

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*

TAX RATE

The State has approved a 2007 tax rate of \$16.34 per \$1,000 of valuation in Portsmouth, which will be reflected in the Fiscal Year 2008 tax bills being mailed out. The first half is due December 1 and the second half on June 1, 2008. Again this year, the City is providing an online tax calculator at www.CityofPortsmouth.com for residents to use to estimate their tax bills. The new assessed values are available online, as well.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

Some city streets will be closed tonight (Oct. 31) as the annual Halloween Parade proceeds through downtown. The parade begins at 7 p.m. at the South Playground on Junkins Avenue and ends at the Worth Parking Lot. The event is expected to last one hour. For the route and other information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press103107.htm.

EYEGASSES DRIVE

A group of Portsmouth Middle School students is collecting old prescription glasses, non-prescription glasses, and sunglasses to donate to international missions to provide free vision care to those in need. The used glasses collection by Team Foley has a preferred deadline of tomorrow (Nov. 1). Donated glasses will be repaired. Drop them off at the Middle School or give them to any Middle School student. Contact: 436-5781.

MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES

If you missed the Candidates' Nights held by the Citizens for Voter Education at City Hall for City Council, School Board, and Police and Fire Commission hopefuls, they may be viewed in webcast format any time on computers with Internet connections by going to www.cityofportsmouth.com/webcast/index.htm. Channel 22 also will rebroadcast them Saturday (Nov. 3) and Monday (Nov. 5), beginning at 7 p.m. For a list of candidates' nights elsewhere in the city, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm#can. The election is Nov. 6.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The City Clerk's Office is accepting applications for absentee ballots from those unable to vote during the 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. polling hours on Nov. 6 due to work, being out of town, or request them due to religious observance or physical disability. Application forms are online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm#a-ballots. Ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. Contact 610-7207.

IDENTITY THEFT

A free seminar aimed at helping seniors protect themselves against identity theft and fraud will be held next Thursday (Nov. 8) from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Library's handicapped-accessible Levenson Room. The session is open to everyone and is sponsored by Portsmouth Police and the NH Attorney General. Along with valuable tips, there will be free coffee and pastries. Contact: Sgt. Mike Schwartz, 610-7408.

ROUTE 33 PROJECT

The Public Works Department will hold a public informational meeting on the Route 33 B&M Railroad Bridge Replacement Project on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The project includes reconstruction of the B&M Railroad Bridge and the roadway on Route 33 (Greenland Road) from Borthwick Avenue to Griffin Road. It also will include traffic calming and landscaping. Contact: 766-1415.

VETERANS DAY

City offices, the Library, and Portsmouth public schools will be closed Monday, Nov. 12, in honor of Veterans Day. However, there is no change to curbside collection of trash and recyclables, except that Monday's yard waste will not be picked up until the following Monday. Yard waste also may be taken to the Recycling Center Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm for hours. Portsmouth schools also will have an early release day on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

WOODBURY CALMING

The Department of Public Works will hold a public informational meeting Nov. 14 concerning requests for “traffic calming” initiatives in the Woodbury Avenue corridor between Dennett Street and Market Street Extension. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The Frank Jones Neighborhood Association has asked the City to find ways to reduce travel speeds, improve pedestrian safety and eliminate through truck travel. Contact: 766-1415.

ISLINGTON STREET

The Islington Street corridor will be the subject of a “public visioning” session Nov. 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Library’s Levenson Room. The public is invited to provide input on developing a prioritized action plan for improvements and possibly establishing an Arts District, and to augment information received from the previous stakeholder meetings. Contact: 610-7220.

PARADE MARSHALS

Mayor Steve Marchand wants to know who you think should be the grand marshal(s) of the 2007 Illuminated Holiday Parade. The theme of the Dec. 1 parade is “Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth.” Submit suggestions to Parade@CityofPortsmouth.com or call 610-7281 by Nov. 19. The first person to submit the winning name(s) enjoys four prime parade viewing seats. Application forms for the parade, which steps off at 6 p.m., are at www.CityofPortsmouth.com and also must be submitted by Nov. 19.

BUDGET AWARD

The City of Portsmouth’s budget document has received the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting for the second straight year. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recently gave its Distinguished Budget Document Presentation Award to the City’s Fiscal Year 2008 budget document for the period beginning July 1, 2007. When the City received its first GFOA award last year for the Fiscal Year 2007 budget document, Portsmouth was the first New Hampshire municipality to gain such recognition.

GREASE IS THE WORD

Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Nov. 1) at Portsmouth High School for the Nov. 15-18 production of “Grease.” The organizers plan to give the fall production some local flavor with Portsmouth memorabilia from the 1950s. Members of the PHS Class of 1958 are invited to a reception and to see Sunday’s show at a reduced price. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/grease.htm.

