

The City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter Issue 4 Sept. 7, 2005

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

CABLE TV

The public is urged to attend a 7 p.m. hearing tomorrow (Thursday, Sept. 8) on current cable television service and future needs, such as the possibility of establishing a community access channel for non-governmental, locally produced programming. The City and its Cable Commission will hold the City Hall hearing. Under federal law governing the cable TV franchise renewal process, they must identify future cable-related needs and interests to evaluate whether the cable operator's renewal proposal meets them. Contact: 610-7255.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Truck spraying to control mosquitoes will continue through September. Residents are urged to take steps to ensure there is no standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including turning over containers that can collect water. Mosquitoes are potential carriers of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus. State officials urge you to wear long sleeves and pants, and use an effective mosquito repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. The City has contracted with Municipal Pest Services, Inc., for mosquito control. If you find a dead bird, do not touch it and contact Municipal Pest Services at 431-0008 and/or the City's animal control officer, 610-7441, for pickup. For more info: <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/mcontrol.htm>

ELECTION FILING

The filing period for the Nov. 8 election ends Monday (Sept. 12). Candidates for City Council, School Board, Fire Commission and Police Commission 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 submitted to the Clerk's Office with at least 50 Portsmouth qualified voters' signatures. Contact: 610-7207.

REC DEPARTMENT

Registration ends Friday (Sept. 9) for youth soccer and cross-country. Details of these and other programs for all ages – including a wide variety of adult day trips – can be found in the Rec Department brochure, which also is available online at www.cityofportsmouth.com (click on the Rec Department link). Contact: 766-1483. Also, the Indoor Pool is offering a variety of swim lessons this fall. Contact: 427-1545.

PHS SPORTS

The PHS fall sports schedule is online at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athletic/2005FallAthleticSchedule.pdf> Select games are broadcast on the local government Cable Channel 22. This week's scheduled 7 p.m. Saturday broadcast of the PHS Volleyball game vs. Timberlane is being replaced by a PHS women's soccer game against Spaulding. The next PHS fall sports broadcast is Saturday, Sept. 17, when the men's soccer game against Salem and the football game against Exeter will be broadcast beginning at 7 p.m. The Channel 22 fall sports broadcast schedule is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/ch22.htm>

ROADWORK

Work planned over the next two weeks includes continued streetscape improvements on Preble and Crescent Ways, with local traffic allowed; and continuing reconstruction on Oxford Ave., with local

traffic accommodated. The City has various ongoing public works projects that may cause minimal traffic delays. Project information is at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm> Every effort is made to prevent general traffic flow disruptions. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays. Contact: engineering technician Tom Richter, 766-1412.

ROAD CLOSURES

Several downtown streets will be closed Sunday, Sept. 18, for the Portsmouth Criterium Race, a high-speed bicycle race involving over 100 top professional cyclists racing 50 laps at speeds over 40 miles per hour over a one-kilometer course. From 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., the following streets will be closed: Congress between Middle and Penhallow; Penhallow between Congress and State; State between Penhallow and Middle; and Middle between State and Congress. Also closed: Market between Bow and Market Square; Fleet between Hanover and State; and High, Ladd and Porter Streets. Contact: 610-7202.

PROPERTY VALUES

Assessor's Office representatives are completing work in the Colonial Drive area and will move next to Elwyn Park to check properties for the 2006 citywide revaluation required by State law. Specific streets are listed at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessors/index.htm> Every property owner is 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: 610-7249.

WASTEWATER UPDATE

The City will update the public about sewer/wastewater treatment issues at a meeting Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Staff will discuss progress on sewer overflow mitigation projects, the status of a federal waiver for the City's treatment program, and pros and cons regarding primary and secondary treatment processes. A public comment session will follow. Contact: Deputy DPW Director David Allen, 427-1530.

ENERGY REBATE

The recent upgrade of the 35-year-old Gosling Road wastewater pumping station system earned the City a \$6,000 energy rebate toward the purchase of the new energy-efficient system. The new variable frequency drive (VFD) control system acts as the brains for the pumps, allowing them to adjust to flow variations. City staff and the consulting engineers worked with Public Service of New Hampshire to design an energy-efficient system. PSNH will present the rebate check to the City on Monday (Sept.12).

LIBRARY NEWS

The "Conversations with Artists" series resumes at 7 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, Sept. 8). It provides an opportunity for the public to learn about the work of various artists and ask questions on the second Thursday evening of each month. Tomorrow's artist is Gina Adams of York, whose art has been exhibited in galleries nationwide. Contact: 766-1720. For a progress report on construction of the new Library, go to: <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/newlibrary/progressreport.htm>

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington is Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Portsmouth Department of Public Works, 680 Peverly Hill Rd. Bring unwanted household chemicals to DPW between 8 a.m. and noon for safe disposal. Examples include oil-based paint, insect spray and oven cleaner. A list is at http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/haz_material.htm Proof of residency required. Contact: 427-1530.

DRUG TRAINING

Two Portsmouth Police officers recently received detailed training in detecting and apprehending drivers under the influence of methadone, commonly prescribed for heroin withdrawal. They also were trained at the 11th Annual International Association of Chief's of Police (IACP) Drug Training Conference in Washington, D.C., to detect impaired drivers under the influence of the Benzodiazepines family of drugs used to control stress and anxiety and to treat seizures and alcohol withdrawal, such as Valium, Zoloft, Lexapro, Paxil, and Xanax. Officers Corey MacDonald and Aaron Stacy are part of the Police Department's four-person Drug Recognition Expert Unit.

MEETINGS

For a list of upcoming City-related meetings, agendas for future meetings and minutes of past meetings, check the City's Web site, www.cityofportsmouth.com, or the Meetings Calendar at <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2005/index.htm>

HOURS

Portsmouth City Hall (431-2000) is open from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The School Department Central Office (431-5080) is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Did you know...?

Just over one-half of the residents of Portsmouth are between the ages of 25 and 54? Nearly one-fourth are aged 24 and younger. The remainder are aged 60 or older.

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.