

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

GRADUATIONS

Portsmouth Middle School holds its 8th-Grade Graduation Ceremony tomorrow (June 15) at 6:30 p.m. at Portsmouth High School. PHS graduation is Friday (June 16) at 5:30 p.m. at the High School and will be rebroadcast on Channel 22 at 7 p.m. on June 17 and 24, and July 1.

SCHOOL ENDS

Updated release times for Portsmouth public school students have been announced for the final day of the 2005-2006 school year on Monday (June 19). They are: Middle School -- 11 a.m.; High School – 11:22 a.m.; New Franklin School – 11:30 a.m., and Dondero and Little Harbour Schools at noon.

SUMMER REC PROGRAMS

There are still openings in the Rec Department's summer youth programs and camps. To learn more, contact: 766-1483. Program descriptions are at: www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/summer2006program.pdf.

CITY BUDGET

The City Council is scheduled to adopt a Fiscal Year 2007 Budget at its meeting on Monday, June 19. The budget for the July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007, period, as originally proposed, may be viewed online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm. Copies of the budget also are at the Library.

SUMMER HOURS

Beginning Monday, June 19, City Hall converts to summer hours and is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The School Department's Central Office begins summer hours of 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 21.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT MEETING

Neighborhood representatives are encouraged to attend an organizational meeting Tuesday (June 20) for Portsmouth's National Night Out Against Crime to learn more about the annual event, scheduled for Aug. 1 this year. The meeting is at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The Citywide Neighborhood Committee and Portsmouth Police are working on the event. National Night Out is an opportunity to have fun and get to know your Portsmouth neighbors (the best way to prevent crime). Contact: Citywide Neighborhood Chair Robin McIntosh at citywideneighborhood@comcast.net or 433-5923, or Lt. Dante Puopolo at 610-7624.

"TREASURE READING"

Ahoy, mates -- it's summer reading program time again! The Library's Children's Room launches a "Treasure Reading" Program for young readers next Wednesday (June 21) when Four Tree Island becomes Treasure Island from noon to 2 p.m. Sign up for the free reading program and take part in the piratical fun. Come as a pirate (no weapons, please)! Bring your own grub; dessert and "grog" provided. Rain date is June 22. Summer program details are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/tresurereadingsummer2006.pdf. Contact: 766-1740.

ADULT READING

Adults also now have a Library reading program in June and July. The Friends of the Portsmouth Public Library sponsors it for adults who read or listen to books in any genre and are willing to write short, anonymous reviews. The Library provides cards to fill out and drop into the Review Box at the Circulation Desk. Each Friday, a card is randomly drawn and the winner receives two movie passes. Contact: 427-1540.

SPIRITS PAST 2006

The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee continues its "Spirits Past – 2006: Bringing the Dead to Life" free programs featuring role players, re-enactors, lecturers and storytellers in the city's historic burial grounds. This Friday (June 16), features Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti on "The African-American Experience – An Invisible Woman of Courage" at the North Burial Ground on Maplewood Avenue across from the Herald building. Next Wednesday, June 21, "Russian-Jewish immigrant Mary Antin" will be there and on June 26,

author-historian Glenn Knoblock leads a tour. Programs begin at 6 p.m. If it rains, the programs move to Strawberry Banke's Stoodley's Tavern or the Tyco Visitor's Center. Contact: 436-5096.

PEIRCE ISLAND POOL

The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool opens Monday, June 26, for lessons and public swimming. Registration for lessons continues at the Indoor Pool. They're free for Portsmouth residents if the parent registers with a driver's license bearing a Portsmouth address. Full registration information for Session 1 (June 26-July 21) and Session 2 (July 24-August 18) is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/outdoor.htm, along with the Outdoor Pool's summer schedule. It closes Aug. 27. Contact: 427-1575.

BOAT RAMP

The long-awaited Peirce Island boat ramp and a floating dock for loading and unloading are now operational and free to Portsmouth residents following completion of the \$100,000 project, funded in part through a NH Coastal Program grant. Residents may obtain a free season pass at the Spinnaker Point Rec Center or the launch office, when staffed, by showing a driver's license with a current Portsmouth address and their boat registration. For non-residents, a season pass good through Sept. 24 is \$100. Non-resident onetime launch fees range from \$5 to \$25. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/boatlaunch.htm for more information. Contact: 766-1483.

POLICE COMMITMENT

"My officers care for your kids, they feel personally responsible for your businesses as they patrol day and night, and they fully reflect this department's commitment to community-based, proactive crime fighting and crime prevention," Police Chief Michael Magnant recently told local businesspeople. An example of this commitment is Special Olympics. Officers and family members ran the Portsmouth leg of the Special Olympics torch run, participated in a recent annual Pump n' Serve fundraiser that raised nearly \$1,000 at a local gas station, and volunteered time for the Special Olympics games.

NEW LIBRARY GRANT

The City recently received a \$99,000 U.S. Housing and Urban Development Grant to be used toward construction of the new Library. It will play a major role in the City's goal of ensuring "construction of an environmentally responsible library." For updates on the progress of the new Library facility on Parrott Avenue, see: www.cityofportsmouth.com/newlibrary/progressreport.htm.

MOVE YOUR BODY

Why should the kids have all the fun? Summer Recreation Department programs for adults include tai-chi, basketball, pilates and belly-dancing. See the full list at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-adulta.htm. To learn how to play in one of the summer basketball leagues, or enter a team, contact Mike Eliasberg at 433-6650. The June schedule for Spinnaker Point yoga and aquacize programs is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/yoga-aquacize.htm. Also, the senior exercise class held every Monday/Wednesday/Friday moves to 8-8:30 a.m. at the Connie Bean Center during the summer and is always looking to add adults aged 50 and up. Cost is just \$1.50 per class with no pre-registration required. For information on all other adult programs, contact: 766-1483.

ROADWORK

Work continues on New Hampshire and Constitution Avenues. Traffic will be allowed to continue during the work. The latest information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays. Contact: 498-4747.

ASSESSOR VISITS

Assessor's Office representatives are checking properties in the Spinnaker and Tidewatch condo complexes for the citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm. 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.

FOURTH OF JULY

Mark your calendar: The annual Independence Day fireworks display sponsored by the City of Portsmouth will be Monday, July 3, at the South Mill Pond beginning at 9:15 p.m. The rain date is Wednesday, July 5.

Did you know...?

Computer games and programs may now be checked out from the Public Library by Library cardholders. The list is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-wn.htm. Contact Youth Services at 766-1740.

MEETINGS: To see a list of upcoming City-related meetings, agendas for future meetings and minutes of past meetings, check 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. until June 19, when the hours switch to 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The School Department Central Office (431-5080) is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. until June 21, when the hours switch to 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. Library hours remain: 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.

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