

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*

MEET THE CHIEF-TONIGHT

The Police Commission is inviting the public tonight to come meet the new police chief, Deputy Chief Dave “Lou” Ferland, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room. Chief of Police Designate Ferland will become chief effective August 1, 2009. Earlier in the day, a reception honored retiring Chief Mike Magnant and Deputy Chief Len DiSesa, who are stepping down after a combined 52 years of service with the Portsmouth Police Department.

GAME NIGHT-TONIGHT

It’s “Family Game Night” for ages 5 and up at the Library beginning at 6 p.m. tonight (Wednesday, July 22). G. Willikers! will be bringing a variety of games to play in the Library’s Youth Services area. Contact: 766-1740.

SUMMER HAZARD WARNING

The City’s Health Department strongly urges residents to protect themselves against the bites of mosquitoes and ticks, and eliminate mosquito breeding areas on their property. For information on protecting yourself and your home from mosquitoes, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/eee.htm. For information on Lyme disease, visit www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/CDCS/lymedisease.htm.

TREE REPLACEMENT

Crews will replant seven trees in the downtown Market Square area tomorrow (Thursday, July 23), beginning at 6 a.m. to minimize disruptions in the area. No traffic interruptions are expected. Crews last week removed dead or dying trees. Contact: 427-1530.

ZONING, SITE REVIEW REGS HEARING

There will be another public hearing tomorrow evening (July 23) on the draft revised Zoning Ordinance and draft Site Review Regulations. Additional hearings are planned Aug. 6 and Sept. 10, also at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The hearings will be televised live on Channel 22, as well. The draft land use regulations can be viewed at www.cityofportsmouth.com by clicking on the link for “Draft Revised Zoning Ordinance.” Copies also may be reviewed at the Library, City Clerk’s Office and Planning Department. Contact: 610-7290.

GARDENING TIPS

The Library’s summer backyard gardening series continues tomorrow night (July 23) with a talk on composting at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Next up will be the benefits of attracting honey bees to your garden on Thursday, July 30. The series will conclude Aug. 6 with a special movie night featuring music by Yo Yo Ma. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm#featured. Contact: 427-1540.

COMPUTER CLASSES

The Library is now offering free computer classes in “Computer Basics” and “Email.” The hands-on classes are geared toward beginners, so everyone is welcome. Unlike some classes where you meet every Monday for six weeks, the Library’s classes are one-time workshops that can be repeated. Each class will accommodate up to eight students, and each student is guaranteed use of a computer. For a copy of the class schedule and to learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm or call 766-1720. Preregistration is required by calling 766-1720.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Portsmouth neighborhoods will join thousands of communities nationwide in celebrating “National Night Out” on Tuesday, Aug. 4, from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. with block parties, cookouts, parades, contests, games, and visits from Police, Fire, School and Public Works personnel. Visit a NNO event, meet your neighbors and help join in making Portsmouth a safer city. Contact: Citywide Neighborhood Committee Chair Cristy Cardoso at 512-3634 or cncchair@gmail.com, or Sgt. Kim Sirr at 610-7510 or ksirr@pd.cityofportsmouth.com.

Participating neighborhoods are: Aldrich/Thaxter Area, Atlantic Heights, The Cedars, Christian Shore Creek, Frank Jones Farm, Islington Creek, LRRRA (Hillcrest Estates), The Plains, Richards Ave., Rogers Street, Sherburne Civic Assoc., South End, Spinnaker Point, Stonegate, WAHOO (Wibird), and The Woodlands.

REFASHIONING CLOTHING

The Library and Goodwill Industries of Northern New England are partnering to offer workshops for children ages 12 and up to learn how to alter second-hand garments into trendy new pieces. There are sessions tomorrow (July 23) from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on Tuesday, Aug. 4, and Thursday, Aug. 6, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Library. Goodwill donated gift certificates for participating teens to shop at either the Portsmouth or Dover Goodwill retail stores. The teens are encouraged to give back to the community by donating a bag of clothing when they go shopping. Space is limited so pre-register with Youth Services Supervisor Susan Brough by e-mail at slbrough@cityofportsmouth.com or call 766-1740.

RALEIGH WAY CONSTRUCTION

The second phase of the Raleigh Way Streetscape Improvement Project has begun and is expected to take approximately four months to complete. The improvements will include granite curbing, a concrete sidewalk, street trees, and roadway improvements, as well as upgrades to the water distribution and drainage systems on Kearsarge Way, Saratoga Way, Falkland Place, Crescent Way and Preble Way. The City worked with the neighborhood and project engineers to develop the improvement plans. Phase 1 was completed last year. Community Development Block Grant funds from U.S. Housing and Urban Development will pay for two-thirds of the work, with the balance funded from the City's Water Enterprise Fund. Contact: 610-7226.

WATER CARNIVAL

Portsmouth children are invited to the City's 12th Annual Water Carnival at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool next Wednesday, July 29. There will be games and aquatic activities for toddlers through age 16, as well as events for non-swimmers. The fun goes from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. For children to participate, parents must show a driver's license with a Portsmouth address or a "proof of residency" certificate that can be obtained from the City Clerk's office at City Hall. Rain date is July 30. The Outdoor Pool is closed to everyone else until 3 p.m. on Water Carnival Day. Open swim will be from 3 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. For general info on Peirce Island Outdoor Pool, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-0717.

