

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

CITY REPORT

Want to learn some interesting facts about our Police, Fire, Municipal and School Departments and what they do? The City's Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report is now online. It gives a detailed look at how City departments operate and their accomplishments from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006. For example: The Fire Department received 2,309 fire calls and 2,295 EMS calls, the Library recorded 263,000 physical visits, and 2,560 students were in Portsmouth public schools. To learn more, see www.CityofPortsmouth.com.

ELECTION DAY

The Republican and Democratic primary elections are next Tuesday (Sept. 12). The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters must vote in the wards where they reside. Absentee ballots are available for residents who will be out of town on Sept. 12, or request them from the City Clerk's office due to religious observance or physical disability. The ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. For more information, call 610-7207 or visit www.CityofPortsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm

EEE & MOSQUITOES

For information on Eastern Equine Encephalitis, or EEE, and ways to prevent this mosquito-borne disease, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/health, or call the Health Department at 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.

SPINNAKER SHUTDOWN

Spinnaker Point Adult Complex will be closed for its annual cleaning tomorrow (Thursday, Sept. 7) through Sunday (Sept. 10). All classes will be canceled. The hope is to reopen Monday, but call 766-1483 to make sure.

YOUTH SOCCER

Soccer registration for children in grades K-4 continues tonight through Friday (Sept. 8), from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., at the Greenleaf Recreation Center. The six-week Rec Department program runs from Sept. 12 to Oct. 19. Cost is \$25 and includes shirt, socks and shin guards. Contact: 766-1483.

PHS SPORTS

Portsmouth High School fall athletic schedules are at www.CityofPortsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm. Friday night's football game against Pembroke will be aired Saturday (Sept. 9) at 7 p.m. on cable Channel 22. The Sept. 11 volleyball game against Oyster River will be broadcast Saturday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOODS MEETING

The Citywide Neighborhood Committee meets next Tuesday (Sept. 12) in City Hall Conference Room A for a "National Night Out Against Crime" wrap-up at 5:30 p.m., followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m. Deputy City Manager Cindy Hayden, City Planner David Holden and Rick Taintor from Taintor and Associates will discuss the process by which the Master Plan is being incorporated into City zoning rules. There also will be a presentation on a "Time Dollars" program whereby neighbors could exchange work or expertise, helping the handicapped and elderly to continue to live independently. Contact: citywideneighborhood@comcast.net.

PICKUP SOCCER

The Rec Department offers pick-up co-ed soccer games for adults 18 and older on Leary Field every Tuesday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m., from Sept. 12 through Oct. 31. Bring shin guards, and prepare to have fun and get a good workout in this free program. No scores or standings are kept. For more info, call: 766-1483.

SLAVE BOOK

Readers are invited Sept. 15 to join the Portsmouth Library's Adult Book Discussion Group in participating in a NH Public Radio discussion in Concord of "Our Nig" written in 1859 by Harriet Wilson, a young slave in a NH house. It also is the featured book for September's Portsmouth Library adult book discussion. See www.CityofPortsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-091506.htm for more info or call 427-1540.

INDOOR POOL

Register now for swim lessons beginning Sept. 18. See www.CityofPortsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm for the schedule or call 427-1546.

ROAD CLOSURES

Several downtown streets will be closed for part of the day on Sunday, Sept. 17, for the Portsmouth Criterium high-speed bicycle race expected to attract over 200 top professional cyclists and more than 5,000 spectators. The streets will be closed beginning at approximately 9:30 a.m. until the race ends at approximately 6 p.m. Portsmouth Police will list all street closures on www.CityofPortsmouth.com a few days before the race. For more information about the race, go to www.Portsmouthcrit.com.

DOWNLOADABLE BOOKS

Downloadable audio books will be available through the Library as of Sept. 18. The books can be downloaded into your computer or MP3 player. The Library joined a consortium of public libraries in New Hampshire, in conjunction with the State Library, to buy a collection of audio books. To learn more, go to www.CityofPortsmouth.com and click on the link to the Library after Sept. 18.

STUDENTS SUPPLIED

Thus far, 26 families with a total of 45 school-aged children have received school supplies through the City's Welfare Department. The supplies were provided through the generosity of Portsmouth residents. The Welfare Department continues to accept donations, anticipating that many children will have unexpected needs once school gets underway. Especially needed are markers, color pencils and gift cards to clothing and department stores. Bring donations to City Hall Room 204. Contact: 610-7267.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The fall Portsmouth Community Education brochure is at www.CityofPortsmouth.com/school/index.htm.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The first Middle School dance of the new school year is Friday, Sept. 15, from 7:30-10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$4. Open to all PMS students/Portsmouth residents. Contact: 766-1483.

RECLAIMED WATER

Recycling treated wastewater to irrigate the Pease Golf Course could save up to 300,000 gallons of drinking water daily during the summer and reduce the amount of nitrogen fertilizer flowing into the Piscataqua River, according to a new study conducted for the City on the possible use of highly treated "reclaimed wastewater" from the Pease Wastewater Treatment Facility. The study was undertaken as part of the City's effort to increase sustainability, a goal outlined in the Master Plan. To learn more, see www.CityofPortsmouth.com/publicworks/news090506.htm.

NEW LIBRARY

Interior painting and finish work are underway at the new Library. For a detailed progress report, visit www.CityofPortsmouth.com/newlibrary/progressreport.htm

FALL REC BROCHURE

The new fall/winter recreation brochure is available at all Recreation Department facilities and online via www.CityofPortsmouth.com/recreation/index.htm. It includes full schedules for the Indoor Pool, Spinnaker Point Adult Center and the Connie Bean Community Center. Contact: 766-1483.

ROADWORK

Work is beginning on the Newcastle Avenue seawall replacement and roadway project. Crews are continuing to work on Crescent Way, on the intermodal transportation facility on Hanover Street, and on Haven Road. Work began this week on the signals at South and Miller Streets. The latest information on 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: 427-1530.

RECYCLING REMINDER

The Recycling Center is now open until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Nov. 15. It also is open from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. Contact: 427-1530.

Did you know...?

A new half-mile stretch of sidewalk is being built along Middle Road at the request of local residents. It will go from the intersection of Peverly Hill Road near the Plains Little League Field to the bridge over the Route 1 bypass. The section includes areas with no sidewalks, as well as areas where existing sidewalks had deteriorated. The project's estimated cost is \$200,000. It is expected to be completed by October. The City Council last year approved a special capital appropriation for the project after local residents expressed concerns about pedestrian safety.

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 8 a.m. until 4 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.

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