

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

TODAY'S EVENTS

The three finalists to replace retiring Superintendent Dr. Robert Lister will appear at a public forum at 7 p.m. tonight in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at City Hall. It will be televised live on Local Government Cable Channel 22. Information about the candidates may be found via the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm. Also, the Fire Commission will hold a public hearing tonight on the Fire Department's proposed 2009-2010 budget at 7 p.m. at the Central Fire Station.

MORE BUDGET HEARINGS

The School Board will hold its first public hearing on the 2009-2010 budget next Tuesday (Jan. 27) at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at City Hall. The Police Commission will hold a hearing Feb. 6 on the proposed FY10 Police Department Budget at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The hearings will be televised live on local Government Access Cable Channel 22.

SCHOOL TOMORROW

The teacher workday/no school day tentatively scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday, Jan. 22) has been postponed. Tomorrow will be a full day for all Portsmouth Public School students and staff. The teacher workday has been moved to next Wednesday, January 28, because of the four days of school that were canceled because of weather. The workday will change again if there are further school cancellations before then. Contact: 431-5080.

TAX TIME

"Show Me the Money" is the title of tomorrow night's (Thursday, Jan. 22) free H&R Block Tax Talk in the Library's Hilton Garden Room. Tax experts will outline frequently overlooked tax deductions, such as medical expenses, job search costs and student loan interest in the session beginning at 6:30 p.m. Also, AARP's Tax Aide Program will offer free tax preparation help beginning Tuesday, February 3, and continuing through April 14 on Tuesday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Library's MacLeod Room. Tax Aide volunteers are trained by the Internal Revenue Service. Contact: 427-1540.

SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY

Portsmouth High School's ECO Club is seeking your help with its Sustainability Initiative Survey. The purpose is to gain a better understanding of the knowledge that members of our community possess regarding sustainability, energy use and recycling. The club hopes to use the information to help put sustainable practices in place at the high school. To take the brief survey, click the "Please help the ECO Club..." link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm.

PEANUT BUTTER RECALL

Some popular products available at grocery and health food stores have been included in the expanded peanut butter recall. Clif Bars & Co. announced a voluntary recall of Clif and Luna bars that contain peanut butter because the products may be contaminated with Salmonella. For more information, visit the FDA website at www.fda.gov/opacom/7/alerts.html.

CYANIDE ANTIDOTE

City ambulances and Portsmouth Regional Hospital have become the first in the state to stock the antidote for poisoning from cyanide, a toxic chemical in fire smoke that is suspected to have a significant role in the deaths of up to 10,000 civilians and firefighters who die from smoke inhalation annually. The Fire Department ambulances carry the cyanokit, the only FDA-approved treatment for suspected cyanide poisoning. This means emergency first responders can treat immediately patients at the scene of the fire or other accident, as well as in the Portsmouth Hospital emergency room. Contact: 427-1515.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The new Portsmouth Community Education Brochure is filled with a broad range of fun and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes and workshops taking place on various dates between Feb. 16 and April 22. Click on the "Portsmouth Community Education" link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm for details.

STORMWATER SESSION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting about the government's proposed stormwater general permits for small municipal systems, such as the City of Portsmouth's, next Wednesday (Jan. 28) beginning at 9 a.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers at City Hall. EPA will give a brief presentation and hold a question-and-answer period, followed by a public hearing beginning at 10:10 a.m. (time is correct) to accept written and oral comments on the draft permit. The permit could change how the City of Portsmouth deals with stormwater. For more info, contact: 617-918-1615.

FORMER POET LAUREATE

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Charles Simic will read from and sign his latest two books of poetry, "Sixty Poems" and "That Little Something," next Tuesday (Jan. 27) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. The event sponsored with RiverRun Bookstore is free, but come early for good seats. Contact: 427-1540.

"GHOST TOWN"

The 2008 comedy "Ghost Town," starring Ricky Gervais and Greg Kinnear, kicks off the return of free movies at the Library next Thursday (Jan. 29). In the PG-13 movie that begins at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room, Gervais plays an antisocial dentist who sees dead people after undergoing a standard hospital procedure. Next up is the PG-13 romantic comedy "Dan in Real Life" starring Steve Carell at 2 p.m. on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14. Contact: 427-1540.

IT'S MAGIC

The Dondero Elementary School PTA is sponsoring a Magic Show for all ages featuring the creative and exuberant magician Tricky Dick on Friday, Jan. 30, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 31, at 12:30 p.m. Doors open an hour earlier and food will be for sale. During the event, magic kits will be raffled off and 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold. All proceeds help fund the Environmental School for fifth graders, an integrated program designed to bring real-world scientific learning to Portsmouth students. Show tickets are on sale at Dondero for \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Call Linda at 334-6634 or e-mail Emy at adamsc8791@hotmail.com for more information.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

The Rec Department's 15TH annual Father-Daughter Valentine's Dance is Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Connie Bean Center. Girls in Grades K-5 and dads (or uncles, grandfathers, brothers, etc.) are welcome. Cost is \$10 per couple (no charge for extra daughters). Contact: 766-1483.

PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCY GRANTS

There's a Feb. 13 deadline for applications for the 2009-2010 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 501(c)(3) public service agencies with more than 51 percent of their Portsmouth clients earning very low, low, or moderate-incomes. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/announcements.htm or contact 610-7226.

VACATION CAMP

Registration for the Recreation Department's school vacation camp, February 23-27, begins Monday, Feb. 9, at the Connie Bean Community Center. Registration is for Portsmouth residents only in the first two days. The camp is limited to 40 children in Grades K-5 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-5.htm. Contact: 766-1483.

MORE REC NEWS

The adult Senior Exercise Class has moved from the Connie Bean Center to Spinnaker Point. It's held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:15 to 10 a.m. Classes cost \$2. To learn more, call 766-1483. Also, the

Indoor Pool and Spinnaker Point are renewing memberships for the year. Call the pool at 427-1545 or Spinnaker Point at 766-1483 for more information.

Mark your calendar... (3 items)

Portsmouth Public Schools have an early release day Wednesday, Feb. 4. The Library will screen two films by local independent filmmaker Paul Foster, "Gray Branches" and "Harold Knows the Difference," at 7 p.m. on Feb. 17 in the Levenson Room. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm. There will be a three-part seminar on "Buying a Condo: Everything You Need to Know" at the Library on Feb. 12, 19 and 26.

Did you know...

Just 10 to 30 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your car, and idling for 10 minutes uses as much fuel as traveling five miles. The government says there's no need to warm up passenger cars and other vehicles with fuel injection engines for more than 30 seconds, except on days that are below 0-degrees Fahrenheit. Idling also releases unhealthy exhaust fumes, and exposure to most auto pollutants can often be higher inside vehicles than outside. To learn about the city's sustainability efforts, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm.

BOARD VACANCIES

The most recent list of openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

SNOWSTORM INFO

When the City bans on-street parking to facilitate snow removal, it's announced by e-mail to Community Newsletter subscribers, on Cable Channel 22, on a recording on the snow phone at 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW), at www.cityofportsmouth.com, in the local media and on signs at all entrances to the City. A map of parking lots open during bans is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/snowbanparkinglots.htm. Portsmouth residents also may obtain coupons from the Parking Office at City Hall (open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) to pay just \$3 if they park at the High-Hanover Parking Garage.

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/2009/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 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-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 or on the local government cable channel Channel 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com.