

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

COLUMBUS DAY

City Hall offices, including the Library, will be closed Monday (Oct. 8) in recognition of Columbus Day. There will be no change to Monday's curbside collection of trash and recyclables. Trash and recycling will be picked up in the business district at 5 p.m. However, yard waste will not be collected on Monday and the Recycling Center is closed. Portsmouth Schools are closed Monday for Columbus Day, as well as this Friday (Oct. 5) for a Teacher Workshop. There will be an early release day on Wednesday, Oct. 10.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day at the City's Recycling Center is Saturday, Oct. 13, from 8 a.m. until noon. Residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington may bring unwanted household chemicals to the Center behind the DPW at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. Proof of residency is required. Do not bring motor oil, automotive batteries, antifreeze or propane cylinders because Portsmouth residents already can recycle these at the Recycling Center. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm for info on HHW Day or call 427-1530.

SCHOOL TESTING

Parents of Portsmouth public school students are asked to make sure their children are physically ready for the reading and math testing going on during the first three weeks of October by encouraging them to do their best, get enough sleep, and eat breakfast. The schools are providing snacks and breakfast. Families are asked not to schedule appointments during school or take vacation time during the three-week testing period. Superintendent Robert Lister says it's important to the entire community that the students do their best. Contact: 431-5080.

POLITICAL PARTY CHANGES

Friday, Oct. 12, is the last day to change your political party affiliation before the as-yet-unscheduled New Hampshire presidential primary. The City Clerk's Office at City Hall is accepting changes from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, through Oct. 12. The Board of Registrars will accept changes and new registrations on Oct. 12 from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. in City Hall Room 211. Undeclared voters must declare a party at the polls during a Primary Election but may revert to undeclared status after the election. Contact 610-7207 or cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com.

NEW PARKING FINE

Any vehicle that remains parked in a municipal parking lot or in un-metered City street spaces for longer than 72 hours is subject to a \$50 penalty in addition to removal by towing. The City Council recently passed an ordinance adding the fine. Contact: 766-1440.

HELP THE POLICE

The Police Department is seeking your help in identifying the culprits in the recent vandalism of gravestones at St. Mary's Cemetery on Greenland Road. Several gravestones were toppled and damaged, which is a Class B felony. Anyone with information about the crime that occurred the weekend of September 22 is urged to call 436-2511 or provide an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers at 431-1199 or via www.seacoastcrimestoppers.org.

TICK PREVENTION

Not seeing many mosquitoes? Don't put away the bug spray yet. The same repellent that protects you from mosquito bites and the viruses they carry also protects against ticks. With all the fall outdoor activities to enjoy, ticks become a significant problem. Lyme Disease, a bacterial disease that can be debilitating and have lifelong effects, is carried by deer ticks. Also, wear light-colored clothing and check for ticks after spending time outdoors. To learn more, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/index.htm>.

FIRE BOAT CHRISTENED

The city's new 34-foot fire boat, an open-ocean and inshore high-speed fire vessel with high-volume pumping and rescue capabilities, was recently christened and is now docked at the Port Authority Pier. The Metalcraft Firestorm-30 was purchased through a grant provided by the U.S. and N.H. Departments of Homeland Security. It has a fully enclosed pilot house so firefighters and paramedics will be able to increase patient care to victims who become ill or injured on other crafts or in the water.

SPECULATE SERIES

The 1966 film "Fahrenheit 451" will be shown tomorrow night (Oct. 4) at 7 p.m. at the Library in conjunction with the "speculative fiction" book discussions it's hosting with the New Hampshire Humanities Council. The next book discussion will be on "Moon over Morocco" on Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. Speculative fiction includes science fiction, fantasy, alternate history, and magical realism. See: www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-speculate.htm for information on the book discussions and www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-cin.htm for information on the films.

