

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*

BUDGET HEARINGS

The School Board will hold its second public hearing on its proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013) next Thursday (Feb. 9) at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers. It also will be televised live on Cable Channel 22. The City Council will hold a work session on the proposed FY13 Capital Improvement Plan on Monday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Although testimony is not allowed at Work Sessions, the public may listen and also watch it live on Cable Channel 22. The full FY13 budget schedule can be found at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/fy13/FY13-schedule.pdf>.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

The School Board has established an Elementary School Facilities Subcommittee, which wants to know what criteria you value in an elementary school. To take the brief, eight-question survey, please click on the following link by February 17: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YMB3JTG>.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

It's Black History Month and the Library will hold two free events in conjunction with this celebration. On Wednesday, Feb. 8, Jukwaa Theatre Company founder Sandra Clarke will perform her new one-woman work based upon stories from the book "Having Our Say: the Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years." The 7 p.m. performance in the Levenson Room is co-sponsored with the Seacoast African American Cultural Center. On Wednesday, Feb. 15, prize-winning Portsmouth author Jeffrey Bolster, a member of the UNH History Department, will present the richly illustrated story "Black Jacks: African-American Seamen in the Age of Sail" at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. In this event made possible through the UNH Speakers Bureau, Bolster also will address the challenges of writing accurate history that crackles with drama. Contact: 427-1540.

MOBILE CodeRED APP AVAILABLE

CodeRED, the reverse 9-1-1 system used by the City to alert the public of an emergency or critical situation, has just released a Mobile Alert App for the iPhone that taps into the national CodeRED Emergency Notification System so no matter where you are when an alert is issued, you will receive notifications that affect you. A Droid application is expected to be released soon. Subscribers also may upgrade their accounts to receive customized weather alerts based on NOAA's National Weather Service bulletins. For more info, see www.ecnetwork.com/iphone/iphone/coderedmobilealert.

COMMUNICATING WITH TEENS & TWEENS

The Portsmouth Middle School Advisory Council is sponsoring a free workshop on "Communicating Without Arguing or Attitude" for parents of teens & tweens tomorrow evening (Thursday, Feb. 2) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the PMS Library Media Center. The event facilitated by Joanna Wiecklein of Families First will cover such topics as how to turn arguments into discussions, and understanding how children's brains and development cause them to communicate the way they do. For more info, contact Families First at 422-8208.

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. 13 and April 19. The brochure, available only online, is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/PortsmouthCommEd_Spring2012.pdf.

INCOME TAX HELP

As of this week, AARP's free Tax Aide Program is offering free tax preparation help on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons through April 15 in the Library's Hilton Garden Room. AARP Tax-Aide serves taxpayers with low- and moderate-income, with special attention to those ages 60 and older. The program is run by volunteers trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service. Walk-ins are welcome or call 211 to make an appointment on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., or 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. Contact: Jennifer Kimball, 607-342-1243, or jenniferakimball@gmail.com.

ARTIST DISPLAY OF INSPIRING ITEMS

The Library is launching an Artist-Curated Book Display series this month that invites an artist from the community to create a display of ten items that inspires him or her from the library collections. The artist will display an example of the artist's work alongside the display on the first-floor landing of the Library's circular staircase. Local artist Roger Goldenberg, known for his jazz-inspired, highly textured abstract work, will curate the first display that will be on view throughout February. The program is an opportunity for artists to share their work with the public and to emphasize how the public library is a resource for creativity. Contact: 427-1540.

PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS

There's a Feb. 16 deadline for applications for the 2012-2013 Public Service Agency Grant program administered by the City's Community Development Department and funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The competitive grant program makes grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to non-profit 501(c)(3) public service agencies with more than 51 percent of their Portsmouth clients earning very low, low, or moderate-incomes. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/FY2012-2013PublicServices.pdf or contact 610-7226.

"PORTSMOUTH NETWORK FOR GOOD"

The Library and the Portsmouth College Women's Club are seeking participants for the first annual "Portsmouth Network for Good" Community Fair, an event for small non-profits scheduled Saturday, March 24, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Registration is first-come/first-serve and a maximum of 15 organizations will be showcased. The fair will assist small Portsmouth-based tax-exempt and/or charitable organizations with less than 100 members in promoting their mission and introduce the wide variety of volunteer-based organizations in Portsmouth. To register or learn more, contact pcwclub@gmail.com. Registered participants will be notified of an early March organizational meeting.

"THE HELP"

The Library's "Winter and Spring Film Series" continues next Thursday (Feb. 9) with the PG-13 film "The Help" based on the best-selling novel by Kathryn Stockett. The free, 146-minute movie begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Levenson Room. In the film, an aspiring author during the civil rights movement of the 1960s decides to write a book detailing the African-American maid's point of view on the white families for which they work, and the hardships they endure daily. Next up will be "Glory" on Feb. 23, also at 6:30 p.m. The film about the Civil War's first all-black volunteer company won three Academy Awards in 1990. Contact: 427-1540.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

The 18TH annual Father-Daughter Valentine's Dance is Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Connie Bean Center from 6 to 8 p.m. Girls in Grades K-5 and dads (or uncles, grandfathers, brothers, etc.) are welcome. Cost is \$10 per couple (no charge for extra daughters). Contact: 766-1483.

FREE FAMILY MOVIE

The Library will show a free family movie, "Disneynature African Cats," on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Some have said the 89-minute, G-rated documentary narrated by Samuel Jackson is "like a real-life 'Lion King'" as it examines the lives of two lion prides and a determined cheetah single mom, and how their lives intertwine on the Serengeti. The movie is free for Library members. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Contact: 766-1740 or bbourgoine@cityofportsmouth.com.

PORTSMOUTH CHESS

Did you know that every Portsmouth 4th-grader receives a free chess set and instructional manual, thanks to the Portsmouth Rotary Club's Jeremy Alex Fund? For the past four years, Portsmouth resident Ted Alex and the Rotary Club have donated the chess sets to Portsmouth's elementary schools in memory of his 28-year-old son who disappeared in the Maine wilderness in 2004. Meanwhile, Portsmouth children and adults can try out their chess skills at "Family Chess Day," also sponsored by the Jeremy Alex Fund, on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Contact: 427-1540.

REC DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Connie Bean Center remains open on weekends for open court basketball play through mid-March. Call 766-1483 for specific hours as they may vary on a given weekend. Meanwhile, Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center now has open court basketball play seven days per week as the men's league has finished for the season, but call 766-1483 for gym hours. Also, spring youth programs are just around the corner so watch for upcoming programs in the next few issues.

PRESIDENTS' DAY

City Hall, the Library and the Recycling Center will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, 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 are closed the following week of Feb. 27 for the winter recess.

PHS POPS CONCERT

The Portsmouth High School Pops Concert is Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. in the PHS Auditorium. The snow date is Thursday, Feb. 24. Ticket donations are \$2 for adults, and \$1 for students and seniors.

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 2012. 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@cityofportsmouth.com.

SNOWSTORM INFO

Snowstorm parking information is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm. When the City bans on-street parking to facilitate snow removal, it's announced on Cable Channel 22, on a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), at www.cityofportsmouth.com, in the local media and on signs at all entrances to the City.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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 <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2012/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 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.