

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) to join the distribution list, or be removed. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

### ***PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS – TONIGHT***

The public is invited to provide input tonight on a proposal to reduce the evening parking meter enforcement end time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. but increase the on-street parking rate to \$1 per hour, and also on the City policy prohibiting vending from municipal parking spaces. At 7 p.m., the Parking Committee will receive input in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers on a proposal to change the parking meter enforcement time and rate. It will then hold a joint session with the Vendors Committee regarding vending from parking spaces and other issues, beginning at 7:30 p.m. or upon completion of the parking session. The committees are gathering input before deciding whether to recommend the City Council make changes.

### ***SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL***

There will be a series of Portsmouth Safe Routes to School Travel Plan Study community meetings beginning tonight (Sept. 30) at St. Patrick School, followed by one at New Franklin next Monday (Oct. 5), the Middle School Tuesday (Oct. 6), at Dondero on Wednesday (Oct. 7), and Thursday at Little Harbour. All meetings are scheduled from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. They will discuss sidewalk and intersection improvements, education and encouragement programs, and better enforcement around each school. Contact: 766-1415.

### ***EEE THREAT CONTINUES***

The Health Department reminds everyone that while cooler weather reduces mosquito activity, it will not stop the threat of EEE, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, until there have been a couple of hard frosts. It's important to protect against this rare, but dangerous, viral illness contracted from the bite of an infected mosquito. EEE has been found in several Rockingham County locations. Remember that mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk, so it's still important to make sure your children are protected while walking to school or waiting at bus stops. See [www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/CDCS/West+Nile+Virus/default.htm](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/CDCS/West+Nile+Virus/default.htm) for more info.

### ***“KILL A WATT”***

Wondering how much energy that large-screen TV uses? Or how you can accurately monitor energy usage to save money? The Library now has two “Kill A Watt” Electricity Usage Monitors available for checkout at the second-floor Information Desk. These easy-to-use devices can help you reduce energy costs and identify electrical appliances you may want to unplug when not in use. The monitors were purchased to support the City's initiative to reduce Portsmouth's carbon footprint and save money. Go to [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com) to “Take the Carbon Challenge” to learn more ways to reduce energy use and save money. Library: 427-1540.

### ***PARKING PAYMENT CONVENIENCE***

Two new easy ways to pay for on-street parking without visiting a meter will be available in Portsmouth in late October. One is an in-vehicle electronic parking pass called “iPark.” Drivers simply select the proper parking rate, start the parking session, and place the iPark parking pass near the windshield with the display facing out so City parking enforcement personnel can read the meter's digital clock as it counts down the time remaining. The cost of the device is \$25 from the City Hall Parking Office or from the manufacturer's web site, although the latter includes a \$10 parking credit. The devices can be refilled by accessing the manufacturer's website, purchasing parking time and loading a code into the iPark device. The Parking Office also is selling prepaid parking coupons, to be used like a Pay & Display receipt, available in sheets of 10 for \$15, with each coupon worth 2 hours of parking. Contact: 766-1440.

### ***COLUMBUS DAY***

City Hall offices, the Library, Portsmouth Schools, the Indoor Pool and the Connie Bean Recreation Center will be closed Monday, Oct. 12, in recognition of Columbus Day. There will be no change to Monday's curbside collection of trash and recyclables. Trash and recycling will be picked up in the business district at 5 p.m. However, yard waste will not be collected on Monday and the Recycling Center is closed. Spinnaker Point Rec Center will have normal hours. Portsmouth Schools also will be closed Oct. 9, the Friday before Columbus Day, for a Teacher Convention.

### ***STATUE DEDICATION***

The public is invited to attend the Oct. 15 formal dedication of the “Vigilance” sculpture and fountain being erected outside the Central Fire Station. The dedication ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. at the 170 Court Street station. The campaign to raise funds to build the monument began in 2004. The artwork by renowned Canaan, NH, artist Emile Birch is based on the concept of the enduring gift of vigilance: “To be always on watch.” To RSVP to the dedication, contact 610-7353 or [tfreeman@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:tfreeman@cityofportsmouth.com). The Fire Department serves the City’s residents and visitors, business owners, and visiting ocean vessels, and also responds to calls for mutual aid from 50 area communities.

### ***SCHOOL TESTING***

Parents of Portsmouth public school students are asked to make sure their children are physically ready for the reading and math testing going on during the first three weeks of October by encouraging them to do their best, get enough sleep, and eat breakfast. Families are asked not to schedule appointments during school or take vacation time during the three-week testing period. Superintendent Edward McDonough says it’s important to the entire community that the students do their best.

### ***“DON’T GET BURNED”***

The Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association for Fire Prevention Week 2009 (Oct. 4-10) to urge residents to “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.” This year’s campaign focuses on ways to keep homes fire-safe and prevent painful burns. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs. Each year roughly 3,000 people die as a result of home fires and burns, and more than 200,000 are seen in the nation’s emergency rooms for burn injuries. To learn how to protect yourself and your family, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/news-092209.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/news-092209.htm).

