

The City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter Issue 3 August 24, 2005

Welcome to The City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter. This information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements is part of our continuing effort to communicate more extensive and timely information to the public. Editions will be e-mailed to you on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Please share this edition with other interested citizens and urge them to sign up via www.cityofportsmouth.com. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

PHS DEDICATION SATURDAY

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the dedication ceremony for the newly renovated Portsmouth High School on Saturday (Aug. 27). The ceremony begins at 4 p.m. in the PHS Auditorium. Students will conduct tours immediately following the ceremony.

SCHOOLS REOPEN

The 2005-6 Portsmouth public school year opens Monday (Aug. 29) for staff, on Tuesday for Grades 1-12 and Thursday for kindergarten students. All schools are closed Friday (Sept. 2) through Monday for Labor Day. If your family is new to Portsmouth and you have not yet registered your child(ren) for school, please do so as soon as possible. Contact: School Department, 431-5080.

RESEARCH HELP

With school reopening, the Library is offering elementary and middle school students an online guide on *How to Do Research at the Portsmouth Public Library* that can be viewed 24/7 at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-hh.htm> To find online “how to” research guides for high school and college students, as well as adults, contact the Reference Department: 766-1720.

PHS SPORTS ON TV

Again this year, select Portsmouth High fall sporting events will be taped and then broadcast on the City’s Local Government Cable Channel 22. The first broadcast is next Saturday (Sept. 3) at 7 p.m. of the PHS vs. Concord football game the previous night. The next sportscast will be 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, of the PHS Girls Volleyball game against Timberlane. The entire Channel 22 fall sports broadcast schedule is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/ch22.htm>

ELECTION FILING

Monday (Aug. 29) is opening day for filing as a candidate for the Nov. 8 election for City Council, School Board, Fire Commission and Police Commission. The filing period ends Sept. 12. Candidates must be qualified to vote in Portsmouth, residents for two years and may not hold another municipal office once elected. The filing fee is \$5 or a petition signed by at least 50 qualified voters in Portsmouth. Contact: City Clerk’s Office, 610-7207.

REC DEPARTMENT

The Recreation Department’s Fall/Winter brochure will be available beginning Monday (Aug. 29) at the Connie Bean Community Center, Indoor Pool, Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center, the Library and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com (click on the Rec Department link). The brochure lists all youth programs, special events, dance schedules, adult programs, basketball leagues, swim lesson schedules, fees, facility hours and more. Contact: 766-1483.

ROADWORK

Roadwork planned in the next two weeks includes: Oxford Avenue continuing reconstruction, local traffic allowed; Crescent Way between Saratoga and Porpoise, and on Preble Way, continuing work, local traffic allowed; Jones Ave. re-paving is scheduled to begin around Sept. 7, with traffic delays likely. The latest information on City road projects is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm> Every effort

is made to prevent disruption of general traffic flow. Please be aware that weather and other factors can cause schedule delays. Contact: Engineering Technician Tom Richter, 766-1412.

RECYCLING CENTER

Work continues on improving the Recycling Center. A temporary setup is available for drop-off service and residents are asked to pay close attention to traffic patterns and instructions from Recycling Center workers. Center hours remain Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. until noon. Contact: 427-1530.

PROPERTY VALUES

Neighborhoods in the Colonial Drive area are now being visited by Assessor's Office representatives checking properties for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm>. All property owners will be notified by letter in advance of the arrival of a data collector to measure their property's exterior and seek permission to inspect the interior and other buildings. Information will be used to make each property reflect fair market value, effective April 1, 2006, for the Nov. 1, 2006, tax bills. Contact: Assessor Lauren Elliott, 610-7249.

CABLE TV

A public hearing on cable television service in Portsmouth, and future cable TV needs such as possibly establishing a community access channel, will be held September 8 at 7 p.m. at Portsmouth City Hall. A community access channel would carry non-governmental, locally produced programming. Under federal law governing the franchise renewal process, the City and its Cable Commission must identify the future cable related needs and interests in order to evaluate whether the cable operator's renewal proposal meets them. The public is encouraged to attend. Contact: 610-7255.

BUILDING PERMITS

Residents are reminded that a City building permit is required for general renovation work (including additions as well as enlarging, creating or demolishing rooms within a structure and also new structures including sheds and pools); expansion of existing electrical, plumbing, mechanical or fire protection systems; and for more than \$3,000 worth of ordinary repair work such as re-roofing or re-siding. Any change to the outside façade in the Historic District also requires a permit. For more details and to obtain a permit online: <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/inspection/faq.htm>

ARTIST CONVERSATIONS

In an effort to bring local artists and the public together, the Library on September 8 resumes its "Conversations with Artists" series held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday evening of each month. York, ME, artist Gina Adams, whose art reflecting her Native American and Lithuanian heritage has been exhibited in galleries nationwide, will discuss her work and answer questions. Contact: 427-1540.

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 <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2005/index.htm>

HOURS

As of Monday, the School Department Central Office (431-5080) returns to its 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. schedule. Portsmouth City Hall (431-2000) remains on summer hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through next Friday (Sept.2) but reverts to winter hours after the Labor Day Holiday, and will be open from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. as of Tuesday, Sept.6.

Did you know...?

Portsmouth was named one of AmericanStyle magazine's Top 25 Arts Destination cities under 100,000 population in a recently published readers' poll.

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 government access cable Channel 22.