

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

PRIMARY RESULTS

For Portsmouth's Presidential Primary election results, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/index.htm.

CDBG INPUT SOUGHT

The Citizens Advisory Committee is seeking ideas for new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects at a hearing tomorrow (Thursday, Jan. 10) at 7 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room B. It is the second of two public hearings prior to development of the FY 2008-2009 CDBG Annual Plan and Budget. CDBG projects must benefit Portsmouth families who earn very low, low and moderate incomes. CDBG funding also can be used to carry out projects in neighborhoods where more than half of the residents earn low or moderate incomes, and to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Contact: 610-7226.

SUSTAINABILITY CIRCLES

There will be a celebration Saturday (Jan. 12) of the completion of the current round of Sustainability Study Circles and an opportunity to join the next round starting in February. The event will be from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the Library's Levenson Room. There also will be opportunities to join with others on actions that will support our region's movement toward sustainability. This event is sponsored by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices, Portsmouth Listens, and The Piscataqua Sustainable Initiative.

SCHOOL CALENDAR COMMENTS

The Portsmouth School Department (SAU 52) is inviting public comment on the proposed school calendars for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years. These dates will also affect students in SAU 50 (New Castle, Newington, Greenland, and Rye). An informational meeting is scheduled Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School's Little Theatre and copies of the proposed calendars will be available. Contact: jmatte@portsmouth.k12.nh.us or rclark@portsmouth.k12.nh.us.

BAR/RESTAURANT MEETING

The Police Department, in partnership with the Downtown Bar/Restaurant Owners, invites all bar/restaurant owners, managers and interested staff to a meeting next Monday (Jan. 14) at 6 p.m. at the Police Department to discuss increased partnership in the New Year; eliminating impaired drivers and what can be done to help; proactive methods for dealing with problem patrons; adoption of a "blanket trespass notification" and other concerns. Contact: Sgt. Corey MacDonald at 610-7548, or Bethany Hayes (owner of TJ's) at 557-3598.

CANCELLATION REMINDER

The Jan. 15 public meeting on the Islington Street Corridor Action Plan at the Library's Levenson Room has been canceled. It will be rescheduled at a later time.

TREE PICKUP

Christmas trees will be collected from the curbside through next Friday, Jan. 18, on the same day that trash and recyclables are collected. Residents also may bring Christmas trees to the Recycling Center for disposal anytime. For Recycling Center hours and more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm.

MLK HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices, schools and the Library are closed Monday, Jan. 21, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. However, curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables continues as usual, including the business district.

MYSTERY LUNCH

Local mystery author Pat Remick will read from her new award-winning story "Mercy 101" published in "Still Waters: Crime Stories by New England Writers" and sign copies of the anthology for sale at the Library's next

“Brown Bag Lunch Program.” on Jan. 23 from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your lunch and the Library provides drinks, dessert and the speaker. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-remick.htm.

WOODBURY MEETING

There will be a public meeting Jan. 23 to discuss suggested “traffic calming” changes in the Woodbury Avenue corridor between Bartlett Street and Market Street Extension. The meeting will be from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The Public Works Department will present preliminary design ideas for discussion. 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: 766-1411.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Portsmouth middle and high school students are tentatively scheduled to be off Thursday, Jan. 24, so that teachers can have a workshop, but the date could change if there is another snow day between now and the 24th. Contact: 431-5080

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A link to the new Portsmouth Community Education Brochure filled with a broad range of fun and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes and workshops taking place on various dates between Feb. 11 and April 23 can now be found online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm.

“NAMESAKE” SHOWING

The film “Namesake” based on the best-selling novel by Jhumpa Lahiri will be shown tomorrow (Thursday, Jan. 10) at 7 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room. It was originally scheduled Dec. 13 but was postponed due to bad weather. “Namesake” is the story of the Ganguli family whose move from Calcutta to New York evokes a lifelong balancing act to meld to a new world without forgetting the old. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-films.htm.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The next Middle School Dance for Portsmouth residents and chaperoned by Rec Dept. staff is Friday (Jan. 11) at the Connie Bean Center from 7:30-10 p.m. The cost is \$4. Contact: 766-1483.

ADULT DAY TRIPS

There are a few openings for some of the Recreation Department’s adult day trips. Information on the trips can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-6.htm. Call Spinnaker Point at 766-1483 to see which trips still have openings.

INDOOR POOL

The Indoor Pool has a full schedule of swim lessons coming up. For more information, call 427-1545 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm.

PUBLIC ART

Applications are now available online for artists who want to apply to be part of the competition for Overnight Art, the temporary installation of various forms of public art at outdoor sites in Portsmouth from mid-May through the summer. For an application and more info, see www.art-speak.org.

RECYCLING STICKERS

Residents may obtain free 2008 Recycling Center stickers at the Recycling Center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. by filling out an application and showing proof of residency. Stickers are issued on an annual basis and must be placed on the driver's side window. Contact: 427-1530.

SNOW INFO

If the City decides to ban on-street parking to facilitate snow removal, it will be announced on Cable Channel 22, on a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), at www.cityofportsmouth.com, in the local media and on signs at all entrances to the City. The ban’s conclusion is announced the same way. A map of parking lots open during bans is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/snowbanparkinglots.htm.

Portsmouth residents also may obtain coupons from the Parking Office at City Hall (open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) to pay just \$3 if they park at the High-Hanover Parking Facility during these bans. Contact: 610-7229.

PHS SPORTS

The link to the Portsmouth High athletic schedules is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

BOARD OPENINGS

There are three vacancies on the Taxi Commission, two on the Building Code Board of Appeals and one opening on the Economic Development Commission. Information on the City's volunteer boards and how to apply is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Did you know...?

The City's Inspection Department issued 917 building permits with a declared construction value of \$64.1 million, 534 electrical permits, and 673 plumbing/mechanical permits in Fiscal Year 2007 for a total 2,124 permits issued – 94 above the previous period. The Department is responsible for ensuring that new construction complies with the City's adopted building, electrical, plumbing and life safety codes. To learn more about the Inspection Department and other City departments, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm.

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/2008/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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