

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*

BUDGET HEARINGS BEGIN TONIGHT

The Fire Commission will hold a public hearing on its proposed 2010-2011 budget tonight (Wednesday, Jan. 20) at 7 p.m. at the Central Fire Station. The School Board will hold a public hearing on its proposed FY11 budget tomorrow (Thursday, Jan. 21) at 7 p.m. at Little Harbour School. The Planning Board will adopt the Capital Improvement Program portion of the budget at its 7 p.m. meeting the same evening in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The Police Commission will hold a public hearing Feb. 3 at 6 p.m., also in the Council Chambers, on its proposed budget. The hearings at City Hall also will be televised live on local Government Access Cable Channel 22. The full budget schedule is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm.

TRAVELING POLICE COMMISSION TONIGHT

The Police Commission will hold the first of four scheduled “traveling” meetings tonight (Wednesday, Jan. 20) at 7 p.m. in the Gosling Meadows Community Room at 40 Wedgewood Road and is encouraging the public to attend. The Commission intends to hold one meeting each quarter at a location outside the City Hall complex in order to provide an additional opportunity for residents to meet with their commissioners. Contact: 610-7471.

SCHOOL H1N1 CLINICS

All Portsmouth School nurses will hold free H1N1 vaccine clinics next Monday (Jan. 25) during school hours at each school for students who need the vaccine or a booster shot, as well as their parents and siblings. No pre-registration is required. For more info, contact your child's school nurse; School Department head nurse Gina LaPage at 436-7100, ext. 2938; or City Public Health Nurse Kim Coffey-Philbrick at 610-8477.

BRIDGE MEETING

There will be a meeting next Thursday (Jan. 28) to discuss the City of Portsmouth’s plans to close the Route 1A Sagamore Bridge for 16 days in the spring for repair work. City of Portsmouth representatives and the City’s consultant will be at City Hall in Conference Room A, beginning at 6:30 p.m. for public review of existing plans to be followed at 7 p.m. with a discussion of the overall project and public necessity. The repairs will not impact adjacent properties. Contact: 766-1415.

POLICE WARNING

Portsmouth Police urge everyone to remember it takes longer to slow or stop while driving on icy roads. The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds during snowy conditions. Police also say drivers should never use cruise control on slippery road conditions. Contact: 427-1500.

INSPECTION CODE BROCHURE

The Inspection Department has prepared a pamphlet that explains some of the major changes in the City of Portsmouth’s recent adoption of model construction codes adopted by the State of New Hampshire. It provides information to homeowners, contractors/developers, plumbing/mechanical contractors, and electrical contractors about the changes related to implementation of the 2006 editions of the International Building, Residential, Fire, Energy Conservation, Plumbing and Mechanical Codes, including that permits are no longer needed for re-roofing, except for the Historic District. You can download a copy of the brochure from the link here www.cityofportsmouth.com/inspection/index.htm or pick up a copy at the Inspection Department on the 3rd floor of City Hall. Contact: 610-7243.

LEAK DETECTION

The City is in the process of obtaining a new leak detection device to help monitor the over 180 miles of drinking water pipes in Portsmouth. The electronic listening system will be able to alert the City’s Water Department to leaks before they pop up in the street. The new system is expected to be operational by spring. The device also can help in determining where water is leaving water pipes when it shouldn’t, saving water and money.

PUBLIC ACCESS TV BOARD

There is a Jan. 28 deadline to apply to be part of the Board of Directors for Portsmouth Public Media, Inc., a nonprofit organization being formed with the support of the City Council and Cable Commission to introduce public access television to Portsmouth. The new endeavor also will make programming available via the Internet. To learn more and download an application, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/cable.htm.

DEEP WINTER FILM SERIES

The Library's "Deep Winter" film series continues next Thursday (Jan. 28) with the showing of "Grey Gardens" starring Jessica Lange and Drew Barrymore. The 103-minute film is based on the life stories of the eccentric aunt and first cousin of Jackie Onassis. Next up is "Bright Star" on Feb. 11. Movies begin at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm#winterflicks or contact: 427-1540.