PHS SPORTS

The Portsmouth High girls' volleyball game today (Oct. 3) against Coe-Brown Northwood Academy will be broadcast at 7 p.m. Saturday on local government access Channel 22. The PHS football game against Con-Val on Oct. 12 will be broadcast the next night (Oct 13) on Channel 22, also at 7 p.m. The PHS athletic schedules' link is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

FILM NOIR

The Library's new Wednesday afternoon film series begins next Wednesday (Oct. 10) with the 1950 Humphrey Bogart film "In a Lonely Place." It will be followed on Oct. 17 with another 1950 movie, "The Asphalt Jungle." The "film noir" series continues through November 18. Film noir describes detective or thriller movies that usually have low-key lighting and a dark and somber mood. The 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. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-noir.htm.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Citizens for Voter Education will be holding Candidates' Nights on Oct. 17 and 24 for the Council, School Board, and Fire and Police Commission candidates for the Nov. 6 Municipal Election. The City Council Candidates' Night is Oct. 17. The School Board, Police and Fire Commission Candidates' Night will be Oct. 24. They begin at 6 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at City Hall and will be broadcast live on Channel 22. They will be rebroadcast on Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3 and Nov. 5, beginning at 7 p.m. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm for information on registering for the Nov. 6 Municipal Election.

VOTING ABSENTEE

Under a new state law, commuters are eligible to apply for absentee ballots for the Municipal Election if they won't be able 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. Contact 610-7207 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm.

"WASTEWATER 101"

Everything you ever wanted to know about the City's recently launched Wastewater Master Plan and the options under study for a new wastewater treatment plant will be discussed Tuesday, Oct. 23, at a 6:30 p.m. public meeting at the Library's Levenson Room. The project team and City officials will present an update and receive public input. Contact: 427-1530.

HAUNTED HAYRIDE

Registration opens next Tuesday (Oct. 9) at the Connie Bean Center for the Recreation Department's Oct. 19 evening trip to the Haunted Hayride in Scarborough, Maine, for children ages 7-12. The cost is \$25 and includes a pizza party before departure, admission and bus transportation. For details, call 766-1483 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm.

MORE HALLOWEEN

The Rec Department is offering a prize for the home that's decorated the best for Halloween by Oct. 19. Register at Spinnaker Point Recreation Center or by phone at 766-1483. The 13th Annual Halloween Costume Monster Mash Family Dance is Oct. 27, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m., at the Connie Bean. For more information on both events, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm. Trick or Treating in Portsmouth will be Tuesday, Oct. 30, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Safety tips are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/halloween.html.

BASKETBALL TIME

Registration for the Men's City Basketball League is Monday (Oct. 8) through Thursday, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center for men 18 and over who want to play in an organized competitive league. Games begin Oct. 22. Registration begins Oct. 15 for the Men's 35 and Over League, with an organizational night for first-year players scheduled Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. Games are played on Wednesday nights from Oct. 24 through February. Contact 766-1483 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm. Registration for the various children's basketball programs begins late this month and in November. For details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-4.htm. Contact: Tim Bailey at 766-1483.

ELEMENTARY SKIING

The Recreation Department Elementary School Ski Program will hold registration Monday, Oct. 15, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Children in Grades 1-5 are eligible. For costs and program specifics, call Barry Foley at 766-1483 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm.

SWIM LESSONS

It's not too late to think about swim lessons for this fall. Call the Indoor Pool at 427-1545 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm.

DAY TRIPPING

The Rec Department's annual fall bus trip to New York City is Saturday, Nov. 10. Details are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm. Also, information on day trips just for adults can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-6.htm or call 766-1483.

MAINS FLUSHING

The fall program to flush sediment from the City's water mains is continuing. 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.

ROAD WORK

Night road striping will take place from downtown to the Pease Bike route this week. Work continues on installing the new sidewalks on Middle Street and in connection with the New Castle Avenue Seawall Project. Final paving for the New Castle Avenue area is scheduled Oct. 17-19. Information on all city road projects can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm.

BOARD OPENINGS

There are five openings on the Building Code Board of Appeals and one each on the Citizens Advisory Committee, Economic Development Commission, and the Library Board of Trustees. Information on the City's volunteer boards and how to apply, is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Did you know...?

Public Service of New Hampshire was the city's largest property taxpayer in Fiscal Year 2007 with property valued at over \$122 million. HCA Health Services of New Hampshire was second with property assessed at nearly \$54 million. To see the list of Top 10 Taxpayers, visit the Finance Department's section of the Annual Report now online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm and 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.