SHAKESPEARE AFTERNOON

Seacoast Repertory Theater will be performing Shakespeare’s comedy “As You Like It” free at noon and 3 p.m. on Friday (Nov. 2) in the Library’s Levenson Room. For more info, call 437-1570 or visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-likeit.htm.

WASTEWATER 101

If you were unable to attend the “Wastewater 101” presentation including the future of the Peirce Island Treatment Plant, you can view it over your computer at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/wwmp.htm.

LAUGHING AT OURSELVES

Everyday foibles ranging from bad hair days to the day she drove through her garage door will be shared through stories and poems by author/columnist/poet Joann Snow Duncanson on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 1:30 p.m. in the Library’s Hilton Garden Room. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-laugh.htm.

BOOK TALK WITH DUBLIN

A book group in Dublin, Ireland, will join the Portsmouth Library’s Adult Book Discussion of T.C. Boyle’s book “Talk Talk” at 1 p.m. on Nov. 15. The joint discussion with the Iveagh Gardens Book Group in Dublin will be conducted in ‘real time’ via laptop computers ‘talking to each other’ with Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP). More info can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-talktalk.htm.

DRAMA AND BOOK DISCUSSION

The Library is joining with the New Hampshire Theatre Project for the first-ever “Drama and Book Discussion” on Sunday, Nov. 18, after the 2 p.m. performance of the play “Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me” at the NHTP

on Islington Street. The discussion will center on comparing and contrasting the play with Ann Patchett's novel "Bel Canto." The discussion is free with admission to the show. Books are available to borrow to Library cardholders. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-111807.htm.

MYSTERY LUNCH

Local mystery author Felicia Donovan will read from her new book "The Black Widow Agency" and sign copies for sale Nov. 19 at the Library's first "Brown Bag Lunch Program." Bring your lunch and the Library will provide drinks, dessert and the speaker, who is an information systems manager at the Portsmouth Police Department. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-donovan.htm.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Men's Basketball Leagues schedules are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/basketball.htm.

SENIORS EXERCISE

An exercise class for seniors is offered every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. at the Connie Bean Center. No registration is necessary as you pay \$2 for each class you attend. Contact: 427-1549.

REC NEWS

There are still a few spots in the Rec Department's elementary school ski program held at Gunstock Mountain. For more info, contact 766-1483. Also, Spinnaker Point Adult Center continues to add new programs and classes. Call 766-1483 to see what's new.

THURSDAY NIGHT MOVIES

The 2007 movie "Breach" based on the true story of FBI agent Robert Hanssen, who was convicted of selling secrets to the Soviet Union, will be shown free at 7 p.m. tomorrow (Nov. 1) in the Library's state-of-the-art Levenson Room. On Nov. 15, the film "Away from Her" starring Julie Christie will be shown. For the full November and December schedules, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-films.htm.

MORE FILM NOIR

The Library's Film Noir series on Wednesday afternoons continues next Wednesday (Nov. 7) with Stanley Kubrick's 1956 movie "The Killing" starring Sterling Hayden. The following week, the 1996 film "Hard Eight" will be shown. Movies begin at 1 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room and are followed by a discussion led by Carol Glaser. For information on the series, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-noir.htm.

PHS SPORTS

The PHS girls' volleyball Oct. 27 quarterfinal game against Laconia will be broadcast on Channel 22 on Saturday (Nov. 3) at 3:45 p.m. The team's semifinal game Tuesday against Oyster River will be broadcast at 7 p.m. on Nov. 10. **The finals game against Gilford will be shown at 7 p.m. on November 17.** All the PHS athletic schedules can be found by clicking the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

BOARD OPENINGS

The Building Code Board of Appeals has two openings, the Citizens Advisory Committee has one and there is also a vacancy on the Economic Development Commission. Information on the City's volunteer boards and how to apply, is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

ROADWORK

Crews will be conducting miscellaneous clean-up related to the paving and sidewalk work on Marcy Street, New Castle Avenue and connecting streets. The brick sidewalk work on Marcy Street and New Castle Avenue is scheduled for completion as well. Meanwhile, work continues on the Middle Street sidewalk project with the installation of Union Street curbing planned from South Street to Lincoln Avenue. Information on all city road projects can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm.

Mark your calendar! (2 items)

The next Portsmouth Middle School dance is Nov. 16, 7:30-10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center.

The 16th Annual Turkey Shoot for Portsmouth boys and girls in Grades K-5 competing to make the most basketball "fowl" shots is Saturday, Nov. 17. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm.

Did you know...?

The Portsmouth Public Library now has over 430 CDs in its music collection, and it continues to grow through acquisitions and donations. However, the Library has discovered that many musicians are difficult to categorize because they play with, and transcend, genre. There are many folksy rockers, rocking folk singers and punk rock balladeers out there. So, you're invited to browse the different collections. Patrons may check out five music CDs for two weeks. If you want to see a complete list in the catalog, select subject and type in "Music CDs."

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.

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