

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*

CITY BUDGET SESSION--TONIGHT

The City Council will hold a work session tonight (April 29) to review the proposed Police and Fire Department budgets for the new fiscal year beginning July 1. The work session begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers and will be broadcast live on local government access cable Channel 22. There is no opportunity for public testimony at work sessions, but the public is welcome to observe the proceedings. The Council will reopen the public hearing on the proposed budget on May 11. The entire proposed budget can be viewed online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com. Paper copies are available at the Library and City Clerk's Office.

PARKING METERS

The City's Parking Committee will host a parking meter public information session next Thursday evening (May 7) at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers. The purpose of the session is to allow the public an opportunity to discuss the issue of parking meters with Parking Committee officials. Contact: 766-1440.

OPEN SWIM

The Indoor Pool has an extended open swim tomorrow (Thursday, April 30) from 5 to 7 p.m. due to Portsmouth Public Schools being on vacation this week. This is in addition to the regular Open Swims Monday through Friday from 8-10:30 a.m., 2:30-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Children under age 13 must be accompanied by an adult. The daily fees can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-10.htm.

FREE MOVIES

Free movies at the Library continue tomorrow night (April 30) with "Frost/Nixon," the dramatic retelling of the post-Watergate television interviews between British talk-show host David Frost and former President Richard Nixon, beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Also, the 2008 epic "Australia" will be shown at 1 p.m. Saturday (May 2) and "Persepolis," the animated PG-13 coming-of-age story of an Iranian girl sent to school in Austria, will be shown next Thursday (May 7) at 6:45 p.m. The Library will host a book discussion of Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel of the same name the following Monday (May 11) at 7 p.m. Contact: 427-1540.

DOG LICENSE DEADLINE

Friday (May 1) is the deadline for dog owners to renew their animals' licenses. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office to avoid a possible civil forfeiture fine of \$25, per NH law, plus late fees. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are charged \$6.50. Licenses are \$9 for male or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they have been neutered or spayed. Senior citizens over 65 may register one dog annually for \$2. Contact: 610-7245.

SHRINERS PARADE

The Masonic Temple parking lot at the corner of Miller Avenue and Middle Street will be closed to the public Saturday (May 2) from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. because it will be the staging area for the 2 p.m. Shriners Parade. There will be slight traffic delays along the parade route. Middle Street from State to Miller will be shut down until the parade clears the intersection of Middle and State, traffic along the side streets to State Street will be stopped until the parade passes, Marcy Street will be closed from Hancock to State Street until it reaches Hancock, where it will end in the Strawberry Banke parking lot.

FAMILY MUSIC EVENT

The original founders of Northeast Winds, Mac McHale and Emery Hutchins who are now performing as "Two Old Friends," will present a musical event for the whole family Sunday (May 3) in the Library's Levenson Room at 2 p.m. They sing heart-warming vocals accompanied by banjo, guitar, mandolin, concertina, bodran (Irish frame drum) and octave mandolin. Contact: 427-1540.

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

The second annual Portsmouth Sustainability Fair is Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Portsmouth Middle School. The fair will feature over 80 exhibitors, an organic food court, kids' events and projects. The goal is to raise awareness, create action and celebrate municipal and city efforts to make Portsmouth a more sustainable community. There will be a follow-up "Sustainability@Home" home tour the following Saturday (May 16). For details of the events sponsored by Portsmouth Listens, Piscataqua Sustainability Initiative, City of Portsmouth, and the Portsmouth School District, visit <http://portsmouthsustainabilityfair.org>.

SUSTAINABLE ART

In conjunction with the second annual Portsmouth Sustainability Fair, a month-long exhibit of local art created from recycled materials opens Friday (May 1) at the Library. Working in a variety of formats, styles and with materials at hand, artists have taken the ordinary, the overlooked, the "junk" that we produce daily and asked us to consider the extra-ordinary that can be created from them. Contact: 427-1540.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The final topic in the Sustainable Speaker Series preceding the May 9 Portsmouth Sustainability Fair will be "Sustainable Agriculture," presented next Monday (May 4) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Library. The panels feature multiple speakers and a panel discussion. For details, visit <http://portsmouthsustainabilityfair.org>.

PORTSMOUTH VS. KEENE

Have you taken the carbon challenge yet? All residents of Portsmouth are invited to participate in a fun competition with the city of Keene to see which community can get the most residents to participate by taking a brief survey at www.nhcarbonchallenge.org that will provide ideas on how to save energy and money by reducing their household's carbon footprint. The average household committing to the simple carbon reduction changes suggested could save over \$800 a year! Contact: 610-7215.

