

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) to join the distribution list, or be removed. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

### **TODAY'S EVENTS**

Today is an early release today for Portsmouth Public Schools. The release times for all schools are listed here: [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/schoolevents-earlyrelease.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/schoolevents-earlyrelease.htm).

### **DOWNTOWN CLOSURES**

The high-speed Portsmouth Criterium bicycle race through downtown Sunday (Sept. 21) will require the closure of several downtown streets from approximately 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. The race may cause periodic to significant traffic delays. The High-Hanover Parking Facility will offer a flat rate of \$3 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Streets to be closed to traffic and parking are listed at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news091108.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news091108.htm). For more information about the race, go to [www.Portsmouthcrit.com](http://www.Portsmouthcrit.com).

### **UNDERAGE DRINKING**

The School and Police Departments in Portsmouth, Rye, New Castle, Newington and Greenland are sponsoring a campaign to tackle underage drinking and will host a guest speaker Monday (Sept. 22)—Eddie Edwards, the New Hampshire Liquor Commission's chief of license and enforcement—at 5:30 p.m. at the High School's Little Theatre. Everyone is welcome to attend. RSVP to Amy Noble at 431-5080 or [anoble@portsmouth.k12.nh.us](mailto:anoble@portsmouth.k12.nh.us). The campaign's goal is to develop a plan to reduce illegal drug use and underage drinking.

### **FREE COMPUTER CLASSES**

The Library will begin offering a number of free, hands-on computer classes this fall, including Computer Basics, Internet Basics and Google Email. The classes will accommodate up to six students and will run for 1 and 1/2 hours. Days and times of the classes will vary, and some classes will have prerequisites. Each class will be a onetime workshop that can be repeated if necessary. To learn more about this new service, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm) or call 766-1720.

### **METER SYSTEM UPDATE**

The second phase of implementation of the City's new Automated Meter Reader system will begin in October in the area between Middle Street and the Route One Bypass. Property owners will be notified by mail in early October on how to schedule an installation appointment online or by calling the number in the letter. Further information will be available at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com). The AMR system uses radio and Ethernet connections and will eventually be expanded to nearly 8,000 meters in Portsmouth, Newington, New Castle, and Rye as well as locations in Greenland, Madbury, Dover and Durham.

### **SCHOOL MASTER CALENDAR**

The School Department recently developed an online "All Schools Activities Calendar" that lists two months of events at the High School, Middle School and elementary schools. The calendar, which is updated every Thursday, can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm).

### **FREE MOVIE THURSDAYS**

The witty 2008 film "Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day" starring Frances McDormand is tomorrow night's (Thursday, Sept. 18) free movie at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. The next free movie in the Library's Thursday evening series is Oct. 2 with the showing of "Young@Heart," a documentary tracking a choir by the same name as they rehearse and prepare for a performance. The choir is composed of elderly men and women. It also begins at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room with free popcorn. Contact: 427-1540.

### **BOAT LAUNCH**

The Peirce Island Boat Launch closes for the season Sunday (Sept. 21). For more information on the Boat Launch, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/boatlaunch.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/boatlaunch.htm).

### ***COMMUNITY DIVERSION***

The area's Community Diversion Program will host an open house for the public Thursday, Sept. 25, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 440 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland. The program's mission is to "provide an alternative to court involvement for youth and families in the Greater Seacoast Area." Portsmouth Police have worked with the program for years. Since 1995, the CDP has worked with over 5,000 young people through drug and alcohol prevention efforts, community service projects and a variety of programs designed to help youth navigate their teen years. To learn more, see [communitydiversion.org](http://communitydiversion.org) or call 430-8570, ext. 206.

### ***"SPUN TALES" READING***

Author Felicia Donovan will read and sign "Spun Tales," her recently published second book in the Black Widow Agency Series, next Thursday (Sept. 25) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. The program is co-sponsored by RiverRun Bookstore. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE***

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. Cost is \$4, \$3 with Merit Card. Open to all PMS students/Portsmouth residents. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***"STATE BY STATE"***

Enjoy a viewing of the 38-minute film "State by State" in the Library's Levenson Room, followed by a reading and signing of the newly published book with the same name—"State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America"—on Sept. 30 beginning at 7 p.m. The author conducting the reading is Alison Bechdel, one of the novelists, journalists and essayists who contributed to the anthology of original essays about each of the 50 states. Originally a cartoonist, Bechdel wrote the bestselling coming-of-age graphic memoir "Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic." The program is being held in collaboration with RiverRun Bookstore. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***STATE STREET PROJECT***

The city will hold a public meeting Wednesday, Oct. 1, to gather input on possible traffic and pedestrian improvements to State Street between Pleasant Street and the Memorial Bridge. The new streetscape will be installed as part of the sewer separation and underground utility improvements planned for that section and coincide with periods of reduced traffic or shutdowns during the state's rehabilitation of the Memorial Bridge in 2009 and 2010. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. Contact: 766-1416.

