

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*

### **VETERANS DAY**

City offices, the Library, the Recycling Center and Portsmouth public schools are closed tomorrow (Wednesday, Nov. 11) in honor of Veterans Day. Spinnaker Point is closed for maintenance through Friday. There is no change to curbside collection of trash and recyclables tomorrow, other than that tomorrow's yard waste will not be picked up until the following Wednesday. Yard waste also may be taken to the Recycling Center on other days. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm) for the schedule.

### **HOLIDAY PARADE DEADLINE**

Next Monday (Nov. 16) is the deadline for marching bands, floats, and equestrian and walking units to submit applications to participate in the 2009 Illuminated Holiday Parade celebrating "A Portsmouth Christmas" on Dec. 5. There is no cost for nonprofit or community organizations to participate in the parade, which steps off at 6 p.m., but there is a \$35 fee for corporate/commercial entries. There will be awards for the best entries in the community, non-profit, and commercial categories, as well as the traditional "Mayor's Award." Parade applications are available at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com) or may be requested by calling 610-7281. Contact: 610-7281 or [Parade@CityofPortsmouth.com](mailto:Parade@CityofPortsmouth.com).

### **BUDGET AWARD**

The City's budget document recently received the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting for a fourth straight year. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) conferred its Distinguished Budget Document Presentation Award upon the City's Fiscal Year 2010 budget document for the period beginning July 1, 2009. GFOA says the award "reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of government reporting." The City's annual budgets can be found at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm).

### **GO GREEN**

In conjunction with the City's sustainability efforts and "Take the NH Carbon Challenge" campaign, Portsmouth author Lindsey Carmichael will discuss her new book about "Greening Your Family" next Wednesday (Nov. 18) in the Library's Levenson Room at 7 p.m. Copies of "Greening Your Family: A Reference Guide to Safe Food, Personal Care & Cleaning Products" (\$14, Peter E. Randall Publisher) will be on sale at the event co-sponsored with RiverRun Bookstore. Also, available will be computers to take the NH Carbon Challenge that night and info on how to take it at home via the link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). Residents can earn prizes by forwarding the survey receipt to [carbonchallenge@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:carbonchallenge@cityofportsmouth.com) after learning how to save an average \$800 annually while reducing their carbon footprint. Contact: 427-1540.

### **SUSTAINABLE PORTSMOUTH**

What does a sustainable Portsmouth look like to you? Share your vision next Saturday (Nov. 21) by working in small groups with fellow residents to discuss ways to make our community more sustainable. The City Council last year asked Portsmouth Listens to create a process to develop a citizen-led sustainability vision and five-year plan, and this 8:30 a.m. to noon event at Portsmouth High School is part of it. Participants will identify the five most important characteristics of "Sustainable Portsmouth." The community will be invited early next year to discuss how to achieve the vision and then in the spring to explore how to implement it. To learn more and register for next Saturday's forum, visit [www.sustainableportsmouth.org](http://www.sustainableportsmouth.org).

### **ENERGY AUDITS AND SAVINGS**

Want to lower your electric bill while also saving on your winter heating bills? NH electric utilities may be able to help. They are offering home energy audits to qualifying customers. For a fraction of the normal cost, a certified energy auditor will conduct a comprehensive assessment of your home. Depending on the results, you may be eligible for up to \$4,000 in rebates to help pay for recommended energy-efficiency improvements. To learn more, visit the City's Sustainability page at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability).

### ***PRETTY PORTSMOUTH***

ForbesTraveler.com has again named Portsmouth as one of “America’s Prettiest Towns.” As one judge stated, Portsmouth is “both a functioning modern community and a museum piece. Brick buildings, many of them original to the era of the tall ships, line small streets and alleys. Yet many of those same buildings house high-tech businesses and start-ups.” The article about the nation’s 20 “picture-perfect towns” can be found at [www.forbestraveler.com](http://www.forbestraveler.com).

### ***PD NOW ON TWITTER***

Members of the community can now follow the Police Department on Twitter and receive frequent tweets on important public safety information ranging from road closures to motor vehicle accidents and much more. To sign up as a follower of the PD, visit [www.twitter.com/portsmouthnhpd](http://www.twitter.com/portsmouthnhpd). The Library also is on Twitter and its feed is at [www.twitter.com/portsmouthlibnh](http://www.twitter.com/portsmouthlibnh).

