

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

PARKING OFFICE

The Parking Clerk's Office at City Hall is closed until 12:30 p.m. today (Jan. 23) for office system upgrades and training. Contact: 610-7229.

MYSTERY LUNCH

The Library today holds its second "Brown Bag Lunch Program" beginning at noon and featuring local mystery author Pat Remick, who will read and sign copies for sale of her award-winning story published in "Still Waters: Crime Stories by New England Writers." See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-remick.htm.

SCHOOL CALENDAR COMMENTS

Parents of children in the Portsmouth School District and SAU 50 (New Castle, Newington, Greenland, and Rye) are urged to attend tonight's (Wed., Jan. 23) informational meeting on the proposed school calendars for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years. It begins at 6:30 p.m. in the High School's Little Theatre.

WOODBURY MEETING

A public meeting is scheduled tonight (Jan. 23) to discuss suggested "traffic calming" changes in the Woodbury Avenue corridor between Dennett Street and Market Street Extension. The Public Works Department will present preliminary design ideas for discussion at the 6-7:30 p.m. session in City Hall Conference Room A. Contact: 766-1411.

STUDENTS OFF

Portsmouth Middle and High School students are scheduled to be off from school on Friday (Jan. 25) so that teachers can meet in a workshop, unless there is another snow day beforehand. Contact: 431-5080.

HIGH SCHOOL READERS

The first meeting of the Library's new book discussion club for high school students is Monday (Jan. 28) from 7-8 p.m. It will be an organizational meeting, to be followed by the first book discussion on Feb. 4. Contact: 766-1740.

BAR/RESTAURANT MEETING

The rescheduled Police Department and Downtown Bar/Restaurant Owners meeting for all bar/restaurant owners, managers and interested staff is Monday (Jan. 28) at 6 p.m. at the Police Department. Topics include increased partnership in the New Year; eliminating impaired drivers; proactive methods for dealing with problem patrons, and other concerns. Contact: Sgt. Corey MacDonald at 610-7548.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City Council will hold a work session on the City's Capital Improvement Plan for the next six years on Monday (Jan. 28) at 6:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The work session will be broadcast live on Local Government Cable Channel 22.

BUDGET HEARINGS

The School Board will hold its first public hearing on the 2008-2009 budget next Tuesday (Jan. 29) at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the Little Harbour Elementary School. The Police Commission will hold a hearing Feb. 7 on the proposed FY09 Police Department Budget at 6 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers and it will be televised live on Channel 22.

SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS

There is a Feb. 15 deadline for applications for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Public Service Agency Grant program administered by the City's Community Development Department and funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The competitive grant program makes grants ranging from \$5,000 to

\$15,000 to non-profit public service agencies serving Portsmouth individuals and families earning very low, low, or moderate-incomes. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/announcements.htm.

OVERNIGHT ART

Feb. 15 is the deadline for artists to submit applications to the Overnight Art 2008 competition, which will result in 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.

ELECTION INFO

If you voted in the Presidential Primary and want to change your political party status to undeclared or another political party, there is a June 3 deadline to do so before the Sept. 9, 2008, State Primary Election. Otherwise, you will only be allowed to receive a ballot from the same political party as you voted for in the Presidential Primary. To change your status, you must complete the necessary form at the Office of the City Clerk in City Hall Room 218. Contact: 610-7245.

SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Portsmouth has a long-term commitment to the principles of sustainability, including reducing dependence on fossil fuels, synthetic chemicals, and negative impacts on our natural resources. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/sustainability-initiatives.htm.

INDOOR TENNIS AND MORE

Where can you find an indoor tennis court, open court basketball, co-ed volleyball, badminton, paddle tennis, ping pong, an indoor golf net and other amenities all in one place? The City's Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center offers all this and more, including an indoor track, exercise equipment, a 50-foot indoor pool with four swimming lanes, a hot tub and steam room, and a variety of classes. Join for a day, part of a year or longer. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/spoint.htm.

STIMULATING CLASSES

The new Portsmouth Community Education Brochure is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm and includes numerous fun and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes and workshops through April 23.

LIGHT BULB RECYCLING

They may be energy-efficient, but the new compact fluorescent light bulbs contain the toxic chemical mercury and cannot be disposed of in your regular trash collection. A new State law bans mercury-containing waste from being disposed of in landfills. Fluorescent light bulbs (the old ones and the new energy-efficient versions) can be properly recycled at the Recycling Center, 680 Peverly Hill Road, along with other mercury-containing waste such as thermometers, thermostats, button cell batteries, and certain electrical switches and relays. Mercury can cause neurological and other disorders and should never be released into the environment. Contact: 427-1530.

STORY TIMES

A new series of Baby Lap and Preschool Story Times continues through late February at the Library. These free drop-in programs are open to Library cardholders. Lap Times are for children from birth to age 3 and their grownups, and Story Times are for ages 3 and up and their grownups. For specific days and times, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-pms.htm Contact: 766-1740.

MAH JONG

The ancient Chinese game of Mah Jong is played every Saturday from 10 am to noon at the Library. New players meet in the Café to learn the game; those with more experience will play in the Hilton Garden Room. Bring a game if you have one. No registration required; just drop in!

BOARD OPENINGS

The City has 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR.... (3 Items)

The Rec Department's 14th annual Father-Daughter Dance is Saturday, Feb. 9, 6-8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Girls in Grades K-5 and dads (or uncles, grandfathers, brothers etc.) are welcome. Cost is \$10 per couple (no charge for extra daughters). Contact: 766-1483.

Registration for the Recreation Department's February school vacation camp begins Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$105 for residents and includes all activities and bus transportation. The camp is limited to 40 children in Grades K-5. Contact: 766-1483.

The Irish romantic film "ONCE," a charming, captivating tale of love and music, will be shown twice on Valentine's Day in the Levenson Room of the Library. The 2007 film will be shown free at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Feb. 14. There also will be free popcorn and a beverage. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-021408.htm

Did you know...?

World War II and Korean War veterans who left Portsmouth High School to enlist or were drafted before completing their education may be eligible to receive a diploma under a School Department program. Candidates meet briefly with a Veterans Diploma Committee to share their experiences of leaving high school and joining the military. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/veterans-program.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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