

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*

### ***SOCIAL SECURITY-TONIGHT***

There will be a program on “Social Security for Baby Boomers: What You Need to Know” at 6 p.m. tonight (Wednesday, Jan. 6) in the Library’s Levenson Room. Social Security Administration Public Affairs Specialist Magda Ortiz will discuss Social Security retirement and spousal benefits and Medicare, describe the application process and answer questions about Social Security. Featured in the presentation will be the use of the Social Security web site, [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), which offers the opportunity to “Retire Online.” Contact: 427-1540.

### ***CDBG MEETING-TOMORROW NIGHT***

The Citizens Advisory Committee is seeking ideas for new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects at a hearing tomorrow (Thursday, Jan. 7) at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The information will be used to develop the Fiscal Year 2011 CDBG Annual Plan and Budget. CDBG projects must benefit Portsmouth families who earn very low, low or moderate incomes. CDBG funding also can be used to carry out projects in neighborhoods where more than half of the residents earn low or moderate incomes, and to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. For more info or to offer input, contact: 610-7226.

### ***H1N1 CLINIC***

The Greater Portsmouth All Health Hazards Region is sponsoring a free H1N1 Influenza Clinic Saturday (Jan. 9) at Rye Junior High School (501 Washington Road) for residents of Portsmouth, Rye, Greenland, New Castle, Newington and North Hampton. The clinic will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is open to everyone over six months of age. The vaccine will be either in the form of nasal mist or injection. If your child is under the age of 10, a second dose of vaccine later will be necessary for full immunity (the lapse between doses is 28 days). For more info, contact the Portsmouth Health Department at 610-8477.

### ***PORTSMOUTH WINS CARBON CHALLENGE***

Although Portsmouth is the official winner of the NH Carbon Challenge with Keene, you still can take the quick online survey at [www.nhcarbonchallenge.org](http://www.nhcarbonchallenge.org) to learn how to save up to \$800 annually and reduce your carbon footprint. According to the numbers, Portsmouth handily beat Keene in the friendly competition that began on Earth Day 2009 (April 22) and ended Dec. 31. Portsmouth residents pledged to cut nearly 1.8 million pounds of carbon emissions. The campaign was part of the City’s commitment to sustainability. To learn more, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm).

### ***CHRISTMAS TREES***

Christmas trees will be collected from the curbside through next Friday, Jan. 15, on the same day that trash and recyclables are picked up. Residents also may bring Christmas trees to the Recycling Center for disposal anytime. For more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm).

### ***BE AWARE***

December and January are the peak months for identity theft and the Portsmouth Police Department urges everyone to take precautions to protect personal information. If you shop online, submit personal information only to secure web sites and use passwords that are a combination of letters and numbers. In stores, be aware of people behind you as identity thieves often copy credit card information or use a cell phone camera to take pictures of it. Also, check credit card statements to make sure there are no unfamiliar purchases. Save credit card receipts so you can easily validate the billing statement. Contact: 427-1500.

### ***NEW COMPUTER CLASSES***

In addition to Computer Basics for Computer Novices, Microsoft Word 1 & 2 and Excel, the Internet and email, the Library is adding two new free computer classes in January: “Overdrive Downloadable Audiobooks” to learn how to use the Library’s downloadable audiobook service and “Facebook Open House for Adults” to get questions answered and share ideas about your Facebook account. To take these two new classes, you must be

reasonably comfortable using computers and the Internet. All classes are free and 1.5 hours long. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm) for more info. Call 766-1720 to register.

### ***MLK HOLIDAY CLOSURES***

City offices, schools, the Library and the Recycling Center are closed Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. However, curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables continues as usual, including in the business district.

### ***MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE***

The next Middle School dance at the Connie Bean Community Center is Friday (Jan. 8) from 7:30-9:30 p.m. It costs \$4, \$3 with Merit Card. Open to all Portsmouth Middle School students and Portsmouth residents who attend other middle schools. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***FREE MEDITATION SERIES***

A free Sunday afternoon meditation series for all levels begins this coming Sunday (Jan. 10) at the Library. The series includes eight consecutive lessons from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Levenson Room. No experience and no pre-registration required, although participants are urged to attend all eight sessions taught by Ocean Spirit Yoga owner Lily Sibley as each builds upon the previous one. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***DOWNTOWN EVENTS MEETING***

Do you think there are too many downtown events, too few or the number is just right? Make your opinion known at a public meeting next Tuesday (Jan. 12) at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The 13-member Blue Ribbon Committee was formed to examine the impact of events on downtown life and economic activity and has been soliciting public input. Contact: 610-7220.