### ***SENIOR CITIZENS ACADEMY***

The Citizen Police Academy for Senior Citizens begins Thursday (Nov. 12) at 9:30 a.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room with a fraud awareness presentation by the NH Attorney General’s Office. There is no need to pre-register for the free academy sponsored by the Police Department and Crime Stoppers. Refreshments will be served at the sessions, also scheduled Nov. 19 and Dec. 3. Participants may attend as many sessions as they like. Future topics include a police canine demonstration, personal safety, a Taser demonstration, virtual tours and presentations by local community resources relevant to senior citizens. Contact: 610-7612.

### ***FALL FLICKS***

Nominated for two Academy Awards, “Frozen River” will be shown Thursday (Nov. 12) at 7 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room as part of the “Fall Flicks” series. The movie is about two women who form an unlikely partnership to illegally smuggle aliens into the United States across the Canadian border in upstate New York. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***SHERBURNE BRIDGE MEETING***

The NH Department of Transportation will hold an information meeting Thursday (Nov. 12) to discuss the planned rehabilitation of the Sherburne Road Bridge over Interstate 95 in Portsmouth. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to present information regarding the proposed project, and solicit public input in order to ensure that project decisions meet public transportation needs, community goals, and protect and enhance the environment. Contact: 271-3734.

### ***DANCE FRIDAY***

The next Middle School dance is Friday (Nov. 13) 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.

### ***SPINNAKER REOPENS SATURDAY***

The Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center is scheduled to reopen Saturday (Nov. 14) after being closed for maintenance. Spinnaker members may use the Indoor Pool on Jarvis Drive free until then. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***TELEVISED PHS SPORTS***

A recording of Portsmouth’s volleyball playoff game against Souhegan will be shown Saturday (Nov. 14) at 7 p.m. on Local Government Access Cable Channel 22. 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).

### ***SUBSTANCE PREVENTION MEETING***

The next meeting of the newly formed “Communities Connected for Substance Prevention,” a greater Portsmouth area anti-drug initiative coordinated with the Portsmouth School Department, is next Monday (Nov. 16) from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Principal’s Conference Room at the High School. Residents of Portsmouth, Greenland, New Castle, Newington and Rye are invited to attend and participate in developing strategies to reduce substance use. Contact: 617-0085.

### ***“STORY HARVEST”***

“Story Harvest: A Storytelling Performance” by the New Hampshire Theatre Project and the University of New Hampshire Department of Theatre & Dance will be held next Tuesday (Nov. 17) at 7 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room. NHTP artistic director Genevieve Aichele and her UNH storytelling students will perform a variety of tales and encourage audience members to explore their own storytelling styles. This performance is free and recommended for ages 8 to adult. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***RECYCLING CENTER CHANGE***

Winter operating hours resume at the Recycling Center Tuesday (Nov. 17), which means it will no longer be open on Tuesday evening. The Recycling Center will be open from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, as well as from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday. Contact: 427-1530.

### ***“FIDDLER ON THE ROOF”***

“Fiddler on the Roof,” Portsmouth High School’s fall musical, will be at the PHS auditorium Nov. 19-21 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are \$5 and available at the door and in the front office of Portsmouth High School and Portsmouth Middle School. Contact: 426-7100.

### ***“FOWL” SHOOTING***

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Shoot basketball “fowl” shooting contest is next Saturday morning (Nov. 21) at the Connie Bean Center. Portsmouth children in Grades K-5 shoot 10 foul shots each, with the winner in each grade level receiving a free turkey. Everyone gets a certificate and lollipop. The contest is free, but please donate a non-perishable food item for a less-fortunate family. For specific grade-level competition times, call 766-1483.

### ***SUNDAY AFTERNOON MUSIC***

The Library’s new monthly Sunday afternoon “Music from the Traditions” series continues Sunday, Nov. 22, with “Too Human” performing at 2 p.m. in the Levenson Room. With vocals, guitar and percussion, Ellen Schwartz and Roger Bruno make “good music with a lot of heart.” From jazz to blues to pop to R&B, their fresh interpretation brings new life to classics from the American songbook. Their songs have been recorded by artists ranging from Cher and Pat Benatar to Anne Murray and Ramsey Lewis. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***SWIMMING TECHNIQUE CLINICS***

The Indoor Pool will be offering a swimming technique clinic Dec. 1 and on Dec. 3, 5:30 to 7 p.m. You can watch stroke technique videos and have your swimming videotaped so you can see how it compares. General technique tips will be given by two on-deck coaches who will do the analyzing. This is not a super-detailed analysis session and participants may drop in at any time during the time period. Due to the popularity of this event, two days are being offered. Two underwater time-delay cameras will be used: one on each side of the pool. There will be a third monitor showing stroke technique videos on deck. Cost is \$4 for residents and pool members, \$6 for everyone else. Contact: 427-1546.

