

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Visit www.cityofportsmouth.com to join the distribution list, or be removed. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

GRADUATIONS

Portsmouth Middle School graduation is at 6 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, June 11) and Portsmouth High School graduation is Friday (June 12) at 5:30 p.m. Both events take place in the High School's Stone Gymnasium. The last day of school for Grades K–11 is next Friday, June 19. It will be a full school day. The Portsmouth High School graduation will be recorded and rebroadcast on Channel 22 at 7 pm on Saturday, June 13 and Saturday, 20.

REC INPUT NEEDED

The Recreation Board wants your input for a comprehensive study of Rec Department needs in the areas of programming and facilities. The first community input session is next Tuesday (June 16) at 6:30 p.m. at Portsmouth High School's Little Theater. Residents are urged to share their vision for youth and adult programming; outdoor recreation (ball fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, skateboard facilities, pool/aquatic facilities); indoor recreation (courts, physical fitness equipment and services, table sports, and pool/aquatic facilities). Anyone unable to attend is invited to submit comments via the "Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study" link at www.cityofportsmouh.com. Contact: 766-1483.

SAVE MONEY, ENVIRONMENT

You could save as much as \$800 a year simply by adopting some of the suggestions provided when you take the brief online survey at www.nhcarbonchallenge.org. It's fast and fun, and it will tell you how to save money and reduce your household's carbon footprint. Portsmouth and Keene are competing to see who can get the most residents to take the survey. Contact: 610-7215.

PUBLIC MEETING ON BOW – CERES STREETS WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City invites the public to attend a meeting to provide feedback on the Bow Street – Ceres Street Waterfront Improvement Plan on Tuesday, June 23rd from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Levenson Room at Portsmouth Public Library. This public-private partnership includes upgrades that will create a public waterfront park on the small City-owned lot at the corner of Ceres and Bow Streets to include seating, landscaping, pedestrian scale lighting and additional site amenities, as well as resurfacing and drainage improvements. The project will also include reconstruction of the Ceres Street sidewalk and resurfacing of the public portion of Ceres Street. Contact: 610-7218.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH

The Police Department will once again be participating with other law enforcement agencies in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run, beginning at Market Square at noon on Friday (June 12) and continuing the three miles to the Newington town line on Woodbury Avenue to end at Great Bay School. Contact: Officer David Colby, 610-7501.

SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS/DUI ENFORCEMENT

The Portsmouth Police Department, working with the NH State Police and the NH State Liquor Commission, will continue the effort to apprehend drunk drivers in the City and other seacoast communities this weekend. Sobriety checkpoints have had proven success in the apprehension of drunk drivers and their use has been approved by the NH Supreme Court. The Police Department asks that patrons of Seacoast bars and restaurants avoid putting lives in danger by using designated drivers, cabs or by calling a friend.

MARKET SQUARE DAY

Market Square Day is Saturday (June 13) and much of downtown Portsmouth will be vehicle-free and pedestrian-friendly. No parking will be allowed on several downtown streets between 4 a.m. and 6 p.m. A \$5 flat-rate parking fee will be collected from each vehicle entering the High-Hanover Parking Facility between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m., and a \$3 rate will be collected from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Payment upon entry to the facility is expected to reduce delays for those leaving after the Market Square Day events. Free shuttle bus service will be available from the Fox Run Mall Festival Parking overflow lot. For event details, see www.proportsmouth.org.

MARKET SQUARE DAY CLOSURES

The following streets will be closed from 4 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday (June 13) for Market Square Day: Pleasant Street from State Street to Market Square; Market Street from Bow Street to Market Square; Daniel Street from Chapel/Penhallow Streets to Market Square; Fleet Street from State Street to Hanover Street; Hanover Street from Market Street to Maplewood Avenue; Ladd Street for its entire length; Ceres Street from Bow Street to Private Way; and High Street from Congress Street to Ladd Street.

MSD RACE TRAFFIC INTERRUPTIONS

The Market Square 10K Road Race, which begins promptly at 9 a.m. on Saturday (June 13), may cause periodic and significant traffic interruptions. An estimated 1,500 racers register annually. The race begins at the North Church, travels on Summer to State to Bow to Market to Hanover to Maplewood to Dennett to Woodbury to Bartlett to Islington to Essex to Middle to South to Middle to Miller to South to Marcy. The full route may be found at www.proportsmouth.org/MSDRoadRace.cfm.

SUMMER READING

The kickoff for the Library's summer reading program called "Catch the Reading Bug!" is Thursday, June 25, noon to 2 p.m. at Four Tree Island. The rain date is Friday, June 26. Bring a lunch, sign up for the program, come dressed as a bug (if you wish), march in the bug parade and participate in fun activities for all ages. Light refreshments will be served. The free event is open to all Portsmouth Public Library cardholders. Contact: 766-1740.

PEIRCE ISLAND POOL

The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool opens Monday, June 29, and will be open every day for nine weeks. Weekday mornings are reserved for children's swimming lessons but afternoons, weekends, and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings are for everyone. Admission for Portsmouth residents is free for children and \$1 for adults with proof of residency, and the cost for non-residents is \$1 for kids and \$2 for adults. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Enrichment and remedial courses will be offered in July by the Portsmouth High Summer School program. To learn more or to download the application, click on the "Summer School 2009" link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/index.htm. Applications also are available at PHS during regular hours. Class sizes are limited and students will be accepted on a first come, first paid basis. Contact: Summer School Coordinator Amy Donovan at 436-7100, ext. 2925.