### ***BARTLETT STREET AREA WORK***

Construction work will begin next week in the Bartlett street area to install new water, sewer and drainage pipes in a project that also will eventually include a portion of Islington Street and Jewell Court. Most of the pipe installations will be done between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. to minimize disruptions to traffic and businesses in the area. The initial work will include construction of a new water main on Bartlett and Cate Streets, which is expected to last for about two weeks. Contact: 766-1416.

### ***SCARECROWS COMING***

Businesses and residents are invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Scarecrows of the Port” festival by decorating their property with fall harvest decorations and unique scarecrows between Oct. 16 and November 1. Neighborhood associations are being challenged to work together to make the Seacoast a unique place to visit this fall. The planning committee needs volunteers to help with the assembly of scarecrows and donations of black clothes to dress them. Visit [www.scarecrowsoftheport.com](http://www.scarecrowsoftheport.com) or call 433-4680.

### ***HOLIDAY PARADE APPLICATIONS***

Although fall has only just begun, planning is underway for the 2009 illuminated Holiday Parade and applications to participate in the Dec. 5 event are now online on the “Mayor” page on the left side of [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com). This year’s theme is “A Portsmouth Christmas.” Applications are due Nov. 16. High school bands from Portsmouth, Dover, Somersworth, Traip and Sanford, Maine, plan to participate. The parade, which is organized and directed by the City, will step off at 6 p.m. from Plaza 800 on Islington Street. It will be preceded by the holiday tree lighting program beginning at 5 p.m. in Market Square. Contact: 610-7281.

### ***CANDIDATE NIGHTS***

Citizens for Voter Education is sponsoring two “Candidate Nights” in October in advance of the Nov. 3 Municipal Elections. Candidates for Fire Commission, Police Commission and the School Board will be featured at the Oct. 21 forum, and City Council candidates at a similar forum the following week on Oct. 28. Both begin at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers. The forums will be televised live on Cable Channel 22 and rebroadcast later. Contact Citizens for Voter Education at 431-0051. For election information, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm). Voting will be between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. for City Council (9 positions), the Police and Fire Commissions (2 each), and the School Board (5 positions).

### ***AUTISM AWARENESS 9-1-1***

The Police and Fire Departments have partnered with the Autism Network at Easter Seals NH for an “Autism Awareness 9-1-1” program to enable Portsmouth residents to provide first responders with specific information about family members and help the autistic become more comfortable with emergency personnel. Statistics show those with autism are 4 to 7 times more likely to have an encounter with law enforcement or first responders. Because of the impairment to social skills, they also are more at risk to be crime victims. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news091809a.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news091809a.htm) for more info, or call Det. Munson at 610-7506.

### ***“FACEBOOK FOR ADULTS”***

The Library is adding “Facebook for Adults” to its computer class offerings, which already include Computer Basics, Email, Internet and Microsoft Word parts 1 and 2. The October schedule of classes will be posted at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm). The classes are onetime workshops that can be repeated if necessary and each class accommodates up to eight students in order to guarantee each has use of a computer. No previous computer experience is necessary, but you must preregister at 766-1720.

### ***DANCE FRIDAY***

The first Middle School dance of the new school year is Friday (Oct. 2) at the Connie Bean Recreation Center. The hours this year are 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$4, \$3 with a Merit Card. Open to all PMS students/Portsmouth residents. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***BOAT LAUNCH CLOSING***

The Peirce Island Boat Launch closes for the season Saturday (Oct.3). To learn more, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/boatlaunch.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/boatlaunch.htm).

### ***NYC TRIP***

Registration opens Monday (Oct. 5) at 1 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center for the Rec Department’s annual fall bus trip to the Big Apple on Saturday, Nov. 7. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The bus leaves Portsmouth at 6 a.m. and returns about 11:45 p.m. Trip is limited to 50 people. Cost is \$50. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***MEDITATION MONDAY***

The Library’s monthly guided mediation classes resume Monday (Oct. 5) at 7 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Room. The classes are held on the first Monday of the month. Beginners are welcome. To learn more, contact the instructor, Martha Nossif, at [gleeful@comcast.net](mailto:gleeful@comcast.net) or 430-9426.

### ***BASKETBALL TIME***

Registration for the Men’s City Basketball League and the Men’s 35 and Over League is Monday (Oct. 5) through Friday, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Spinnaker Point Recreation Center. The Men’s City League is for men 18 and older out of high school who want to play in an organized competitive league. The organizational night for first-year players is Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. The Men’s 35 and Over League’s organizational night for first-year players on Oct. 14 is at 7 p.m. Info on both leagues is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm) or call 766-1483. Registration for children’s basketball programs begins later this month and in November. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-4.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-4.htm).

