

## The City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter      Issue 1 – July 27, 2005

Welcome to The City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter. This information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements is part of our continuing effort to communicate more extensive and timely information to the public. Editions will be e-mailed to you on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Please share this edition with other interested citizens and urge them to sign up to receive future Community Newsletters via [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

### **SHIPYARD LETTERS**

Citizens wishing to submit letters addressed to President Bush and the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in support of keeping the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open should do so by Monday (Aug. 1) by sending them to Mayor Evelyn Sirrell, City Hall, 1 Junkins Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03801. Information on sending letters directly to individual BRAC commissioners is at [www.saveourshipyard.org](http://www.saveourshipyard.org). Petitions in support of the Shipyard are at Portsmouth City Hall lobby, the Chamber of Commerce kiosk downtown and local businesses. To download a copy to circulate in your neighborhood or business, go to [www.saveourshipyard.org](http://www.saveourshipyard.org)

### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

Next Tuesday (Aug. 2), neighborhoods throughout Portsmouth will join communities nationwide for the “22nd Annual National Night Out Against Crime.” From 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., Portsmouth residents will lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and personnel from the City’s Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year Portsmouth neighborhoods have participated in the event designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts; and strengthen neighborhood spirit and community partnerships with the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. Contact: Police Capt. Janet Champlin, 610-7625.

(Neighborhoods planning activities are Atlantic Heights Neighborhood Association, Osprey Landing, Christian Shore/Islington Creek Neighborhood, Friends of the South End, Lafayette Road Residents Association (Hillcrest), Maple Haven Group, Gosling Meadows, Rogers Street Association, Sherburne Civic Association, and the Wibird Area Homeowners.)

### **PROPERTY VALUES**

As required by State law, the Assessor’s Office is beginning the process of checking all properties throughout the City for the 2006 revaluation. Property owners will receive notification letters in advance. Work is beginning in neighborhoods near Ocean Road. Specific streets are listed at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm>. Data collectors will measure the exterior of each property and seek permission to inspect the interiors and other buildings. Information gathered over the next 12 months will be used to make any value changes necessary to have each property reflect fair market value, effective April 1, 2006, for the Nov. 1, 2006, tax bills. Contact: Assessor’s Office, 610-7249.

### **STREET CLOSURES**

July 29-30, Aug 12-13, and Aug. 19-20, 5 to 9 p.m.: Pleasant Street from Porter to Market Square for Pro Portsmouth’s Friday and Saturday night “Summer in the Street” downtown entertainment program.

Aug. 6, 1:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Some downtown streets will be closed for the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Welcoming Parade. The parade leaves the Port of NH at 2 p.m., travels down Market Street to Congress to Fleet to State before marchers enter Strawberry Banke via Atkinson, turn at Marcy and end near the parking lot.

### **ROADWORK**

The City has various ongoing public works projects that may cause minimal traffic delays. To learn more about projects in your neighborhood, check <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm> for the latest information. Every effort is made to ensure there is no disruption in general traffic flow. Be aware that weather and other factors may delay scheduled work. Work planned in the next two weeks includes: Maplewood Ave. installation of new signal cabinets, removal of old signals and sidewalk completion; Crescent Way between Saratoga and Porpoise, water main work; Crossroads House parking lot area, construction of a raised sidewalk and COAST bus shelter; Hill Street, Tanner Street (between Hanover and Hill) and Autumn Street, repaving next week. Contact: DPW at 427-1530.

### **PHS DEDICATION**

The dedication ceremony for the Portsmouth High construction/renovation project will be Sunday, Aug. 28, at 2 p.m. The Joint Building Committee has announced that the ceremony will be in the PHS Auditorium.

### **ELECTION FILING**

The filing period for the Nov. 8 election for City Council, School Board, Fire Commission and Police Commission is Aug. 29 through Sept. 12 at the City Clerk’s office. Candidates must be qualified voters in the City of Portsmouth,

residents for two years before the election, and may not hold another municipal office once elected. The filing fee is \$5 or submittal of a petition with 50 qualified voters in Portsmouth. Contact: Clerk's Office, 610-7207.

### ***REC DEPARTMENT***

To sign your child up for free swimming lessons at Peirce Island outdoor pool for Session 2, Aug. 1-Aug. 26, register there in person with a current driver's license showing a Portsmouth street address. If the child's last name does not match the name of the registering parent, bring a copy of the other (matching) parent's license. Cost is \$50 for non-residents. Sessions fill quickly. Contact: Peirce Island Pool, 427-0717. The pool will close at 4 p.m. Aug. 4 for the Rotary Club Annual Race. To see the hours and fees for both the outdoor and indoor pools, check <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/in-outdoor-hours.htm>

The Recreation Department still has openings for a variety of summer camps, including golf, running, basketball and all-day Camp Funstuff. For specifics on ages, dates, times and costs, contact 766-1483.

Sign up now for the Rec Department's first 9-hole Family Fun Golf Tournament on Sunday, Aug. 21, 4 p.m., at Pease Golf Course. Register at Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center by Aug. 12. Space is limited to 18 teams of two. The Scramble format takes the best shot of the twosome. Team fee of \$55 includes greens fees, cart and light refreshments. Prizes range from "closest to pin" to "highest score on a hole." Contact: Rec Department, 766-1483.

### ***FIRE DEPARTMENT***

A new 75-foot ladder truck is now protecting the City from the Lafayette Road Fire Station. The Fire Department, with the continued support of the City Council, City Manager and community, recently put into service "Ladder 2" – which is equipped with rescue tools, a generator, 400 gallons of water, a 2,000-gallon-per-minute pump and state-of-the-art fire, medical and rescue equipment. It replaces an older vehicle.

### ***DOG REGISTRATION***

The deadline for registering all dogs was May 31. If you have not renewed your dog's license, please do so immediately to avoid a \$1 late fee per month plus a possible civil forfeiture fine of \$25, per NH law, followed by a Portsmouth District Court summons for dog owners who do not respond within 15 days. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are charged \$6.50. Dog licenses are \$9 for male or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they have been neutered or spayed. Senior citizens over 65 may register one dog annually for \$2. Contact: Clerk's Office, 610-7207.

### ***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 <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2005/index.htm>

### ***SUMMER HOURS***

Portsmouth City Hall (431-2000) is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. during the summer months. The School Department's Central Office (431-5080) is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

The City of Portsmouth is home to an estimated 21,051 people and covers more than 10,000 acres.

*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 government access cable Channel 22.*