### ***NEW YORK, NEW YORK***

Want an easy way to get to New York City for a day of fun? Registration opens at 1 p.m. on Oct. 6 at the Connie Bean Center for the Rec Department's annual fall bus trip to the Big Apple, which this year is Saturday, Nov. 8. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The bus leaves Portsmouth at 6 a.m. and returns about 11:45 p.m. Cost is \$50. The trip is limited to 50 people. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***WALK TO SCHOOL DAY***

The city's Safe Routes to School Committee is inviting Portsmouth schoolchildren to participate in a local International Walk to School Day event before the start of the school day on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Students are urged to walk or ride bikes to the city's three elementary schools, the Middle School and St. Patrick School. Contact: Superintendent's Office at 431-5080.

### ***POLLING HOURS EXTENDED***

The City Council this week approved keeping the polls open until 8 p.m. for the Nov. 4 election. Voters unable to vote in person between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, may apply for an absentee ballot. The City Clerk's Office is accepting applications for absentee ballots from those working during those hours, out of town or request them due to religious observance or physical disability. For an application and other information, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm). Contact 610-7207 or [cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com).

### ***WELFARE THANK-YOU***

The Welfare Department thanks all individuals and groups that donated to its back-to-school drive, easing the burden of families facing difficulty providing school supplies for their children while struggling to buy food and pay rent. Thanks to the generosity of the public, the Welfare Department was able to offer a wide variety of the

many necessary school supplies that today's students need. By the first day of school, 65 children from preschool to college age had been assisted with back-to-school needs.

### ***FREE SPORTING EVENTS***

The fall sports season has begun at Portsmouth High School, which is making all events free this year to encourage community attendance. The schedules are at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm).

### ***INDOOR POOL OPEN***

The Indoor Pool is open for the season with a wide variety of classes available for all ages. Call 427-1545 for details or see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm).

### ***BASKETBALL LEAGUES***

Adult basketball leagues will be starting up soon at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. Call 766-1483 for league information or see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm).

### ***FLUSHING MAINS***

The Water Department has begun the fall program of flushing water mains, which is expected to continue through October. Crews open fire hydrants between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, releasing water with enough velocity to carry sediment out. It can cause a reddish tint to tap water, which may stain clothing. Residents should let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

### ***ADULT DAY TRIPS***

The Rec Department has openings for its day trips for adults. To see the list of great destinations, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-6.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-6.htm) or call 766-1483.

### ***TRASH TIDBIT***

It's OK to put bottle caps and the tops of tin cans in the recycling bin with your other recyclable materials because once they're transported to the off-site Material Recovery Facility, everything is sorted via an intricate conveyer system to capture and recycle as much material as possible. To learn more about the city's recycling program, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle.htm).

### ***ROADWORK***

Work continues on Woodbury Avenue to make traffic-calming improvements in the mile-long residential section between Bartlett and Market Streets. Crews begin working at 7 p.m. every weekday through November. There will be periodic traffic interruptions. The city initiated the project after the Frank Jones Neighborhood Association asked it to find ways to reduce traffic speeds, improve pedestrian safety and eliminate through truck travel. More information on the project is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/3.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/3.htm). Contact: 766-1411.

### ***BOARD VACANCIES***

There are a number of vacancies on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. Visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm) for information on these openings, as well as those on several other City panels.

### ***ROAD CLOSURES***

Chestnut Street between Congress and Porter Streets will be closed this weekend (Sept. 19-21) for the annual Telluride by the Sea Weekend film festival. Lower Wibirid Street will be closed off for a block party Sunday from 4 p.m. to dusk between Chauncey Street and Lincoln Avenue.

### ***Mark your calendar...(3 items)***

Although the date for the City's next household hazardous waste collection date in October has not been finalized, you can visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm) now for an idea of **which** materials will be accepted. City Hall offices, including the Library, will be closed Monday Oct. 13 in recognition of Columbus Day. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Costume Monster Mash Family Dance is Oct. 25.

***Did you know...***

The Library's Special Collections offers information on local history topics and genealogy. Library staff can provide assistance, and City Historian Richard Winslow is available Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The collections include materials related to Portsmouth and other Rockingham County towns, as well as town histories for Strafford County, NH, and York County, ME. Along with books, articles, city documents, directories, vital records, maps, artwork, photographs and historical newspapers, the Library has a number of unique collections: World War II records, art collections and 12 boxes of materials related to Portsmouth-born actor and singer Henry Clay Barnabee (1833-1917). See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/history.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/history.htm) or call 766-1720.

**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](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com), or the Meetings Calendar at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2008/index.htm](http://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 Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

*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](http://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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com).*