

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 (Oct. 29) is an early release day for Portsmouth Public Schools. There's an election forum for candidates for state representative at 7 p.m. tonight (see the following news item). Also, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Harvard professor Laurel Thatcher Ulrich reads from her book "Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History" at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room in a program co-sponsored with RiverRun Bookstore. Contact: 427-1540.

### **ELECTION FORUM TONIGHT**

The forum tonight (Oct. 29) for candidates for State Representative at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers at City Hall also will be broadcast live on local government access Channel 22. It will be rebroadcast--along with the Oct. 23 forum for Executive Council and State Senate candidates—beginning at 7 p.m. this Saturday (Nov. 1) and Monday, Nov. 3. The forums are sponsored by Citizens for Voter Education, which has hosted candidate nights in Portsmouth for the past 25 years.

### **TAX RATE**

The State has approved a 2008 tax rate of \$16.98 per \$1,000 of valuation in Portsmouth, which will be reflected in the Fiscal Year 2009 tax bills being mailed out. The first half is due December 1 and the second half on June 1, 2009. The rate is 64 cents, or 3.9 percent, above last year's rate and is the same as was established during development of the FY09 budget approved by the City Council in May. Again this year, the City is providing an online tax calculator at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com) for residents to use to estimate their tax bills. The new assessed values are available online, as well.

### **HALLOWEEN**

Trick or Treating in Portsmouth is tomorrow night (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). On Friday, Oct. 31, some downtown streets will be closed for brief periods of time for the Halloween Parade, which begins at 7 p.m.

### **ELECTION INFO**

The polls are open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Election Day, next Tuesday, Nov. 4. Ward 4 voting will be in the Portsmouth High gym, instead of Dondero Elementary. The City Clerk's Office will remain open until 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 3, to issue and accept absentee ballots. Monday is the deadline for absentee ballots to be returned in person. Mailed ballots must arrive at the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. Voter registrations, and name and address changes will be accepted at the polls on Election Day. Portsmouth Public Schools are closed that day. More info is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm), call 610-7207 or email [cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com).

### **BRIDGE CLOSED**

The State has closed the Sarah Long Bridge to all vehicular traffic through Friday, November 14, in order to make repairs on the span carrying the US Route 1 Bypass over the Piscataqua River between Portsmouth and Kittery. The Connector Road at Albacore Park will be open to provide vehicular access between the Bypass and Market Street Extension. The bridge also will be closed to marine traffic from Monday, Nov. 10, at 7 a.m. until Friday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m. Contact: 822-2582.

### **METER SYSTEM UPDATE**

The second phase of implementation of the City's new Automated Meter Reader system will begin in November in the area between Middle Street and the Route One Bypass. Property owners will be notified by mail in early November 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.

### ***WOODBURY DELAYS***

The City has begun paving work on Woodbury Avenue between Bartlett and Market Streets as part of a traffic-calming construction project. Lengthy traffic delays are possible on weekdays for the next week. Drivers are urged to use alternative routes whenever possible. Work begins each weekday at 7 a.m. and extends until about 4 p.m. Those unable to avoid the project area are asked to use caution and be cognizant of construction crews. Contact: 766-1411.

### ***VETERANS DAY***

City offices, the Library, and Portsmouth public schools are closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans Day. However, there is no change to curbside collection of trash and recyclables, other than that Tuesday's yard waste will not be picked up until the following Tuesday. Yard waste also may be taken to the Recycling Center Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recyclerc.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recyclerc.htm) for hours.

### ***HOLIDAY PARADE MARSHALS***

Mayor Tom Ferrini wants to know who you think should be the grand marshal of the 2008 Illuminated Holiday Parade. The theme of the Dec. 6 parade is "Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth." Submit suggestions to [Parade@CityofPortsmouth.com](mailto:Parade@CityofPortsmouth.com) or call 610-7281 by Nov. 15. The first person to submit the winning name(s) enjoys four prime parade viewing seats. Application forms for the parade, which steps off at 6 p.m., are at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com) and also must be submitted by Nov. 15. Contact: 610-7281.

