

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

CITY BUDGET

The City Council will hold work sessions on the School Department's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget tomorrow (May 3) and on the Municipal Departments budget next Wednesday, May 9. They begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. No public testimony is taken during work sessions but the Council will reopen the public hearing Monday, May 14, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Council public hearings and work sessions are broadcast live on local government cable channel 22.

SURVEILLANCE POST 9-11

Tomorrow evening (Thursday, May 3), the Library hosts a NH Humanities Council Lecture on "Surveillance in the Post 9-11 World" by Plymouth State University Associate Professor David Mackey. The free program, which starts at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room, explores civil tensions fueled by recent global events. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-05-07.htm or call 427-1540.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Saturday (May 5) is Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington. 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. Empty containers are not considered hazardous and may be put out for the weekly trash pickup. Contact: 427-1530.

AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND FORUM

There will be a forum Saturday (May 5) for Portsmouth residents to discuss the design for an African Burial Ground memorial park on Chestnut Street. The City and the Mayor's African Burial Ground Committee are the hosts. Coffee and sign-in begin at 8:30 a.m., with the forum beginning promptly at 9 a.m. and ending by 1 p.m. Visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/press-abg.htm or call 610-7226 to learn more.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Due to the 17th annual downtown Children's Day celebration Sunday (May 6), the High-Hanover Parking Facility will have a flat rate of \$3 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. No parking will be allowed from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Pleasant Street between State Street and Market Square and at the parking lot at the corner of Market and Hanover Streets. No parking will be allowed from noon to 4 p.m. on Market Street from the Market and Bow Street intersection to The Isles of Shoals Steamship Company. Information on the event is at www.proportsmouth.org.

HANDICAPPED PARKING

The City Council has increased the fine for unlawfully parking in areas reserved for the handicapped from \$100 to \$250, effective immediately. The change was made to comply with State law regarding illegal parking in areas reserved for the "walking disabled." The City of Portsmouth provides 23 such spaces in the downtown area. Contact: 766-1440.

GRADUATION DATES

The School Board has approved the dates for this year's graduations, with the caveat that any further school days missed due to weather or other emergencies may result in a change. The Portsmouth Alternative School (PASS) graduation is Friday, June 1. The Middle School graduation will be Thursday, June 7, at the High School. Portsmouth High graduation is Friday, June 8. Contact: 431-5080.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTBULBS

Those popular, new spirally compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) may be more energy-efficient, but they also contain hazardous mercury and should not be disposed of in your regular trash pickup. The City of Portsmouth provides a method for proper disposal and recycling. Bring them to the Recycling Center, 680 Peverly Hill Rd

on Tuesdays, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. The City transports the used bulbs to a local company that reclaims the mercury and recycles the bulbs' glass and metal caps. For more info, contact: 427-1530.

ZONING REWRITE

The Planning Board will continue its work session on the proposed changes to the City's Zoning Ordinance next Thursday, May 10, from 7-9 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend but no testimony will be taken as it is a work session. The session also will be televised live on local government Channel 22. Contact: 610-7216.

PERCENT FOR ART SESSION

To learn more about the City's new Public Art Ordinance requiring that one percent of major municipal building construction or renovation costs be designated for public art, attend a free information session next Friday, May 11, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Library's Levenson Room. This free Art-Speak forum is geared toward anyone interested in public art and those involved in the planning, design and construction/renovation of municipal buildings. To see the schedule, visit www.art-speak.org. Contact: 610-7222.

MOTHERS AND SONS

Boys in Grades K-5 and their mothers (or aunts, sisters, grandmothers, etc.) are invited to the 12th annual Mother-Son Mother's Day Dance hosted by the Rec Department next Saturday, May 12, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$10 per couple and includes flowers for the Moms. This year's theme is Hawaiian so please come dressed in your best tropical outfits! Contact: 766-1483.

BOAT LAUNCH OPEN

The Peirce Island Boat Launch is now open for the season. The boat launch is free to all Portsmouth residents. There is a daily fee for non-residents. Non-residents may also purchase a season pass at the Spinnaker Point Recreation Center on Spinnaker Way. For more information, call 766-1483.

MOVIES, MOVIES

The final foreign film to be shown in the Library's Wednesday afternoon series is the May 16 showing at 1 p.m. of the Danish movie "Celebration" about a family that unravels. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies1.htm. The next Spring Series evening film is the "The Queen" starring Academy Award winner Helen Mirren at 7 p.m. on May 17, also in the Levenson Room. Contact 427-1540 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies-april-may.htm for more information.

FOOD RECALLS

The City's Health Department keeps a list of food recalls at www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/foodrecalls.htm.

REC DANCE CANCELED

The Recreation Department's scheduled May 18 dance for all Portsmouth middle school students at the Connie Bean Center has been canceled because the annual spring dance at Portsmouth Middle School will be that evening.

REC DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Recreation Department's Spring/Summer brochure is available at all Recreation facilities and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. The Spinnaker Point Adult Center is offering a number of new classes. Call 766-1483 for a list.

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

Water Division crews are continuing to open select fire hydrants between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, to release water with enough velocity to carry sediment out of the pipes for the spring flushing. If you see Water Division trucks in your neighborhood during that time, refrain from drawing water until they leave. The flushing can cause a reddish tint to tap water, which may stain clothing. Open faucets and let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

RECYCLING REMINDER

The City's Recycling Center is now open from 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. It also is open from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. The Center is closed on Mondays and Fridays. Contact: 427-1530.

DOG REMINDER

Dog owners must renew their dogs' licenses by the end of this month to avoid a possible civil forfeiture fine of \$25, per NH law, plus late fees and a Portsmouth District Court summons for those who do not respond within 15 days. 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: 610-7207.

ROADWORK

The new water line will be put in soon on New Castle Avenue as part of the seawall replacement and roadway project. Traffic will be controlled by a uniformed police officer. Work to replace Congress Street sidewalks from High Street to Maplewood/Middle with brick and period streetlights is continuing. 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.

BOARD OPENINGS

Current openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions are: Cable Television & Communications Commission (1); Citywide Neighborhood Steering Committee (1); Planning Board (alternate) and Zoning Board of Adjustment (alternate). The Historic District Commission will have openings for three members and an alternate in June. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Porcelain doll-making will be the subject of a May 22 session at the Portsmouth Library. Beginning at 7 p.m. Priscilla Keene Nickerson of Mystical Merriment Doll Studio in Durham will demonstrate the craft of porcelain doll-making, explain the history of the porcelain doll and showcase her work. Contact: 427-1540.

Did you know...?

Every year, hundreds of bicycles are found in Portsmouth that cannot be returned to their rightful owners because Police don't know who the owners are. For just 50 cents, you can register your bike with Police to create a record in case your bike is lost, stolen or found. Bring your bike to the Police Department anytime, see the officer at the lobby front entrance and ask to have your bike registered. An officer will put information about the bike into the computer and give you a numbered sticker to attach to your bike. Contact: 427-1500.

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.