

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*

SARAH LONG BRIDGE

The Sarah Long Bridge linking Portsmouth and Kittery via the US Route 1 Bypass is scheduled to be reopened Friday (Nov. 14) at 5 p.m. to both vehicle and marine traffic following two weeks of repair work. The Connector Road at Albacore Park has been open to provide vehicular access between the Bypass and Market Street Extension. Contact: 822-2582.

PARADE DEADLINE

Saturday (Nov. 15) is the application deadline for the City's Dec. 6 Illuminated Holiday Parade and to submit recommendations for parade grand marshal(s). No floats will be accepted after Saturday. This year's parade theme is "Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth." The parade begins at 6 p.m., following the Market Square holiday tree lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. Parade application forms and a map of the route are at www.CityofPortsmouth.com. Contact: Parade@CityofPortsmouth.com or 610-7281.

AFRICAN BURYING GROUND

The public is invited to learn about the proposed design for the African Burying Ground on Chestnut Street at a meeting next Monday (Nov. 17) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. The design team will give a presentation, and there also will be discussion of project fundraising. More information on the project can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/abg/index.htm. Contact: 610-7226.

BURYING GROUND TEST EXCAVATIONS

Test excavations will be underway on Chestnut Street between State and Court Streets for the next few days in preparation for the eventual construction of the African Burying Ground Memorial (see item above). In order to ensure there is no disturbance of human remains that may be in the area, the work is being overseen on site by professional archaeologists. The test excavations will be limited to a very shallow depth of about 2 ½ feet and will only take place in areas where subsurface conditions are not already known. The section will be closed intermittently to non-essential daytime traffic and some driveway access may be temporarily limited during this excavation work. Contact: 610-7226.

NEIGHBORHOODS FORUM

The Portsmouth Citywide Neighborhood Committee and Mayor Tom Ferrini are holding a forum next week to discuss the role of neighborhoods in public policy and the Neighborhood Committee's future direction. Officers and representatives from each neighborhood group are invited to attend the 7 p.m. meeting next Tuesday (Nov. 18) in City Hall Conference Room A. Contact: Citywide Neighborhood Chair Sharon Morrison at sharonmorrison@comcast.net.

LINCOLN AVENUE AREA

The project to separate older combined sewage and stormwater pipes in the Lincoln Avenue area bounded by Richards Avenue, Middle Street and South Street will be the subject of a public meeting next Wednesday (Nov. 19) to gather input on the project's design. The meeting begins 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

Plans to establish bike and walking lanes to school in the Dondero School/Elwyn Park Neighborhood will be discussed at a public information meeting next Wednesday (Nov. 19) at 6:30 p.m. in the Dondero Library. Dondero parents, students and area residents are invited to attend the meeting sponsored by the City and its Safe Routes to School Committee. Contact: 766-1415.

DUI CAMPAIGN

The Police Department has been selected as the test site for the NH Highway Safety and the NH Liquor Commission's DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Mobile Command Unit, which was used at last weekend's sobriety checkpoints in Portsmouth. The high-tech command unit will help officers conduct field sobriety testing, process arrestees and detain drunk drivers. The unit's official unveiling is tomorrow (Thursday, Nov. 13) at the Statehouse. Portsmouth PD, NH Seacoast Chiefs of Police, NH State Police, Rockingham County Sheriff's Department and the State Liquor Commission are part of the effort to apprehend impaired drivers.

ROADWORK

Paving is scheduled over the next week on Cass Street, Chevrolet Avenue, Barberry Lane, Foch Avenue, Brackett Lane, Borthwick Avenue at the railroad tracks, and Bartlett Street. Traffic will be controlled by Portsmouth Police and all local traffic will be accommodated. Contact: Tom Richter at 766-1412. Work also continues on the Woodbury Avenue traffic calming project. Information on all City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Weather and other factors may cause delays.

