

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Go to www.cityofportsmouth.com to join the distribution list, or be removed. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

FLOOD INFORMATION

The City would like to thank all citizens for their patience during the recent heavy rainfall and flooding. The Recycling Center will be open for extended hours from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday to accept brush and flood-damaged items. The Recycling Center also is now open on Tuesday evenings until 6:30 p.m. For City information, including how to clean up after a flood, see www.cityofportsmouth.com. Statewide flood information can be found at www.nh.gov/governor/news/NHFlood2007.htm.

BUDGET HEARING

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget tonight (Wednesday, April 18), beginning at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The Police, Fire, School and Municipal Departments will make presentations. The proposed budget for July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, is online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm. The hearing will be broadcast live on Channel 22.

CDBG HEARING

A public hearing on the draft Community Development Block Grant Annual Plan and budget for FY 2007-2008 will be held at 6 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, April 19) in City Hall Conference Room A. CDBG funds are used to primarily benefit: individuals and families earning very low, low or moderate incomes; improve neighborhoods where over 51% of residents earn very low, low or moderate incomes; and improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Contact: 610-7226.

BUILDING REUSE

The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Re-use is scheduled to hold its final meeting Friday (April 20) to discuss input from the South Meeting House Listening Session and prepare for its final report and recommendations to the City Council in early May on the reuse of six City-owned buildings. The meeting is at 7:30 a.m. in the 4th-floor City Managers Conference Room. For more info, contact 610-7220 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/buildingreuse.htm.

NEW REVENUE ADMINISTRATOR

The City of Portsmouth has a new Revenue Administrator, replacing longtime City Tax Collector Colleen Franzoso who retires April 30 after 33 years with the City. The new administrator is Dawn Dudo, who has more than 20 years of accounting experience and most recently served as business manager for Global Spectrum, where she was responsible for all accounting functions for UNH's Whittemore Center Arena.

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Portsmouth Fire Chief Christopher LeClaire recently received the professional designation "Chief Fire Officer" (CFO), making him one of only 506 CFOs nationwide. The Center for Public Safety Excellence's voluntary program recognizes those who demonstrate excellence in seven areas: experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement, and technical competencies. Chief LeClaire received his CFO designation certificate at Monday's City Council meeting.

YARD WASTE

Curbside collection of yard waste has resumed on the same day as trash and recycling pickup, and will continue into the fall. Use only paper or plastic bags that are factory-labeled as biodegradable. Filled bags may not weigh over 50 pounds. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-ywi.htm for more info.

FUN AND GAMES

Registration for the Rec Department's Fun & Games Program continues through Friday (April 20) from noon until 8 p.m. at Spinnaker Point Adult Center. The 5-week program begins May 1 for Grades K-3 and is held outside Little Harbour School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. Contact: 766-1483.

PHS STUDENTS ON TV

The Student Government Day events where Portsmouth High School students held a City Council meeting and a School Board meeting will be rebroadcast on the next two Saturdays, April 21 and April 28, at 7 p.m. on local government cable Channel 22.

SPRING BREAK

Portsmouth Public Schools are closed next week, April 23-27, for their spring recess.

SPRING CINEMA

Free admission and free popcorn is available next Thursday, April 26, when the R-rated movie "Volver" starring Penelope Cruz is shown in the Library's Levenson Community Room at 7 p.m. Contact 427-1540 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies-april-may.htm for more information.

PERCENT FOR ART

RSVP by Monday, April 30, to attend a May 11 information session on the City's new Public Art Ordinance requiring that one percent of major municipal building construction or renovation costs be designated for public art. The Art-Speak event goes from 9 a.m. until noon at the Library's Levenson Room. RSVP to scobler@ch.cityofportsmouth.com or call 610-7222. To see the schedule, visit www.art-speak.org.

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.

BRIDGE REPAIRS

The NH Department of Transportation will hold a May 1st informational meeting to discuss pile repairs to three area bridges: Portsmouth 241/053 along NH Rte. 1B over the Piscataqua Estuary; New Castle 031/142 NH Rte. 1B also over the Piscataqua Estuary, at the New Castle/Portsmouth town line; and New Castle 066/071 NH Rte. 1B over Little Harbor at the New Castle/Rye town line. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Library's Levenson Meeting Room, but the plans will be displayed beginning at 6:30 p.m. Contact NHDOT: 271-3734.

