

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

CITY BUDGET HEARING

Tonight (April 16) is the City Council's public hearing on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009, which begins July 1, 2008. The Police, Fire, School and Municipal Departments will make presentations at the session beginning at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The hearing will be broadcast live on local government access cable Channel 22. The budget document is online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com.

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

The first annual Portsmouth Sustainability Fair is Saturday (April 19) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Portsmouth Middle School. Come enjoy exhibitors, speakers, an organic food court, a scavenger hunt, live entertainment, and other activities for all ages. To gain entry, bring a recyclable item or make a donation. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/fair.htm. The event is sponsored by Portsmouth Listens, Piscataqua Sustainability Initiative, City of Portsmouth, and the Portsmouth School District.

POLICE ACADEMY

The Police Department is hosting its first Citizens Police Academy beginning April 23 and continuing on Wednesday evenings for eight weeks. There is no fee but the course is limited to 25 applicants. The academy is sponsored by Crime Stoppers and is open to residents and business owners in Portsmouth, Greenland, Rye, Newington and New Castle. Their police departments also are involved. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news040308.htm or contact Portsmouth Detective Tom Grella at 610-7429 or e-mail Citizenspoliceacademy@pd.cityofportsmouth.com.

MEMORIAL BRIDGE

The Memorial Bridge carrying U.S. Route 1 between Portsmouth and Kittery will be closed to roadway and marine traffic from 7 a.m. Monday (April 21) to 7 a.m. Saturday (April 26) while work is underway to replace the bridge's counterweight ropes. In addition, there will be lane closures this week between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., as well as during the week following the closure.

DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS

The City will be replacing the sidewalks on Market Street from Hanover Street to Market Square beginning April 21. The new sidewalks will be wider with a brick surface. Period lighting also will be installed. Questions should be directed to project manager David Desfosses at 766-1411. Also, some minor work is under way to correct issues with recently completed sidewalk projects on Middle Street, and the Union and Pleasant Street project areas.

CDBG HEARING

A public hearing on the draft Community Development Block Grant Annual Plan and budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 will be held at 7 p.m. next Thursday, April 24, in City Hall Conference Room A. CDBG funds are used to primarily benefit: individuals and families earning very low, low or moderate incomes; improve neighborhoods where over 51% of residents earn very low, low or moderate incomes; and improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Contact: 610-7226.

FLUSHING MAINS

The spring program to flush sediment from Portsmouth Water Department mains has begun and will last approximately six weeks until all mains are flushed. 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.

LIBRARY PARKING

New parking regulations have been adopted for the lot on the west side of the new Library. The lot, which is located on the side near the book drop containers, will be limited to Library patrons only and for a four-hour

limit. In addition, overnight parking is prohibited. Vehicles found in violation of these new regulations will be towed at the owner's expense. Contact: 766-1440.

DOG LICENSE REMINDER

Dog owners must renew their dogs' licenses by May 1. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are charged \$6.50. Licenses are \$9 for male or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they have been neutered or spayed. Senior citizens over 65 may register one dog annually for \$2. Contact: 610-7245.

POLICE ADVICE

The Police Department has received telephone calls about two men claiming to be landscapers who are going door-to-door to solicit work and receive money in advance. In one case, they asked for money for yard work that never was authorized or completed. Police urge homeowners to receive positive identification and confirm references before hiring workers. Residents also are urged to be wary of door-to-door solicitors and to call the Police Department if in doubt. Contact: 427-1500.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington will be Saturday, May 10, from 8 a.m. until noon. Bring unwanted household chemicals to the Portsmouth Department of Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. Proof of residency is required. A list of chemicals is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm. Contact: 427-1530.

ADULT PUPPET SHOW

A comedic puppet show entitled "We Stayed Together for the Puppets" will be performed at 7 p.m. tomorrow (April 17) at the Library's Levenson Room. The "stand-up storytelling for adults" is free. For details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-041708.htm. Contact: 427-1540.

SEE "JUNO"

The Oscar-winning film "Juno" will be shown free at the Library's Levenson Room next Thursday (April 24) at 7 p.m. The 96-minute, PG-13 film tells the story of an offbeat young woman's unusual decision after she is faced with an unplanned pregnancy. "Juno" won an Oscar for best writing of a screenplay directly for the screen. Free popcorn. Contact: 427-1540.