### ***FREE WINDS CONCERT***

The New England Winds ensemble, part of the U.S. Air Force Band of Liberty, performs a free concert Saturday (Nov. 1) at 2 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. This group of five is well-versed in traditional quintet repertoire and performs musical selections ranging from the 18th century to contemporary popular, Broadway, patriotic, jazz and folk music. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***FREE MEDITATION***

The Library is offering free meditation sessions on the first Monday of each month through June and the November class is next Monday (Nov. 3) at 7 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Room. Martha Nossif guides the meditation sessions. Dress comfortably and bring any cushions or pillows you prefer for meditating. Chairs also will be available. Beginners welcome. If you have questions, contact Nossif at 430-9426.

### ***STATE STREET MEETING***

The City will present its concept for the design of possible traffic and pedestrian improvements to State Street between Pleasant Street and the Memorial Bridge at a public meeting next Wednesday (Nov. 5) at 6:30 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. The new streetscape will be installed as part of the sewer separation and underground utility improvements and will coincide with periods of reduced traffic or shutdowns of the bridge during the State's rehabilitation project in 2009 and 2010. Contact: 766-1416.

### ***LINCOLN AREA PROJECT***

A Nov. 19 public meeting will gather input for the design of the project to separate older combined sewage and stormwater pipes in the Lincoln Avenue area bounded by Richards Avenue, Middle Street and South Street. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The project is expected to include improvements to the sewer lines, drain lines, water mains, roads, curbing, and sidewalks. Contact: 766-1416.

### ***DONDERO ROUTES MEETING***

The City and its Safe Routes to School Committee are inviting Dondero parents, students and area residents to a Nov. 19 public information meeting regarding plans to establish bike and walking lanes to school in the Dondero School/Elwyn Park Neighborhood. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Dondero Library. Contact: 766-1415.

### ***PETER PAN***

Portsmouth High School presents "Peter Pan" – featuring a cast and crew of over 50 students and directed, designed and choreographed by PHS alumnus Tim Stokel – on Nov. 19-22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 23, at

2 p.m. in the PHS auditorium. School Superintendent Dr. Bob Lister and choral director Gwendolyn Baker will make cameo appearances. Also, the PHS Performing Arts Department is seeking contact info for cast and crew members from the 1975 and 1990 PHS performances of "Peter Pan." Contact: 436-7100, Ext. 2505.

### **REC NEWS**

Registration for Grades 1-4 girls' and boys' youth basketball leagues continues through Friday (Oct. 31) from 1 p.m.-7 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Cost is \$30 and includes a game shirt. Middle and High School basketball league registrations are coming up next month. For details, call 766-1483 or see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-4.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-4.htm). The Indoor Pool has a full slate of swim lessons scheduled. Call 427-1545 for specific days and times. Also, memberships at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center are always available for purchase by Portsmouth residents. Call 766-1483 for pro-rated costs and see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm) for program info.

### **"WASTEWATER 202"**

If you were unable to attend the recent "Wastewater 202" presentation, including discussion of the future of the Peirce Island Treatment Plant, you can view it over your computer via the link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/wwmp.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/wwmp.htm).

### **PARKING COUPONS**

Portsmouth residents can obtain coupons now that will allow them to pay just \$3 if they park at the High-Hanover Parking Facility during snow emergencies and snow removal periods. Proof of residency is required to obtain the coupons at no cost from the Parking Clerk's Office at City Hall (open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). The coupons can be used only by the person to whom they are issued. Residents must present a coupon and show identification to the parking attendant to receive the \$3 rate payable upon exiting the garage. Contact: 610-7229.

### **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 next Portsmouth Middle School dance is Nov. 14, 7:30-10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Shoot for Portsmouth boys and girls in Grades K-5 competing to make the most basketball "fowl" shots is Saturday, Nov. 22. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm). On Saturday, 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 for just \$6 with all proceeds going to charity.

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

There are many steps you can take to reduce your home heating costs. If your attic isn't insulated, make sure you insulate the entrance so cold air doesn't seep into your home from above. Install ceiling fans and set them clockwise in winter to push down the warmer air. Set your thermostat at 65 degrees Fahrenheit, or lower, and wear layers of warm cotton clothing in dark colors that absorb heat and light. Consider buying a programmable thermostat that allows you to set it so the heat kicks on for a certain amount of time before you get up in the morning or before you arrive home in the evening. To learn about the City of Portsmouth's sustainability initiatives, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.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, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

*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).*