps as putting purchases from more than one store in the same shopping bag, buying rechargeable batteries for gifts, sending holiday e-greetings instead of cards, reusing packing "peanuts," and recycling ribbons, bows and package decorations from year to year.

### ***STAR TREK AT THE LIBRARY***

The Library's "Fall Flicks" series concludes at 7 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, Dec. 10) 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

### ***JAWS, FINDING NEMO AT THE POOL***

The Indoor Pool is holding movie nights featuring "Jaws" tomorrow (Thursday, Dec. 10) and "Finding Nemo" next Tuesday (Dec. 15) where spectators 13 and over can watch from inner tubes in the darkened pool if they can pass the deep water test, or from the pool deck. The events are from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and the cost is \$5 for pool members and Portsmouth residents, and \$8 for everyone else. Pizza slices and drinks will be sold for \$1

each. The event is limited to 40 participants who must buy their tickets in advance at the pool's front desk. Contact: 427-1546.

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

Portsmouth residents may sign up beginning next Monday (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 this Friday at the Indoor Pool and online. Registration is open now for the Red Cross Lifeguard Training Course in January. Also, you can bring children ages 6 to 11 (12 if attending with a younger sibling) to the Indoor Pool for swimming and fun between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. next Saturday, Dec. 19, while you shop or have dinner. The pool is closed at 3 p.m. on Christmas and New Year's Eves and all day Christmas and New Year's Day. It will be open for normal hours on other days, except a Holiday Open Swim was added Thursday, Dec. 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more info on the December activities, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm) or call 427-1546.

### ***CITYWIDE DECORATING***

The Portsmouth Citywide Neighborhood Committee's Holiday House Decorating Contest ends next week. Residents should submit their favorites by Monday (Dec. 14) to Steering Committee Chair Cristy Cardoso at [CNCChair@gmail.com](mailto:CNCChair@gmail.com). On Tuesday, 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 Wednesday (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.

### ***FREE PARKING***

Parking is free at downtown meters beginning Monday (Dec. 14) through Saturday, January 2, thanks to the City Council. However, the posted time limits at metered spaces will be enforced. If you want to spend more time downtown than the 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.

### ***FREE COAST***

The Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) will provide free, full weekday-level service throughout the entire bus system for holiday shoppers on Dec. 19, the last Saturday before Christmas. It's part of COAST's new campaign to encourage the region to "Take a closer look at COAST." To learn more, visit [www.coastbus.org](http://www.coastbus.org) or call 743-5777, extension 103.

### ***WRITE TO SANTA***

Santa wants to hear from your children this holiday season. He'll send a reply to any child who writes to him between now and next Saturday (Dec. 19). Letters should be sent to: Santa Claus at the North Pole, 135 Daniel Street, Portsmouth, NH, 03801. Make sure the letter includes a full name and return address so Santa can write back!

### ***ALL-CITY CONCERT***

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

### ***HOLIDAY CLOSINGS***

City offices, the Library, Recreation Department facilities and the Public Works main office will be closing at 3 p.m. both on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, and New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. All City departments will be closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, and most also will be closed the day after, Dec. 26, as well as on New Year's Day. The Spinnaker Point Adult Rec Center will be open Dec. 26 and New Year's Day, however. Portsmouth schools are closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 5.

### ***CHRISTMAS TRASH***

There will be some changes to curbside collection related to the Christmas holiday. The regular Friday collection of solid waste and recycling that falls on Christmas Day has been rescheduled for Thursday, Dec. 24. Christmas trees will be collected from the curbside from January 4 through January 15 on the same day that

trash and recyclables are collected. Residents also may bring Christmas trees to the Recycling Center for disposal. For hours and more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm).

### **SPINNAKER & INDOOR POOL**

Both the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center 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. Both facilities will be selling annual memberships the first week of January. Call the pool at 427-1545 and Spinnaker at 766-1483 for more info.

### **VACATION BASKETBALL CAMPS**

Registration is underway for the youth basketball camps for boys and girls in Grades 2 to 4 being held Dec. 28 and 29, and will continue until the camps are filled. Register at the Connie Bean Center. Cost is \$10. More info is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm) or call 766-1483.

### **CITY PROJECTS**

Work continues on the State Street Reconstruction project, as well as the Bartlett & Islington Area Sewer Improvements. To see the latest information on the State Street work, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/9.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/9.htm). Information on the Bartlett & Islington Area project can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/6.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/6.htm).

### **SNOWSTORM INFO**

Coupons are available to Portsmouth residents to allow them to pay just \$3 to park in the High-Hanover Parking Facility during snow emergencies and snow removal periods. Proof of residency is required to obtain the coupons at no cost from the Parking Office at City Hall (open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). When a storm drops two inches of snow or more, the City may declare a ban on on-street parking to facilitate snow removal. The Public Works Department announces the ban on Cable Channel 22, through a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com), in announcements in the local media and on signs at all entrances to the City. The ban's end is announced the same way. A map of parking lots open during bans is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/snowbanparkinglots.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/snowbanparkinglots.htm) or contact: 610-7229.

### **VACANCIES**

There are a number of vacancies on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. For more information, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://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](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).*