

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*

### ***AWARD-WINNING BUDGET***

Praised for its easy-to-read format and detailed content, the City of Portsmouth's budget document has received the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting for a third straight year. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) conferred its Distinguished Budget Document Presentation Award on the City's Fiscal Year 2009 budget document for the period beginning July 1, 2008, based on high marks for serving as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device. The budget document is posted online annually at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm).

### ***PORT SCARECROWS***

The City's Economic Development Commission is working with a consortium of local business groups on the "First Annual Scarecrows of the Port" harvest festival that kicks off at 5 p.m. Friday (Oct. 17) with a downtown celebration and continues through Nov. 2. There will be creative scarecrows placed throughout the city and other activities. Musicians and street performers will perform from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and many stores will remain open later than usual. To learn more, see [www.scarecrowsoftheport.com](http://www.scarecrowsoftheport.com) or call 436-4146.

### ***USS NEW HAMPSHIRE***

The public can view the USS New Hampshire Commissioning Ceremony next Saturday, Oct. 25, free via a JumboTron set up in Prescott Park. The 10 a.m. commissioning of the nuclear submarine at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is by invitation only. Information on the events related to the USS New Hampshire nuclear submarine commissioning can be found at [ussnewhampshire.org](http://ussnewhampshire.org).

### ***MOSQUITOES & EEE***

Mosquitoes collected in the towns of Exeter and Newmarket have tested positive for eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). Although the weather has been cool, which reduces mosquito activity, mosquitoes are still present and precautions should be taken to reduce your risk of exposure to this dangerous infection. For more information, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/eee.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/eee.htm).

### ***VOTER DEADLINES***

To avoid Election Day crowds, act before the Oct. 25 deadline to register to vote or make address, name and party affiliation changes in advance of Nov. 4. City Clerk's Office staff will be in the City Hall lobby until 6:30 p.m. tomorrow (Oct. 16) and next Thursday (Oct. 23). Absentee ballots will be available. The Board of Registrars will be in City Hall Room 211, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., next Saturday (Oct. 25). Registrations and changes can be made weekdays through next Friday (Oct. 24), 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the City Clerk's Office. They'll also be accepted at the polls on Election Day, but lines may be long. See [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com) or call 610-7207.

### ***WARD 4 CHANGE***

Due to the anticipated large election turnout, the Ward 4 polling location will be moved from Dondero Elementary School to the Portsmouth High gym. The Dondero site is too small to accommodate the 41 voting booths required in Ward Four for presidential voting under a new state law. The City Council recently approved keeping the polls open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Election Day to accommodate the expected crowds.

### ***ABSENTEE BALLOTS***

Absentee ballots are available at the City Clerk's Office and a sample ballot may be viewed on the City Clerk's web page at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com), at the Library and in the City Clerk's Office. Voters unable to vote in person between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, may request an absentee ballot if they will be working, out of town, or request one due to religious observance or physical disability. The ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

### ***CANDIDATE FORUMS***

The City's Local Government Access Channel 22 will broadcast the Oct. 22 and Oct. 29 election forums hosted by Citizens for Voter Education, which has hosted candidate nights in Portsmouth for the past 25 years. The forum next Wednesday (Oct. 22) is for Executive Council and State Senate candidates, and the Oct. 29 forum is for candidates for State Representative. The forums begin at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers at City Hall. They will be rebroadcast at 7 p.m. on Oct. 25 and 27, and Nov. 1 and 3.

### ***"RECOUNT"***

An all-star cast heads the gripping look at the 2000 presidential election and its aftermath in the Emmy-award winning film "Recount" tomorrow (Oct. 16) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Using real-life footage and actual dialogue, this political drama offers an illuminating account of one of the defining moments of the 21st century. It stars Kevin Spacey, Tom Wilkinson and Laura Dern. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***PARKING SPACES CLOSED***

The perimeter parking spaces in the Parrott Avenue Lot will be closed from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday (Oct. 19) for line painting. Any vehicle remaining in those spaces will be towed at the owner's expense. Parking will be available in interior spaces, however. The lot is located at the intersection of Junkins and Parrott Avenues.

### ***"WASTEWATER 202"***

The public is invited to learn more about the city's ongoing Wastewater Master Plan efforts and options under study for a new or upgraded wastewater treatment plant at a "Wastewater 202" session next Wednesday, Oct. 22, in the second of a continuing series of information sessions. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. City staff and consultants will discuss the status of the master plan, as well as the types of treatment technologies necessary to meet current and future permit requirements. Contact: 766-1416.

### ***ROUTE 33 MEETING***

There will be a public information meeting next Thursday (Oct. 23) on replacement of the NH Route 33 (Greenland Road) railroad bridge and planned construction improvements between Griffin and Peverly Hill Roads. Representatives from the City, its consultant and project contractor will be available at 6 p.m. for public review of the project's final plans in the first-floor conference room of the Department of Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Road. At 7 p.m. they will discuss the construction schedule and also answer questions. Work is expected to begin in mid-October. Contact: 766-1415.

### ***DON'T MISS IT***

There are just two weeks left to see the City Hall exhibit of "FOCUS"--160 photographs taken of Portsmouth and Newington on the same October day by last year's Middle School 8<sup>th</sup>-grade class. The exhibit, displayed in the first-floor City Hall hallways, can be viewed from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until Oct. 30. The Middle School and Citywide Neighborhood Committee collaborated on the project. See [www.focusportsmouth.org](http://www.focusportsmouth.org) to learn more.

