

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*

### ***CITY BUDGET HEARING -- TONIGHT***

The City Council holds a public hearing tonight (Wednesday, April 14) on the City Manager's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011, which begins July 1, 2010. The hearing begins at 7 p.m. in the Portsmouth High School Auditorium and will include presentations from the Municipal, Police, Fire, and School Departments. The hearing will be recorded for later broadcast on local government access cable Channel 22 at noon and 6 p.m. Sunday, April 18. It also will be available in webcast format at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/webcast/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/webcast/index.htm) by the end of the day tomorrow (Thursday). The budget document can be viewed online at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com).

### ***CITY EVENTS PROCESS***

The City's website now includes a page to help people organize events in Portsmouth that require coordination with City departments and City Council approval, such as festivals, walkathons and road events. The page, which can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/events.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/events.htm), outlines the administrative process and provides a list of things to consider.

### ***MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE***

The public is invited to attend an update session on the progress of the Portsmouth Middle School project on Wednesday, April 28, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the High School's Little Theater. The Joint Building Committee (JBC) co-chairs will introduce the construction manager and the architects, who will present the updated design and provide an overview of the project. The public also is invited to attend the regular JBC meetings scheduled April 20 in Little Harbor School (LHS) Board Room, May 5 in the Library's Levenson Room and May 19 at the LHS Board Room. Those meetings all begin at 6:30 p.m.

### ***REVERSE 911 SYSTEM***

If you did not receive a phone call on April 5 that your phone number is part of the Police Department's new reverse 911 high-speed emergency notification system, go to [www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/cas.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/cas.htm) to add your information to the database. Police also are urging businesses, people with unlisted phone numbers, those who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and those who use a cell phone or VoIP phone to add their information to the CodeRED database. Contact: 610-7411.

### ***COFFEE WITH THE CHIEF***

Police Chief David "Lou" Ferland will hold a "Chief's Coffee" to meet and speak with residents and visitors about their concerns from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday (April 17) at Caffe Kilim at 163 Islington Street.

### ***"WASTEWATER 303"***

The public is invited to a "Wastewater 303" session on Tuesday, April 27, to learn the latest, and offer input, regarding the City's Wastewater Master Plan, including options for an upgraded wastewater treatment plant and improvements to the City's sewer collection system. The session begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Levenson Room of the Library with a presentation from Department of Public Works staff and the City's consultant. This is the DPW's third annual wastewater presentation. Contact: 427-1530.

### ***SAGAMORE BRIDGE CLOSURE***

The Route 1A Sagamore Bridge will be closed for repair work from May 1 through May 16. This project will not impact adjacent properties. The current truck detour route along Route 1 can be used by all vehicles traveling in the area during the closure. The City lowered the posted weight limit on the bridge, which was built in 1941 and repaired in 1984, to 6 tons last August due to its deteriorating condition. Contact: 427-1530.

### ***DOG LICENSE REMINDER***

Dog owners must renew their dogs' licenses by May 1. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are charged \$6.50. Licenses are \$9 for male

or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they have been neutered or spayed. Senior citizens over 65 may register one dog annually for \$2. Contact: 610-7245.

### ***FOOD, PRODUCT RECALLS***

To keep up-to-date on the latest food safety recalls, visit the City's Health Department page at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/foodrecalls.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/foodrecalls.htm). There is also a link to the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission, which lists recalls and warnings related to many consumer products. Contact: 610-7273.

### ***FLUSHING MAINS***

The spring program to flush sediment from Portsmouth Water Department mains has begun and will last approximately six weeks until all mains are flushed. If you see Water Department trucks in your neighborhood between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, refrain from drawing water as it may have a reddish tint. Let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

### ***BARTLETT AREA NIGHTTIME WORK***

Beginning next week (Sunday, April 18), nighttime construction work resumes for the Bartlett and Islington Area Sewer Improvements project, primarily on the southern end of Bartlett Street and at the Bartlett and Islington Street intersection. The sewer and drainage work is being done at night to minimize traffic congestion, pedestrian safety issues and interruptions for local businesses. Information regarding times, location and applicable traffic detours can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) and is updated weekly. Contact: 766-1416.