OVERNIGHT ART DEADLINE

The deadline to submit proposals for the bridges-themed public art exhibition planned this summer by Art-Speak, the City's cultural commission, is next Friday, Jan. 29. 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 are at www.art-speak.org or call 610-7222.

RAIN BARRELS COMING

The City has been awarded \$55,000 in stimulus funding to initiate a rain barrel program in the spring that will allow Portsmouth residents to buy rain barrels at the City's cost, a significant discount from the retail price. Placing a rain barrel beneath the gutters of your home can save about 1,300 gallons of water during the summer months. A typical half-inch rainfall can fill a 55-gallon rain barrel, which can be connected to a soaker hose or you can fill a watering can from it to water flowers, the garden or wash your car. To learn more about the City's sustainability efforts, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm.

MORE OPEN SWIM TIME

The Indoor Pool is adding an hour to the Open Swim schedule on Sundays to give families a larger window in which to swim. The Adult Lap Swim time will be moved to an hour earlier. The new schedule calls for Adult Lap Swim from noon to 1:30 p.m. and Open Swim will now go from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. The new schedule will continue until late June when the Indoor Pool closes on weekends for the summer. Contact: 427-1546.

SWIM LESSONS

Registration has begun for the next series of swim lessons, which begins Feb. 2 and goes through March 4. There are no classes the week of Feb. 22 due to school vacation. Swim lesson details can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm or contact: 427-1546.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The new Portsmouth Community Education Brochure is filled with a broad range of fun and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes and workshops taking place on various dates between Feb. 15 and April 22. Click on the "Portsmouth Community Education" link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm for details.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Portsmouth High and the Middle School are scheduled to be closed next Wednesday, Jan. 27, for a teacher workshop day. Schools also will be closed for the week of February 22-26 for vacation.

KIDS & MONEY

If you haven't had the talk yet with your kids about money, consider attending the Library's free workshop on Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. in the Levenson Room where Karyn Blass, M. Ed, of UNH Cooperative Extension will provide the fundamental skills of managing money. Increasing credit card debt and rising rates of bankruptcy in young adults indicate we may not be teaching our kids what they need to know about managing money. Blass will point parents to the resources they need to talk with their kids. Contact: Jennifer Bassett at the Library at 766-1702.

PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS

There's a Feb. 12 deadline for applications for the 2010-2011 Public Service Agency Grant program administered by the City's Community Development Department and funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The competitive grant program makes grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to non-profit 501(c)(3) public service agencies with more than 51 percent of their Portsmouth clients earning very low, low, or moderate-incomes. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/announcements.htm or contact 610-7226.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

The Rec Department's 16TH annual Father-Daughter Valentine's Dance is Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Connie Bean Center from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Girls in Grades K-5 and dads (or uncles, grandfathers, brothers, etc.) are welcome. Cost is \$10 per couple (no charge for extra daughters). Contact: 766-1483.

PHS POPS CONCERT

The date of the Portsmouth High School Pops Concert has been changed to Tuesday, Feb. 16. The snow date will remain Feb. 18.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

Both the Spinnaker Point and the Indoor Pool are busy with taking in new members for the new year. Stop by either facility for a tour to see what you are missing. Call Spinnaker Point at 766-1483 or the Indoor Pool at 427-1545 for more information. The Recreation Department's next Middle School dance is Friday, March 5. Also, the Rec Department spring/summer brochure will be out in the middle of March.

SNOW COUPONS

Portsmouth residents may obtain coupons 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 during snow parking bans. 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), online at www.cityofportsmouth.com, in the local media and on signs at all entrances to the City. A map of parking lots open during bans is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/snowbanparkinglots.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, or the Meetings Calendar at 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. A link to the Portsmouth High 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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