

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*

MEETING – TONIGHT

Revisions to the proposed Islington Street Improvement Action Plan are the subject of tonight's public meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. City staff and consultants will present the changes being suggested following public input, comments made at a joint meeting with the City Council and city boards, as well as further analysis of the corridor. Public input is again welcome tonight (June 24). Contact: 610-7220.

BOND UPGRADE

Standard & Poor's Rating Group, one of the nation's largest bond rating agencies, has upgraded the City's bond rating from AA to AA+, saving taxpayers thousands of dollars in reduced borrowing costs. S&P cited the City's good management practices, consistent financial position and moderate-to-low debt burden as positive factors. It is the City's seventh rating upgrade since 2000 from both S&P and the nation's other major municipal bond rating agency, Moody's Investor Services. The City recently issued a \$21 million, 20-year bond for upgrades to the Madbury water treatment plant, construction of the new Fire Station No. 2 and other city improvements.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The City of Portsmouth wants input from residents about the City's recreation program as part of an evaluation of our recreation programming and facilities. Go to www.cityofportsmouth.com and click on the "Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study" link to leave a comment. Citizens are urged to share their thoughts about youth and adult programming; outdoor recreation (ball fields, skateboard facilities, tennis courts, camps, etc); indoor recreation (courts, physical fitness, classes, table sports, etc.), and aquatic/pool facilities. There will be additional community input sessions before the study is completed in November. Contact: 766-1483.

FIRE STATION 2

You may have noticed that work has begun on the replacement of Fire Station 2, which serves neighborhoods and businesses along Route 1 in the southern portion of the city. The Fire Department expects to be operating out of its new, expanded and more modern Lafayette Road facility by next spring. If you'd like to know more about the project, visit <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/station2/index.htm>.

CATCH THE READING BUG

Tomorrow (June 25) is the kickoff for the Library's summer reading program. The event takes place from noon to 2 p.m. at Four Tree Island and is free to all Portsmouth Public Library cardholders. Friday (June 26) is the rain date. This year's theme is "Catch the Reading Bug" so attendees can come dressed as bugs, if they wish, and march in the bug parade. Bring a picnic lunch and participate in activities for all ages. Light refreshments will be served. Contact: 766-1740.

READING BUDDIES

As part of its summer reading program "Catch the Reading Bug," the Library is looking for "Reading Buddies" volunteers ages 10 and older to read to younger children approximately ages 2 to 7, Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. from July 7 through July 25. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/readingbuddies.htm.

TROLLEY DOWNTOWN

The COAST Trolley Downtown Loop begins summer operations Saturday (June 27) and continues through the end of August. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/index.htm and click on the "COAST" link.

SUMMER IN THE STREET

With the return of Pro Portsmouth's "Summer in the Street" downtown music program, part of Pleasant Street near Market Square will be closed on select Saturdays from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The first closure is Saturday

night (June 27) and the next one will be July 4. No vehicular traffic or parking will be allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square. For program information, see www.proportsmouth.org.

GOT 10 MINUTES TO SAVE EARTH, MONEY?

You only need to invest 10 minutes in taking the NH Carbon Challenge to learn how to reduce your carbon footprint to save the environment and as much as \$800 annually. For example: Replacing just five light bulbs with the compact fluorescent version will save you 700 pounds of carbon dioxide and \$90 per year. If you complete the survey at www.nhcarbonchallenge.org, you'll also help Portsmouth beat Keene in the friendly competition to see which city gets the most participation from its residents. Contact: 610-7215.

PEIRCE ISLAND POOL

The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool opens next Monday (June 29) and will remain open daily through Aug. 30. Weekday mornings are reserved for children's swimming lessons but afternoons, weekends, and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings until 7:15 p.m. are for everyone. The Indoor Pool also is on its summer schedule and will be closed this coming weekend (June 27 & 28). Otherwise, if the Outdoor Pool closes for inclement weather, the Indoor Pool will open for open swim from 1:30-4 p.m. Check with the Outdoor Pool staff at 427-0717 or call the Indoor Pool at 427-1546. Peirce Island Pool admission for Portsmouth residents is free for children and \$1 for adults with proof of residency, and for non-residents is \$1 for kids and \$2 for adults. There are links to the schedules for both pools at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/index.htm.

SWIM LESSONS

There are still a limited number of spaces in the first session of summer swim lessons at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool. Call the Indoor Pool at 427-1546 for more info. Registration for Session Two of free daytime outdoor pool swim lessons for Portsmouth children opens Tuesday, July 7, between 5:30-7:30 p.m. and July 13 for non-residents. Register during normal hours at the Peirce Island Pool until all classes are filled. Session 2 lessons run three days per week for four weeks beginning July 27 and ending Aug. 21. Lessons are free for Portsmouth children and taught by certified Red Cross instructors. For registration policy and program details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1546.

JULY 4th CLOSURES

City Hall, the Library, Indoor Pool, the Connie Bean Rec Center and the Recycling Center will be closed next Friday (July 3) for the July 4th holiday. The Library also will be closed on Saturday, July 4. Spinnaker Point will be open 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, July 3, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 4. There will be no yard waste collection on Friday, although curbside collection of trash and recycling will continue as usual.