DOWNTOWN TROLLEY

The COAST Trolley Downtown Loop begins summer operations Saturday, June 27, and ends Sunday, Aug. 30. For more information, click on the "COAST" link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/index.htm.

YOUTH SUMMER BASKETBALL

The Police Department is once again sponsoring summer youth basketball leagues for boys and girls currently enrolled in Grades 5-8 in Portsmouth schools and the registration deadline is Friday (June 12). There will be a skills assessment clinic July 2 at Portsmouth High where teams will be selected and shirts issued. The clinic for girls is 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by boys from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Girls' games will be Thursday evenings at the New Heights gym from July 9-Aug. 20, and boys play Friday evenings at the South Playground courts from July 10-Aug. 21. Contact: Det. Rochelle Jones at 610-7503 or rjones@cityofportsmouth.com.

OUTDOOR POOL LESSONS

Registration for Session One daytime swim lessons at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool continues during normal hours at the Indoor Pool located next to Portsmouth High School until all classes are filled. Lessons begin the week of June 29 and most run three times a week. Daytime lessons are free for Portsmouth children and \$60 for non-residents. Evening lessons are Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and cost \$20 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1546.

SUMMER REC PROGRAMS

There are still spots available in various Summer Recreation Department programs. Registration continues at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. Brochures listing all programs are at Rec Department facilities and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. Call 766-1483 to see which programs still have openings.

“FIRED-UP”

The deadline to RSVP for “Fired Up: Celebrating Portsmouth’s Newest Public Art Sculpture” is next Thursday (June 18). Art-Speak, the City of Portsmouth’s Cultural Commission, and the Portsmouth Fire Department are inviting the public to the June 23 symposium from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Central Fire Station. The symposium will cover the process and progress of the city’s newest piece of public art, “Vigilance,” being installed this summer at the Central Fire Station. Symposium speakers will include artist Emile Birch. Space is limited and the public is asked to RSVP to 610-7222 or scobler@cityofportsmouth.com.

DOG FEES

If you missed the May 29 deadline to register your dog with the City Clerk’s Office, you are subject to a late fee. If you wait much longer, you also could face a civil forfeiture fine of \$25 and a Portsmouth District Court summons if you do not respond within 15 days. Contact: 610-7207.

PLANNING CHANGES

Planning Department Director David Holden, who has worked for the City since 1980, and Chief Planner Lucy Tillman, who came to the City in 1987, will retire from the City at the end of June. City Manager John Bohenko has appointed Rick Taintor to be the new Planning Director upon Holden’s retirement July 1. Taintor has over 25 years of experience, was instrumental in developing the City’s 2005 Master Plan and is completing work on a rewrite of the City’s land use regulations. Lee Jay Feldman, who will replace Lucy Tillman, has more than two decades of planning experience, including serving as Principal Planner and then Director of Planning and Permitting for the City of Auburn, Maine. Most recently he served as Director of Planning for a consulting engineering, landscape architecture and land-survey firm.

ROADWORK

Continuing public works projects may result in temporary traffic delays during work hours but local traffic will be allowed during brick sidewalk work on Hancock Street, paving and granite curb resetting on Gates Street, drainage installation on Washington Street (Pleasant-Hancock) and paving work on Howard Street. Direct questions to Tom Richter at 766-1412. Work continues on the Route 33 bridge replacement project, prep work and paving are planned on Woodbury Avenue, Aviation Drive paving work continues, and paving is planned during the next two weeks on Maplewood Avenue and State Streets. Information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Weather and other factors can cause delays. Contact: 766-1411

ROAD CLOSURE

Rockland Street will be closed to 47 Sherburne Avenue for a block party on Saturday, June 19, from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ISLINGTON STREET MEETING

There will be a June 24 public meeting on the Islington Street Improvement Action Plan from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room. City staff and consultants will present revisions to the action plan based on public input, comments made at a joint meeting with the City Council and city boards, as well as on further analysis of the corridor. Public input is welcome. Contact: 610-7220.

Mark Your Calendar...

- The City’s annual fireworks display is Friday, July 3, at the South Mill Pond, located across from Portsmouth City Hall, beginning at 9:15 pm.

Did you know...

With the exception of gas and charcoal grilling in above-ground, non-combustible containers, fire permits are required for any outside burning in Portsmouth. This includes chimneas and metal fire pits, which must be at least 25 feet from any structure and should never be installed on combustible surfaces like decks. Seasonal

permits for them are available for \$5 at any Fire Station, unless you live in the South End roughly bordered by Pleasant and State Streets where burning is never allowed. Other outside burning requires a permit to be obtained that day, and burning is only allowed from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. unless it's raining. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/firepermit.htm or call 427-1515.

BOARD VACANCIES

The most recent list of openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.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, or the Meetings Calendar at www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2009/index.htm.

SCHOOL CALENDAR: The School Department's Activities Calendar for all schools is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.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 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Library hours are: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday; and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

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