EXPLORER AWARDS

The Police Department's Explorer Post took home seven awards, including "Community Service Post of the Year," at a recent NH Exploring Division ceremony. "Career Achievement Awards in Law Enforcement" went to cadets Kevin O'Leary and Alison Rahn, and cadet sergeant Amanda Patterson, who also won the "Outstanding Female Explorer of the Year Award." Cadet sergeant Richard Cady and the post's advisor, Detective Robert Munson, received "Council Leadership Awards." The post is open to teenagers who want to learn more about law enforcement. For more info, contact: 610-7506 or rmunson@pd.cityofportsmouth.com.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The next Portsmouth Middle School dance is Friday (Nov. 14), 7:30-10 p.m., at the Connie Bean Center. Cost is \$4, or \$3 with a Merit Card. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm or call 766-1483.

"PETER PAN"

Portsmouth High School's fall musical, "Peter Pan," flies into the PHS auditorium next week. Performances are next Wednesday through Saturday (Nov. 19-22) at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 23, at 2 p.m. The general seating tickets are \$7 and are on sale now at the High School and Middle School. The show will feature a cast and crew of over 50 students, plus faculty cameo appearances. Contact: 436-7100.

"FOWL" SHOOTING

The 17th Annual Turkey Shoot basketball "fowl" shooting contest is next Saturday morning (Nov. 22) at the Connie Bean Center. Portsmouth children in Grades K-5 shoot 10 foul shots each, with the winner in each grade level receiving a free turkey. Everyone gets a certificate and lollipop. The contest is free, but please donate a non-perishable food item for a less-fortunate family. For specific grade-level competition times, call 766-1483.

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULES

City offices, the Library and schools are closed Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Schools dismiss early on Wednesday, Nov. 26. The Library closes at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. All Rec Department facilities are closed on Thanksgiving. There are some changes to curbside collection due to the holiday: Thursday's collection of solid waste and recycling takes place Wednesday and there is no yard waste collection Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of Thanksgiving week. See below for more yard waste info.

FALL CLEANUP

Weekly curbside collection of fall yard waste continues through Dec. 5. Use only paper yard waste bags, plastic yard waste bags specifically labeled "biodegradable," or plastic barrels clearly labeled as "yard waste." None can weigh more than 50 pounds. Loose brush must be tied into bundles no larger than 4 feet in length and 1 foot in diameter. Yard waste pickup is the same day as trash and recycling collection. Bring yard waste to the Recycling Center year-round. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/fallcleanup.htm or call 437-1530.

HOLIDAY HELP

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. The Welfare Department is collecting gift cards in small increments to distribute to local needy families again this year. Due to the tough state of the economy, the Welfare

Department is expecting a much greater number of requests for holiday help. Gift cards for \$25 or less to the mall, department stores, and toy, music, electronics and book stores will allow needy families to buy gifts for their children of all ages. Contact Ellen at 610-7267 or etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com for more info.

HOLIDAY EXPRESS 2008

The "Holiday Express" arrives in Portsmouth on Saturday, Dec. 13. Children and their families will board the "Express" for a magical journey to the "North Pole" for food, fun, and to experience the Chris Van Allsburg holiday classic book, The Polar Express. Sponsor opportunities are available to help make this an affordable family event for all. The \$6 tickets go on sale next Monday, Nov. 17, at the three elementary schools and the middle school. Interested volunteers also may contact Amy Noble at the Central Office at 431-5080.

STREET TREES

The City's Public Works Department and the Mayor's Committee on Trees and Greenery are seeking recommendations for locations for the planting of trees along city streets in 2009. If you would like a tree planted in front of your property or know of another location that could benefit from the planting of a street tree, call 766-1428 or email eskern@pw.cityofportsmouth.com.

VACANCIES

There are a number of vacancies on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. For more information, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Mark your calendar...

The Portsmouth Middle School concert is Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at PHS (snow date Dec. 11) and the All-City Concert at PHS is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17 (snow date Dec. 18).

Did you know...

A national survey shows 79 percent of Americans are concerned about rising home heating costs and many will use alternative heating sources to reduce their bills. The Portsmouth Fire Department reminds residents to make sure that if such alternative heating sources as portable space heaters, stoves, ovens and fireplaces are used, that they are new or in good working order and turned off when occupants go to bed or leave the room. Unvented space heaters (gas or kerosene) are permitted only in one- or two-family dwellings in Portsmouth, never in apartments and should not be used when occupants are sleeping. Electric space heaters should not be used with an extension cord or left unattended. Contact: 610-7345.

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, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

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