### ***RAIN BARRELS IN STOCK***

Thanks to a federal grant, Portsmouth water system customers can order up to two 60-gallon plastic rain barrels for a reduced price of \$30 each. The rain barrels are now in stock at the Department of Public Works. Information on ordering is online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/ws-barrels.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/ws-barrels.htm) and the cost will be added to your water bill. The offer also is available to Portsmouth water system customers in Newington, Greenland, New Castle and parts of Rye. The barrels collect and store rainwater for such things as irrigating lawns or washing cars while saving on your water bill.

### ***"A TASTE OF HONEY" -- TONIGHT***

The Library's "British Realism in Film" series continues tonight (April 14) with the 1961 movie "A Taste of Honey" about a teenager who becomes pregnant by a black sailor and sets up her own home with a gay shoe store employee. Subjects like sex, abortion, and homosexuality are dealt with openly and positively through the emotions of the main character. The next film will be "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner" shown on April 28. Movies begin at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room and if time permits, brief discussions will be held. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***"MUSIC FROM THE TRADITIONS" -- TOMORROW & SUNDAY***

Need your spirits lifted tomorrow on Tax Day? The award-winning Reggae band Jah Spirit, which has seven albums to its credit, will perform a 90-minute show beginning at 7 p.m. tomorrow (April 15) in the Levenson Room as the Library's "Music from the Traditions" series resumes. On Sunday (April 18), "Two Old Friends" Mac McHale and Emery Hutchins return to the Library for a 2 p.m. show featuring banjo, guitar, mandolin, concertina, bodran, octave mandolin and heart-warming vocal harmonies. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***TAX EXEMPTIONS DEADLINE -- TOMORROW***

Tomorrow (Thursday, April 15) is the deadline to apply for elderly and disabled exemptions for the December 2010 tax bill. The annual income limit for both the elderly and disabled exemptions is \$33,182 for single taxpayers and \$40,933 for married couples. Total assets for both exemptions have increased to \$110,611, whether single or married. For an application, contact the Assessor's Office at 610-7214 or 610-7249, or download the form from [www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm).

### ***INDOOR POOL: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

The Indoor Pool will be open for Open Swim on Saturday (April 17) from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. only as the pool is hosting the NH Special Olympics Swim Meet in the morning. Volunteers are needed to help with the Special

Olympics event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All jobs are easy but much appreciated. Call 427-1546 to leave your name and number.

### ***CLEAN UP PEIRCE ISLAND***

The public is invited to converge upon Peirce Island at 9 a.m. Saturday (April 17) and join the Peirce Island Committee, Dog Owners Group of the Seacoast (D.O.G.S.), and Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation in a spring cleanup effort. Bags will be provided for trash and recyclables. Contact: boudreaux.lyx@gmail.com or 617-0958.

### ***CONCORD & PORPOISE WAY FIELD DAY***

Residents of the Concord & Porpoise Way neighborhood are invited to meet Saturday (April 17) with the project engineer and design team to discuss individual property owner concerns about the planned Streetscape Improvement Project. This is the second of two Saturday on-site field days from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The planned work will include replacement of sewer, water and drainage infrastructure, as well as new curbing, street trees and sidewalks. Contact: 610-7226.

### ***SAGAMORE CREEK WALK***

Join local naturalists for a walk on the Sagamore Creek land off Jones Avenue beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday (April 17). Meet at the gate on Jones Avenue for the walk led by longtime Portsmouth residents Dick and John Adams. Accompanying them will be local naturalists Davis Finch and Don Green, who will interpret the wildlife along the trails and show points of special interest, including the vernal pools. There is no rain date. Contact: Sarah Hamill at 373-8288.

### ***"PAGES AND STAGES"***

A "Pages and Stages" story sharing with the UNH Mask and Dagger Dramatic Society is planned for children ages 4 to 9 on Saturday (April 17), beginning at 2 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Stories will come to life with songs, props, puppets, and role play. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult in the Library at all times. Contact: 766-1740.

### ***DOWNLOADABLE BOOKS***

Learn how to use the Library's downloadable audiobook service next Monday (April 19), including how to search through the Library's collection of downloadable audiobooks, how to check one out and download it to your computer, and how to transfer it to your MP3 player/iPod or burn it to a CD. Call 766-1720 to register for the Library workshop scheduled from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### ***IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES***

Portsmouth Public Schools will have their spring break the week of April 26. The Robert J. Lister Academy graduation is Friday, June 4. Middle School graduation is now Thursday, June 17, instead of June 10, at Portsmouth High School. High School graduation is Friday, June 11. Contact: 431-5080

### ***VACATION OPEN SWIMS***

The Indoor Pool has scheduled extended open swims during vacation week for Portsmouth Public Schools. The pool will be open from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, and Thursday, April 29. This is in addition to the regular Open Swims Monday through Friday in the mornings, afternoons and 7-8 p.m. Children under age 13 must be accompanied by an adult. More info on exact times and daily fees can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-10.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-10.htm).

