

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*

MUSICAL CONVERSATIONS -- TONIGHT

The Library's first "Musical Conversation" with Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra Musical Director Christopher Hill is tonight (Feb. 17) from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Hill will examine 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 next event in the free monthly series, which continues through May, is Wednesday, March 3, with "Musical Expression in the 20th and 21st Centuries." Contact: 427-1540.

INDOOR REC FACILITIES SESSION -- TOMORROW

A community input session on the City's indoor recreational facilities is scheduled tomorrow (Thursday, Feb. 18) at 6:30 p.m. in the High School's Little Theater as part of the ongoing Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study. Residents with an interest in indoor rec facilities including the Connie Bean Rec Center, Greenleaf Rec Center, Spinnaker Point and the Indoor Pool are encouraged to attend. If you cannot, you may submit comments via the "Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study" link at www.cityofportsmouth.com. Tomorrow night's meeting also will include a review of progress of the overall study. Contact: 766-1583.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The 3rd Annual Citizens Police Academy hosted by the Portsmouth Police Department in collaboration with departments in Greenland, Rye, Newington, New Castle and York, Maine, begins March 24 and continues on Wednesday evenings through May 12. The free, eight-week academy is sponsored by Crime Stoppers and provides local citizens and business owners with a behind-the-scenes look at police work. Application forms are available online at www.seacoastcrimestoppers.org. For more info: contact 610-7612, e-mail Citizenspoliceacademy@cityofportsmouth.com, or visit www.seacoastcrimestoppers.org.

MARKET STREET MEETING

The public can learn more next Monday (Feb. 22) about the City's plans to reconstruct the Market Street sidewalks from Bow to Russell Street this spring as part of a project to narrow the roadway to provide room for street trees and brick accent strips. 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. Contact: 766-1411.

SCHOOL VACATION NEWS

Portsmouth public schools are closed next week (Feb. 22-26) for the winter recess. The Indoor Pool is adding two Open Swim opportunities next Tuesday and Thursday (Feb. 23 and 25), opening at 6 p.m. and then continuing through the normal 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Open Swim time. Also, the Connie Bean Recreation Center gym will be open from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday next week, and from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Friday (Feb. 26). The gym also will be open Saturday (Feb. 27) from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday (Feb. 28) from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

UNDERAGE DRINKING CHECKS

If you are going away overnight, the Police Department can check your home for underage drinking parties. Just contact Resource Officer Rochelle Jones at the High School or Captain Mike Schwartz at 610-7408. Remember that children learn a lot from what their parents say and do. Research shows that kids who have parents who talk to them about the risks of alcohol use and illegal drugs are 50% less likely to abuse them. Contact: 427-1500.

WEB TRAVEL PLANNING

The Library will present a free computer class tomorrow (Thursday, Feb. 18) on how to use the Internet to plan and book a trip. "Travel Information on the Internet" begins 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. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm. Call 766-1720 to register or ask questions.

INDOOR POOL PROGRAMS

Registration opens tomorrow (Feb. 18) for Portsmouth residents to sign up for the Indoor Pool's largest set of children's swimming lessons of the school year. Weekday classes open the week of March 22 and end April 15, while Saturday classes run March 20 to May 15. Information on all lessons, as well as programs like Adapted Aquatics and Springboard Diving, can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm. Information on adult swim lessons, including stroke proficiency and triathlon training, is available at the pool or call 427-1546. The next lifeguard training class begins March 13, a Water Safety Instructor course starts March 25, and there will be a lifeguard review course May 25-28. To learn more, call 427-1546 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm.

FAMILY GAMES

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

LIBRARY CATALOG FUN

A jazzed-up version of the "Library Catalog" computer class will be offered as "Everything You Wanted to Know About the Library Catalog but Were Afraid to Ask" next Wednesday (Feb. 24) at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Don't be afraid. Come for pizza (while supplies last), prizes and learn catalog skills at the same time. For more information and to register, call the library at 766-1720. This program is offered as part of the Library's continuing series of computer classes. Each class is 1.5 hours long and taught by library staff members. Go to <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm> to see the full schedule.

"WHIP IT"

The next free film in the Library's "Deep Winter" film series is the PG-13 "Whip It" next Thursday (Feb. 25) at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. The 120-minute movie, which stars Ellen Page and Marcia Gay Harden, tells how an indie rock-loving misfit in Bodeen, Texas, finds a way of dealing with her small-town misery when she joins a roller derby league in nearby Austin. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm#winterflicks or contact: 427-1540. The Library will launch its "March Movie Madness" series on March 11 with "Julie and Julia" starring Meryl Streep and Amy Adams.

LEGO ENGINEERING EVENT

Calling all Lego engineers: Dream up something to build in the Library's "Around Town" Lego Event on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for ages 9-12. Registration is preferred. The program is free for Library cardholders. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult in the Library at all times. Contact: 766-1740.

CIP HEARING

The City Council will hold a public hearing Tuesday, March 2, on the City's proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2011, which begins July 1 of this year, through FY 2016. The hearing begins at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The plan for capital projects and equipment purchases can be viewed online via the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/index.htm#CIP1. The public hearing will be televised live on cable Channel 22. To see a list of all the City Hall meetings related to the FY 2011 budget, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm.

FREE TAX HELP

AARP's Tax Aide Program is offering free tax preparation help at the Library on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons for taxpayers with low and moderate incomes, with special attention to those 60 and older. Tax Aide volunteers trained by the Internal Revenue Service will be available in the Hilton Garden Room on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., and on Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. There are no appointments. Just walk in with 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. Contact: Jennifer Kimball, 607-342-1243, or jenniferakimball@gmail.com.

REC DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Recreation Department's spring/summer brochure will be out the middle of March, giving parents time to plan for the summer. Although the men's basketball leagues have ended at Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center, the gym is still open every day for pickup games. Call 766-1483 with questions. The next Middle School dance at the Connie Bean is Friday, March 15. And think spring – the Easter Egg hunt scheduled for April 3 at Langdon Park is just a hop away.

“WORDS OF FIRE”

The Library and The New Hampshire Humanities Council will present “Words of Fire: Rhetoric of Survival” by Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti as Maria W. Stewart on Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Quezaire-Presutti, a NH Humanities Scholar and storyteller, will perform as Stewart, who was a pioneer black abolitionist, a woman of profound religious faith, and a champion of women's rights. She will deliver Stewart's famous speech given at Boston's Franklin Hall on September 21, 1832. Contact: 427-1540.

FREE NEWSSTAND

The Library is now offering cardholders access to a free online newsstand where you can find recent feature-length articles in many of the most popular magazines and also search for articles within specific magazines. The periodicals available include The New Yorker, Consumer Reports, Good Housekeeping, Newsweek, Civil War Times, Scientific American and Dog World. Visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/newsstand.htm or call 427-1540 to learn more.

MORE COMPUTER CLASSES

Due to the popularity of the Library's free computer classes, a number of which have waiting lists, three additional class meetings are being added for the beginning of March. They are Email on Monday, March 1, at 2 p.m.; Microsoft Word, part 2, on Wednesday, March 3, at 2 p.m., and Internet, Thursday, March 4, at 10 a.m. To learn more, see <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm>. Call 766-1720 to register or ask questions.

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.

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 or on the local government cable Channel 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com.