

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 day for Portsmouth Public Schools.

### **CITY BUDGET**

Work continues on developing the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2010, which begins July 1, 2009. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm) for dates of the City Hall budget meetings, which also are televised on cable Channel 22. The Police Commission holds a public hearing at 6 p.m. Friday (Feb. 6) on the proposed Police Department budget and the School Board holds its second hearing on the proposed School budget Tuesday (Feb. 10) at 7 p.m.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The City's proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2010, which begins July 1 of this year, through FY 2015 is now available online via the link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/index.htm#CIP1](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/index.htm#CIP1). There will be a public hearing on the short-range plan for capital projects and equipment purchases on March 2 at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers. The Planning Board approved the proposed 195-page CIP last month. Contact: 610-7216.

### **CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Citizens Police Academy hosted by the Portsmouth Police Department in collaboration with departments in Greenland, Rye, Newington, New Castle and York, Maine, begins March 18 and continues on Wednesday evenings through May 6. The free, eight-week academy is sponsored by Crime Stoppers and provides local citizens and business owners with a behind-the-scenes look at police work. Application forms are available online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news012309.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news012309.htm). For more info: contact Detective Grella at 610-7429 or e-mail [Citizenspoliceacademy@pd.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:Citizenspoliceacademy@pd.cityofportsmouth.com).

### **TAX HELP**

AARP's Tax Aide Program is offering free tax preparation help every Tuesday evening through April 14 in the Library's MacLeod Room. The Tax Aide volunteers, who are trained by the Internal Revenue Service, will be available from 5 to 7 p.m. Contact: 427-1540.

### **FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE**

The Rec Department's 15<sup>TH</sup> annual Father-Daughter Valentine's Dance is Saturday (Feb. 7), at the Connie Bean Center. Girls in Grades K-5 and dads (or uncles, grandfathers, brothers, etc.) are welcome. Cost is \$10 per couple. No charge for extra daughters. Contact: 766-1483.

### **PRESIDENTS' DAY**

City Hall, the Library and the Recycling Center will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of Presidents' Day. However, curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables will continue as usual, including the central business district collection. Also, Portsmouth public schools will be open but are closed the following week of Feb. 23 for the winter recess.

### **BUYING A CONDO**

The Library is hosting a three-part seminar on "Buying a Condo: Everything You Need to Know" on Feb. 12, 19 and 26. The free seminar is for those who already own a condo and those considering buying one. It will be presented by local attorney Sanford Roberts and begins at 7 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Room. For more information, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-feb09.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-feb09.htm). Contact: 427-1540.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS**

The application deadline for 2009-2010 Public Service Agency Grants is 4:30 p.m. next Friday, Feb. 13. The competitive grant program is administered by the City's Community Development Department and funded by a

federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 are given to non-profit public service agencies serving Portsmouth individuals and families earning very low, low, or moderate-incomes. Funds may be used for program operating expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30, 2010. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/announcements.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/announcements.htm).

### ***FREE MOVIES***

The Library's Valentine's Day movie this year will be the PG-13 romantic comedy "Dan in Real Life" starring Steve Carell at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, accompanied by light refreshments. Thursday movie nights continue Feb. 26 with the R-rated "Burn After Reading" starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Frances McDormand at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***BOOK SWAP/COFFEE HOUSE***

The Friends of the Portsmouth Public Library are hosting a "Winter Book Swap and Coffeehouse" on Sunday, Feb. 15, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., in the Library's Levenson Room. The public is invited to come socialize with other readers, hear live music, buy a warm beverage and snack, and swap gently used books, audios, videos and DVDs. Each 2.5-foot space is available for a \$5 donation to the Friends so bring enough to books, audios, etc., to fit into the space. Browse your neighbors' selections and see what you can trade. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***INDEPENDENT MOVIES***

The Library will host an "Independent Movie Night" on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Independent filmmaker Paul Foster will screen "Grey Branches" filmed in Portsmouth and featuring many local actors and "Harold Knows the Difference." The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. A question and answer period follows each film. For more information, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm) or contact 427-1540.

### ***POPS CONCERT***

The Portsmouth High School Pops Concert is Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the PHS Auditorium. It begins at 7 p.m. and features the PHS Band, Choir, Madrigal Singers, Treble Choir, and Men's Ensemble. Tickets available at the door are \$2 for adults, \$1 for senior citizens and students. Snow date is Feb. 19. Contact: 436-7100, ext. 2906.

### ***BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT***

Anyone interested in putting a basketball team in the annual Seacoast Basketball Tournament in March should call Peter Goodwin at 207-439-0821. A number of both girls and boys divisions are scheduled for this year.

### ***VACATION CAMP***

Registration opens Monday (Feb. 9) for the Recreation Department's Feb. 23-27 school vacation camp at the Connie Bean Community Center. Registration is for Portsmouth residents only in the first two days. The camp is limited to 40 children in Grades K-5 or see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm). Contact: 766-1483.

### ***REC MEMBERSHIPS***

Both Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center and the Indoor Pool are still accepting renewals for memberships for the current year. Please call the pool at 427-1545 or Spinnaker Point at 766-1483 for further information.

### ***COMMUNITY EDUCATION***

Interested in fun and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes and workshops? The new Portsmouth Community Education Brochure is filled with classes on various dates between Feb. 16 and April 22. Click on the "Portsmouth Community Education" link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm) for details.

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

You can set up a Portsmouth Public Library account that allows you to keep a list of items you've checked out over time, rate Library items and create lists of materials you'd like to borrow in the future. Another feature of the new Library account, which requires you to establish a Personal Identification Number or PIN, sends you e-mail alerts whenever an item by your favorite author or on your favorite subject is added to the Library's collection. Visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/index.htm) to learn more.

## **BOARD & COMMISSIONS**

The most recent list of vacancies on the City's volunteer boards and commissions can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm).

## **SNOWSTORM INFO**

Portsmouth residents may obtain coupons from the Parking Office at City Hall (open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) to pay just \$3 if they park at the High-Hanover Parking Garage during snow parking bans. When the City bans on-street parking to facilitate snow removal, it's announced by e-mail to Community Newsletter subscribers, on Cable Channel 22, on a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com), in the local media and on signs at all entrances to the City. A map of parking lots open during bans is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/snowbanparkinglots.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/snowbanparkinglots.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/2009/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2009/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).*