### ***SWIM LESSONS***

Registration for the late October to late November set of swim lessons opens next Monday (Oct. 5) at the Indoor Pool, beginning at 5:30 a.m. for Portsmouth residents. Non-resident registration opens Oct. 13. For more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm) or contact: 427-1546.

### ***CONSTRUCTION CODE UPDATES***

Efforts are underway to implement updated city construction codes, which will be the subject of a public hearing at the City Council meeting next Monday (Oct. 5). The current code books and proposed amendments can be viewed at the City Hall 3rd Floor Inspection Desk from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or at the Library's reference section. The proposed amendments are online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/inspection](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/inspection). The City uses the 2000 edition of the International family of codes and proposes to adopt the 2006 editions of the International building,

residential, plumbing, mechanical, fire and energy conservation codes, as well as updates to the State's life safety, national electric and national gas codes. Contact: Chief Building Inspector Rick Hopley, 610-7261.

### ***YOGA CLASSES***

There are still openings in the six-week beginner Hatha Yoga classes being offered at the Library, beginning Oct. 6. The classes will be led by registered yoga teacher Lily Sibley in the Levenson Room from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Pre-registration is required and restricted to Portsmouth Public Library cardholders who can attend all six consecutive Tuesday classes. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***FALL FLICKS***

The Library's "Fall Flicks" series continues next Thursday, Oct. 8, with the R-rated comedy "I Love You Man" about a prospective groom who has no male friends but needs a best man for his wedding. Played by Paul Rudd, the soon-to-be groom embarks upon a hilarious search for a friend via "man-dates," to the amusement of his fiancée, in this 105-minute film. It begins at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***MORE LIBRARY MUSIC***

The Library's new monthly Sunday afternoon "Music from the Traditions" series continues Oct. 11 with "Noteworthy Duo" performing at 2 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Flutist Lisa Schroeder and guitarist Michael Anthony join their musical talents in a free program featuring music from prominent and less-known Latin American composers ranging from folkloric dances to sophisticated impressionism. Lisa and Michael are both on the faculty at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California. Information on the duo is at [www.noteworthyduo.com](http://www.noteworthyduo.com). Contact: 427-1540.

### ***ELEMENTARY SKIING***

The Recreation Department's Elementary School Ski Program holds registration Tuesday, Oct. 13, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Children in Grades 1-5 are eligible to participate in the program, which will be held at Gunstock Ski Area on five Saturday evenings beginning Jan. 9, 2010. The program is limited to 40 children. To learn more, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm) or call Barry Foley at 766-1483.

### ***PHS SPORTS ON TV***

Portsmouth's volleyball game against Somersworth will be broadcast on Channel 22 on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. Also on the schedule for broadcast are the Portsmouth vs. Milford football game to be shown on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m., and Portsmouth's volleyball game against Oyster River to be shown on Nov. 14, also at 7 p.m. None of the games are broadcast live. For the full PHS athletic schedule, click on the link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm).

### ***POLICE PROMOTIONS***

Detective Christopher Roth and Patrol Officer David Keaveny recently were promoted to the rank of sergeant. Roth began his career with the Portsmouth PD in 1991 as a second-generation officer. His father, Robert Roth, was a captain for 24 years. The younger Roth, recently named the department's "Investigator of the Year," has taken part in nearly 400 crime scene investigations during his 10 years with the Bureau of Investigation, spent nine years in patrol and also is a team leader for the Seacoast Emergency Response Team. Keaveny joined the Portsmouth PD in 2003 after three years with the Keene PD. He has been a member of the SERT team, Field Training Evaluation Team and Accident Investigation Team.

### ***MAINS FLUSHING***

The fall program to flush sediment from the City's water mains is continuing. If you see Water Department trucks in your neighborhood between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, refrain from drawing water as it may have a reddish tint. Let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

### ***HALLOWEEN INFO***

The 15th Annual Halloween Costume Monster Mash Family Dance is Saturday, Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Recreation Center. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm) for more info on both events. Trick or treating in Portsmouth is Friday, Oct. 30, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

## **ROADWORK**

The City has begun rebuilding a section of sidewalk along Deer Street and High Street adjacent to “The Hill” and work continues on the Ceres Street improvements and waterfront park. Work will begin after Columbus Day on reconstructing Commercial Alley. City work projects may cause temporary traffic delays during work hours. Weather and other factors can cause work delays. Info on City road projects is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm). Contact: 766-1412.

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

Leaves and other yard waste placed curbside for pickup on the regular trash collection day must be in commercially manufactured biodegradable bags that are factory labeled to indicate they are 100% biodegradable, or in open containers clearly labeled “Yard Waste.” Bags and containers cannot weigh over 50 pounds each. Yard waste is collected curbside weekly through December 4. To learn more about the city’s recycling program, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle.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 [www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2009/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2009/index.htm).

**SCHOOL CALENDARS:** The School Department’s Activities Calendar for all schools is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm). A link to the Portsmouth High fall sports schedule is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.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 from 8 a.m. to 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.

*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 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com).*