OUTDOOR POOL INFO

Peirce Island Pool will close at 4 p.m. Thursday, August 6, because of a road race. The pool is open daily until 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. Admission is free for Portsmouth children and \$1 for adult residents, while the non-resident prices are \$1 for children and \$2 for adults. For specific hours and alternative swimming opportunities in bad weather, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-0717.

SWIM LESSONS

Session Two of free daytime swim lessons at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool begins next Monday (July 27) and ends Aug. 21. Registration continues during normal pool hours until classes are filled. For registration policy and program details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1546.

BIG DOG SHOW

Peirce Island will become the site of "The Big Dog Show" of 20 unique 8-foot by 10-foot metal dog sculptures Aug. 13-18 as award-winning metal sculptor Dale Rodgers takes his free exhibit on a six-week tour of New England. The City Council gave permission for the larger-than-life dogs to be set up on the grassy area near the boat launch parking lot while in Portsmouth. For information on the tour, see www.thebigdogshow.com.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Portsmouth schools reopen in about six weeks – Tuesday, Sept. 1, for students in Grades 1-12 and Tuesday, Sept. 8, for kindergarten – but parents of new students should make an appointment now at the appropriate school to register their children. Registration is 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. and noon to 2 p.m. on Aug. 19 at New Franklin School and at those same times on Aug. 27 for Dondero, Little Harbour, and the Middle School and

High School. To attend kindergarten in Portsmouth, children must be 5 years old by September 30. To learn what is needed for registration, download required forms, find school contact info, or see the school calendar, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/school. 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 SUPPLIES DRIVE

School supply lists soon will be arriving in the mail but many Portsmouth residents cannot afford to buy the required supplies or clothing needed by their children to return to school in the fall. The Welfare Department is again accepting donations of new school supplies (markers, paper, notebooks, calculators, etc.) and backpacks. Gift cards to local department stores for the purchase of shoes, socks, and clothing also would be greatly appreciated. Drop off donations at the Welfare Department in City Hall Room 204. Contact: etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com or 610-7267.

CATCH THE BUG

Today (Wednesday, July 22) there will be “Wildlife Encounters” with alligators, hedgehogs, birds and snakes at 1:30 p.m. at the Library as part of the Summer Reading Program “Catch the Reading Bug.” All programs are free to Portsmouth Library cardholders. There are a number of fun events coming up, including family yoga next Tuesday (July 28) from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Bring a beach towel and wear comfortable clothing. All ages welcome, but children under 10 must bring an adult with them. Also, talented local teen musicians will present an acoustic showcase at 7 p.m. on Aug. 5 in the Library’s courtyard (inside if it rains). Sessions to make “Recycled Art” are held weekdays from noon to 2 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon. The reading program’s complete schedule is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/summerreading2.pdf. Contact: 766-1740.

CARBON CHALLENGE CONTINUES

Want to reduce your household’s energy consumption and save money in the process? Gather last year’s utility bills or estimate them, and take the Carbon Challenge online survey at www.nhcarbonchallenge.org to learn how to save as much as \$800 annually. The cities of Portsmouth and Keene are competing to see which one can inspire the most residents to take advantage of this opportunity. Contact: 610-7215.

“SUMMER IN THE STREET”

Due to Pro Portsmouth’s “Summer in the Street” downtown music program, part of Pleasant Street near Market Square is closed on the next two Saturday evenings (July 25 and Aug. 1) from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. There will be no vehicular traffic or parking allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square. Program information can be found at www.proportsmouth.org.

ROADWORK

Paving is planned for Gates, Washington (Hancock-Pleasant), Hancock, and Howard Streets over the next two weeks, and the brick sidewalks on Gates and Washington Streets are scheduled for completion. Work also will continue on replacing the Middle Street sidewalks with bricks between Aldrich Road and Union Street. Paving is expected to be completed on Woodbury Avenue. A new water line will be installed between Saratoga Way and Kearsarge Way as part of Phase 2 of the Raleigh Way Streetscape Project. City work projects may cause temporary traffic delays during work hours. Weather and other factors can cause work delays. Info on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 766-1412.

WATER-SAVING TIP

Be sure to shut off your garden hose by closing the spigot from the house, or hose bib, instead of just turning off the hose handle. Hoses often have leaky connections, which can result in a substantial loss of water and increase your water bill. Even a small, slow leak can result in several gallons of water lost. A continuous leak from a hole just 1/16th of an inch in diameter can leak 24,666 gallons in a month. To learn about the City’s sustainability initiatives, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/index.htm.

Did you know...

One way to prevent chemicals from going into the city’s stormwater system, which empties into local watersheds, when washing your vehicle at home is to park it on the lawn or other porous surface that will absorb soapy water and filter chemicals. It also is highly recommended that people wash their cars with cleaning

products approved by the U.S. Green Building Council, or that are Green Seal Certified or EPA registered, similar to the City's purchasing policy for cleaning products used in municipal buildings.

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 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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