

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

ATLANTIC HEIGHTS

There will be a final public meeting tonight (Jan. 24) regarding the Raleigh Way Streetscape and Atlantic Heights Traffic Circulation Plan. The consultant will present and discuss the Raleigh Way design plan and the one-way neighborhood traffic circulation plan. All are welcome to attend the meeting at 7 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. Contact: 610-7226.

CITY BUDGET

Work has begun on developing the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2008, which begins on July 1 of this year. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm for the dates of the City Hall meetings, which also are televised on local government cable Channel 22. The next session is Monday, Jan. 29, when the City Council holds a work session on the Capital Improvement Plan budget at 6:30 p.m. The School Board holds a public hearing on its budget Tuesday, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m.

DOGS ON THE ISLAND

There will be a public listening session next Wednesday (Jan. 31) regarding dogs and signage on Peirce Island. The session at 6:30 p.m. in the Levenson Room of the new Public Library will be facilitated by Dog Committee Chair and City Councilor Laura Pantelakos, Peirce Island Committee Chair Hugh Jencks, and Dog Committee member Frank Roth.

BUILDING HEIGHT

A proposed zoning amendment change to reduce maximum building height in Central Business District A from 50 feet to 40 feet will be the subject of a Feb. 1 work session by the Planning Board and the City Council. It begins at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers and will be broadcast live on local government cable Channel 22. There will not be an opportunity for public input at the work session. See the legal notice at www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/referrals.htm or contact: 610-7217.

BUILDING REUSE

The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Reuse has rescheduled its public listening session on proposed "Public Use Criteria & Building Stewardship Policies" for evaluating City ownership of property to Tuesday, Feb. 6, and also will take public input on possible reuse of the Lafayette School from 7-9 p.m. in the new Library's Levenson Room. An information packet on the Lafayette School will be available at the Library and City Hall prior to the meeting date. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/buildingreuse.htm or contact: 610-7220.

PHS SPORTS

The Portsmouth High School boys' hockey game with Pembroke Academy on Saturday (Jan. 27) will be aired Saturday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. on local government cable Channel 22. For all PHS athletic schedules, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm and click on the link.

SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS

There is a Feb. 16 deadline at 4:30 p.m. for applications for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Public Service Agency Grant program administered by the City's Community Development Department and funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The competitive grant program makes grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to non-profit public service agencies serving Portsmouth individuals and families earning very low, low, or moderate-incomes. Contact: 610-7226.

FREE PARKING

There are now 44 downtown merchants offering free parking to customers at the High-Hanover Parking Facility through the Downtown Parking Validation Program. Look for a blue circular window decal with a white letter "P" in downtown storefront windows to see which merchants offer stickers providing from one

to four hours of free parking in the program supported by the City and Downtown Business Association. A list is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/downtownparkingprogram.htm.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A link to the new Portsmouth Community Education Brochure filled with a broad range of fun and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes and workshops taking place on various dates between Feb. 12 and April 18 can now be found online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm.

FIREFIGHTER STATUE

The City has reached its fund-raising goal of nearly \$93,000 for the design, purchase, fabrication and installation of a monument to Portsmouth firefighters outside of downtown Station No. 1. Fire Chief Christopher LeClaire says the Department will be working with the local arts community to develop a design. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/press-011707.htm.

CYBER CRIME AWARDS

The Portsmouth Police Department and Detective Michael Leclair recently received two of the eight awards given by the New Hampshire Attorney General to recognize efforts to fight cyber crime last year. Portsmouth Police also play a key role in the New Hampshire Cyber Crime Initiative, a virtual organization comprised of over 150 law enforcement agencies in the state. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press011807.htm.

NEW POLICEMEN

Portsmouth Police recently added two new full-time officers and an auxiliary officer. The full-time officers are Erik Widerstrom, 30, who was in the insurance industry, and Eric Benson, 29, who has served in the U.S. Coast Guard. The auxiliary officer is UNH Justice Studies student Jamie Coughenour.

POLICE COMMISSION

Police Commission meetings will now be rebroadcast on Thursdays at noon and 7 p.m. on local government cable Channel 22, unless another live televised City meeting is scheduled. The Police Commission meetings, which normally occur at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month, also are broadcast live on Channel 22.

VETERANS DIPLOMAS

World War II and Korean War veterans who left Portsmouth High School to enlist or were drafted before completing their education may be eligible to receive a diploma under a School Department program. Candidates meet briefly with a Veterans Diploma Committee to share their experiences of leaving high school and joining the military. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/veterans-program.htm.

BOARD OPENINGS

The City's volunteer boards and commissions have three openings: Portsmouth Housing Authority (1), Planning Board (1 alternate) and Zoning Board of Adjustment (1 alternate). For an application and to learn more about the boards, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR.... (2 ITEMS)

The Rec Department's 13th annual Father-Daughter Dance is Saturday, Feb. 10, 6-8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Girls in Grades K-5 and dads are welcome. Cost is \$10 per couple. Contact: 766-1483.

Registration for the Recreation Department's February school vacation camp begins Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$100 for residents and includes all activities and bus transportation. The camp is limited to 40 children in Grades K-5. Contact: 766-1483.

Did you know...?

One way to prevent bed bugs from infesting your home is to be very careful about accepting used furniture. Another is to check luggage and purchases upon returning home from traveling, according to the City's Health Department. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/bedbugs.htm to learn more.

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/2007/index.htm.

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 or on the local government cable channel Channel 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com.