

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements and is part of our continuing effort to communicate more extensive and timely information to the public. Editions are e-mailed every other Wednesday. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

### ***STORM INFORMATION***

Information related to the recent heavy rains is posted on Channel 22 and on [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com). Portsmouth residents in need of assistance should call the Storm Information Hotline at: 427-1580. The City is extending the hours at the Recycling Center on Saturday (May 20) so that Portsmouth residents may bring storm-damaged materials and debris between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Residents without Recycling Center stickers should bring proof of residency. The Recycling Center's weekday hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Contact: 427-1530.

### ***COMMUNITY WORKSHOP***

Residents and business owners are encouraged to attend Saturday's Community-Wide Workshop on Sustainability from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (May 20) at Portsmouth High School. The goal is to develop common understandings of what sustainable practices are and engage a broad cross-section of residents and stakeholders in efforts to promote such steps as improving energy efficiency, preserving open space, reducing water consumption and protecting natural resources. The workshop is sponsored by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices. Contact: 610-7226 or visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/workshop-052006.html](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/workshop-052006.html).

### ***WEDNESDAY WALKS***

Join the 2.5-mile, Step It Up Seacoast walk through the most scenic areas of Portsmouth tonight and every Wednesday evening through the end of May. All ages and fitness levels are invited to meet by 5:30 p.m. at the South Mill Pond Playground to follow a route that includes Prescott Park, Bow Street, Market Square, and Richards Avenue. You'll get a free T-shirt and Walking Passport. Contact: Community Campus at 422-8200, or visit [StepItUpSeacoast.org](http://StepItUpSeacoast.org). Passports also are at City Hall, the Library and other locations.

### ***PAL LEAGUE***

Registration for the Police Athletic League summer high school basketball program begins Friday (May 19) outside the Portsmouth High cafeteria. PAL is open to boys and girls who live in Portsmouth. For more info on the June 21-Aug. 11 program, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press051006.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press051006.htm). Cost is \$20.

### ***MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE***

The final Rec Department-sponsored Middle School dance is Friday (May 19), 7-10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center.

### ***SCHOOL CONCERTS***

The All-City Concert is next Wednesday (May 24) at 7 p.m. at the Portsmouth High Auditorium. It will feature the all-city elementary band, New Franklin chorus, String Ensemble, PHS Choral Groups and the PHS Concert Band. The Middle School Concert featuring choral and band groups is Wednesday, May 31, also at 7 p.m. at the PHS Auditorium.

### ***LIFEGUARD TRAINING***

Those interested in the Rec Department's "last-chance" lifeguard course June 2-11 must pass the pre-course swim test by May 24. See: [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/LifeguardCourseJune2006.pdf](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/LifeguardCourseJune2006.pdf)

### ***MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS***

On Friday, May 26, the Middle School Band will participate in the Central Veterans Council's "Symbolic Burial at Sea" service at Prescott Park, leaving the Middle School at 9:30 a.m. and marching to the park with a Police escort. The Council also sponsors the Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service on Monday, May 29. Roads will be temporarily closed as the parade passes. It begins at 1 p.m. at the corner of Parrott and Junkins Avenue, continues to Pleasant Street, through Market Square to Congress Street, on to Middle Street

to Richards Avenue to the South Cemetery. At the conclusion of the service, the parade travels down South Street to the corner of Junkins Avenue for a review by gathered dignitaries and then concludes at Junkins and Lincoln Avenue.

### ***MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES***

City offices, schools and the Library are closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no collection of trash, yard waste or recyclables, and the Recycling Center will be closed. Monday curbside trash and recyclables collection will be combined with Tuesday pickup, including the downtown district pickup Tuesday evening. There will be no yard waste collection on Tuesday.

### ***SUMMER REC REGISTRATION***

Summer Rec Department program registration (other than the pool) begins Tuesday, May 30, and continues through June 2 from 5-8 p.m. at the Greenleaf Recreation Center. Program brochures are at Rec facilities, at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/summer2006program.pdf](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/summer2006program.pdf) or call 766-1483. Registration for Peirce Island outdoor pool lessons begins Tuesday, June 6, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the Indoor Pool. Contact: 427-1575.

### ***DOG LICENSING DEADLINE***

Wednesday, May 31, is the deadline to renew your dog's license with the City Clerk or risk a civil forfeiture fine of \$25, per NH law, plus late fees and a District Court summons if you don't respond within 15 days. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office. Dog licenses are \$9 for male or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they have been neutered or spayed. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are \$6.50. Senior citizens over 65 may register one dog annually for \$2. Contact: 610-7207.

### ***DWI ENFORCEMENT***

Portsmouth police have made it a high priority to prevent people from driving drunk or drugged, and are using sobriety checkpoints, random DWI Hunter patrols, directed speed patrols and other tactics. Last year, they arrested 190 people for DWI. That doesn't include numerous additional arrests by State Police and Liquor Enforcement agents. Chief Michael Magnant recently received a Letter of Commendation from the Director of the NH Highway Safety Agency because Portsmouth has had no alcohol-related fatalities for the past five years despite a high number of liquor licenses. Contact: Lt. Fred Hoystadt, 610-7628.

### ***PARK IMPROVEMENTS***

The next City park to undergo improvements is Maple Haven Park. During construction, only a portion of field space will be available for limited recreation. New playground equipment for toddlers and 5- to 12-year-olds, a half-basketball court, walkways, picnic tables, park benches and a bike rack will be installed by the end of June, barring inclement weather or other unforeseen conditions. Contact: Tom Richter, 766-1412.

### ***NEW TREE***

A Sugar Maple tree was planted in Langdon Park across the street from the Municipal Complex as part of the City's Earth Day celebration. It was donated by Trees and Public Greenery Committee Chair Peter Loughlin.

### ***CITY BUDGET***

The City Council is continuing work on the proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Budget for July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007. The budget and meeting schedule are at: [www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm).

### ***WATER MAIN FLUSHING***

The Water Department is continuing to flush sediment from water mains by opening fire hydrants between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, which can cause a reddish tint to tap water in the area. Let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

### ***ASSESSOR VISITS***

Assessor's Office representatives are continuing to check downtown neighborhood properties including Miller Avenue, South Street and Union Street for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm>. Contact: 610-7249.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Portsmouth Middle School 8<sup>th</sup>-grade graduation is Thursday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the High School. PHS graduation is Friday, June 16, at 5:30 p.m. The annual Independence Day fireworks display will be July 3.

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

Portsmouth has a program whereby downtown merchants can provide up to four hours of free parking to customers who park at the High-Hanover Parking Facility. Participating merchants display a Downtown Parking Validation Program decal in their storefront windows. Customers present their parking garage ticket to the merchants, who can affix validation stickers for up to four hours of free parking in the garage. It's up to the merchant to decide whether to require a minimum purchase and how many stickers to provide. There are 54 merchants registered with this program.

**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 [www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2005/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2005/index.htm).

**HOURS:** Portsmouth City Hall (431-2000) is open from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The School Department Central Office (431-5080) is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Library hours are: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and closed Sunday.

*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 local government cable channel Channel 22.*