

# SOAR kids bang the drum loudly

## A Conversation with Teens

The Market Square Forum

*Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of upcoming articles focusing on Portsmouth's Take Back Our Children Task force and the "Market Square Forum: A Conversation with Teens" to be held Sept. 21.*

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PORTSMOUTH — Using trash can lids and other junk,

Jeff Erwin will show the city Tuesday how youngsters and adults can get along.

The 33-year-old Rochester teacher and a group of ten middle school children will perform on rusty percussions during a downtown event aimed at knitting generational relations.

Modeled after the percussion group STOMP, Erwin's assembly of kids call themselves SOAR, which is short for Souls Originating Art Rhythmically. They formed last December.

Downtown decorum will be bent. Noise sensitive types will be asked to lighten up. And the show will go on at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 21, to entertain the city's teens and adults before the Take Back

Our Children Task Force forum gets underway.

Erwin said he was playing in front of the North Church when someone involved in the forum spotted him. "There's an ordinance against drumming downtown, but I got asked to participate in the task force ... we got special permission," he said, to drum that night.

Not only will his drummers make music, but free art will also be created; trash can lids will be painted as they are spun during the performance.

"It's funny. Banging out a rhythm on junk has sometimes reached kids the way traditional paths have not," Erwin said.