

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*

PAY TAXES ONLINE

The City now accepts property tax payments online, as well as water/sewer bills and parking fines. To use this convenient option, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com and select the “online bill payment” link. Property taxes are due June 1. Payments may be made over the secure web site by credit card, debit card and electronic check (ACH) payments. Due to VISA regulations, VISA credit cards can be used for property tax payments but no other City online payments at this time. There is a convenience fee for online payment and it is displayed prior to the citizen approving payment. The fee is retained by the online payment processor to offset charges due to the credit card companies. No fees are forwarded to the City of Portsmouth, which also does not retain credit card or bank information.

MARKET STREET TRAFFIC DETOURS

Market Street vehicular traffic between Deer and Hanover Streets will be detoured next Monday through Thursday (May 17-20) between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. while workers make drainage improvements. Outbound traffic in that section also will be detoured periodically over the next few weeks. Pedestrian traffic and access to businesses will be maintained. A new drain line is being installed and the roadway between Deer and Russell Streets will be narrowed for traffic calming. Weather and other factors may cause project delays. For more detour info, including a map, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/news0510.htm. Contact: 766-1411.

HIGH BOND RATINGS AFFIRMED

City Manager John Bohenko has announced the nation’s two largest bond rating agencies cited the City of Portsmouth’s strong financial management in affirming their high bond ratings, which will continue to save taxpayers thousands of dollars in reduced borrowing costs over the next several years. Standard & Poor’s Rating Group affirmed the AA+ bond rating and Moody’s Investors Service has given the City an Aa1 rating. The City this week secured one of the lowest bond interest rates in recent history, an average of 3.269% on a \$17.3 million bond issue for a portion of the Middle School renovations, as well as City and school capital improvements.

CONCERT – TONIGHT

The first of two All-City Concerts is tonight (Wednesday, May 12) and will showcase the New Franklin School Chorus, Portsmouth High School Madrigal Singers and Concert Choir. The second is next Wednesday, May 19, and will showcase 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 feature 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.

MUSICAL CONVERSATION – TONIGHT

The City of London and the important role it has played in music is the subject of the “Musical Conversation with Chris” featuring Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra Musical Director Christopher Hill tonight (May 12) at 7 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room. This is the latest in the series of free roundtable listening/discussion sessions of great music and the culture that surrounds its composition. Contact: 427-1540.

COMMUNITY NIGHT – TOMORROW

Residents of Portsmouth, Rye, Newington, New Castle and Greenland are invited to a Greater Portsmouth Community Night sponsored by Positive Pathways tomorrow (May 13) from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Portsmouth High School Cafeteria. The free event offers dinner, resources and a raffle. Speakers will include John Dye, whose son was a student at PHS and died in a substance-use related car accident, and Portsmouth Police Detective Scott Study who will talk about cyber bullying. Contact: 617-0085.

MEMORIAL BRIDGE CLOSURE

The Memorial Bridge carrying U.S. Route 1 over the Piscataqua River between Portsmouth and Kittery will be closed to all motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic next Tuesday (May 18) between 6:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., and

intermittently on Wednesday (May 19) and Thursday (May 20) so workers can inspect the lift machinery and counterweight ropes. If there is adverse weather, the inspection work may be delayed. Contact: 436-1099.

EBOOK READING DEVICES

The Library now has six ebook reading devices to lend: two Kindles (Amazon), two Nooks (Barnes & Noble) and two Sony Readers "Touch Edition." They can be tried out for up to a week. Each device will have 10 to 20 ebooks already loaded. Users will be unable to purchase or download additional content. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/ebookreaders.htm.

PRIMARY ELECTION INFORMATION

There is a June 1 deadline for registered voters to change or declare a party affiliation for the September 14 State Primary election. Changes can be made at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Also, the Board of Registrars will meet in Room 211 at City Hall from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on June 1 for changes to party registration, and additions and corrections to the checklist. The filing period for all offices for the September Primary is June 2-June 11. Candidates must designate a fiscal agent. The City Clerk's Office will accept filings for State Representative and Republican Delegates only. All other filings are handled by the Secretary of State in Concord. Contact: 610-7245.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Portsmouth Middle School Joint Building Committee is scheduled next Wednesday (May 19) to consider approving the final design for the \$37.5 million renovation of the 80-year-old Middle School. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. The meeting will be taped and available in the "Webcast Archives" section of www.cityofportsmouth.com. Construction is scheduled to be completed by September 2013.