CANCER AND POETRY

Two local poets will host a reading and discussion on the value of reading and/or writing poetry when dealing with cancer. It takes place Tuesday, April 29, at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. People who have no experience reading or writing poetry are strongly encouraged to attend. Pat Parnell and Tammi Truax will read from their works in the recently published anthology "Alternatives to Surrender." Also reading will be Hugh Harter and Portsmouth Poet Laureate Liz Knies. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-042908.htm or call 427-1540.

REGISTER FOR SCHOOL

Kindergarten and new student registration is underway this week at Portsmouth elementary schools. New Franklin School registration is today (April 16). Dondero is registering students tomorrow (April 17) and Little Harbour has scheduled registration for May 13. Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by September 30 and must reside in Portsmouth. A link to more information is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm.

SPRING BREAK

Portsmouth Public Schools are on spring recess during the week of April 28.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

The Portsmouth Alternative School (PASS) graduation is Friday, June 6, at 10:45 a.m. at Sherburne School. Middle School graduation is Thursday, June 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Portsmouth High School. The High School graduation is Friday, June 13, at 5:30 p.m. If there are no more cancellations between now and the end of school, the last day of school for students will be Wednesday, June 18. Contact: 431-5080.

REC NEWS

Registration ends Friday (April 18) for the popular five-week Fun & Games Program that begins May 6 but continues for the Rec Department's April 28-May 2 vacation camp until all slots are filled. Sign up for both programs at Spinnaker Point Adult Rec Center. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm or call 766-1483. Also, Spinnaker Point has new programs scheduled this spring. Pick up a brochure or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm. The Peirce Island pool is scheduled to open June 23. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm for schedule and programs.

LIFEGUARD COURSE

The Indoor Pool is holding registration for a concentrated Red Cross Lifeguard Course. Ten classes will be held over 12 days from May 8 to May 20. A swimming pretest is required. Stop by the pool for information, call 427-1546 or see <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm>.

NEW YORK CITY TRIP

Register now for the May 17 spring trip to New York City sponsored by the Recreation Department. The \$45 cost includes round-trip coach bus service. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm or call 766-1483.

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 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Contact: 610-7245.

24 BOARD VACANCIES

There are 24 openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. Information on these boards and how to apply is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm. The vacancies are: Building Code Board of Appeals (2); Cable Television & Communications Commission (2); Conservation Commission (4); Economic Development Commission (1); Portsmouth Housing Authority (1); Board of Library Trustees (1); Citywide Neighborhood Steering Committee (4); PEDLP Review Committee (1); Recreation Board (6), and Taxi Commission (2).

TRAFFIC INTERRUPTION

The St. John's Lodge 5K "Out of Hibernation" Road Race on Saturday, April 26, will result in the brief temporary closure of Miller Street between Middle and Merrimack Streets for the start of the 9 a.m. race that begins from the Miller Street Baptist Church.

Did you know...?

The Fire Department has a new truck in service that will be known as "Tower 5" and operate out of the Lafayette Road Station. The truck is a 2008 Ferrara Inferno 100-foot Mid-Mount Aerial Platform and replaces a 1996 ladder truck. The new truck can pump 2,000 gallons of water a minute and features an illuminated aerial walkway and platform capable of holding 1,000 pounds.

School events....

- The Little Harbour School 4th and 5th Grade Art Show is tonight (April 16) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- The Little Harbour 5th Grade Musical "The Nightingale" is April 23 at 7 p.m.

School Fundraisers (3)

Saturday night (April 19) is the Decade Dance - The 80s hosted by the New Franklin School PTO to benefit students attending environmental school. The dance is from 7 pm. until 11 p.m. at VFW Post 168. Tickets are \$15, or 2 for \$25, and can be purchased at New Franklin School or by calling 373-0494. Space is limited. Prizes for best costumes.

Next Friday (April 25) is the deadline to order a custom-made ice cream cake to benefit the Portsmouth Alternative Secondary School (PASS) senior trip. The \$30, 10-inch cakes will feed 15-20 people. Order at least one week in advance. Email bmascio@portsmouth.k12.nh.us or call Bryan or Erika at 427-2901.

The Cinco de Mayo fundraiser by The Friends Project to benefit its program creating social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities is May 10 at the Elks Club. Doors open at 6 p.m. for appetizers and a silent auction. The live auction is at 7:15 p.m. followed by dancing. Tickets are \$35. Contact: Heidi Chase at 436-7100, ext. 2919, or hchase@portsmouth.k12.nh.us or Nancy Clayburgh at 436-6525.

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 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

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