FIREFIGHTER STATUE

May 2 is the deadline for New Hampshire professional artists to submit proposals to design, execute and install an outdoor firefighter sculpture near the Central Fire Station, also known as Station 1. The \$75,000 project is being funded through a grant, private donations and matching donations from the City. Details are at: <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/purchasing.htm>.

MOVIE MATINEES

The next foreign film shown in the Library's series every other Wednesday afternoon will be the 1947 French thriller "Quai des Orfevres" on May 2. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies1.htm.

POST 9-11 SURVEILLANCE

The topic of "Surveillance in the Post 9-11 World" will be discussed Thursday, May 3, in a NH Humanities Council lecture hosted by the Portsmouth Library and presented by Plymouth State University Associate Professor David Mackey. The free program begins at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-05-07.htm or call 427-1540.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington will be Saturday, May 5. 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. A list of chemicals is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm. Contact: 427-1530.

AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND

Portsmouth residents are encouraged to attend a May 5 forum to discuss the design for a memorial park for the African Burial Ground on Chestnut Street. The forum is from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Library's Levenson

Room. Participants will learn about the site's history and participate in small group discussions of what the commemorative park should look like. Go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2007/index.htm and click on the "info" link for the May 5 meeting or call 610-7226.

SANDLOT BASEBALL

Sandlot baseball for boys and girls ages 6 to 9 is back on Sunday afternoons at New Franklin Field. The Rec Department provides equipment and supervision, but the kids make the rules. Pickup games are from 12:30 to 3 p.m. through June 10, except Mother's Day and May 27. In case of inclement weather, call 766-1483.

ADULT SUMMER BASKETBALL

The Rec Department is planning an indoor "Over the Hill Basketball League" for those over 30 on Monday evenings during the summer and an outdoor "Serious Summer Basketball League" on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings. For more info, call Mike "Eli" Eliasberg at 433-4650.

POLICE ACADEMY

The New Hampshire Police Association and the New Hampshire Chiefs of Police will hold their 2007 NH Police Cadet Training Academy for ages 14 through 20 the week of June 23-27 at Hesser College's Manchester campus. To learn more, see www.nhchiefsofpolice.com or call Portsmouth Det. Robert Munson, 610-7506.

BOARD OPENINGS

Residents are urged to volunteer to be part of the City's volunteer boards and commissions. Current openings are Cable Television & Communications Commission (1 regular); Citywide Neighborhood Steering Committee (1); Planning Board (alternate) and Zoning Board of Adjustment (alternate). To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm

ROADWORK

Motorists should be aware that a temporary above-ground water line will be in place from New Castle Ave. to Marcy Street to Pleasant Point Drive for three weeks while workers replace the old water main as part of the New Castle Avenue seawall replacement and roadway project. Although only houses tied to this section of the water main are involved, the traveling public should take care. Also work continues to replace Congress Street sidewalks from High Street to Maplewood/Middle with brick and period streetlights. No major traffic interruptions are expected. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays. The latest information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 498-4747.

Mark your Calendar... (2 items)

There will be a Hawaiian theme for the 12th annual Mother-Son Mother's Day Dance on Saturday, May 12, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Boys in Grades K - 5 and their mothers, (or aunts, older sisters, grandmothers, etc) are invited. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-mothersondance.htm for more info.

May 31 is the renewal deadline for dog licenses. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office. Contact: 610-7207.

Did you know...?

The public is invited to meet K-9 dogs and their handlers at the 5th Annual New Hampshire Police K-9 Academy Handlers Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Working Dog Foundation on Monday, April 23, at the Jarvis Center. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press041107c.htm for ticket information. Proceeds benefit the Working Dog Foundation, a non-profit, grassroots organization that provides grant seed monies to police departments for K-9 programs, and the NH Police K-9 Academy at Pease where over 40 teams now train.

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/2007/index.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 from 8 a.m. until 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 closed Sunday.

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