### ***INFANT/PRESCHOOL, ADULT LESSONS***

The Indoor Pool has instructors ready to teach infant/preschool and adults swim lessons on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings in December but they need participants. Call the pool now at 427-1546 to get on the list and they will run a class once there are enough students signed up.

### ***POLICE PROMOTIONS***

The Police Commission recently promoted Lieutenant Frank Warchol to captain and Master Patrol Officer Jon Aubin to sergeant. Warchol has been with Portsmouth PD for 15 years and has received many recognitions, especially for his investigative work dealing with Internet Crimes Against Children. He will now serve as Administration Division Commander. Aubin is a Seacoast native who will continue in the Patrol Division, where he has served during his 10 years with the PPD. He is a former member the Seacoast Emergency Response Team, and currently serves as a field training officer and an instructor in use of force.

### ***THANKSGIVING SCHEDULES***

City offices, the Library and schools are closed Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Schools dismiss early on Wednesday, Nov. 25. The Library closes at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. All Rec

Department facilities are closed on Thanksgiving. The Connie Bean Center and Indoor Pool are also closed the day after Thanksgiving, but Spinnaker Point will be open. There are some changes to curbside collection due to the holiday: Thursday's collection of solid waste and recycling takes place Wednesday and there is no yard waste collection Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of Thanksgiving week. See below for more yard waste info.

### ***FALL CLEANUP***

Weekly curbside collection of fall yard waste ends the week of Nov. 30. Use paper yard waste bags or plastic barrels clearly labeled as "yard waste." Neither can weigh more than 50 pounds. Loose brush must be tied into bundles no larger than 4 feet in length and 1 foot in diameter. Yard waste pickup is the same day as trash and recycling collection. Yard waste also may be brought to the Recycling Center year-round. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-ywi.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-ywi.htm) or call 437-1530.

### ***HOLIDAY HELP***

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. The Welfare Department is collecting gift cards in small increments to distribute to local needy families again this year. Due to the tough state of the economy, the Welfare Department is expecting a much greater number of requests for holiday help. Gift cards for \$25 or less to the mall, department stores, and toy, music, electronics and book stores will allow needy families to buy gifts for their children of all ages. Contact Ellen at 610-7267 or [etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com) for more info.

### ***HOLIDAY EXPRESS***

The "Holiday Express" arrives in Portsmouth on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m. Children and their families will board the "Express" for a magical journey to the "North Pole" for food, fun, and to experience the Chris Van Allsburg holiday classic book "The Polar Express." Sponsorship opportunities are available to help make this an affordable family event for all. The \$6 tickets (\$20 per family) are now on sale at the three elementary schools and the Community Campus. Interested volunteers also may contact Amy Noble at the Central Office at 431-5080. The event is sponsored by the Portsmouth School Department and the Patricia Wojnar Scholarship Committee.

### ***SNOW PARKING COUPONS***

Residents are urged to plan ahead to obtain City-issued snow ban parking coupons allowing them to park in the High-Hanover Parking Facility for just \$3 during snow emergencies. Vehicles may be parked at the covered lot for up to two hours in advance of the official start of a parking ban on City streets, but must be moved within two hours after its official end in order to pay the \$3 rate upon exiting the garage. Coupons are available from the Parking Clerk's Office in City Hall Room 223A. There is no fee but proof of Portsmouth residency must be presented. Contact: 610-7239.

### ***EASY PARKING METERS***

The new prepaid "iPark" in-vehicle electronic parking device allows drivers to park at any meter in Portsmouth without having to visit it to insert money. The palm-sized electronic parking pass allows drivers to simply push a few buttons to activate the parking session before leaving their vehicles. The device may be purchased for \$25 from the City Hall Parking Services Office or from the iPark link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation). Parking time may be purchased online in \$25, \$50 or \$100 increments, plus a service charge. For more info, see the iPark link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation) or contact: 766-1440.

### ***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 2010. 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](mailto:eskern@pw.cityofportsmouth.com).

### ***VACANCIES***

There are a number of vacancies on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. For more information, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm).

## **ROADWORK**

Work continues on the Ceres Street improvements and waterfront park. Weather and other factors can cause project delays. Info on City road projects is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm). Contact: 766-1412..

## **Mark your calendar...**

The Seacoast premiere of the indie film “Handmade Nation” is Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. at the Library. The Portsmouth Middle School concert is Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at PHS and the All-City Concert at PHS is Monday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. The Indoor Pool will be featuring two “Dive-In Movies” in December – “Jaws” on Dec. 10 and “Finding Nemo” on Dec. 15, both from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. – as well as a “Parent’s Night Out” on Saturday, Dec. 19. The Parents Night Out goes from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and is for children ages 6 to 11.

**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 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).*