

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

MORE RECYCLING

Portsmouth residents may now recycle hardcover and soft cover books, videos, compact discs, DVDs, records/LPs, computer software and games, sports cards and comic books in a designated bin at the city's Recycling Center under a one-year pilot project. Put the items, no matter what their condition, in the six-foot "Got Books" bin at the Recycling Center located behind the Public Works building at 680 Peverly Hill Road. The Recycling Center hours are listed at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm.

POET LAUREATE

The Poet Laureate of the United States, Charles Simic, will give a reading to open Art-Speak's Arts and Economic Prosperity presentation and reception tomorrow (Thursday, Sept. 20) at 5:30 p.m. at Seacoast Repertory Theater. The event is free and open to the public, but kindly RSVP to 610-7222 or scobler@ch.cityofportsmouth.com. The reading will be followed by a presentation on the local economic impact of the arts and cultural industry. Another event is scheduled Friday. See www.art-speak.org. Contact: 610-7222.

SCIENCE FICTION

The science fiction classic "Metropolis" will be shown at the Library tomorrow (Sept. 20) as part of a film series planned in conjunction with three "speculative fiction" book discussions this fall. On Sept. 27, author James Patrick Kelly will be at the Library at 7 p.m. for the discussion of his 2005 book "Burn." For more about the book discussion program, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-speculate.htm and see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-cin.htm for the film series. Contact: 427-1540.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The first Middle School dance of the new school year is Friday (Sept. 21) from 7:30-10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$4. Open to all PMS students/Portsmouth residents. Contact: 766-1483.

PARADE TRAFFIC

There will be some traffic interruptions downtown Sunday (Sept. 23) during the Labor Day/Peace Treaty Parade scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. from the Parrott Avenue parking lot. There will be roving street closures as the parade turns left onto Pleasant Street, right onto State Street, left through the Wright Ave Parking Lot, left onto Daniel Street, into Market Square, left onto Fleet Street, left onto State Street, right onto Pleasant Street, and ending back at Parrott Ave. Motorists are encouraged to find alternate routes.

PHS SPORTS

Last Friday night's Portsmouth High School football game against John Stark will be broadcast on local government access Channel 22 Saturday (Sept. 22) at 7 p.m. The Sept. 24 girls' volleyball game with Somersworth and the Sept. 28 football game with Kingswood will be shown next Saturday, Sept. 29, beginning at 7 p.m. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/ch22.htm for the Channel 22 sports broadcast schedule. The PHS athletic schedules link is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

SCHOOL FIRE LANES

The Police Department is reminding parents that the Fire Lanes at all schools, particularly at the High School, are to be kept free of vehicles. There is no exception to this. The Fire Lanes are not to be used as parking areas for events. Vehicles are subject to being ticketed AND towed at the owner's expense. The Police Department is requesting parental cooperation in this matter.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You may register to vote now for the Nov. 6 Municipal Election by bringing a picture ID and proof of your Portsmouth residency to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. The last day to register before the election is Saturday, Oct. 27, when the Board of Registrars accepts voter registrations and changes at City Hall. You also

may register to vote at your polling location on Election Day. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

A new state law allows commuters to join those eligible to apply for absentee ballots for the Municipal Election if they are unable to vote in person between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 6. The City Clerk's Office is accepting applications for absentee ballots from those who will be working during those hours, out of town or request them due to religious observance or physical disability. For an application and other information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm. Contact 610-7207 or cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

No political party affiliation changes will be accepted after the filing period begins for the New Hampshire Presidential Primary, which has not yet been scheduled. Based on the uncertainty for the date, the City Clerk's office is encouraging voters who want to change their party affiliation to do so as soon as possible. Undeclared voters are required to declare a party at the polls during a Primary Election but may change back to undeclared status after the election. Contact 610-7207 or cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SCULPTURE

Canaan, N.H., sculptor Emile Birch has been selected to create and install a sculpture and fountain public artwork entitled "Vigilance" outside the Central Fire Station. It is expected to be completed by fall 2008. Birch's proposal was selected from among 14 submissions, 12 of them from New Hampshire or southern Maine. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/press-091807.htm to learn more.

ENERGY REBATES

The City will receive more than \$83,000 in rebates from Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) for the installation of energy-efficient motors and drives on three new pumps installed at the recently renovated Deer Street Sewage Pump Station. The new equipment is expected to reduce the City's annual electricity use by more than 190,000 kilowatt hours, helping the environment while saving the City more than \$19,000 per year -- and possibly as much as \$280,000 over the lifetime of the motors.

FLUSHING MAINS

The Water Department has begun the fall program of flushing water mains, which is expected to continue through the end of October. Crews open fire hydrants between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, releasing water with enough velocity to carry sediment out. It can cause a reddish tint to tap water, which may stain clothing. Residents should let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

WELFARE THANK-YOU

The Welfare Department thanks all the citizens, business groups, and civic organizations who gave so generously to this year's back-to-school drive to help needy residents. Approximately 60 children from pre-school to college age were assisted this year. This is a difficult time financially for many families. You have made life easier for many of your neighbors through your kindness.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Want an easy way to get to New York City for a day of fun? Registration opens Oct. 1 for the Rec Department's annual fall bus trip to the Big Apple on Saturday, Nov. 10. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The bus leaves Portsmouth at 6 a.m. and returns about 11:45 p.m. Cost is \$45. Contact: 766-1483.

ADULT DAY TRIPS

The Rec Department has openings for its day trips for adults. To see the list of great destinations, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-6.htm or call 766-1483.

HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS

If your house will be decorated for Halloween by Oct. 19, you can be part of the Rec Department's Holiday Home Decorating Contest and possibly win a gift certificate. Registration opens Oct. 1. You also can have your home address posted on the Rec Dept. web page for others to enjoy your decorations. Contact: 766-1483.

FILM NOIR

The 1950 film "In a Lonely Place" starring Humphrey Bogart kicks off the Library's latest Wednesday afternoon film series on Oct. 10. Movies begin at 1 p.m. in the Library's state-of-the-art Levenson Room and are followed by a discussion led by Carol Glaser. The "film noir" series goes through November 18. Film noir is a term used to describe detective or thriller movies that usually have low-key lighting and a dark and somber mood. For information on the entire series, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-noir.htm

INDOOR POOL

The Indoor Pool is offering a wide variety of swim programs this fall. For details, click on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm or call the pool at 427-1545.

BASKETBALL

Basketball season is just around the corner. Stay tuned for the complete list of Recreation Department leagues.

ROAD WORK

Work is beginning on installing new sidewalks on Middle Street from Haymarket Square to Union Street. Traffic interruptions will be minimal. Crews are continuing to work on the New Castle Avenue Seawall Project, as well. Information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm.

BOARD OPENINGS

The Building Code Board of Appeals has five openings to fill and the Economic Development Commission has one opening. Also, there will be one opening on the Library Board of Trustees in October. To learn more about the openings and how to apply, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Did you know...?

The Public Works Department maintains 136 miles of streets, 49 miles of sidewalks, 16 City-owned bridges, nine playgrounds, 10 parks/ball fields and four historic cemeteries. These and other interesting facts can be found in the City's recently released Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report. It can be found online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm and copies also are available at the Library.

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.