

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

### ***POPS CONCERT***

Want to hear some great music? The Portsmouth High School Pops Concert is tonight (Feb. 20) at 7 p.m. in the PHS Auditorium. Come listen to the PHS Band, Choir, Madrigal Singers, Treble Choir, and Men's Ensemble. Tickets are available at the door for \$2 for adults, \$1 for senior citizens and students. The concert will be broadcast on Channel 22 Saturday (Feb. 23) at 7 p.m. Contact: 436-7100, ext. 2906.

### ***POOL PROGRAMS***

Beginning tomorrow (Feb. 21), Portsmouth residents can sign up for the year's largest offering thus far of swim lessons, lifeguard courses and swim instructor (WSI) courses at the Indoor Pool. The courses begin in mid-March and include all levels of Red Cross Learn-to-swim, Lifeguarding, WSI, Jr. Lifeguarding, Infant/Toddler, Springboard Diving, Adapted Aquatics and much more. Non-residents can sign up beginning Feb. 28. The full schedule is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm) or call the pool at 427-1546.

### ***CONNIE BEAN CLOSURE***

The Connie Bean Center gym will be closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday (Feb. 22-24) while the gym floor is being recoated. The gym reopens Monday (Feb. 25).

### ***SCHOOL'S OUT***

Portsmouth public schools are closed next week (Feb. 25-29) for the winter recess.

### ***TREE WORK***

Tree trimming and tree removal has begun along NH Route 33 (Greenland Road) from Griffin Road to Peverly Hill Road in preparation for the State's construction of a new railroad bridge in May. The tree work is expected to take three weeks to complete and is necessary to relocate overhead utilities to the opposite side of the roadway to facilitate replacement of the NH Route 33 railroad bridge. The tree work has received approval from the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Trees and Public Greenery.

### ***AUTOMATED METER READING***

The City is preparing to implement a system that uses radio and Ethernet connections to check nearly 8,000 water meters in Portsmouth, Newington, New Castle, and Rye as well as locations in Greenland, Madbury, Dover and Durham. This will allow the city to implement monthly billing for residential customers, improve efficiency and give the city a daily look at water consumption and possible leaks. The first phase begins in March and will involve 1,250 meters in the central business district and residential area between Richards Avenue and the Piscataqua River. More information will be available soon at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com).

### ***HISTORIC PORTSMOUTH***

The Portsmouth Historical Society's new 13-minute film "Welcome to Historic Portsmouth" can now be viewed via the City's web site. It traces our city's history from colonial times through today, and includes such highlights as the era of the Frank Jones Brewery and the 1905 Treaty of Portsmouth. The National Trust for Historic Preservation named Portsmouth one of its "2008 Dozen Distinctive Destinations" earlier this month. To learn more and view the film, click on the link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/economic/phs.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/economic/phs.htm).

### ***CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN***

The City's Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2009, which begins July 1 of this year, through FY 2014 will be the subject of a public hearing before the City Council on Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The proposed plan as approved by the Planning Board can be viewed by clicking on the link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/index.htm).

### **CADET ACADEMY**

The Police Department is urging all young people between the ages of 14 and 20 who are interested in police work to register early for the weeklong 2008 New Hampshire Police Cadet Training Academy that begins June 23 at Hesser College in Manchester. Last year, the Academy was forced to turn people away.

### **MARCH MOVIE MADNESS**

“Gone Baby Gone,” filmed in Boston and based on the novel by Dennis Lehane, kicks off the Library’s Third Annual “March Movie Madness” on Thursday, March 6, to celebrate Academy Awards month. Shows begin at 7 p.m. Next up is “3:10 to Yuma” on March 13, and “Michael Clayton” on March 20. Don’t miss these great films or the free popcorn! For more info, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm).

### **MAGICAL MUSICAL CHOCOLATE**

You can enjoy decadent chocolate desserts and wonderful music while benefiting the Music Program Scholarships at Portsmouth High School by attending an evening of “Magical Musical Chocolate” on Wednesday, March 12, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the PHS cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For discounted advance tickets to be held at the door, send cash or a check to PHS Music Boosters, PHS, Alumni Drive, Portsmouth, NH 03801, by March 7.

### **SWIM LESSONS**

Spots remain open in swim lesson classes offered by the Indoor Pool. Call 427-1545 for the class schedule.

### **SPINNAKER POINT**

Open seven days a week, the Spinnaker Point Adult Center offers numerous recreational programs. Call 766-1483 to learn more.

### **TV SPORTS**

The Portsmouth High School Feb. 19 men’s basketball game with St. Thomas will be broadcast March 1 at 7 p.m. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm) for a link to the PHS schedules.

### **BOARD OPENINGS**

The City has three vacancies on the Taxi Commission, two on the Building Code Board of Appeals and one opening on the Economic Development Commission. Information on the City’s volunteer boards and how to apply is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm).

### **SMARTER THAN A FIFTH-GRADER?**

A game show fundraiser entitled “Are You Smarter than a Dondero Fifth Grader?” is planned Friday, March 28, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the PHS auditorium. Tickets will be available at the March 19 Dondero Elementary Pasta Dinner or at the door on the night of the event (\$3 adults, \$2 seniors, \$1 students, \$10 family). Proceeds benefit Dondero Fifth Graders attending environmental school at Camp Calumet in Ossipee. Contact: Elizabeth Valway, 431-7894, ext. 1154 or [elizabeth.valway@heinemann.com](mailto:elizabeth.valway@heinemann.com).

### **SNOW BANS**

If a storm drops two inches of snow or more, the City may declare a ban on on-street parking and will announce its start – and completion – on Cable Channel 22, in a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), in announcements in the local media, at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com), and on signs at all entrances to the City. Residents may obtain free coupons now to park at the High-Hanover Parking Garage for \$3 during bans. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/snowbanparkinglots.htm) for more information.

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

The City Manager has taken another step in the effort to implement sustainable practices. He recently announced that he would broaden the responsibilities of City Environmental Planner Peter Britz to include coordination of sustainability efforts within the various City departments. In his new role of Environmental Planner/Sustainability Coordinator, Peter will implement new approaches to sustainability within all departments, provide additional staff training and raise community awareness of the City’s ongoing sustainability efforts. For a look at some of the city’s sustainability initiatives thus far, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/sustainability-initiatives.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/sustainability-initiatives.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/2008/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2008/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.

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