

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*

CITY BUDGET

Work continues on developing the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2011, which begins July 1, 2010. The Police Commission holds a public hearing on its proposed budget tonight (Wednesday, Feb. 3) at 6 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The School Board holds its second hearing on the proposed School Department budget next Tuesday (Feb. 9) at 7 p.m. The hearings will be televised live on local Government Access Cable Channel 22. The full budget schedule is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm.

MONEY MATTERS -- TONIGHT

Increasing credit card debt and rising rates of bankruptcy in young adults indicate we may not be teaching kids what they need to know about managing money. If you haven't taught your kids the fundamental skills of managing money, consider attending the Library's free workshop tonight (Wednesday, Feb. 3) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Levenson Room. The UNH Cooperative Extension Service's Karyn Blass will teach you how to speak effectively with your children about money matters. For more info or to register, call 679-5616 or email lynn.harrison@unh.edu.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

There will be a public hearing next month on the City's proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2011, which begins July 1 of this year, through FY 2016 but the document is now available online via the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/index.htm#CIP1. The public hearing on the short-range plan for capital projects and equipment purchases is March 1 at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers. The Planning Board approved the proposed 154-page CIP last month. Contact: 610-7216.

UTILITY POLES RELOCATION

Utility poles along the southern side of State Street will be relocated over the next few months to allow for wider sidewalks and streetscape improvements as part of the ongoing sewer separation project. Public Service of New Hampshire will initially install new poles from the Pleasant Street intersection to Marcy Street in the general area of the existing parking spaces, and erect jersey barriers to protect them. Utility service will be maintained during installation of the new poles, but parking spaces may be intermittently unavailable. Contact: 766-1413.

TAX HELP

Beginning next week, AARP's Tax Aide Program will offer free tax preparation help on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons through April 13 in the Library's Hilton Garden Room. Tax Aide volunteers trained by the Internal Revenue Service will be available on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., and on Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Bring the following, if applicable: W-2 forms; unemployment compensation statements; all 1099 forms; dependent care provider information; receipts or canceled checks if itemizing deductions; and Social Security cards for yourself and all dependents. No appointments, just walk-ins. Contact: Jennifer Kimball, 607-342-1243, or jenniferakimball@gmail.com.

MARKET STREET SIDEWALKS

There will be a public information meeting Feb. 22 regarding the City's plans to reconstruct the Market Street sidewalks from Bow to Russell Street this spring. Public Works officials will be in City Hall Conference Room A at 6 p.m. to discuss the project and answer questions. The plan is to install drainage for the road, downspouts on buildings, and period lighting before replacing the sidewalk surface. The section of Market Street between Bow and Russell Streets will be narrowed to provide room for street trees and brick accent strips. Contact: 766-1411.

NEW COMPUTER CLASSES

In addition to the regularly offered free computer classes at the Library, two new ones have been added for February. "Travel Information on the Internet" will be held on Feb. 18 at 10 a.m., and is the first in a series exploring recommended web sites about specific topics. The travel class will provide a tour of the best travel

web sites and detailed instructions on how to check airfares and book flights online. The second, on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m., involves learning how to use all the features of the library catalog, including how to keep a history of what you've checked out. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm. Call 766-1720 to register or ask questions.

STREET TREES

The City's Public Works Department and the Mayor's Committee on Trees and Greenery are seeking recommendations for locations for the planting of trees along city streets in 2010. If you would like a tree planted in front of your property or know of another location that could benefit from the planting of a street tree, call 766-1428 or email eskern@pw.cityofportsmouth.com.

NEXT KNIT NIGHT

The Library's next monthly "knit night" is Monday, Feb. 8, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Levenson Room. It's an opportunity to socialize with fellow knitters in the Portsmouth community and show off your projects. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm#knitting.

"BRIGHT STAR"

The next film in the Library's "Deep Winter" film series is the PG-rated "Bright Star" being shown next Thursday (Feb. 11). The 119-minute drama is based on the three-year romance between poet John Keats and Fanny Brawne, which was cut short by Keats' untimely death at the age of 25. The Feb. 25 film is "Whip It" about a Texas roller derby league. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm#winterflicks or contact: 427-1540.

PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS

The application deadline for 2010-2011 Public Service Agency Grants is 4:30 p.m. next Friday, Feb. 12. The competitive grant program is administered by the City's Community Development Department and funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 are given to non-profit public service agencies serving Portsmouth individuals and families earning very low, low, or moderate-incomes. Funds may be used for program operating expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30, 2011. 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 next Saturday (Feb. 13) and all girls in Grades K-5 and dads (or uncles, grandfathers, brothers, etc.) are welcome. The dance will be from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and the cost is \$10 per couple, with no charge for extra daughters. Contact: 766-1483.

PRESIDENTS' DAY

City Hall, the Library and the Recycling Center will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, in observance of Presidents' Day. However, curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables will continue as usual, including in the central business district. Also, Portsmouth public schools will be open but have a delayed opening on Wednesday, Feb. 17, and are closed the following week of Feb. 22 for the winter recess.

POPS CONCERT

The Portsmouth High School Pops Concert is Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the PHS Auditorium. It begins at 7 p.m. and features the PHS Band, Choir, Madrigal Singers, Treble Choir, and Men's Ensemble. Tickets available at the door are \$2 for adults, \$1 for senior citizens and students. Snow date is Feb. 18. Contact: 436-7100, ext. 2906.

MUSICAL CONVERSATIONS

The Library is launching a series of "Musical Conversations with Chris"—Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra Musical Director Christopher Hall. The first is Wednesday, Feb. 17, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., when he examines Beethoven's 3rd Symphony, the Eroica, in a roundtable listening/discussion session that will explore the music and the culture that surrounded the composition. The public is urged to come develop a beginning understanding of the music, or share their own experiences and knowledge. The monthly series continues through May. Contact: 427-1540.

POLICE REMINDERS

Portsmouth Police remind everyone to please obey the posted weight limits on the Memorial Bridge (3 tons) and the Sagamore Creek Bridge (6 tons) as they have been established for the safety of everybody. Also, when you remove snow from your driveway or walkway please make sure you're not piling it in a place that will obstruct the view of drivers. Contact: 427-1500.

LIBRARY DISPLAY

Every three weeks, the display case in the Library's Youth Services area features a collection of items from a younger patron. The newest exhibit features beautiful teacups. Others have featured Snow Globes and Pez Dispensers. Take a look the next time you visit the Library.

FAMILY GAMES

The Library will host a family game afternoon with G. Willikers! on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Youth Activity Room. There will be lots of new games to try out. The program is free for Portsmouth Library cardholders. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Contact: 766-1740.

SWIM LESSONS

The February session of swim lessons begins this week and registration for the next session, which runs from March 15 through April 8, opens Feb. 18 for residents. Swim lesson details can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm or contact: 427-1546.

TODDLER TIME

The Library has launched a new story time program aimed at toddlers, ages 2 and 3, and their grownups on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. through February 23rd in the Youth Services Area. Contact: 766-1740.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Interested in fun and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes and workshops? The new Portsmouth Community Education Brochure is filled with classes 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.

BOARD VACANCIES

The most recent list of openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions, along with information on how to apply, can be found at 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, 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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