FIREWORKS

The City's annual fireworks display is Friday, July 3, at the South Mill Pond, located across from Portsmouth City Hall. There will be a DJ beginning at 7:30 p.m. and the fireworks display starts at 9:15 pm. The rain date is Sunday, July 5. Police want to remind everyone that City Ordinance prohibits personal fireworks, including Class C sparklers. Due to the fireworks display, the Dog Park will be closed from 6 a.m. Friday until 10 a.m. Saturday. Dogs are never allowed at Leary and Central Fields, South Playground or the Connie Bean Playground. The tennis and basketball courts, playground and baseball areas will close by noon Friday. Vehicles will be towed from the playground lot on Junkins Avenue at 10 a.m. Friday and from Parrott Avenue between Richards Avenue and Junkins at noon.

FIREWORKS PARKING

Due to the fireworks, the High-Hanover Parking Garage will charge a flat \$3 fee from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, July 3. There will be no parking on 23 streets near the South Playground (except for residents of those streets): Parrott Avenue, Junkins Avenue, Mt. Vernon Street, Pleasant Street, South Street from Miller to Marcy, Richmond Street, Rogers Street, Edward Street, Livermore Street, Wentworth Street, Melcher Street, Whidden Street, Franklin Street, Pickering Street, Hunking Street, Gardner Street, Gates Street, Howard Street, Elwyn Avenue, Sherburne Avenue, Rockland Street, Kent Street, and Richards Avenue.

SUMMER REC

The Recreation Department still has openings in some summer programs. If you are looking for programs for your child this summer, call the Rec Department at 766-1483 to see what's available.

SUMMER WORKOUT

The Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center is air-conditioned so don't let the summer heat keep you from working out. Call 766-1483 for information on adult summer programs, or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-8.htm.

CITY ORDINANCES

City ordinances can now be viewed online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/ordinances.htm. Contact: 610-7245.

RECYCLING CENTER EVENING HOURS

Beginning July 7, the Recycling Center will be open Tuesdays from 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. 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. The Center is closed on Mondays and Fridays. Contact: 427-1530.

NEW LIBRARY ITEMS

The Library is now maintaining a list of new adult, children's and large-print books, as well as DVDs, film, music and other audio acquisitions that is updated monthly at <http://libcat.cityofportsmouth.com/filist>.

BACKYARD GARDENING

The Library is launching a series of Thursday evening events related to backyard gardening, beginning July 9 with master gardener intern Leslie Stevens talking about the restoration of the 18th century garden at the Weeks House in Greenland and how an 18th century garden can be a victory garden. The events begin at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Other topics include "The Herbalist's Garden" (July 16); "Rain Gardens of Portsmouth" (July 23); beekeeping (July 30) and "The Music Garden" on Aug. 6. Contact: 427-1540.

SCHOOL INFO

Although classes have been out for only a few days, the School Department has information available online related to school reopening for the fall. Information on tryouts and practices for fall sports, which begin the week of Aug. 17, can be found by clicking on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm. School reopens for students in grades 1 to 12 on September 1. To see the 2009-2010 school calendar or download a form to enroll new students in the Portsmouth School system, click on the links at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm. The School Department's Central Office moves to summer hours next Monday (June 29) through Aug. 28, and will be open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and Fridays from 7 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

EXPLORERS WIN AGAIN

The Portsmouth Police Explorers Post took first place in a Massachusetts competition last weekend for the second year in a row. They also recently placed first in the New Hampshire competition and fifth in the New England Regional competition. Portsmouth Police Explorers volunteer during police and community events, receive classroom and hands-on instruction from Portsmouth officers and participate in camping and outdoor team building trips. To learn more, contact Det. Munson at rmunson@cityofportsmouth.com or call 610-7506.

MEDITATION OVER

The Library's free first Monday of the month meditation sessions are on hiatus until October. Contact: 427-1540.

BOARD VACANCIES

There are a number of openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions, and some are very specific. For example, a New Franklin School parent and a Middle School parent are needed for the Safe Routes to School Committee. The Building Code of Appeals needs either a mechanical engineer or master plumber, and an electrical engineer or master electrician. Other openings are more general, such as for six members for the Recreation Board. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

ROADWORK

During the next two weeks, continuing public works projects may result in temporary traffic delays during work hours. Woodbury Avenue paving is scheduled next week and work begins after the July Fourth holiday on installing sidewalks on Market Street from the NH Port Authority to Michael Succi Drive. Construction also is continuing on Aviation Drive and Gates Street. Curb setters are working on Washington Street from Pleasant to Hancock and on Gates Street from Hancock to Washington this week. Brick layers will be on Gates Street next week while other miscellaneous work will be going on at Gates, Hancock and Washington streets over the next two weeks. Weather and other factors may cause delays. Information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 766-1411.

Mark Your Calendar...

The city's 12th Annual Water Carnival at the Peirce Island Pool is July 29 and details are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm. On Tuesday, August 4 neighborhoods throughout Portsmouth will join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for "National Night Out." Contact Portsmouth Citywide Neighborhood Committee Chair Cristy Cardoso, 512-3634, or cncchair@gmail.com.

Did you know...

The Connie Bean Community Center, Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center, Greenleaf Recreation Center and Indoor Pool are all available for rent for meeting space, athletic events, birthday parties, rehearsals, dances, seminars and other special events. In order to rent during non-operating hours, there is an additional fee to have a Recreation Department employee available. To rent the Indoor Pool, call Greig Cronauer at 427-1545; call Barry Foley at 766-1483 to rent the Connie Bean or Greenleaf Centers; and Tim Bailey at 766-1484 to rent Spinnaker Point.

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. From June 29-Aug. 28, the Central Office will be open Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and Fridays from 7 a.m. until 12:30 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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