### ***MOVIE NIGHTS RETURN***

The Library's Thursday evening Movie Nights return next week on Jan. 14 with "State of Play" starring Russell Crowe, Helen Mirren and Ben Affleck. The PG-13 movie begins at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room and is 127 minutes long. Next on the schedule is "Grey Gardens" on Jan. 28. The movie starring Jessica Lange and Drew Barrymore is based on the life stories of the eccentric aunt and first cousin of Jackie Onassis. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***PUBLIC ACCESS TV MEETING***

A Jan. 19 information meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room for those interested in being part of Portsmouth Public Media Inc., a new nonprofit organization being established to introduce public access television to Portsmouth via a cable channel and the Internet. The City Council has endorsed the Cable Commission's plan to form the organization. To learn more and download an application, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/cable.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/cable.htm).

### ***FIRE STATION ART***

The City is seeking an artist, or team of artists, to design, build and install a work(s) of art at the new Fire Station 2 on Lafayette Road as part of the City's "Percent for Art" ordinance requiring that one percent of the project's construction cost be designated for public art. The qualifications package is due Jan. 22. The selected artist or team will receive a commission of up to \$32,000 to cover all design, fabrication, transportation, documentation and installation expenses. The Request for Qualifications and application process is described in detail at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/purchasing.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/purchasing.htm).

### ***OVERNIGHT ART DEADLINE***

There is a Jan. 29 deadline to submit proposals for all forms of public art for a summer exhibition centering on the theme of "bridges" that's being sponsored by Art-Speak, the City's Cultural Commission. Winning artists receive a \$1,000 honorarium and a stipend of up to \$1,200 for all aspects of materials, fabrication, and installation/removal. Applications and additional info can be found at [www.art-speak.org](http://www.art-speak.org) or call 610-7222.

### ***LEARN A NEW GAME***

Interested in learning something new in 2010? Consider Mah Jong, the ancient Chinese game of tiles. It takes only 15 minutes to learn this fast and free game that's fun for all ages. It's taught every Saturday at the Library's

Hilton Garden Room at 10 a.m. and play continues until noon. Contact Dianne Ameen at 785-4256 or via [ameen388@hotmail.com](mailto:ameen388@hotmail.com).

### ***GET FIT***

Spinnaker Point and the Indoor Pool offer great opportunities to keep your New Year's resolutions to become more healthy and fit. If you're already a member, it's time to renew your membership. For more information about Rec facilities, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/index.htm).

### ***CALENDARS WANTED***

If you have extra 2010 calendars, the Welfare Department would be delighted to take them off your hands and distribute them to clients. It's a donation that would be used every day. Drop off the calendars at City Hall Room 206. Contact Ellen at 610-7267 or [etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com).

### ***NEW KNIT NIGHTS***

Want an opportunity to socialize with fellow knitters in the Portsmouth community and show off your projects? The Library is starting a monthly Monday night knitting group, beginning next Monday (Jan. 11), from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the McLeod Room. To learn more, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm#knitting](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm#knitting).

### ***"PAGE AND STAGE"***

Love books and the theater? Consider joining the new "Page and Stage Book Club" that offers an opportunity to compare and contrast a stage production with a similarly themed book. The club, which is being formed by the Library and the NH Theater Project, holds its first event Saturday, Jan. 16, at 5 p.m. immediately following the NHTP's afternoon performance of "Lysistrata." Club members receive \$2 off the show's admission price. The book to be discussed is "The Cellist of Sarajevo," which can be borrowed from the Library or purchased at local bookstores, and also will be the subject of the Library's Adult Book Discussion Group on May 10. For more info, contact: Sherry Evans at 427-1540.

### ***SWIM LESSONS***

A new session of swim lessons began this week, and registration opens Monday (Jan. 11) for Portsmouth residents and Tuesday, Jan. 19, for non-residents to sign up for the next session, which goes from Feb. 2-March 4. Information on swim lessons can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm) or contact: 427-1546.

### ***Mark your calendar... (1 item)***

The Rec Department's annual Father-Daughter Valentine's Dance is Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Connie Bean Center.

### ***SNOWSTORM INFO***

When the City bans on-street parking to facilitate snow removal, it's announced on Cable Channel 22, on a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com), in the local media and on signs at all entrances to the City. You can view the map of parking lots open during bans at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/snowbanparkinglots.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/snowbanparkinglots.htm). Portsmouth residents also may obtain coupons now from the Parking Office at City Hall (open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) to pay just \$3 if they park at the High-Hanover Parking Garage.

**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/2010/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2010/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).*