

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Editions are e-mailed every other Wednesday. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

CITY BUDGET

The City Council reopens its public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Budget next Wednesday, June 7, at 7 p.m. at City Hall. The budget for the July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007, period and the Council's full work schedule are at: www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm. Copies of the budget also are at the Library.

SCHOOL CONCERT

The Middle School Concert is tonight (May 31) at 7 p.m. at the Portsmouth High School Auditorium.

WALK TONIGHT

Tonight (May 31) is the final in a series of Wednesday night Step It Up Seacoast walks. Meet at the South Mill Playground by 5:30 p.m. for tonight's 2.5-mile walk through Portsmouth. All ages and fitness levels are welcome. Step It Up Seacoast walks will resume in September. See: StepItUpSeacoast.org.

DOG LICENSING

Today (May 31) was the deadline to renew your dog's license with the City Clerk. If you missed it, there is a late fee but if you wait much longer, you also risk a civil forfeiture fine of \$25 and a possible District Court summons. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot are required to be registered with the Clerk's Office. Licenses are \$9 for male or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they've 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.

SUMMER REC REGISTRATION

Rec Department registration for all summer programs, except for swim lessons, continues through Friday (June 2) at the Greenleaf Recreation Center from 5-8 p.m. The summer brochure can be found at all Rec Department facilities, online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/summer2006program.pdf or call 766-1483.

PEIRCE ISLAND POOL

Peirce Island Outdoor Pool swim lesson registration opens next Tuesday, June 6, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Indoor Pool. The schedule of classes and instructors will be available online the afternoon before, on June 5. Lessons are free for Portsmouth residents when a parent shows a current driver's license with a Portsmouth address. The pool opens for the season June 26. Contact: 427-1575 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/outdoor.htm.

SUMMER READING

The Library's Summer Reading Program for children kicks off soon and this year, adults also will have a program beginning Friday (June 2)! The Children's Room will launch the Treasure Reading Program at Four-Tree Island on June 21. Seafarers, pirates and their families are invited to participate in a full range of activities throughout the summer. Meanwhile, the Friends of the Library will sponsor the first summer reading program for adults. Readers and audio book listeners will be invited to share their thoughts on all types of books throughout June and July, and will be eligible for weekly prize drawings. Contact: 427-1540.

ROADWORK

Paving is expected to begin Friday (June 2) on New Hampshire Avenue from the Pease Development Authority offices to the intersection with Pease Boulevard, and at nights on Gosling Road beginning Sunday and possibly extending through next Wednesday. The latest information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Every effort is made to prevent disruption of general traffic flow. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays. Contact: 498-4747.

SIDEWALK PERFORMANCES

Guidance regarding sidewalk and other performance opportunities in Portsmouth is now on the City's Web site at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/performers.htm. Although the City does not directly regulate sidewalk performers or require permits if no tables, chairs or other stationery props are used, they are subject to the same noise, sidewalk obstruction, vending, and other ordinances as everyone else. Contact: 610-7207.

SENIOR EXERCISE

The very popular senior exercise class held every Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9-9:30 a.m. at the Connie Bean Center is always looking to add adults aged 50 and up. Cost is just \$1.50 per class with no pre-registration required. Call 766-1483 for further info.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Portsmouth High graduation is Friday, June 16, at 5:30 p.m., and will be rebroadcast on Channel 22 at 7 p.m. on June 17 and 24, and July 1. Middle School 8th-grade graduation is Thursday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m., at the High School.

END OF SCHOOL

The 2005-2006 school year ends for Portsmouth public school students on Monday, June 19. The State Commissioner of Education recently approved Portsmouth's request for a waiver of the day lost due to the state of emergency and flooding. The June 19 release times are: Middle School -- 11 a.m.; elementary schools -- 11:45 a.m.; and the High School at 12:30 p.m.

BOAT REGISTRATION

The Tax Collector's Office at City Hall can process registrations for any boats that will be used in New Hampshire. For information on what to bring, contact: 610-7244.

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The spring program of flushing sediment from the City's water lines is expected to continue through early June. Water Department employees are opening fire hydrants between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, to release water with enough velocity to carry out the sediment. This can cause a reddish tint to tap water, so residents should let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

ASSESSOR VISITS

Assessor's Office representatives will next be checking properties in the Spinnaker and Tidewatch condo complexes for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm. Property owners are notified by letter in advance of the arrival of a data collector. Information will be used to make each property reflect fair market value, effective April 1, 2006, for the Nov. 1, 2006, tax bills. Contact: 610-7249.

SUSTAINABILITY

Over 50 people participated in the recent Community-wide Workshop on Sustainability to learn more about sustainable practices and discuss ways to incorporate them into their lives, businesses and organizations. For more on the May 20th workshop at Portsmouth High, see: www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm.

Did you know...?

There are certain procedures you should follow when stopped by Portsmouth Police, including never exiting your vehicle unless asked to do so by an officer. Each year, Portsmouth patrol officers make about 10,000 vehicle stops for a variety of reasons, ranging from traffic violations to a need to warn drivers about a potentially dangerous situation. To learn more about how to keep you and the officer safe, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/whenstoppedbypolice.htm.

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 www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2006/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 or on the local government cable Channel 22.