### ***"THE BIRDS"***

Alfred Hitchcock's heart-pounding 1963 thriller "The Birds" will be shown next Thursday (Oct. 23) at 6:30 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room, immediately followed by a discussion led by screenwriter and movie historian Dennis Kleinman. He'll show how Hitchcock planted a number of clues in "Psycho" that explain why "The Birds" suddenly decided to wipe humanity off the face of the earth. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***HALLOWEEN HAYRIDE, DANCE***

The Rec Department's Halloween Haunted Hayride is next Friday (Oct. 24) for children ages 7-12. Register now at the Connie Bean Center. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Costume Monster Mash Family Dance is next Saturday (Oct. 25), 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Connie Bean. For more info on both events, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm).

### ***SCARY STORIES***

There will be an evening of chilling stories and Halloween tales Tuesday, Oct. 28, at the Library's Hilton Garden Room beginning at 7 p.m. Members of the Portsmouth Library Writing Group will read their original works about witches, the supernatural, evil, gore and other scary subjects. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***MORE HALLOWEEN NEWS***

Trick or Treating in Portsmouth is Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. You can find valuable safety tips at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/halloween.html](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/halloween.html). Some downtown streets will be closed briefly on Friday evening, Oct. 31, as the Halloween Parade passes. The parade begins at 7 p.m. and is expected to last one hour.

### ***SCAM WARNING***

The Police Department is warning citizens about a scam that informs recipients they've won \$500,000. It comes in a letter on tan paper with a Yonkers, NY, address for the alleged "North American Gaming Commission, Inc." It also contains a nearly \$5,000 check for "processing fees" that, if deposited, triggers "fees" far in excess of that amount. Anyone receiving the letter should discard it. Contact: Detective Roth at 426-2511.

### ***"SPEAK EASY"***

Five authors read from their works in "Speak Easy: From the Page to the Stage" at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Library's Levenson Room as part of the NH Writers Project Festival. Following the free performances, there will be a question-and-answer session providing a new perspective on writing. The presenters are Genevieve Aichele, Roland Goodbody, M. Marguerite Mathews & Greg Gathers, and Pat Spalding. Information on the festival is at [nhwritersproject.org/newfiles/WritersTrail2008.html](http://nhwritersproject.org/newfiles/WritersTrail2008.html).

### ***"WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN..."***

The author of the phrase "Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History," Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, will read from her book by the same name Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Now a Harvard professor, Ulrich explores what it means for women to make history in this program co-sponsored with RiverRun Bookstore. Her "A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812" won the Pulitzer Prize and several other awards. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***REC NEWS***

Registration for Grades 1-4 girls' and boys' Recreation Department youth basketball leagues is the week of Oct. 27, 1 p.m.-7 p.m., at the Connie Bean Center. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-4.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-4.htm) or call 766-1483. Register now at the Indoor Pool for the next session of swim lessons, held from late October to late November. Call 427-1545 for specific days and times. Registration has begun at the Connie Bean for the ski program for Portsmouth children in Grades 1-5. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm) or call 766-1483.

### ***HOLIDAY PARADE***

Applications for Portsmouth's 2008 Illuminated Holiday Parade, scheduled this year for Dec. 6 at 6 p.m., are now online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/holiday-parade.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/holiday-parade.htm). The theme is "Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth" as part of a month-long citywide Christmas celebration that includes Strawberry Banke and The Music Hall. Parade applications are due Nov. 15. Contact: [Parade@CityofPortsmouth.com](mailto:Parade@CityofPortsmouth.com) or 610-7281.

### ***THINK SNOW***

The City's Parking Committee has again renewed the snow ban parking program allowing residents to park in the High-Hanover Parking Facility during snow emergencies for just \$3 with a City-issued coupon. Vehicles may be parked at the covered lot for up to two hours in advance of the official start of a parking ban on City streets, but must be moved within two hours after its official end in order to pay the \$3 rate upon exiting the garage. Obtain coupons now from the Parking Clerk's Office in City Hall Room 223A. There is no fee but proof of Portsmouth residency must be presented. Contact: 610-7229.

### ***ROADWORK***

Work continues on the 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. Use alternative routes whenever possible. Contact: 766-1411.

### ***VOLUNTEER BOARDS***

There are several openings on the city's volunteer boards and commissions. To learn more, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm).

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

The Library is hosting free monthly meditation classes at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month through June. The next class is Nov. 3 and beginners are welcome. "Peter Pan" will fly into Portsmouth High School for the annual fall musical Nov. 19-23. On Dec. 13, "Holiday Express" trains will leave the Portsmouth middle and elementary schools for a trip to the North Pole to spend the evening with Santa and his elves.

***School fundraiser...***

Don't miss the adult "All Decades Dance" fundraiser Saturday night (Oct. 18), 7-11 p.m., at the VFW Hall. Sponsored by New Franklin and Dondero parents, tickets are \$15 or 2 for \$25. Prizes for best costumes by decade, but costumes aren't necessary for entrance. Contact [sirmaian@comcast.net](mailto:sirmaian@comcast.net) or [jmo625@yahoo.com](mailto:jmo625@yahoo.com).

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

Leaves and other yard waste placed curbside for pickup on the regular trash collection day must be in commercially manufactured biodegradable bags that are factory labeled to indicate they are 100% biodegradable, or in open containers clearly labeled "Yard Waste." Bags and containers cannot weigh over 50 pounds each. Yard waste is collected curbside weekly through December 5. 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).

***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).

***SCHOOL DEPARTMENT MASTER CALENDAR:*** [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.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).*