

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 TUESDAY

The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. next Tuesday (Sept. 9) for the Democratic and Republican primary elections for U.S. House and Senate, governor, executive council, NH House and Senate, and Rockingham County offices. New voters may register at their local polling places. Undeclared voters must declare as either a Democrat or Republican at their voting location but may change their party back to undeclared status after voting Tuesday. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm for more information and sample ballots or contact 610-7207.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you will be unable to vote in person in the primary next Tuesday (Sept. 9) or the Nov. 4 general election, you may request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballot applications are available at the City Clerk's Office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays and online via a link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm#elect. Registered voters can apply for absentee ballots if they will be unable to vote in person between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day because they will be working during those hours, out of town, or request them due to religious observance or physical disability. Ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. Contact 610-7207 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm for all election information.

WOODBURY WARNING

The City has begun work on a major construction project to implement traffic-calming improvements on the mile-long residential section of Woodbury Avenue between Bartlett and Market Streets. Construction begins each weekday at 7 a.m. through the end of November. The section from Cottage to Bartlett will be closed periodically during work hours over the next two weeks to allow for sewer and gas line installations. Use alternative routes whenever possible. If you are unable to avoid the project area, please use caution and be cognizant of construction crews. The project was initiated after the Frank Jones Neighborhood Association asked the City to find ways to reduce traffic speeds, improve pedestrian safety and eliminate through truck travel in that area. Contact: 766-1411.

ART SCAVENGER HUNT

As part of the "Meet the Artist Event" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 6) in connection with the Overnight Art 2008 public art exhibition, Art-Speak is teaming up with a local ice cream shop to encourage children to participate. Children can go to any of the six art installations to obtain a scavenger hunt form from the artist(s) stationed near the artwork. The children must visit all the art pieces to correctly answer the questions and then return the form to an artist, who will give them certificates for a free kiddie cone at Izzy's Frozen Yogurt and Ice Cream. To learn more, visit www.art-speak.org or call 610-7222. No rain date. The artworks will be "de-installed" next week.

LIBRARY SUNDAYS RETURN

The Library resumes Sunday afternoon hours this coming Sunday (Sept. 7). The Library will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the fall and winter. For information on Library hours and services, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library or call 427-1540.

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

Author Kate Christensen will participate in a book group format discussion of "The Great Man," which won the 2008 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, and also give a reading and sign books next Wednesday (Sept. 10) at the Library's Levenson Room. The events, which are free and open to the public, are co-sponsored with RiverRun Bookstore. The book discussion with Christensen, whose novels include "The Epicure's Lament," is at 6 p.m. (RSVP to [riverrunevents@gmail.com](mailto:rivrunevents@gmail.com)) and the reading and signing is at 7 p.m. More information is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm. Contact: 427-1540.

SUPPLIES STILL NEEDED

Even though the schools have reopened, some Portsmouth residents still need assistance in obtaining back-to-school supplies and clothing. The Welfare Department is accepting donations of new school supplies (markers, paper, notebooks, calculators, etc.) and backpacks. Gift cards to local department stores for the purchase of shoes, socks, and clothing also would be greatly appreciated. Drop off donations at the Welfare Department in City Hall Room 204. Contact: etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com or 610-7267.

SOCCER, SOCCER, SOCCER

The Rec Department has co-ed soccer programs for kids and adults this fall at Leary Field. Registration ends Friday (Sept. 5) for the K-4 program. No registration is required for "Sandlot Soccer Sundays," which start Sunday (Sept. 7) and continue through Oct. 19 at Leary Field, with boys and girls ages 5-7 playing from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. and ages 8-11 from 11 a.m.-noon. All levels are welcome. The Rec Department provides equipment and supervision for this free program. Tuesday night pick-up games for adults 18 and older resume Tuesday, Sept. 16, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and go through the end of October. Bring shin guards and water. Recreation players only. No scores are kept. Contact: 766-1483.

SEWER SURVEYING

Survey work is underway in the area bounded by Richards Avenue, Middle Street and South Street in advance of designing a project to reduce flooding and sewage backups as part of a long-term plan to separate older combined sewage and stormwater pipes in the city. The project will include improvements to sewer lines, drain lines, water mains, roads, curbing, and sidewalks. The City will hold a public information meeting in mid-October to discuss the project. Contact: 766-1416.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The fall Portsmouth Community Education brochure, offering a wide variety of fun and reasonably priced classes ranging from family self-defense and how to pay for college to cooking and language classes, can be found by clicking on the link at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm>

AWARD-WINNING CHIEF

Police Chief Michael Magnant recently received the national "Law Enforcement Partner of the Year" award in recognition of his accomplishments and continued efforts in the field of combating underage drinking. The award was presented at the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center's National Leadership Conference in Nashville. Under Chief Magnant's leadership, the department has instituted a number of innovative programs that include initiatives to keep drunk drivers off the streets of Portsmouth, which is home to 96 bars and restaurants, the most per capita in the state.

CHIMNEY SCAM

Portsmouth Police are warning the public about a recent scam involving a purported chimney service. It begins when a female caller telephones homeowners, offering an extremely low price for chimney cleaning. But after workers arrive and go up on the roof, they falsely tell the homeowner additional work is needed and demand higher payment. Involved are two white males and one black male who drive a white panel van and call themselves "Up and Smoke Chimney Industries." Homeowners are urged never to accept any solicitation over the phone and always check references before agreeing to any work. Contact: 436-2511.

