

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 from it, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

FAMILY NIGHT

It's "Family Night" at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool tonight and every Wednesday evening through August 9. From 5:30 p.m.–7 p.m., you can participate in races, games, Bingo, pie-eating contests, arts and crafts and more. Bring dinner or buy grilled food there for a small fee. Contact: 427-0717.

PLANNING MEETING REBROADCAST

In advance of the City Council's public hearing next Monday (July 17), Channel 22 will rebroadcast the entire Planning Board meeting on zoning changes necessary to build the proposed HarborCorp LLC hotel and conference center complex. The May 25 meeting, which was 4-3/4 hours long, will be shown at 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (July 14-16) so residents may have an opportunity to review it prior to the Council's 7 p.m. public hearing next Monday. The Planning Board meeting also can be viewed anytime at www.cityofportsmouth.com/webcast/index.htm. Information on the Northern Tier project also is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/economic/northerntier.htm.

ROUTE 33 MEETING

The proposed preliminary design for replacing the Route 33 (Greenland Road) railroad bridge and improving the approaches to it will be presented at a public meeting next Wednesday (July 19) in the first-floor conference room of the Public Works building at 680 Peverly Hill Road. From 6:30 p.m. until 7 p.m., citizens may review the proposed preliminary design for the approaches from Peverly Hill Road to Griffin Road. The formal presentation begins at 7 p.m. Contact: 766-1415.

SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

Sobriety checkpoints are planned in Portsmouth and the Seacoast this month. Portsmouth Police, State Police and the NH Liquor Commission will combine forces to apprehend drivers operating under the influence of drugs and alcohol. In addition, some patrol officers will have the exclusive task of hunting DUI offenders.

SUMMER IN THE STREET

Part of Pleasant Street near Market Square will be closed Saturday (July 15) from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. for Pro Portsmouth's "Summer in the Street" downtown music program. No vehicular traffic or parking is allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square. Cars will be towed as of 5 p.m. Program information is at www.proportsmouth.org.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Water Division has begun mailing out copies of its 2005 Annual Water Quality Report to all 7,500 customers in Portsmouth, Newington, New Castle, and portions of Greenland and Rye. Copies of the report, which is required by the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act, also are at City Hall, the Library and on the City's web site at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/waterqualityreports.htm. Contact: 427-1530.

PUBLIC ACCESS TV

The Portsmouth Cable Commission has created a 42-minute video to inform residents about public access cable TV programming in advance of a public hearing about possibly adding a channel to carry locally produced, non-governmental programming. The video will be shown on Channel 22 at 7 p.m. on Saturdays, July 22 and 29, as well as on Aug. 5 and 12. It also will be shown two Mondays at 7 p.m.: July 31, and Aug. 14. The Commission will hold an Aug. 16 "ascertainment hearing" on the issue, as well as receive public input on other cable issues. Contact: Chairman John Gregg, 433-3304.

INTERMODAL FACILITY

Construction is beginning on a downtown transportation facility next to the High-Hanover Parking Garage that will lead to the permanent relocation of bus stops from Market Square. The center of the estimated \$400,000 project will be a covered bus shelter with benches and bicycle racks next to a new bus loading and unloading zone. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/news-070606.htm.

“TREASURE READING”

The piratical fun continues at the Library’s “Treasure Reading” summer program. “Teens Talk Books” for Grades 6 to 8 is Monday (July 17) from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free pizza and drinks. Next Thursday (July 20), the Library hosts a visit from the Sandy Point Discovery Center at 11 a.m. for ages 4-8. Summer program events are listed at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/treasurereadingsummer2006.pdf. Contact: 766-1740.

ADULT READING

Adult readers still have a chance to win free movie passes in the Friday drawings in the summer adult reading program sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Pick up a card at the Library from now until the end of July and write a brief anonymous review of a book you’ve read or listened to, and drop it into the “Review Box” at the Circulation Desk. A card is picked weekly for free movie passes. Contact: 427-1540.

SUMMER REC PROGRAMS

Openings remain in some Recreation Department summer programs. Contact: 766-1483.

WATER CARNIVAL

The City’s 9th Annual Water Carnival at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool is Wednesday, July 26. There will be games for Portsmouth children of all ages and swimming abilities from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Parents must show a driver’s license with a Portsmouth address for children to participate. Rain date is July 27. The Outdoor Pool will be closed to everyone else until 3 p.m. Contact: 427-0717.

SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION

The next session of swim lessons at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool runs from July 24-August 18. Register at the Outdoor Pool from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekdays until lessons are full. They are free for residents if the parent registers with a driver’s license with a Portsmouth address. Full registration info and the Outdoor Pool summer schedule is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/outdoor.htm. Contact: 427-0717.

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.

SPIRITS GALORE

There will be several events at the City’s historic burial grounds over the next two weeks in the “Spirits Past – 2006: Bringing the Dead to Life” series sponsored by the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee: Friday (July 14) storyteller Merrill Kohlhofer will speak on “Voices of Freedom Memories of Anti-Slavery Days” at Point of Graves on Mechanic Street; Saturday, July 16, will be “Publick houses and taverns” at Pleasant Street Cemetery; July 17, “Daniel Webster” at Strawberry Banke; July 19, a Revolutionary War surgeon at North Burial Ground (NBG); July 21, “Black Portsmouth” author Valerie Cunningham, also at NBG; and July 25, J. Dennis Robinson on “The Forgotten Founders of NH” at Point of Graves. Programs start at 6 p.m. and move to Strawberry Banke if it rains. Contact: 436-5096.

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.

MOTORCYCLE NOISE

Portsmouth police are joining with other Seacoast area law enforcement agencies in an effort to curb excessive motorcycle noise this summer. The allowed limit is 106 decibels. Other laws require anyone under 18 to wear a helmet, drivers to have windscreen or eye protection, handlebars no higher than the driver’s shoulder and an inspection by July 1. Contact: 427-1500.

Did you know...?

There are now over 600 acres of protected land within Portsmouth’s Great Bog. The Nature Conservancy recently purchased a 263-acre tract and will hold a restrictive easement after transferring ownership to NH Fish and Game. The \$3.27 million purchase was funded by a congressional appropriation to the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, which was formed in 1994 to acquire land along, and within, the Great Bay watershed.

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.