

PortsmouthNews

WORKING TO BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY



Welcome to the Portsmouth Neighborhood Association (PNA) newsletter! We'd like to be able to e-mail you about important and exciting neighborhood events. **Please join our mailing list** by sending an e-mail to PortsmouthNews@gmail.com.

Many of our upcoming events are listed on the back side of this newsletter, and you can always find more at: www.PortsmouthNeighborhood.com

-- Sam and Fiona Thompson,
Portsmouth News Co-Editors

It's Election Time...and You're Invited!

The PNA's annual elections are right around the corner, and as an enticement to get you to come, we're offering you free food and the chance to rub elbows with Oregon State Senator Chip Shields!

Please join us for our community meeting and elections on Tuesday, April 6th, for this important event. We'll be at the New Columbia Community Education Center, located at 4625 N. Trenton St.

We'll be serving a light supper at 6:30 pm, with the meeting running from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Chip Shields will make a



I WANT YOU

TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE PNA!

brief presentation followed by a question and answer session with the community. His intent is to find out what issues Portsmouth residents feel are most important, so let your voice be heard!

Another great way to let your voice be heard is to

participate in our elections. You could run for office, join a committee or just cast your vote. Whatever you decide, the more people we get to participate, the stronger our neighborhood will be.

Clean up for Spring!

Join the Portsmouth and University Park Neighborhoods' **Dumpster Day!** It'll be Saturday, April 24th, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm in the Eagles Lodge parking lot at N. Lombard and Exeter.

Please separate yard debris from general waste. No kitchen garbage, commercial waste, hazardous waste or recyclable materials – except metal – will be accepted. Metal that is separated from other materials will be accepted for recycling. **Please no appliances.**

- Suggested donations: Car trunk: \$10, Small truck: \$20, Large truck: \$30, Tires without rims: \$3, Tires with rims: \$5

Some pick-up will be available for low-income seniors and disabled. Phone Susan Landauer: 503-240-8713.

If you live between N. Chautauqua and the Peninsula Crossing Trail, you're eligible! Please bring your ID to qualify for this community program. All proceeds will benefit the Portsmouth and University Park Neighborhood Associations.

**Upcoming PNA
Events:**

PNA Board Meeting:

3rd Tuesday of every month
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
4625 N. Trenton St.

**Community Meeting
and Elections:**

Tuesday, April 6th
Light supper at 6:30 pm
State Senator Chip Shields
and elections from 7:00
pm – 8:30 pm

**Peninsula Crossing
Trail Cleanup:**

Saturday, April 17th
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Meet at N. Fessenden
Trail Entrance.
Join Portland Parks & Rec
as they work with SOLV
removing ivy, blackberries
and litter. To register,
contact Louise Shorr at
louise.shorr@PortlandOregon.gov
or 503-823-6131.

Dumpster Day:

Saturday, April 24th
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Eagles Lodge parking lot
at N. Lombard and Exeter

St. Johns Parade:

Saturday, May 8th
11:30 am – 2:00 pm
Meet in front of Roosevelt
High School and look for
the friendly people
holding the PNA banner.

**Old Clarendon School
Cleanup:**

Saturday, May 22nd
9:00 am – Noon
Meet in the school drop-
off roundabout. Snack
provided. Bring gloves
and tools if you have
them.

In the garden: Get your green on!

Carl Grimm, Metro natural gardening and toxics reduction specialist (and Portsmouth resident)

Springtime in the garden. Ready to dig in? From clearing out the chemicals to picking native plants, “growing green” brings big benefits to people, pets and the planet. Get started today with these five tips from Metro.

Shake out the shed

Got pesticides? Round them up from the shed and drop them off at one of Metro’s household hazardous waste facilities or periodic collection events. Replacing toxic chemicals with compost, organic fertilizers, hand tools and other nonhazardous garden helpers makes for a safer yard and healthier waterways.

Prep the soil with compost

Time to harvest that soil-like stuff from the bottom of your compost bin. That’s compost! So scoop or shovel it out, spread it and fork it into your planting beds. Only work the soil when it’s a bit moist, however, (not dripping wet) to protect its structure and

ensure drainage. If growing typical edibles, roses or annual flowers, consider adding a little organic fertilizer to the soil. Avoid over-fertilizing which can increase pest or disease problems.

Plant a few native plants

Brilliant red-flowering currants, gorgeous Oregon grapes and delicate trilliums hint at the amazing array of great garden natives. Match them with the sun, soil and moisture conditions they like and you’ll gain a low-maintenance oasis that brings birds, bees and butterflies to the yard. Many non-native plants get a thumbs-up, too, but steer clear of invasive species such as ivy and butterfly bush.

Grow some organic food

Don’t miss the simple satisfaction of picking tomatoes, strawberries or lettuce from your own yard. A wood-edged raised bed in a sunny spot can pump out the produce – with just a little love and care. Add a few

Mediterranean herbs, berry bushes and bean plants to your border beds and enjoy the colorful, edible bounty.

Add just a little water

Don’t let stray sprinklers, damaged drip lines and forgotten timers blast your water bill. Check for leaks, adjust your timers to the weather and avoid overwatering to conserve water, save money and protect the health of your plants. Butterflies, bees and birds need water, too. Make a bug bath by filling a tray with pebbles or sand and water.

Want more green gardening ideas?

Metro now offers more than 60 public seminars at home gardens, retail nurseries and demonstration gardens across the region. For the complete schedule, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 or click on the Sustainable Living link on Metro’s website at www.OregonMetro.gov.

Friends of Trees – Susan Landauer

Friends of Trees helped Portsmouth neighbors plant 23 street and yard trees on February 6th. This is Portsmouth’s 14th year for this event, and you can see the results on every street.

Friends of Trees buys very high-quality trees at wholesale, and subsidies and discounts make the trees affordable. All the work in the neighborhoods is done by volunteers, saving more money.

The most frequently asked question is, “What kinds of trees do you have?” The answer is, “The right tree for the right place.” We try to put short trees under power lines, trees with small root systems in narrow parking strips, and trees with big, leafy canopies where there’s enough space for them.

Thanks for everyone’s participation and support!

Find more at www.FriendsOfTrees.org.