MOTHERS AND SONS

Boys in Grades K-5 and their mothers (or aunts, sisters, grandmothers, etc.) are invited to the 14th annual Mother-Son Mother's Day Dance hosted by the Rec Department Saturday, May 9, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$10 per couple and includes flowers for the Moms. The theme is Hawaiian so please come dressed in your best tropical outfits! For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm or call 766-1483.

MUSICAL EVENTS

There will be two All-City Concerts in May. The first is May 13 and will showcase the Dondero School Chorus, Grade 5 Band, Portsmouth High School combo, Madrigal Singers and Concert Choir. The second is May 20 and will feature the award-winning PHS Percussion Ensemble, New Franklin School Chorus, high school Treble Choir, Men's Ensemble and Concert Band. The Portsmouth Middle School spring concert is May 27 and will showcase the Grade 6 Band and Chorus, as well as the Grade 7/8 Band and Chorus. All events begin at 7 p.m.

"DUAL CITIZEN"

Local songwriter and recording artist Lucie Therrien will read from her new book "Dual Citizen-Deux Citoyennetés" and perform original songs at the Library's Levenson Room on May 14 at 7 p.m. Therrien recently launched a book and CD set published by Back Channel Press. She maintains a studio in Portsmouth, where she teaches piano, voice, guitar, French and French folk-singing. For information about the Library event, contact: 427-1540.

PHS MUSICAL

"Good grief!" The Portsmouth High School spring musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" is Friday, May 15 (7 p.m.), and Saturday, May 16 (2 p.m. and 7 p.m.). Come see the classic comic strip come to life on stage with music and dance featuring wishy-washy Charlie Brown and his gang of friends – blanket-loving Linus, Beethoven-adoring Schroeder, crabby Queen Lucy, and, of course, supertime-craving Snoopy. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door, or from Sandy White at 436-7100.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Saturday, May 16, is Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington. Bring unwanted household chemicals to the Portsmouth Department of Public Works facility at 680 Pevery Hill Rd. from 8 a.m. until noon. Proof of residency is required. A list of chemicals is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm. Empty containers are not considered hazardous and may be put out for the weekly trash pickup. Contact: 427-1530.

NYC TRIP

Seats are still available for the Recreation Department's May 16 spring trip to New York City. The cost is \$55 for round-trip bus service. Sign up at the Connie Bean Center or call 766-1483.

BOAT LAUNCH OPENING

The Peirce Island Boat Launch opens for the season May 16. The boat launch is free to all Portsmouth residents and season passes are now available at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. There is a daily fee for non-residents. For more information, call 766-1483.

SWIMMING LESSONS

The next set of swimming lessons will be the first summer session at the Pierce Island Pool. Registration will begin at the Indoor Pool on June 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The first session of lessons will run for four weeks from June 29 to July 24. Details are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm.

TOP 25 IN ARTS

For the fourth straight year, Portsmouth has been named one of the top arts destinations in the United States in the category of cities with populations of 100,000 or less. Portsmouth ranked 25th in *AmericanStyle* magazine's 12th annual arts destinations poll that gave top rankings to exciting, reliable and budget-friendly locales. Santa Fe, NM, ranked first in the small cities category. New York City ranked first in the large cities group and Buffalo, NY, led the mid-sized cities category.

ROADWORK

Construction work on Route 33 will result in one-way traffic this week and possibly part of next week. Also, construction crews will be installing sewer lines on Gates Street from Marcy to Mechanic Streets over the next two weeks. Another crew will be working on a new water line on Howard Street. Hancock Street will be busy with curb-setting, paving and brick sidewalks. Local traffic is always permitted. Anyone with questions, should call 766-1412. Also, construction of 19 handicapped ramps is expected to be completed, along with paving on the portion of Market Street near the salt piles, Maplewood Avenue near Dennett Street, State Street near the Rockingham, and on Aviation Avenue at the Tradeport. Weather and other factors may cause delays. Information on all City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 766-1411.

Mark Your Calendar...

- The Rec Department's final Middle School Dance of the school year is May 15, 7:30-10 p.m., at the Connie Bean Center.
- The Dondero Lawn Fete is Saturday, June 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with proceeds benefitting the Dondero PTA.

Did you know...

The Police Department's Bureau of Investigative Services will use a high-quality digital camera to photograph your valuables and put the pictures on a compact disc for you without charge. A detective will come to your home or you can make an appointment to come to the Police Department for the free service. This record can be useful later to document your possessions following a burglary or fire. To take advantage of this opportunity, contact Detective Christopher Roth at 610-7419.

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.

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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