

The City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter Issue 2 August 10, 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 subscribe via www.cityofportsmouth.com. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

SAVE OUR SHIPYARD

Everyone is invited to attend the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard/Old Fashioned New England Family Picnic on Saturday (Aug. 13) from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Tradeport across from Red Hook Brewery on Corporate Drive. Bring a cold picnic, and blankets and/or chairs. No grills. Wear your Save Our Shipyard T-shirt or get one there. Continuous musical entertainment plus a Maximum Velocity Bike Show. More info at www.saveourshipyard.org

BOND RATING

The recent upgrade in the City's bond rating will save Portsmouth taxpayers thousands of dollars in reduced interest payments over the next 20 years. This is the city's sixth upgrade in the last 10 years and puts Portsmouth in the top 20 percent of rated communities nationally. Following the upgrade, the City awarded a \$10 million bond at just 3.954 percent interest (\$7 million for the library and \$3 million for City street and sidewalk work.) Standard & Poor's Bond Rating Agency upgraded our bond rating to AA from AA- based on continued strong financial performance and above-average reserve levels.

STREET CLOSURES

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.

ROADWORK

The City has various ongoing public works projects that may cause minimal traffic delays. Updated project information is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm> Every effort is made to prevent disruption of general traffic flow. Weather and other factors can cause schedule delays. Work planned in the next two weeks includes:

Crescent Way between Saratoga and Porpoise closed to through traffic for water main work during the next two weeks, local traffic allowed; Preble Way, miscellaneous work continues; Oxford Avenue reconstruction begins Friday (8/12) and continues for three weeks, local traffic allowed; Crossroads House area, work continues on installation of COAST bus shelter and sidewalk, no street closures expected. Contact: Engineering Technician Tom Richter, 766-1412.

REC DEPARTMENT

The Spinnaker Point Recreation Center closes for maintenance tomorrow (Aug. 11) through Sunday (Aug. 14). It reopens Monday, Aug. 15, at 6 a.m. The Indoor Pool will be available for all 2005 Spinnaker Point members Thursday & Friday, Aug. 11-12. The Indoor Pool closes for maintenance Aug. 20-28, and reopens Monday, Aug. 29. Indoor Pool members may use the Spinnaker Point Pool during the closure.

Friday (Aug. 12) is the deadline to sign up for the 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. Space is limited to 18 teams of two. The Scramble format takes the best shot of the twosome. Team fee of \$55 covers greens fees, cart and light refreshments. Contact: Rec Department, 766-1483.

PROPERTY VALUES

Assessor's Office representatives are finishing up work in neighborhoods off of Ocean Road and will move next week to the Colonial Drive area to check properties for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm> All property owners will be notified by letter in advance of the arrival of a data collector to measure their property's exterior and seek permission to inspect the interior and other buildings. Information will be used to make each property reflect fair market value, effective April 1, 2006, for the Nov. 1, 2006, tax bills. Contact: Assessor Lauren Elliott, 610-7249.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Spraying to control adult flying mosquitoes continues along City roadways through September. Anvil Insecticide (sumithrin) spraying is done in response to an imminent human threat from West Nile Virus or an abundant mosquito population. If you see a dead bird, contact the Mosquito Control Program at 431-0008 and/or the Animal Control Officer at 610-7441 for pickup. Do not handle birds. For additional information, contact Public Works in writing at 680 Peverly Hill Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801. Make sure your property has no shallow, stagnant water where mosquito populations could develop.

RECYCLING CENTER

Beginning Saturday (Aug. 13), the City will be making improvements at the Recycling Center but a temporary setup will be available for drop-off service. Residents are asked to pay close attention to traffic patterns and instructions from Recycling Center workers. Hours at the Center located behind Public Works at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. remain Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. until noon. Contact: 427-1530.

PHS DEDICATION CHANGE

The Joint Building Committee for the Portsmouth High School Construction/Renovation Project has announced the dedication ceremony now will be Saturday, Aug. 27, at 4 p.m. in the PHS Auditorium.

FLOOD ZONES

New maps making it much easier to determine if your property is in a flood zone are now available for review at the Planning Department at City Hall. The National Flood Insurance Program flood zone boundaries are largely unchanged but the map format has changed significantly. More info on the National Flood Insurance Program can be found at www.fema.gov.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

To see the schedule for the City's capital improvements and a list of infrastructure needs for the Years 2006 through 2011, visit <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/2006-2011CapitalImprovements.pdf>. The City Council adopted the Capital Improvement Plan earlier this year.

FIRE TRAINING

You may have recently seen the City's new Fire Department ladder truck in operation, along with Fire personnel climbing over the roof of the Old Portsmouth Circle Business Center before it was demolished. With the support of Danley Demolition, Department members practiced technical ventilation techniques by making their way through rubber, insulation and steel to cut holes in the roof. This training represented operations required to remove superheated gases and smoke from large buildings on fire.

HOMETOWN

The City of Portsmouth's first-time homebuyers' program, HomeTown, closed on another home this summer. The program provides closing cost and downpayment assistance for houses and condos to individuals and families who have lived in Portsmouth for two years, or lived in the City for 10 years and

now reside within a 30-mile radius, and meet income limits based on household size. Program guidelines are at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/>. Contact: Community Development, 610-7226.

ELECTION FILING

Monday, Aug. 29, is the opening day for the filing period for the Nov. 8 election for City Council, School Board, Fire Commission and Police Commission. It ends Sept. 12. Pay your \$5 filing fee at the City Clerk's office or submit a petition signed by 50 Portsmouth qualified voters. Candidates must be qualified to vote in Portsmouth, residents for two years and may not hold another municipal office once elected.

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 <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...?

Half of Portsmouth's housing is owner-occupied and the other half is rental property.

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 government access cable Channel 22.