MORE RAIN BARRELS ORDERED

Due to popular demand, the City is ordering an additional 500 rain barrels to sell at a discount to Portsmouth water system customers to use to collect and store rainwater for such things as irrigating lawns or washing cars while saving on your water bill. Order up to two 60-gallon plastic barrels at a reduced price of \$30 each, thanks to a federal grant, by going to www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/ws-barrels.htm and the cost will be added to your water bill. If you pick up your barrels at the May 22 Household Hazardous Waste Day, you can save on gas, get rid of your hazardous waste and take steps to conserve water all at the same time.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

The annual spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington is next Saturday (May 22). Bring unwanted household chemicals to the Portsmouth Department of Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. from 8 a.m. until noon. Proof of residency is required. Do not bring asbestos, explosives or latex paints. Empty containers are not considered hazardous and may be put out for the weekly trash pickup. A list of chemicals is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm. Contact: 427-1530.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE -- CANCELLED

The final Middle School dance of the year for Portsmouth residents and chaperoned by Rec Dept. staff scheduled Friday (May 14) has been canceled due to a large PMS field trip that day. No makeup date is planned. Contact: 766-1483.

BIG APPLE TRIP

There are still some spots remaining for the Rec Department's spring bus trip Saturday (May 15) to New York City. Sign up at the Connie Bean Center. The cost is \$55 and includes round-trip coach bus service. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm or call 766-1483.

SUSTAINABILITY@HOME

As a follow-up to last weekend's successful 3rd Annual Sustainability Fair, a self-guided home tour entitled "Sustainability@Home" is scheduled Saturday (May 15) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tour highlights homes, businesses and green spaces utilizing sustainable practices in building materials, energy use and conservation, and stormwater management. A \$10 donation is suggested for the tour and the brochure, which can be

downloaded from www.portsmouthsustainabilityfair.org. The brochure also will be available at the Farmers' Market and the Library.

MUSIC FROM THE TRADITIONS

The Library's "Music from the Traditions" series continues Sunday (May 16) when the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire (SRSNH) brings 20-plus musicians to the Levenson Room at 2 p.m. for a free concert of Scottish airs, marches, reels, jigs, strathspeys, and hornpipes. SRSNH 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.

DOG DEADLINE

The month of May is the grace period and final opportunity to renew your dog license without a penalty imposed. 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. Dog 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: 610-7207.

LOCAL AUTHOR READING

Local author (and Portsmouth Library assistant) Bob Miller will read from his debut novel "The Touch of Bark, the Feel of Stone" next Wednesday (May 19) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Hilton Garden Room. Published in 2008 and targeted for a young adult audience, the coming-of-age novel takes place in the distant past. At the age of thirteen, Racken's only concern was to become a hunter for his tribe, like his father, but all that changes when an odd band of men come to Racken's village. Miller, a Kittery resident, has published numerous poems and short stories in literary journals. This is his first novel. Contact: 427-1540.

"CRAZY HEART"

The Library's free spring movies series continues next Thursday, May 20, with "Crazy Heart," which won Jeff Bridges the Oscar for Best Actor. The R-rated, 105-minute movie begins at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Bridges stars as Bad Blake, a broken-down, hard-drinking country singer. The song "The Weary Kind" also won an Oscar for Best Achievement in Music Written for Motion Pictures, Original Song. Contact: 427-1540.

PHS SPRING MUSICAL

The PHS production of the Tony-award winning musical "Into the Woods" will be performed next Friday, May 21, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 22, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. This year, the Portsmouth Middle School Drama Club will perform a preshow one hour before the performances, as well. Tickets are \$7 and available at the door, or from the main offices at the Middle and High Schools.

LINKEDIN COMPUTER CLASS

The Library is offering a new computer class this month on LinkedIn, an online community used by over 65 million members for professional networking and exchange of ideas. The class is intended for those already familiar with the Internet and online communication. The class is Friday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Call 766-1720 to register. All the Library's regular computer classes also are being offered in May. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm.

ONLINE NEWSSTAND UPDATE

The Library's Online Newsstand has been updated for many of its magazines, in particular the May issue of U.S. News & World Report that includes the rankings of America's best graduate schools. To browse this issue and issues of 15 other magazines featured on the Online Newsstand, including Harvard Business Review, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/newsstand.htm.

MAGIC SHOW

The Library will host "The Norman Magic Show" on Sunday, May 23, at 2 p.m. The free show is recommended for all ages and is full of original magic effects, visual comedy, and audience participation. Try to arrive early to secure a seat before the Levenson Room fills to capacity. Norman Ng has performed this show over 1,500 times

at libraries all over the United States for over 500,000 people. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult at all times while in the library. Contact: 766-1740.

LIBRARY SUNDAYS ENDING

Sunday, May 23, is the final Sunday afternoon that the Library will be open until fall. The 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday hours are scheduled to resume September 12, the first Sunday after Labor Day. Contact: 427-1540.

