

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements and is part of our continuing effort to communicate more extensive and timely information to the public. Editions are e-mailed every other Wednesday. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). – City Manager John P. Bohenko

### ***SPIRITS 2006***

Learn about “Publick Houses and Taverns” tonight (April 5) when “Spirits 2006 -- Bringing the Dead to Life,” sponsored by the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee, continues at Strawberry Banke’s Stoodley Tavern. Lee Fisher as Dr. Hall Jackson and map categorizer Roberta Ransley-Matteau will offer “One More and Then Some – Publick Houses and Taverns” from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Next Wednesday (April 12), Gov. John Langdon and William Whipple will tell their stories. On April 19, President and Mrs. Lincoln will reflect on their lives. Admission is \$5. Seating is limited. Make reservations by calling 436-5096.

### ***ELDERLY EXEMPTION***

Residents 65 and older have until April 15 to apply for an elderly exemption on their principal residence for the December tax bill. The City Council just increased the income limits from \$25,000 to \$30,000 for single taxpayers and from \$35,000 to \$37,000 for married couples. Applications can be obtained by contacting the Assessor’s Office at 610-7249 or online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/elderly\\_ex.pdf](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/elderly_ex.pdf).

### ***GOOD FRIDAY***

City offices will close early next Friday, April 14, in observance of Good Friday. City Hall will close at noon, the Library will close at 12:30 p.m., and the Recycling Center will be closed for the entire day. However, there will be no change to curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables or to the public school schedule.

### ***MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE***

The next Portsmouth Middle School dance sponsored by the Recreation Department will be next Friday night (April 14) at the Connie Bean Community Center from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***EASTER EGGS***

The annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Rec Department is Saturday, April 15, at Langdon Park across from City Hall on Junkins Avenue. The Hunt’s pre-school only portion begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by the K-Grade 2 Hunt at 11:30 a.m. There will be eggs and prizes for all children who participate, as well as face painting and a visit by the Easter Bunny. If it rains, the Hunt will be held in the Portsmouth Middle School gym on Parrott Avenue. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***VACATION CAMP***

The Rec Department will hold a day camp for Grades K-5 at the Connie Bean Community Center over the April school vacation week (April 24-28). Registration begins Monday (April 10) at 6 p.m. at Spinnaker Point Recreation Center. The cost is \$100 and includes all activities and bus transportation.

### ***REC BROCHURE***

The Recreation Department’s new Summer brochure may be picked up at any of the Rec Department facilities or viewed online by going to [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/summer2006program.pdf](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/summer2006program.pdf)

### ***DOG LICENSES***

All dog owners must renew their dogs’ licenses by May 31 to avoid a possible civil forfeiture fine of \$25, per NH law, plus late fees and a Portsmouth District Court summons for those who do not respond within 15 days. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk’s Office. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are charged \$6.50. Dog 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: 610-7207.

### ***CITYWIDE CONSTRUCTION***

The Department of Public Works has now posted online a map and related information on 2006 construction projects planned throughout the city. To see where construction will begin in the coming months, go to [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/project-map.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/project-map.htm).

## **CAR SEATS**

Nine out of every ten car seats are found to be installed improperly. Call the Portsmouth Police Child Safety Seat Program for an appointment to have your child's car seat inspected. During the approximately 45-minute appointment, you will learn how to properly install the seat. Contact: 610-7KID.

## **BOARD VACANCIES**

There are a number of openings on the City's voluntary Boards and Commissions. A list of the vacancies, descriptions of the Boards and Commissions, and an application form, are at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm). Contact the City Clerk's Office at 610-7207.

## **NEW LIBRARY**

The concrete pouring and finishing is almost complete at the new 38,000-square-foot Library building and workers expect to begin installing the roof shingles soon. Exterior masonry work also begins this month at the new structure at 175 Parrott Avenue. The new facility is expected to be completed by the end of October. Updated pictures of the progress are at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/newlibrary/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/newlibrary/index.htm).

## **LIBRARY BENEFIT**

Get your tickets now for the April 29 benefit for the new Library's capital campaign -- the New Hampshire Folk Festival featuring numerous talented Granite state musicians at The Music Hall. Performers scheduled to appear include Grammy nominee Bill Morrissey, Celtic music legend Tommy Makem, Deidre Randall, High Range, Dan Blakeslee, Craig Werth, Jon Nolan, and the Press Room Gang. The tickets are \$29 and \$34, available at The Music Hall box office or online at [www.themusichall.org](http://www.themusichall.org).

## **ASSESSOR VISITS**

Assessor's Office representatives will next be checking properties in the downtown area that includes Cass, Cabot and Union Streets for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm). Property owners are notified by letter in advance of the arrival of a data collector to measure their property's exterior and seek permission to inspect its interior and other buildings. Information will be used to make each property reflect fair market value, effective April 1, 2006, for the Nov. 1, 2006, tax bills. Contact: 610-7249.

## **UPPER-LEVEL SWIMMERS**

There's still time to register for some of the upper-level Red Cross courses being offered at the Portsmouth Indoor Pool. Register in person for: Lifeguard Instructor (certification to teach lifeguards) – April 12-May 20; Lifeguard Training (to become a lifeguard) – May 13-May 26; Lifeguard Re-Cert (to renew your lifeguard certification for another three years) – May 30-June 1; Basic Water Rescue (for Scout leaders, day care providers, trip leaders, etc.) – May 27 (Tentative). For more info on the classes, call 427-1546 or visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm).

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

Insulting people, disturbing schools and sliding on the sidewalk were all once crimes in Portsmouth. Also, it wasn't so long ago that a whistle sounded the 9 p.m. curfew for all teens under 16. For a fascinating look at the City's history through the eyes of Portsmouth Police, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/depart-history.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/depart-history.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 <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2006/index.htm>

## **HOURS**

Portsmouth City Hall (431-2000) is open from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The School Department Central Office (431-5080) is open from 8 a.m. until 4 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.*