

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*

### **SEACOAST FRAUD**

Portsmouth Police are alerting residents about a credit card/account fraud taking place on the Seacoast that involves an automated phone call purporting to be from Service Credit Union. The automated voice claims an account has been put on hold and asks that the account number be entered. Police strongly recommend that residents do not provide account numbers in this manner. Contact: Officer Meyer, 610-7514.

### **COMMERCIAL LOADING PERMITS**

Commercial Loading Zone Permits are now available for \$25 at the Parking Clerk's office in City Hall. The permit allows a non-commercial vehicle to use a commercial loading zone for loading and unloading product, merchandise or equipment. Commercial vehicles and vehicles marked for commercial purposes are not required to carry a permit for the use of commercial loading zones. Contact: 610-7229.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE**

The next Middle School dance is Friday (March 6) at the Connie Bean Center from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. It costs \$4, \$3 with Merit Card. Open to all PMS students/Portsmouth residents. Contact: 766-1483.

### **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

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

### **YOUTH ART RECEPTION**

Everyone is invited to Sunday's (March 8) reception marking the opening of the month-long "Splash! Youth Art Show" by young people in Portsmouth schools. The reception will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Levenson Room. The exhibit, which is coordinated by the Friends of the Portsmouth Library, is on display in the Levenson Room during normal Library hours. Contact: 427-1540.

### **CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA**

Indulge your love for chocolate while benefiting Portsmouth High Music Program Scholarships with an evening of "Compositions in Chocolate" next Wednesday (March 11), 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in the PHS cafeteria. Enjoy exquisite desserts and student vocal and instrumental performances. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Send cash or a check by Friday (March 6) to PHS Music Department, PHS, 50 Alumni Circle, Portsmouth, NH 03801. Snow date is Thursday, March 12. Contact: [lastpenny@comcast.net](mailto:lastpenny@comcast.net).

### **MARCH MOVIE MADNESS**

The Library's 4<sup>th</sup> annual "March Movie Madness" program begins next Thursday (March 12) with the showing of the PG-13 film "The Visitor" starring Richard Jenkins, who was nominated for an Oscar for his role as a college professor and recent widower who discovers a pair of illegal aliens living in his New York apartment. It will be followed March 19 with "Transsiberian" and March 26 by "Happy-Go-Lucky." All movies begin at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. For more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movie.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movie.htm) or contact: 427-1540.

### **SWIM CLASSES**

Registration is underway at the Indoor Pool for a variety of children's and adult swimming lessons, as well as Red Cross lifeguarding and water safety instructor (WSI) courses. Saturday-only infant/toddler, preschool and Level 1 classes for children under five begin March 14. The other spring lessons for children begin March 23. The lifeguarding course begins March 22 for those 15 and up. The WSI course begins March 29 for those 16 and up. For more info, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm) or call 427-1546.

### ***CLASSICAL CONCERT***

The Andrea Trio will perform the music of Schubert, Beethoven and Mozart in a free concert next Sunday (March 15) at 2:30 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Flutist Sherri Riga, violinist Augusto Salazar and viola player Katie Papini will be joined by guest cellist Michael Danielski. Contact bluebarn1@comcast.net or the Library at 427-1540.

### ***AUTHOR DISCUSSION AND READING***

Samantha Hunt will discuss her new book, "The Invention of Everything Else," at the Library on Tuesday, March 17, at 6 p.m. (RSVP by emailing riverrunevents@gmail.com or call 431-2100) and also a reading and signing (no RSVP) beginning at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. In the book, history and imagination unite to explore the intersection of love and science and to investigate a friendship between the fictional Louisa, a chambermaid at the Hotel New Yorker, and real-life legendary Serbian inventor Nikola Tesla. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***SCHOOL MUSIC***

Portsmouth will celebrate Music in our Schools Month on Wednesday, March 18, with a 7 p.m. concert at Portsmouth High School for the Middle School choral and band groups. The snow date is March 19. Contact: 431-5080.

### ***BASKETBALL TOURNEY***

Anyone interested in entering a team in the annual Seacoast Basketball Tournament, which begins March 22 at the Connie Bean Center, should call Peter Goodwin at 207-439-0821.

### ***RETIREMENT READINESS***

The Library is hosting a Retirement Readiness Discussion Group that will examine the issues surrounding the whens and hows of retirement for the recently retired or those considering it. The group's first session is Tuesday, March 24, and there will be a facilitated discussion on different retirement topics on the fourth Tuesday of the month through June in the Hilton Garden Room from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. To register, call the Friends, RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) at 373-6144.

### ***"UNKNOWN SOLDIERS"***

The public is invited to a conversation between Portsmouth's Jeremy R. Waldron and Joseph E. Garland, internationally acclaimed author of "Unknown Soldiers: Reliving World War II in Europe," at the Library at 7 p.m. on March 24. The two have been close friends since they met during the 1943 Italian campaign. They'll discuss their war experience, friendship and the writing of "Unknown Soldiers," the collective memoir of their platoon. The event is being held in collaboration with RiverRun Bookstore. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***ISLINGTON STREET CORRIDOR***

The City Council, Economic Development Commission, Planning Board, Historic District Commission, and Art-Speak Board will hold a joint work session on the Islington Street Improvement Action Plan Project on March 25. The consultants' latest draft of the plan for the corridor, which begins at Maplewood Avenue and ends at the Route 1 Bypass, will be presented for discussion by the groups beginning at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. There is no opportunity for public input at a work session, but the public is welcome to observe. Contact: 610-7220.

### ***Mark your calendar...***

- The Recreation Department's Spring/Summer brochure will be out March 23.
- Free income tax preparation is available every Tuesday through April 24 at the Library's MacLeod Room from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Deputy Fire Chief Steven Achilles will discuss his book about the history of "Portsmouth Firefighting" on April 1 at 7 p.m. at the Public Library in an event co-sponsored with RiverRun Bookstore.

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

The City provided welfare assistance in 200 cases involving 244 adults and 115 children in Fiscal Year 2008. Almost 77 percent of the \$205,339 went for shelter. Under state law, any Portsmouth resident who is "poor and unable to support themselves" may apply for emergency assistance. Although most are unable to do so, the law

also requires recipients to make reimbursement when they are financially able. For more info on the Welfare Department and other City offices, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.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](http://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](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). 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](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com), or the Meetings Calendar at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2009/index.htm](http://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](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).*