

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*

EEE & MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis, or EEE, have already been found in Rockingham County this summer. The rare, but serious, disease can be transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The City of Portsmouth has a mosquito control program, but mosquitoes travel. The Health Department has listed EEE prevention tips at www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/eee.htm. Contact: 610-7273. If you see dead birds, contact Mosquito Control at 431-0008 and/or the City Animal Control Officer at 610-7441 for pickup.

FAMILY NIGHT

Tonight is another “Family Night” at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool. Families are invited to join games, races, bingo, pie-eating contests, and other activities between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Grilled food is available for a small fee or you can bring your own. The Wednesday night programs end Aug. 9. Contact: 427-0717.

SUMMER IN THE STREET

No traffic or parking will be allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. on the next two Saturdays (July 29 & Aug. 5) for Pro Portsmouth’s “Summer in the Street” downtown music program. Program information is at www.proportsmouth.org.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Sixteen City neighborhoods will participate in National Night Out Against Crime next Tuesday (Aug. 1). Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the neighborhoods will host block parties visited by City officials and City vehicles, giving kids a chance to blow horns, fire off sirens, try on bulletproof vests and pet Police dogs. The Citywide Neighborhood Committee and Portsmouth Police are organizing the annual event designed to help neighbors get to know each other and their local law enforcement officials. Contact: Neighborhood Committee Chair Robin McIntosh at citywideneighborhood@comcast.net or 433-5923, or Lt. Dante Puopolo, 610-7624. Neighborhoods participating are Atlantic Heights, Broad Street, the Cedars, Christian Shore Creek, Frank Jones, Islington Creek, LRRR/Hillcrest Estates, Maple Haven, Osprey Landing, Rogers Street, Sherburne Civic Association, South End, Spinnaker Point, Springbrook, WIBIRD/Wahoo, and the Woodlands.

“TREASURE READING”

“Piratical” fun continues at the Library’s summer “Treasure Reading” program. A.D. Tarbox, author of “Already Asleep” and “The Spanish Pirate,” visits next Tuesday (Aug. 1). The entire calendar of events is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/treasurereadingsummer2006.pdf. Contact: 766-1740.

ADULT READING

There’s just one more week left to participate in the summer adult reading program. The Library provides cards for you to write a brief review of a book you’ve read or listened to, and drop it into the Circulation Desk’s “Review Box” for a chance to win free movie passes. Contact: 427-1540.

PUBLIC ACCESS TV VIDEO

A 42-minute video to inform residents about public access cable TV will be shown on Channel 22 at 7 p.m. Saturday (July 29) and Monday (July 31). Other dates are: Aug. 5, 12 and 14. The video was developed by the Portsmouth Cable Commission, which will hold an Aug. 16 “ascertainment hearing” on cable TV issues, including whether Portsmouth residents are interested in a cable TV channel to carry locally produced, non-governmental programming. Contact: Chairman John Gregg, 433-3304.

POOL CLOSURE

Peirce Island Pool closes early at 4 p.m. next Thursday (Aug. 3) for a road race. Contact: 427-0717.

PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING

There will be a preconstruction meeting for the Lower Court Street Reconstruction Project next Thursday (Aug. 3) at 7 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. City staff, the consulting engineer and contractor will present the scope, schedule and sequence of construction, and answer questions. Work begins in August on improvements to the

sewer, drains and water mains in the vicinity of Court Street between Pleasant and Marcy Streets, as well as adding new sidewalks, curbing and lighting. Contact: Peter Rice, 766-1416.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Nurses at all Portsmouth schools have scheduled summer health registration dates for new students. The first is Tuesday, Aug. 8, at Little Harbour Elementary, followed by Dondero and New Franklin on Aug. 22, and Portsmouth Middle and High schools on Aug. 24. Times for all are 8 a.m.-11 a.m., and 12:20-2 p.m. To learn what to bring, see: www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/SummerHealthRegistration2006.pdf

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Many Portsmouth residents who seek emergency aid from the City Welfare Department cannot afford to buy clothing or supplies for their children to go back to school in the fall. This type of assistance ranks only behind Christmas as the most frequently requested help for children. The Department is accepting donations of new school supplies (markers, paper, notebooks, calculators, etc.), backpacks, socks and gift cards to local department and clothing stores. Bring donations to the Welfare Department in City Hall Room 204. Contact: 610-7267.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Portsmouth schools open for students on Aug. 29. The 2006-2007 school calendar is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/2006-2007SchoolCalendar.pdf

GRAFFITI HELP

The Police Department is seeking the public's help to solve several recent cases of criminal mischief involving graffiti. This crime, which can be a felony, is underreported. Victims are urged to immediately report graffiti to the Police Department so evidence can be properly documented, photographed and processed. Anyone with information on recent cases can call Police at 436-2511 or give an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at 431-1199. Also, the City and the Chamber have a graffiti removal initiative for Portsmouth business owners, who should call ServPro at 433-4300 for a quick cost estimate and a discounted removal price.

NEW WATER SUPPLY

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held this week to formally open a new well that is considered a critical component of future development at the Pease International Tradeport. The Harrison Replacement Well can produce about 230,000 gallons of water daily and brings to three the number of groundwater wells serving the Tradeport. The project was funded through a public private/private partnership with Lonza Biologics. The City purchased the land around the well to further protect the water source. Contact: 427-1530.

FREE SPIRITS

More free educational entertainment is planned in the City's historic burial grounds as "Spirits Past – 2006: Bringing the Dead to Life" continues. Upcoming events sponsored by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee include: "Louisa May Alcott" at Point of Graves on Pleasant Street tomorrow; Declaration of Independence signatory "William Whipple" at North Burial Ground (NBG), Aug. 2; folksinger Bob Killham's "The Voice of the Water" on Aug. 3, also at NBG; and on Aug. 9, Barbara Griswold presents "A Timeless Tragedy: A Story of Smuttynose," at Pleasant Street Cemetery. Programs start at 6 p.m. and move to Strawberry Bank in the event of rain. Contact: 436-5096.

ROADWORK

Reconstruction work has begun on Crescent Way, including new water, sewer, and drain lines, as well as streetscape improvements such as granite curbing, pavement, and street trees. Traffic disruptions will be local and all attempts will be made to accommodate residents. Contact: 766-1412. Also, work is ongoing at the new intermodal transportation center on Hanover Street. The latest information on all 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.

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.

Did you know...?

This edition marks the one-year anniversary of the City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter. There are now an estimated 1,000 subscribers to this free communications vehicle, while about 200 additional people download the biweekly editions from www.CityofPortsmouth.com each month.

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.