

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Editions are e-mailed every other Wednesday. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com. – City Manager John P. Bohenko

EARLY RELEASES

Today (Nov. 15) was an early release day for Portsmouth Public Schools. They also will release early on Wednesday, Nov. 22, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Contact: 431-5080.

PARADE DEADLINE

Friday (Nov. 17) is the deadline for bands, floats, equestrian units and walking units to apply to participate in the City's annual illuminated Holiday Parade on Dec. 2. There is no fee for nonprofit or community groups, but corporate/commercial entries pay \$30. Applications are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/index.htm or by calling the Prescott Park Arts Festival, which is organizing this year's event, at 436-2848.

LIBRARY MOVE INFO

All items checked out of the Library between Monday (Nov. 20) and Dec. 2 (the day the Library closes for two weeks to move the collection to the new Parrott Avenue site) will not be due until Jan. 2. This includes films. No fines will be accrued. The Library will be closed Sunday, Dec. 3, through Sunday, Dec. 17. The last day to check-out or return items before closing will be Dec. 2. During the move, Library staff will be available via e-mail and telephone. The new library opens Dec. 18 at 9 a.m., and a grand opening celebration will be held in January. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/moving.htm.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The next Middle School Dance for Portsmouth residents is Friday (Nov. 17) from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Admission is \$4; \$3 with a Merit Card. Portsmouth Middle School students must show a student ID card. The dance will be chaperoned by Rec Dept. Staff. Contact: 427-1549.

SHOOT "FOWLS"

On Saturday (Nov. 18) Portsmouth boys and girls in grades K-5 are invited to shoot "fowl" shots to win a turkey in the 15th Annual Turkey Shoot basketball foul-shooting contest at the Connie Bean Community Center. They'll be divided by grade between 9 a.m. and noon. The contest is free, but everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be given to a less-fortunate Seacoast area family. Contact: 766-1483.

PHS SPORTS

The Division III championship football game between Portsmouth High School and Plymouth played on Nov. 11 will be aired on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. on local government cable television Channel 22. For all PHS athletic schedules, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm and click on the link.

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

City offices, the Library and Portsmouth Public Schools are closed Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Portsmouth schools will dismiss early on Wednesday, Nov. 22. The Library will close at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday. There will be some changes to curbside collection related to the Thanksgiving holiday. Thursday's curbside collection of solid waste and recycling will be on Wednesday, Nov. 22, instead. However, there will be no yard waste collection on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of Thanksgiving week. See below for more info on yard waste.

YARD WASTE

The last week in November is the final week of yard waste curbside collection for the year. However, yard waste may be taken to the Recycling Center for disposal year-round. For curbside pickup, yard waste should be put in paper yard-waste bags, plastic bags specifically labeled as "biodegradable," or in plastic barrels clearly labeled as "yard waste." Loose brush must be tied up in manageable bundles. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm.

REC NEWS

Registration for basketball leagues for Middle and High School boys and girls, Grades 7-12, begins Monday, Nov. 27, at the Connie Bean Center. Also, did you know that the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center is open 84 hours a week? It offers a wide variety of programs and a top-notch workout facility. Stop by to check it out. For more Rec program info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm or call 766-1483.

STREET TREES

The City's Public Works Department and the Mayor's Committee on Trees and Greenery are seeking recommendations for locations for the planting of trees along city streets in 2007. If you would like a tree planted in front of your property or know of another location that could benefit from the planting of a street tree, call 766-1428 or email eskern@pw.cityofportsmouth.com.

PARKING COUPONS

During snow emergencies, no parking is allowed on City streets. But residents may obtain free coupons now to park for just \$3 at the High-Hanover Parking Facility from up to two hours in advance of an official parking ban and as long as two hours after it ends. Coupons are available at the Parking Office in City Hall. They can be used only by the person to whom they are issued. Residents present a coupon and identification to the parking attendant in order to receive the \$3 rate upon exiting the garage. Contact: 610-7229.

ROADWORK

The road work on Crescent Way is expected to be completed by the end of next week, but work will continue into the foreseeable future on the New Castle Avenue seawall replacement and roadway project. The latest information on City road projects is at www.CityofPortsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Every effort is made to prevent disruption of general traffic flow. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays. Contact: 427-1530.

HELP THE NEEDY

With the holidays coming, some have asked how they might help their less fortunate Portsmouth neighbors. The City Welfare Department has a list of families unlikely to benefit from various traditional organizations' December food and gift programs. Teenagers are often overlooked by such programs. Gift cards are especially welcome. Contact: 610-7267 or etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

It's time to start thinking about the 2006 Citywide Neighborhood Holiday House Decorating Contest. Individual neighborhood contests will be judged between Dec. 4 and Dec. 8. Winners will be submitted to a Citywide Judging Committee. More details will be available in the City's next e-newsletter or contact: Citywide Neighborhood Chair Robin McIntosh at 433-6923 or via citywideneighborhood@comcast.net.

MORE HOLIDAY INFO

The annual Market Square holiday tree lighting is Friday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. The Holiday Parade is Saturday, Dec. 2, beginning at 6 p.m. The High-Hanover Parking Facility will offer a set \$3 parking fee between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Parade day. The Rec Department will make sure Santa Claus responds to letters received between Dec. 1 and Dec. 20. Additional details will be in the City's next e-newsletter edition on Nov. 29.

Did you know...?

A new State law prohibits disposal of certain electronic devices in landfills and incinerators, including computer monitors, televisions, liquid crystal displays and plasma displays as of July 1, 2007, because they contain lead and other heavy metals that are hazardous and could be released into the environment if disposed of improperly. The City's Recycling Center already offers a means for proper disposal or residents can schedule a curbside pickup by calling 427-1530. There is an \$8 disposal fee per unit (i.e., a computer hard drive, monitor and keyboard would be one unit). More info is at:

www.CityofPortsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-dispose.htm#Computer%20Monitors

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/2006/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 from 8 a.m. until 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 closed Sunday.

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