

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*

TODAY'S EVENTS

Want to hear some great music? The Portsmouth High School Pops Concert is tonight at 7 p.m. in the PHS Auditorium. Come hear the PHS Band, Choir, Madrigal Singers, Treble Choir, and Men's Ensemble. Tickets are \$2 for adults, and \$1 for senior citizens and students. Contact: 436-7100, ext. 2906.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

The City Council has increased the income and asset limits for both the elderly and disabled exemptions to \$32,589 for single taxpayers and \$40,201 for married couples. Total assets for both exemptions have increased from \$108,634 whether single or married. Applications are due at the City Assessor's Office no later than April 15 to receive the exemptions on the December 2009 tax bill. For an application, contact the Assessor's Office at 610-7214 or 610-7249, or online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWSLETTER

The Portsmouth School Board has launched a newsletter to "improve communication and better connect with the community." It provides information about the board and its members, current issues, and what's going on in the schools. To see the first issue, click on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm.

SCHOOL VACATION

Portsmouth public schools are closed next week (Feb. 23-27) for the winter recess. The Recreation Department is holding a Feb. 23-27 vacation camp for up to 40 children in grades K-5. Call 766-1483 to inquire if there are still openings. For more info about the camp at the Connie Bean Center, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm.

OPEN SWIMS EXTENDED

The Indoor Pool will have extended open swim times during school vacation week both next Tuesday (Feb. 24) and next Thursday (Feb. 26) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more info on the Indoor Pool hours, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm or contact 427-1545.

CIP HEARING

The City Council will hold a public hearing Tuesday, March 2, on the City's proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2010, which begins July 1 of this year, through FY 2015. The hearing begins at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The plan for capital projects and equipment purchases through FY 2015 can be viewed online via the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/index.htm#CIP1. The public hearing will be televised live on cable Channel 22. To see a list of all the City Hall meetings related to the FY 2010 budget, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm.

SHEA-PORTER MEETING

Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter will hold a Town Hall Meeting for constituents Saturday, March 7, in the Library's Levenson Room. The congresswoman will share updates from Washington beginning at 4 p.m. Contact: Chuck Gilboy at 742-4813.

SENIOR EXERCISE

Spinnaker Point is the new home for the senior exercise class. The drop-in classes are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:15 to 10 a.m. Cost is \$2 per class and there is no pre-registration. To learn more, call 766-1483.

CONDO BUYING

There are two sessions remaining in the "Buying a Condo: Everything You Need to Know" seminar hosted at the Library for those who own a condo or are considering buying one. Local attorney Sanford Roberts will address "Operation of an Association – the Do's, Don'ts, and Strategies for Successful Operation" tomorrow

evening (Feb. 19) and “Solving Problems and Dealing with Disputes in an Association” next Thursday (Feb. 26). The programs begin at 7 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Room. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-feb09.htm or call 427-1540.

CHILDREN’S CHESS

Children are invited to play chess, or learn how, Saturday (Feb. 21) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room. The free program is sponsored by the Portsmouth Rotary Club. For more info, contact: 766-1740.

CHILDREN’S CRAFTS

Children are invited to join the crafty fun in the Library’s Youth Activity Room on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Drop in Saturday (Feb. 21) to make shaving cream pictures. On Saturday, Feb. 28, the project is thumbprint penguins. The program is for kids of all ages, but those under 10 must bring their adult with them. This is a free program for Portsmouth Public Library cardholders. Contact: 766-1740.

FREE MOVIE

The next free movie at the Library is the R-rated comedy “Burn After Reading” starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Frances McDormand. It will be shown next Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. The movie is described as having a Coen Brothers’ comically convoluted plot. Contact 427-1540.

POOL PROGRAMS

Registration opens Monday, March 2, for the next set of swim lessons at the Indoor Pool, which begin March 23 and continue through April 16. Lessons will be offered on both Mondays and Wednesdays, or Tuesdays and Thursdays. Non-residents may sign up beginning March 9. More info can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm or call the pool at 427-1545.

BASKETBALL TOURNEY

The annual Seacoast Basketball Tournament begins Sunday, March 22, at the Connie Bean Center. Anyone interested in entering a team should call Peter Goodwin at 207-439-0821. A number of girls and boys divisions are planned this year.

CADET ACADEMY

The Police Department is urging all young people between the ages of 14 and 20 who are interested in police work to register early for the weeklong 2009 New Hampshire Police Cadet Training Academy that begins June 20 at Hesser College in Manchester. Last year, the Academy had a waiting list. The application and more info can be found at www.nhchiefsopolice.com/Cadet_academy.htm. Information on Portsmouth’s Explorer Post is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/explorer/index.html.

INCOME TAX HELP

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

Mark your calendar... (5 items)

The next Middle School dance is Friday, March 6, at the Connie Bean Center. There will be a reception Sunday, March 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Library to mark the opening of the month-long “Splash! Youth Art Show” there by young people in Portsmouth schools. The annual chocolate festival fundraiser to fund music program scholarships is March 11 at 7 p.m. at the Portsmouth High School cafeteria. The Portsmouth Middle School Concert is March 18 at 7 p.m. at the PHS auditorium. A no-school day is scheduled March 20 due to a teachers’ workshop.

Did you know...

You can get extra recycling bins from the City of Portsmouth. Residents are welcome to take as many as they need to help their recycling efforts. Bins can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, 680 Peverly Hill Road, between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc-bins.htm. Use bins to recycle glass containers,

tin and aluminum containers, and plastic with the recycle symbol and numbered 1 or 2. Recycle paper and cardboard in a separate container or in a paper bag.” Learn more about the City’s recycling program at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle.htm.

BOARD VACANCIES

The most recent list of openings on the City’s volunteer boards and commissions can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

SNOWSTORM INFO

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, 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. 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.

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/2009/index.htm.

SCHOOL CALENDAR: The School Department’s Activities Calendar for all schools is at 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.

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