### ***"JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY"***

In conjunction with "Jazzmouth: The Seacoast Poetry and Jazz Festival," the Library will screen a documentary set at the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival next Thursday, April 22, at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room after 15 minutes of live poetry and music. The film progresses from day to night and from improvisational music to Gospel. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE***

The Portsmouth Sustainability Fair Speaker Series will sponsor a forum on Sustainable Transportation and Land Use on Monday, April 26, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Library. It will feature an introduction by State Senator

Martha Fuller Clark, followed by a panel with speakers from COAST, Seacoast Area Bicycle Routes, and the Rockingham Planning Commission. The panel will address transportation options that provide affordable mobility, reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption, and lead to a more livable community. The Sustainability Fair, which the City co-sponsors, is May 8. More info is at [www.portsmouthsustainabilityfair.org](http://www.portsmouthsustainabilityfair.org).

### ***YARD WASTE COLLECTION***

Yard waste is now being picked up on the same days as the trash and recycling pickup, except for weeks containing major holidays. Residents are reminded to use paper yard waste bags or reusable plastic barrels. Yard waste also may be brought to the Recycling Center behind the Department of Public Works at 680 Peverly Hill Road year-round. For more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-ywi.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-ywi.htm) or call 427-1530.

### ***BIG APPLE TRIP***

Registration is now open for the Recreation Department's May 15 spring bus trip to New York City. Sign up at the Connie Bean Center until all 50 seats are filled. The cost is \$55 and includes round-trip coach bus service. For more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm) or call 766-1483.

### ***SWIM CLASSES***

The next set of swim lessons at the Indoor Pool begins next week so register now during normal pool hours. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/adultswimclasses.pdf](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/adultswimclasses.pdf) for details. A lifeguard training class is scheduled May 11-23. Information is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/LifeguardCourse.pdf](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/LifeguardCourse.pdf). A lifeguard review course is planned May 25-28 from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Information on summer swim lessons at Peirce Island Pool can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm). Contact: 427-1545.

### ***REC DEPARTMENT NEWS***

Need something to get you out of the winter blues and into spring? Check out the programs at the Indoor Pool ([www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-10.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-10.htm)) and Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center ([www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm)) or stop by the facilities to see what they offer. The Connie Bean Rec Center is open for after-school basketball play through May. Contact: 766-1483. Although registration for summer youth programs is still weeks away, the Rec Department urges everyone to attend the first night of registration in order to ensure your children are not disappointed as some programs have limited enrollment and fill up early. Information on all the spring and summer programs is in the new brochure available at all Rec Department facilities or online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm).

### ***POLICE TIP***

Nice weather means more outdoor activity. When driving, please watch for children playing and riding bicycles.

### ***ROADWORK***

Work is wrapping up on the Bow/Ceres Street Waterfront Improvement Project and plans are underway to soon begin the Market Street sidewalk improvements between Bow and Russell Streets. Meanwhile, work will continue through the end of May on the Peirce Island Bridge replacement project with police officers directing traffic in the event that one lane needs to be closed because of construction activities. For updates on the State Street Reconstruction Project, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/9.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/9.htm) and for the latest info on the Bartlett and Islington Area Sewer Improvements project, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/6.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/6.htm). Contact: 766-1411.

### ***Mark your calendar...***

- The Third Annual Portsmouth Sustainability Fair is Saturday, May 8.
- The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Mother/Son Dance sponsored by the Rec Department is Saturday evening, May 8, for boys in Grades K-5 and their mothers (or other important women in their lives).
- The School Department's All-City Concerts will be May 12 and May 19.
- There will be a Greater Portsmouth Community Night on May 13, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the PHS Cafeteria, featuring a speaker on the topic of cyber-bullying and general safety in a cyber world as well as a student panel. Dinner, childcare and resources will be provided.
- The Rec Department's final Middle School Dance of the school year is May 14 at the Connie Bean Center.

- The City's annual Spring Household Hazardous Waste Day will be Saturday, May 22, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Department of Public Works on Peverly Hill Road.

### ***BOARD VACANCIES***

The most recent list of openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions can be found at [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/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.

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