SAVE ELECTRICITY

Did you know that many electronic devices--such as televisions, DVD players, stereos, computers and cell phone battery chargers--continue to draw a small amount of power even when they're turned off or not in use? Unplugging them from the wall saves energy. Consider plugging electronic devices into a power strip instead. If you plug your computer, printer and fax into a single power strip, it's easier to switch them all off from the power strip, for example. Make sure you read the manuals first to comply with manufacturers' recommended specifications for your electronic devices. Visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm to learn about the City of Portsmouth's sustainability initiatives.

HOMEWORK HELP

Does your child need to do research for a homework assignment? The Library has some hints on how to get started at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-hh.htm. You can also e-mail and call the Library, visit in person and/or make an appointment with a reference librarian to get help. Contact information can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/ask.htm.

PHS SPORTS

A link to the Portsmouth High fall sports schedule is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

FLUSHING MAINS

The Water Department begins its fall program of flushing mains next Monday (Sept. 8). Let your water run clear if you see Water Department trucks in the neighborhood between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday.

RECYCLE COOKING OIL

Help the environment and avoid plumbing problems in your home, business and the City's wastewater treatment system by recycling used cooking oil and grease at the Recycling Center. Rather than dump it down the sink or toilet, or pour it into a non-recyclable container to be placed in the weekly trash collection, transport it in a clean, watertight container and Public Works personnel will help you pour it into the designated yellow tank. A Maine company refines it into biofuel heating oil and diesel oil for commercial vehicles. Recycling Center information is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm. For information on the City's sustainability initiatives, see www.CityofPortsmouth.com/sustainability.

INDOOR POOL

Registration is underway for a wide variety of fall swim lessons beginning Sept. 15 and 16 at the Indoor Pool, including a new class entitled "Introduction to Swim Team" for children ages 7 to 14 who might be interested in joining a swim team someday. Call the pool at 427-1546 for details or click on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm.

TALK BOOKS

After a brief summer break, the Library's Adult Book Discussion Group resumes Sept. 15 with a discussion of T.C. Boyle's "Tortilla Curtain" at 7 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Room. The Library supplies a copy of the book to any Library member interested in attending its Book Discussion Group but copies of "Tortilla Curtain" are in short supply so go online to put your name on a waiting list via the "borrowing" link at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/index.htm> or call 427-1540. The discussions are informally facilitated and all opinions are welcome. To encourage a more lively discussion, people are encouraged to read the book beforehand. Light refreshments are available. The book discussion schedule through June 2009 is online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-read.htm.

FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Free movie nights resume at the Library on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. with the showing of the witty 2008 film "Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day" starring Frances McDormand. Come enjoy the movie and free popcorn in the Levenson Room. Contact: 427-1540.

BLACK WIDOW READING

Local author Felicia Donovan will read and sign her latest book in the Black Widow Agency Series, "Spun Tales," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25 in the Library's Levenson Room in a program co-sponsored with RiverRun Bookstore. Four computer forensics sleuths continue their adventures in the second mystery in the series. Contact the Library at 427-1540.

FALL REC BROCHURE

The Recreation Department's fall/winter brochure is now available at all Recreation Department facilities and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. It includes full schedules for fall sports, adult trips, the Indoor Pool, Spinnaker Point Adult Center and the Connie Bean Community Center. Contact: 766-1483.

ACTIVITIES GALORE

Where can you find indoor tennis, co-ed volleyball, open court basketball, dodge ball leagues, paddle tennis, badminton, ping-pong, an indoor track, indoor pool, gym equipment, weight room, various adult sports leagues, and classes ranging from beginner ballroom dancing and belly dancing to boot camp fitness? It's all at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center at very reasonable prices. Check out the facility for age 18 and up located at 30 Spinnaker Way or get a taste online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-8.htm.

ROAD CLOSURES

Odiorne Point Road will be closed from its two intersections with Gosport Road Saturday (Sept. 6) between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. for a neighborhood event. Also, Mendum and Park Streets will be closed between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday for a block party there.

PORTSMOUTH CRITERIUM

World class bicyclists will compete in the high-speed Portsmouth Criterium race through downtown Portsmouth on Sunday, Sept. 21, requiring the closure of several downtown streets. The streets will be closed from approximately 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and the High-Hanover Parking Facility will offer a flat rate of \$3 during that time period. Portsmouth Police will list all street closures on www.CityofPortsmouth.com a few days before the event. For more information about the race, go to www.Portsmouthcrit.com.

VOLUNTEER BOARDS

There are a number of openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. To learn about these openings and how to apply, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Mark your calendar...(3 items)

The first Middle School dance of the new school year is Friday, Sept. 26, from 7:30-10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. The City's next household hazardous waste collection date will be on a Saturday in October. The 14th Annual Halloween Costume Monster Mash Family Dance is Oct. 25.

Did you know...

The City of Portsmouth is replacing 17,000 square feet of flat roofing at the Municipal Complex with products designed to double the lifespan and insulation value, which will reduce taxpayer costs, and also plans to recycle as much of the removed material as possible. Some of the flat-roofed areas have been prone to damaging leaks for the past few years, particularly over the City Council chambers and Police Department. The \$265,000 roofing project will replace seven flat roofs with a modified bitumen system that has a 30-year unconditional guarantee and uses recycled materials in some of the products. The City plans to replace flat roofs at the Connie Bean and Spinnaker Point Recreation Centers with the same roofing system.

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 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-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 also on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Sept. 7.

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.