LOCAL AUTHORS DISCUSS RUSSIAN HISTORY

Two Seacoast authors will discuss neglected aspects of 20th century Russian history – the impact of Stalin’s Gulag and the influence of tribalism – at the Library’s Levenson Room at 6:30 p.m. on May 24 in a program co-sponsored with the Portsmouth/Severodvinsk Connection (PSC) and RiverRun Bookstore. In “Violence, Veils and Bloodlines: Reporting from War Zones,” veteran foreign correspondent Louis J. Salome of Portsmouth looks at how perceptions of self, family and tribe affect world conflicts, including the former Soviet Union states of Central Asia. “Children of the Gulag,” by UNH history professor Cathy Frierson examines the impact of 75 years of severe Soviet repression on generations of children. To learn more, visit

<http://www.riverrunbookstore.com/events/the-portsmouthseverodvinsk-connection-psc-riverrun-bookstore-and-the-portsmouth-library-prese>. Contact the Library at 427-1540.

WINNING EXPLORERS

The Police Department’s Explorer Post recently won first place at the annual Explorer Weekend Challenge in Gilmanton, NH. Fifteen Explorer teams from across NH, and one from Massachusetts, competed in 10 events, including obstacle course, motor vehicle stops, firearms, drill and ceremony, crime scene search, cruiser push, building search, unknown call and report writing. The Post is open to teenagers interested in law enforcement. The Explorers volunteer during police and community events, receive classroom and hands-on instruction from police officers, and participate in camping and outdoor team-building trips. Contact: 427-1500.

A JOURNEY TO KENYA

Ann Colcord journeyed to Kenya this past summer with the Friends of Kakamega, a Quaker non-profit organization out of Freeport, Maine, that supports the AIDS Orphan Project in Kakamega, Kenya. She’ll share her journey, especially her volunteer experiences with the children assisted through and at the Kakamega Care Centre and Orphanage, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 25, at the Library’s Levenson Room. Contact: 427-1540.

POOL NEWS

The four-day Red Cross Lifeguard Recertification Course begins May 25 and continues through May 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. This is for lifeguards whose certification is soon to expire or recently expired. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/lgt.pdf. No swim lessons are scheduled in June at the Indoor Pool but registration begins Wednesday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m. at the Indoor Pool for Portsmouth residents to take summer swim lessons at the outdoor Peirce Island Pool. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm. Contact: 427-1545.

REC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Summer registration for youth sports camps and programs begins Tuesday, June 1, at the Greenleaf Recreation Center from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Registration will continue all week at Greenleaf with the same hours. Information on all summer programs is in the brochure available at all Rec Department facilities or online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. Also, the Connie Bean Rec Center will be closing for the season for after-school basketball play on Friday, May 28.

SCIENCE FUN

Real life science is coming to Dondero Elementary School next Friday, May 21. The event, which only happens every other year, shows kids how much fun they can have when they apply the science learned in the classroom to real world scenarios. Professionals in a variety of science-related fields will conduct workshops on such topics as spelunking and caves, frog dissection, tidal pools, a walk in the woods, zero waste and composting, wetlands and marine biology. There also will be an all-school assembly featuring Marvelous Marvin, a “scientific magician” who uses plenty of chemistry. The event is organized by a committee of teachers and parents, and is one of the most anticipated of the year.

POLICE NEWS

The Police Department reminds everyone that warm weather means there will be motorcycles on the road and because of their smaller size, they can be hidden by a car's blind spot or masked by other objects or vehicles. Motorists are urged to take an extra second at intersections, or when merging, to watch for motorcycles. Also, tonight (Wednesday, May 12) 33 participants will graduate from the 3rd Annual Citizen Police Academy sponsored by Seacoast Crime Stoppers in cooperation with the Portsmouth, Rye, Greenland, Newington and New Castle Police Departments. Contact: 427-1500.

OTHER ROADWORK

The Route 1A Sagamore Bridge remains closed to all traffic while interim repairs are being done through Sunday (May 16). Work also continues on the bridge rail repairs on the Peirce Island Bridge. The contractor will open up the sidewalk side of the bridge and move the jersey barriers to the other side to begin installing new rails there. Updates on the State Street Reconstruction Project are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/9.htm and on the Bartlett and Islington Area Sewer Improvements project are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/6.htm. Info on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 766-1411.

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

City offices, schools, the Connie Bean Center, Indoor Pool and the Library are closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day. The Library is also closed on Saturday and Sunday (May 29 and May 30). The Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday. There will be no collection of trash, yard waste or recyclables on Monday, May 31, and the Recycling Center is always closed on Monday. The Monday curbside trash and recyclables collection will be combined with Tuesday pickup, including the downtown district pickup Tuesday evening. There will be no yard waste collection on Tuesday, June 1.

Mark your calendar...

- The Robert J. Lister Academy graduation is Friday, June 4, at 10:30 a.m. The Middle School graduation is now Thursday, June 17, instead of June 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Portsmouth High School. High School graduation is Friday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. 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. Openings include one member each to the Library Board of Trustees and Taxi Commission, as well as alternate members for the Cable Television and Communications Commission (1), Conservation Commission (2), and one to the Building Code Board of Appeals who is a mechanical engineer or master plumber or an electrical engineer or master electrician.

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.