

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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

### ***PROPERTY VALUES***

As required by law, the City Assessing Department has completed the 2006 revaluation of all properties in Portsmouth and will release the new values Friday (Sept. 22) on the City's web site and in a special Portsmouth Herald insert. The assessments will reflect each property's assessed value as of April 1, 2006. The City also will establish an estimated tax rate so that property owners may use the tax calculator on the Assessing Department's web page at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com) to estimate their 2006 tax bills. The bill for the first half of the total annual taxes will be mailed at the end of October and is due Dec. 1, with the remainder due June 1. The State will approve the City's official 2006 tax rate by the end of October.

### ***SPORTS NIGHTS***

The Portsmouth High School football game against Merrimack Valley on Friday night will be aired Saturday (Sept. 23) at 7 p.m. on local government access Channel 22. The Sept. 27 and Sept. 29 volleyball games against Kingswood and Pelham will be shown on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. All the Portsmouth High fall athletic schedules are at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm).

### ***DOWNLOAD BOOKS***

You can now download audio books from the Library's Web site, [www.CityofPortsmouth.com/library](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com/library). Just click on the "Downloadable Audio Books" icon, install the free media software, check out and download your titles, then transfer them to an MP3 player or burn them to a CD. The Library partnered with the NH State Library and other public libraries across the state to make the service available. Contact: 766-1720.

### ***FLUSHING MAINS***

The Water Department has begun the fall program of flushing water mains, which is expected to continue through the end of October. Crews open fire hydrants between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, releasing water with enough velocity to carry sediment out. It can cause a reddish tint to tap water, which may stain clothing. Residents should let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

### ***NEW CASTLE AVE.***

Work has begun on the New Castle Avenue seawall project and part of the roadway will have an alternating one-way traffic pattern directed by police during work hours for several months. The \$2.5 million project, which includes rebuilding the seawall and streetscape, is scheduled for completion by November 2007. The U.S. government is financing 80 percent of the cost, with the remainder paid by the City. Contact: 766-1412.

### ***BOARD VACANCIES***

There are several vacancies on the City's volunteer Boards and Commissions: Citywide Neighborhood Steering Committee (1); Economic Development Commission (2); Board of Library Trustees (2); Cable TV and Communication Commission (1 alternate). Obtain an application form from the "Vacancies" link at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm) or the City Clerk's office. Contact: 610-7207 or [cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:cityclerk@ch.cityofportsmouth.com).

### ***RECREATION NEWS***

The Rec Department is sponsoring a field trip for children in grades K-5 on the no-school day of Oct. 6. Call 766-1483 after Sept. 25 for info. Also, several adult programs are underway at the Spinnaker Point Adult Center, including dance and yoga. Call 766-1483 for details or check the Rec Dept. brochure online at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com) by clicking on the Rec Dept. listing on the left side of the Web page. The Indoor Pool is offering a number of classes for all ages this fall. Contact 427-1545 for the full schedule.

### ***ADULT SOCCER***

Tuesday night co-ed pick-up soccer games for adults 18 and older continue at Leary Field through Oct. 31. This free program goes from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring shin guards. No scores are kept. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***SANDLOT SOCCER***

Sandlot soccer Sundays for kids have resumed at Leary Field and continue through Oct. 22. Boys and girls ages 5-7 play from 10 a.m.-11 a.m., ages 8-11 from 11 a.m.-noon. The Rec Department provides equipment and supervision for this free program. All levels welcome. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***DOG CHANGE***

The City Council has rescinded its temporary ban against unleashed dogs on Peirce Island. Portsmouth has a leash law but there are eight areas where dogs under voice command may be off leash. The other areas are Haven Park, Langdon Park, Ward Park, Goodwin Park, South Mill Pond area across from City Hall, Great Bog, and Atlantic Heights under the I-95 Bridge. Maps are available at the City Clerk's office.

### ***LAP TIMES***

A new series of Lap Times and Preschool Story Times begins at the Library next Tuesday (Sept. 26) through Nov. 1. These are free drop-in programs for Portsmouth Public Library cardholders. Lap times are for children up to 36 months and Preschool Story Times are for children 3 and up. Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-pms.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-pms.htm) for times and other details. Contact: 766-1740.

### ***HAZARDOUS WASTE***

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at the City's Recycling Center will be Oct. 14 from 8 a.m. until noon for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington. Proof of residency is required. Unwanted household chemicals may be brought that day to the Recycling Center behind the Public Works Department at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. See [www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm) for the list of chemicals that will be accepted. No explosives, asbestos or latex paints. Contact: 427-1530.

### ***ROADWORK***

Crews will continue to work on Crescent Way through October, concrete sidewalk work is continuing along Middle Road, and pavement work is underway at South and Miller Streets. The latest information on City road projects is at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com/projects/index.htm](http://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.

### ***Did you know...?***

There were 289 couples married in Portsmouth between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006, and more than 50% of the total number of couples married did not live in Portsmouth, according to the City Clerk's Office. The City Clerk also reported 1,807 dog licenses issued in Fiscal Year 2006, 128 more than the previous fiscal year. For additional City of Portsmouth facts, see: [www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm)

**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](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com), or the Meetings Calendar at [www.CityofPortsmouth.com/calendar/2006/index.htm](http://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.

*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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com) or on the local government cable channel Channel 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com).*