

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*

FIREWORKS

The annual City-sponsored Independence Day fireworks display is next Monday, July 3, at the South Mill Pond at 9:15 p.m. Rain date is Wednesday, July 5. Police want to remind everyone that City Ordinance prohibits personal fireworks, including sparklers. Due to the fireworks display, the Dog Park will be closed from 6 a.m. Monday until 10 a.m. Tuesday. During the fireworks, dogs are not allowed at Leary and Central Fields, South Playground or the Connie Bean Playground. The tennis and basketball courts, playground and baseball areas will close by noon Monday. Vehicles will be towed from the playground lot on Junkins Avenue at 10 a.m. and from Parrott Avenue between Richards Avenue and Junkins at noon.

FIREWORKS PARKING

Due to the fireworks, the High-Hanover Parking Garage will charge a flat \$3 fee from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday, July 3. There will be no parking on 23 streets near the South Playground (except for residents of those streets): Parrott Avenue, Junkins Avenue, Mt. Vernon Street, Pleasant Street, South Street from Miller to Marcy, Richmond Street, Rogers Street, Edward Street, Livermore Street, Wentworth Street, Melcher Street, Whidden Street, Franklin Street, Pickering Street, Hunking Street, Gardner Street, Gates Street, Howard Street, Elwyn Avenue, Sherburne Avenue, Rockland Street, Kent Street, and Richards Avenue.

JULY 4th CHANGES

City Hall, the Library and the Recycling Center will be closed Tuesday for the July 4th holiday. Business district residents and businesses must have trash and recyclables curbside no later than 2:30 p.m. on Monday, July 3. Tuesday's garbage and curbside recycling will be collected on Wednesday. Yard waste will not be collected on Tuesday or Wednesday, but the regular schedule will resume the following week.

CHANNEL 22 REBROADCASTS

Portsmouth High graduation will be rebroadcast Saturday (July 1) at 7 p.m. Also, the May 25 Planning Board meeting on zoning changes necessary to build the proposed HarborCorp LLC hotel and conference center complex will be rebroadcast at 5 p.m. on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday prior to the City Council's July 17 public hearing on the issue. It also is available at www.cityofportsmouth.com/webcast/index.htm.

SUMMER READING

The "Treasure Reading" children's summer program continues at the Public Library and statewide. Tomorrow (June 29), artist Tracey Currier, who illustrated the program's posters, t-shirts and other items, visits the Library at 11 a.m. A limited number of posters will be available for her to sign. Other program events are listed at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/treasurereadingsummer2006.pdf. Contact: 766-1740.

SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION

Registration opens Wednesday, July 5, for Session 2 swim lessons (July 24-Aug. 18) at the Peirce Island Pool. Register there from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. on July 5, or any weekday from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. until lessons are full. Lessons are free for Portsmouth children. More information and the Pool's summer schedule are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/outdoor.htm. Contact: 427-0717.

"GATSBY" GUEST LEADER

There will be a guest facilitator at this month's Public Library adult book discussions of "The Great Gatsby" at 7 p.m. Monday, July 10, and 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 11. Laurie Quinn of Portsmouth is faculty coordinator and adjunct faculty member at the Portsmouth Center of Granite State College. Contact: 427-1540.

POOL FAMILY NIGHTS

The Recreation Department is launching "Family Nights" at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool on Wednesdays, beginning July 12 and continuing through August 9. Families can participate in races, games, bingo, pie-

eating contests, arts and crafts, and more from 5:30 p.m.– 7 p.m. Bring your own dinner or enjoy grilled food at the Pool for a small fee. Contact: 427-0717.

SUMMER REC PROGRAMS

Openings remain in some weeks of the Rec Department summer camp, as well as in some sports camps and youth programs. Contact: 766-1483.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Join the adult co-ed beach volleyball pick-up games at the new sand court at the Peirce Island Pool on Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Contact: 766-1483.

PUMP STATION RENOVATIONS

A \$2.6 million, yearlong reconstruction project to upgrade the Deer Street Sewage Pump Station is underway. In addition to improving its operating efficiency with new pumps and controls, the project will give a much-improved facelift to the entrance of the downtown business area with an architecturally pleasing façade. The project is part of the ongoing Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan to separate older combined pipes into separate pipes for sewage and stormwater. Contact: 427-1530.

MORE SPIRITS

The “Spirits Past – 2006: Bringing the Dead to Life” programs sponsored by the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee are continuing at the city’s historic burial grounds. On July Fourth, “President and Mrs. Lincoln” will be at the North Burial Ground on Maplewood Avenue beginning at 6 p.m.; Thursday, July 6, Jeff Warner presents “The Music of the Residents” at Pleasant Street Cemetery, also at 6 p.m; and Tuesday, July 11, author-historian Glenn Knoblock leads a tour of the Point of Graves on Mechanic Street across from Prescott Park, time to be determined. If it rains, the programs move to Strawberry Banke. Contact: 436-5096.

CEMETERY VOLUNTEERS

Interested in history, fund-raising, repair and restoration and/or taking part in the myriad of programs in the City’s historic cemeteries? The Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee needs volunteers to fill expected vacancies. Call 436-5096 or visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm for information on all of the City’s boards and commissions and an application form.

FIREFIGHTER GRANT

The City of Portsmouth has been awarded a \$35,000 grant from the NiSource Charitable Foundation to be used toward the design, purchase, fabrication and installation of a downtown bronze monument to Portsmouth firefighters past, present and future. NiSource is the parent company of Northern Utilities, which previously donated \$8,000 in seed money. More than \$25,000 still must be raised. Contact: 427-1515.

GOSLING ROAD

Crews recently put the final touches on the \$1.2 million project to widen Gosling Road to accommodate truck traffic destined for the new PSNH wood-burning boiler at the Schiller Plant. They applied striping and line designations on the widening completed last fall at the expense of Public Service of New Hampshire. Gosling Road previously was reduced from two through lanes to one in each direction beyond the entrance to the Newington Mall.

ROADWORK

Striping is planned for New Hampshire and Constitution Avenues, and on part of Cutt’s Way. Paving also is scheduled for Oakwood Drive. No traffic disruptions are anticipated. The latest information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 498-4747.

FAMILY GOLF TOURNEY

Space is limited for the 2nd Annual 9-Hole Family Fun Golf Tournament on Sunday, Aug. 20, at 4 p.m. at Pease Golf Course. Registration continues at Spinnaker Point Recreation Center until there are 18 teams of two. The fee is \$55 per team, including a cart. Free refreshments and prizes. Contact: 766-1483.

SUMMER IN THE STREET

With the return of Pro Portsmouth’s “Summer in the Street” downtown music program, part of Pleasant Street near Market Square will be closed on select Saturdays from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. The next closure is

July 8. No vehicular traffic or parking is allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square. For program information, see proportsmouth.org.

ASSESSOR VISITS

Assessor's Office representatives are continuing to check properties for the citywide revaluation required by State law, and plan next to be in the Spinnaker and Tidewatch condo complexes. 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.

Did you know...?

Portsmouth once had a King Street and a Queen Street but following a reading of the Declaration of Independence in July 1776, the citizens decided to change the name of King Street to Congress Street. Queen Street became Buck Street – and later State Street – from Water to Pleasant Streets, and became Broad Street from Pleasant to Middle Streets.

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 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The School Department Central Office (431-5080) is open from 7 a.m. until 3 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 Channel 22.