

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

GOOD FRIDAY

City offices will close early Friday (April 6) in observance of Good Friday. City Hall will close at noon and the Library will close at 12:30 p.m. but there will be no change to curbside collection of rubbish and recyclables or to the public school schedule.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The City's annual Easter Egg Hunt for young children is Saturday (April 7) at Langdon Park located across from Portsmouth City Hall. Preschoolers will hunt beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by the K-Grade 2 crowd at 11:30 a.m. If it rains, the event moves to the Portsmouth Middle School gym. Contact: 766-1483.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A regional Special Olympics meet co-hosted by the Recreation Department is scheduled Saturday, April 7, at the Portsmouth Indoor Pool and volunteers are always needed. Contact: 427-1545.

ED FUNDING

The public is invited to attend a legislative update on education funding by Senator Martha Fuller Clark and the Portsmouth legislative delegation that will be held next Tuesday (April 10) prior to the School Board meeting. The update session will be from 6 p.m.-7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers and will be televised live on local government Channel 22. Contact: 610-7281.

BUILDING REUSE

The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Re-use will hold a public listening session next Tuesday (April 10) to gather input on the future use of the South Meeting House, also known as the Children's Museum. The 7 p.m.-9 p.m. session will be in City Hall Conference Room A. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/mayor/buildingreuse.htm or contact 610-7220.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

Portsmouth High School students will "take over" the City in the roles of City officials and City Council members next Wednesday (April 11). The Student City Council will hold a meeting at noon in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers and the Student School Board will hold its meeting in the Chambers at 5 p.m. Both meetings will be broadcast live on local government Channel 22.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HEARING

The Portsmouth School Board will hold a public hearing on the Middle School next Wednesday (April 11) at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. Go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm#jsac to see the information package regarding the Middle School Site Selection – Team Design Inc. Presentation from January.

PROPERTY EXEMPTIONS

Portsmouth residents 65 and older and disabled residents have until April 15 to apply for property tax exemptions on their principal residence for the December tax bill. The City Council recently increased the income limits to \$30,600 for single taxpayers and \$37,400 for married couples, and increased the assets limit to \$102,000. Disabled applicants must meet certain other requirements. To see all the guidelines and obtain an application, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm or call 610-7249.

CITY BUDGET

The City Council's public hearing on the proposed City budget for Fiscal Year 2008 from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, will be Wednesday, April 18, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. There will be presentations from the Police, Fire, School and Municipal Departments. The budget

will be available online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com prior to the hearing, which will be broadcast live on Channel 22.

SCHOOL VACATION

Portsmouth Public Schools will be closed for Spring Break during the week of April 23-27. The Rec Department will be offering a weeklong vacation camp for Grades K-12. Registration begins Monday (April 9). Contact 766-1483 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm.

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.

HAIKU WORKSHOP

The Library's next haiku workshop led by Tom D'Evelyn and Madeleine Findlay of Single Island Press will be next Thursday, April 12, from 7-8:45 p.m. The final session is April 19. Because the Japanese form of poetry is so condensed, it takes conversation to discover all the facets that make it what it is. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-haiku.htm or call 427-1540.

FLUSHING MAINS

The Water Department will begin the spring water main flushing program on Monday, April 16, and continue for approximately six weeks until all mains have been flushed. The work is scheduled between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday. Residents who observe the Water Department's trucks in their neighborhood during those times should refrain from drawing water. Contact: 427-1552.

FOREIGN FILMS

The next foreign film to be shown in the Library's series every other Wednesday afternoon in April and May will be the gritty Brazilian film "City of God" shown at 1 p.m. on April 18. A discussion will follow. For more info, contact 427-1540 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies1.htm.

ROADWORK

Work is expected to begin next week to replace the Congress Street sidewalks from High Street to Maplewood/Middle with brick and period streetlights. Crews also will be working on Hanover Street. No major traffic interruptions are expected. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays. The latest information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 498-4747.

REC BROCHURE

Copies of the Recreation Department's Spring/Summer brochure are now available in all Recreation facilities and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/index.htm.

SPINNAKER POINT

A number of new adult programs have been added to the spring schedule at Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center, including "DansKinetics," "Seacoast Boot Camp" and "Club Sweat." To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm or call Tim Bailey at 817-9484.

BOARD OPENINGS

The City's volunteer boards and commissions have some new openings: Cable Television & Communications Commission (2); Citywide Neighborhood Steering Committee (1); Planning Board (alternate) and Zoning Board of Adjustment (alternate). To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

CALLING ARTISTS

New Hampshire professional artists are urged to submit proposals to design, execute and install an outdoor sculpture to honor Portsmouth firefighters near the Central Fire Station, also known as Station 1. The application

deadline is May 2. The \$75,000 project is being funded through a grant, private donations and matching donations from the City. Details are at: <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/purchasing.htm>

SPRING GOLF

It's time to register for the Rec Department's spring golf lessons on Monday and Thursday evenings in May, beginning at 6 p.m. at Pease Golf Course. Five lessons for only \$100. Contact: 766-1483.

SUMMER LEAGUE

Volunteer coaches are still needed for the Police Department's Middle School Girls Summer League for Grades 7, 8 and 9 at the South Mill Pond Courts on Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. from June 21 through August 9. Registration forms are available at the Middle School or contact Detective Kim Sirr, 610-7510 or KSirr@pd.cityofportsmouth.com. The league is open to girls from Portsmouth, Rye, Greenland, New Castle and Newington, Stratham and Kittery. The cost is \$20.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (2 items)

Art-Speak, the City's Cultural Commission, will hold its annual forum Friday, May 11, 9 a.m. to noon, in the Library's Levenson Room. The forum will be an informational session on the City's newly adopted Public Art Ordinance. Members of the community and architects are urged to attend. Contact: 610-7222.

The 12TH annual Mother-Son Mother's Day Dance sponsored by the Recreation Department will be held Saturday, May 12, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Boys in Grades K - 5 and their mothers, (or aunts, sisters, grandmothers, etc) are invited to attend. New this year will be a Hawaiian theme. For more information, www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-mothersondance.htm.

Did you know...?

Portsmouth Middle School students are collecting used eyeglasses and sunglasses to "Give the Gift of Sight" to others. The eyeglasses will be recycled and hand-delivered by LensCrafters and Lions Club volunteers to people in developing countries. Children's glasses are especially needed. Drop glasses off at Portsmouth Middle School or give them to a PMS student to take into school. Contact: 436-5781.

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.

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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