

Political satire: The Capitol Steps do it best

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Portsmouth — On Saturday, Jan. 31, The Housing Partnership — a Portsmouth-based nonprofit that develops affordable housing — will present Capitol Steps at The Music Hall for two benefit concerts.

Capitol Steps is a nationally-acclaimed troupe of seasoned congressional staffers-turned comedians who satirize the people and places that employed them. This will be the 11th time the comic troupe has come to Portsmouth to help raise funds for The Housing Partnership.

The Housing Partnership was founded in 1988 in response to the critical shortage of housing in the Seacoast region. Since then The Housing Partnership has developed more than 230 housing units in 11 communities around the Greater Seacoast of New Hampshire and Maine.

But according Marty Chapman, The Housing Partnership's Director of Real Estate, "The need for affordable and workforce housing is greater than ever."

Chapman said that New Hampshire has an acute housing stock shortage, especially affordable housing (ownership and rental) for households earning less than the area median income. The National Low Income Housing Coalition reports that 47 percent of area renters cannot afford a typical 2-bedroom apartment in the Portsmouth-Rochester region. In fact, rents in the Portsmouth-Rochester area have increased as much as 43% over the last eight years. The Housing Partnership is working to develop additional units of housing that are affordable to area residents.

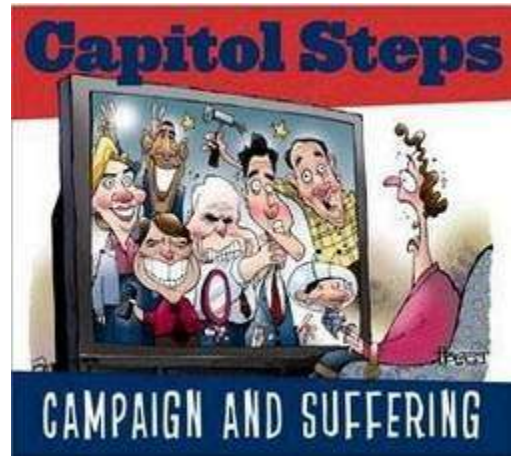
Over the past 10 years, The Capitol Steps concerts have helped The Housing Partnership raise over \$570,000 to support the development of affordable and workforce housing and to help the organization achieve its vision of a Greater Seacoast of New Hampshire and Maine where every community offers "housing for everyone." The concerts are well-attended and have become a favorite among those who appreciate political comedy.

The comedy group has recorded 28 albums, including its newest CD, "Campaign and Suffering", which features songs such as "Tap Three Times," "Buy, Buy, American Pie," "TB on a Jet Plane", and many more hilarious numbers.

Tickets are \$20-\$50, available by calling 436-2400 or visiting at www.themusic hall.org.

For more information about The Housing Partnership, visit www.housingpartnership.org. For more about Capitol Steps, go to www.capsteps.com.

The event's major sponsors are: Chinburg Builders, Coldwell Banker Residential, Federal Savings Bank, Frisbie Memorial Hospital, Holloway Automotive Group, Laconia Savings Bank, Liberty Mutual Group, Ocean Bank, Oppenheimer & Company, Optima Bank, Profile Bank, Provident Bank, Secure Planning Inc., Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth Hotel, and Marion C. Cohen Trust/TD Bank, NA Trustee.



It's political satire for a good cause at The Music Hall on Jan. 31 with the Capitol Steps.



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