

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 – TONIGHT***

The City Council holds a work session tonight (Wednesday, April 28) to review the Police and Fire Department budgets, and on May 10 will reopen the public hearing for citizen comment on the entire proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011, which begins July 1, 2010. Tonight's work session begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers and will be broadcast live on local government access cable Channel 22. There is no opportunity for public testimony at work sessions, but the public is welcome to observe the proceedings. The Council will reopen the public hearing on the proposed budget on May 10. The entire proposed budget can be viewed online at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com). Paper copies are available at the Library and City Clerk's Office.

### ***MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT – TONIGHT***

The public is invited to attend an update session on the progress of the Portsmouth Middle School project tonight (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 May 5 and May 19 in the Library's Levenson Room, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### ***BRITISH REALISM FILM – TONIGHT***

The 1962 film "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner" will be shown at the Library's Levenson Room at 7 p.m. tonight (Wednesday, April 28), concluding the "British Realism in Film" series. The 104-minute film is about how a rebellious youth, sentenced to a boy's reformatory for robbing a bakery, rises through the ranks of the institution through his prowess as a long distance runner. During his solitary runs, reveries of his life and times before his incarceration lead him to re-evaluate his privileged status as the Governor's prize runner. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***PAY WATER/SEWER BILLS ONLINE***

Portsmouth water/sewer bills now can be paid online, along with parking tickets. Payment can be made with MasterCard, American Express and Discover credit/debit cards, as well as electronic check (ACH) payments, over the Internet using a secure website. A convenience fee is added by the online service provider for the online payments. To learn more, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) and click the "Online Bill Payment" button at the top of the page. The City also offers water/sewer customers an Automatic Electronic Debit payment option where, upon authorization, payments are deducted automatically from the payer's savings or checking account on the due date at no charge. To initiate this option, a payment authorization form must be completed. For more information, contact the water/sewer billing office at 610-7248.

### ***ARBOR DAY***

In observance and celebration of Arbor Day on Friday (April 30), a proclamation will be issued and a group of area tree companies will conduct volunteer tree-trimming at Peirce Island. In a related effort, the Peirce Island Committee has developed a plan and received approval from the City's Trees and Public Greenery Committee to plant eleven new trees on Peirce Island in the coming year. Portsmouth has been recognized as a Tree City USA community for the past ten years. Contact: 427-1530.

### ***SUSTAINABILITY FAIR***

The third annual Portsmouth Sustainability Fair is Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Portsmouth Middle School. There will be an emphasis on slow and local food, along with engaging environmental education for kids. This year's theme is "The Natural Step Four System Conditions," as adopted by the City's resolution to become an eco-municipality: Reducing Dependence on Fossil Fuels; Reducing Dependence on Synthetic Chemicals; Reducing Encroachment on Nature; and Meeting Human Needs Fairly and Efficiently. There will be a follow-up "Sustainability@Home" home tour the following Saturday (May 15). More info is at [www.portsmouthsustainabilityfair.org](http://www.portsmouthsustainabilityfair.org).

### ***SUSTAINABILITY CLOTHING SWAP***

In cooperation with the Portsmouth Sustainability Fair, the Library will host a women's clothing swap on Saturday, May 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a bag of gently used, clean women's clothing and leave with a bag of new-to-you items. All leftover clothing and accessories will be donated to Goodwill. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***DOG LICENSE DEADLINE***

This week (May 1) is the deadline for dog owners to renew their animals' licenses. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office to avoid a possible civil forfeiture fine of \$25, per NH law, plus late fees. 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.

### ***SAGAMORE BRIDGE CLOSING***

The Route 1A Sagamore Bridge will be closed for repair work beginning Saturday (May 1) through Sunday, May 16. This project will not impact adjacent properties. 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.

### ***BOAT LAUNCH OPENING***

The Peirce Island Boat Launch is scheduled to open for the season Saturday (May 1). The boat launch is free to all Portsmouth residents and season passes are now available at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. There is a daily fee for non-residents. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/boatlaunch.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/boatlaunch.htm) to learn which documents are required, and the boat launch hours and fees for non-residents, or call 766-1483.

### ***CHILDREN'S DAY STREET CLOSURE***

Pleasant Street between State Street and Market Square will be closed between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday (May 2) for Children's Day sponsored by Pro Portsmouth. Details on the event can be found at [www.proportsmouth.org](http://www.proportsmouth.org).

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

The Indoor Pool has scheduled extended open swims this week because it is vacation week for Portsmouth Public Schools. The pool will be open from 5 to 7 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, April 29) 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).

### ***MONDAY KNIT NIGHT***

The Library's next "Knit Night" is Monday (May 3) in the McLeod Room. Knitters of all levels are encouraged to socialize with fellow knitters in the Portsmouth community and show off their projects from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***CONCORD & PORPOISE WAY MEETING***

The City will hold a public information meeting for the Concord and Porpoise Way Streetscape Improvement Project next Tuesday (May 4) at 7 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. City staff and the consulting engineers will present a preliminary design plan for the proposed improvements and answer questions. The project will include replacement of sewer, water and drainage infrastructure, as well as new curbing, street trees and sidewalks, while maintaining the one-way traffic pattern. Contact: 610-7226.

### ***SPRING MOVIES***

The Library's free spring movies series continues next Thursday, May 6, with "The Young Victoria," a dramatization of the turbulent first years of Queen Victoria's rule and her enduring romance with Prince Albert. The 105-minute film won the Academy Award for Best Achievement in Costume Design. The next movie in the series will be "Crazy Heart," which won Jeff Bridges the Oscar for Best Actor. The movies begin at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***MOTHERS AND SONS***

Boys in Grades K-5 and their mothers (or other important women in their lives) are invited to the 15th annual Mother-Son Mother's Day Dance hosted by the Rec Department next Saturday, May 8, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$10 per couple and includes flowers for the Moms. The theme is Hawaiian so please come dressed in your best tropical outfits! For more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm) or call 766-1483.

### ***"WHERE DO THE CHILDREN PLAY?"***

The documentary "Where Do the Children Play?" will be shown Monday, May 10, at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. The PBS documentary explores the importance of open-ended creative play for the healthy development of children and was inspired by Elizabeth Goodenough's book "Secret Spaces of Childhood." The film will be shown in the Levenson Room. Educators and researchers are noting that children are spending less time outside and more time in front of screens. Contact: 766-1740.

### ***MUSICAL EVENTS***

There will be two All-City Concerts in May. The first is May 12 and will showcase the New Franklin School Chorus, Portsmouth High School Madrigal Singers and Concert Choir. The second is May 19 and will feature the Little Harbour School Chorus, Grade 5 Band, PHS Treble Choir, Men's Ensemble and Concert Band. The Portsmouth Middle School spring concert is June 2 and will showcase the Grade 6 Band and Chorus, as well as the Grade 7/8 Band and Chorus. All events begin at 7 p.m. in the PHS Auditorium.

### ***POSITIVE PATHWAYS***

Positive Pathways to Prevention will host a Greater Portsmouth Community Night May 13 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Portsmouth High School Cafeteria for residents of Portsmouth, Rye, Newington, New Castle and Greenland. The free event will include dinner, childcare, resources and a raffle. RSVP for childcare no later than May 7 by contacting [skramer@portsmouth.k12.nh.us](mailto:skramer@portsmouth.k12.nh.us) or 617-0085. Speakers will include John Dye, whose son was a student at PHS and died in a substance-use related car accident, and Community Diversion Program Executive Director Jackie Valley who will speak about cyber bullying. Contact: 617-0085.

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

There are still some spots remaining for the Rec Department's May 15 spring bus trip to New York City. Sign up continues 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.

### ***MUSIC FROM THE TRADITIONS***

The Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire (SRSNH) will bring 20-plus musicians to the Library on Sunday, May 16, at 2 p.m. for a rousing concert of Scottish airs, marches, reels, jigs, strathspeys, and hornpipes as part of the "Music from the Traditions" series. RSNH will present an eclectic mix of traditional Scottish fare, along with some newer tunes written in the traditional style, at the free concert. Playing fiddles, cellos, guitars, wind instruments, the hammered dulcimer, and accordions, the SRSNH offers a big Scottish sound and toe-tapping energy. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***RESERVING CITY BALLFIELDS***

The Recreation Department reminds groups wanting to reserve a City ballfield that they are required to call Spinnaker Point at 766-1483 to do so. The cost is \$10.

### ***LIFEGUARD CLASSES***

A lifeguard training class is scheduled May 11-23 at the Indoor Pool. 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.

### ***BICYCLE SAFETY, REGISTRATION***

The Police Department reminds everyone to be aware that there will be more bicycles on the road as people take advantage of the spring weather. Parents are urged to talk to their children about bicycle safety and the importance of wearing a helmet. Police recommend cyclists use bike locks, but never attach bicycles to a fire

hydrant or anything else that would result in impeding a path. All cyclists are urged to register their bicycles by going to the Police Department to provide the brand, color and make. The Police Department will record the information, making it easier to get your bike back after it's lost or stolen. Contact: 427-1500.

### ***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.

### ***ROADWORK***

Sidewalks are being replaced as part of the Market Street Sidewalk Improvement Project between Bow and Russell Streets. There will be periodic closures of Market Street in connection with the project. The project connecting the sidewalks along Market Street between the State Pier and Michael Succi Drive is continuing. Contractors will be installing curbing concrete sidewalks and guardrail in the next two weeks. Meanwhile, work continues through the end of May on the Peirce Island Bridge railing 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 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 Rec Department's final Middle School Dance of the school year is May 14 at the Connie Bean Center.
- The PHS Spring musical production of "Into the Woods" will be Friday, May 21, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 22, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Local author (and Portsmouth Library assistant) Bob Miller will read from his debut coming-of-age novel "The Touch of Bark, the Feel of Stone" on May 19 at 7 p.m. in the Library's Hilton Room.
- 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.
- 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.

### ***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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