

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*

ANNUAL REPORT

Want to learn some interesting facts about the Municipal, School, Police and Fire departments and what they do? The City of Portsmouth Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009) is now online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com. Here are some of the facts you'll find: the number of births, marriages and civil unions in Portsmouth declined in FY09; the City issued 833 building permits with a construction value of \$69.1 million, compared to 962 permits with \$89.8 million in value the previous year; and the Library recorded 293,772 visits, an increase of almost 8,300. The number of books, audio and video items circulated soared to a total of 484,735, or 41,000 above FY08.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING, SITE REVIEW REGS – TOMORROW

The public is encouraged to comment on the City's draft revised Zoning Ordinance and draft Site Review Regulations at public hearings tomorrow evening (Thursday, Aug. 6) and Sept. 10. The hearings begin at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers and will be televised live on Channel 22. View the draft land use regulations by clicking on the link for "Draft Revised Zoning Ordinance" at www.cityofportsmouth.com. Copies also may be reviewed at the Library, City Clerk's Office and Planning Department. Contact: 610-7290.

PINE STREET PARK

The final improvement plan for the Pine Street Park will be presented at a public meeting Tuesday (Aug 11) at 7 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The City's design consultant will present the final design plan that incorporates feedback and comments received from the neighborhood at two previous public meetings. Construction is anticipated to begin in early fall. Contact: 610-7226.

SHAHEEN STAFF AT CITY HALL

A member of New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen's constituent service staff will hold office hours at Portsmouth City Hall on Thursday, Aug. 13, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Conference Room A. Madeline Lewis will represent the Senator and notes the office can help with a variety of issues, including Social Security and veteran's benefits, federal taxes, housing and immigration. Contact: 750-3004 or visit <http://shaheen.senate.gov>

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STATE STREET PROJECT TO BEGIN

The City has begun accepting bids for the \$5.2 million State Street Utilities Upgrade and Roadway Improvement Project, designed to replace and separate the aging combined sewer and water pipes while improving the safety and the appearance of the corridor. Work is expected to begin in September and be completed next summer. All businesses along the corridor between Pleasant Street and the Memorial Bridge will remain open for business during the period. Efforts are being made to minimize disruption to State Street businesses, residents and visitors during this important project. Contact: 766-1416

SUMMER WARNING

Now that the nicer weather has finally arrived and people are enjoying the summer outdoors, the Health Department wants you to understand that Lyme disease is an ever-present threat and can be a very debilitating illness. Surveillance carried out in 2007 showed that 50% of the adult black-legged ticks captured in Rockingham County were carrying the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. In 2008, Rockingham County had the highest incidence of reported Lyme Disease in the state. Lyme disease is often misdiagnosed, and requires weeks of antibiotics to treat. It can also have long-term debilitating effects, even after treatment. For information on prevention, see http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/ld_prevent.htm.

SUMMER DANGER

With the hottest days of the summer approaching, Portsmouth Police remind everyone never to leave young children or pets in unattended vehicles, even for a minute. On an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a car—even with the windows rolled down two inches—can reach over 100 degrees within 10 minutes and continue to

climb to over 130 degrees. On a bright, sunny day, even when it's as low as 60° F outside, temperatures can reach life-threatening levels inside a vehicle. To report a child or pet emergency inside a vehicle, call 911 or directly dial Police Dispatch at 436-2145.

RESUME WORKSHOP

The Library will host a resume workshop next Monday, Aug. 10, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Levenson Room. The public is invited to come learn the latest and most effective resume-writing techniques, as well as receive professional advice about individual resume challenges. Attendees are welcome to bring an old resume that needs updating or a current one that needs to attract more attention. The workshop will be presented by local career counselor and coach Andrea St. Jean. Contact: 427-1540.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

It's not too early to consider making a donation to our annual back to school drive. Last year the Welfare Department assisted approximately 75 students with their back-to-school needs. Considering recent economic pressures, we are anticipating a greater number of requests for assistance for school-related supplies this year. All school supplies or gift cards are welcome. Especially needed are backpacks, new or gently used. Drop off donations at the Welfare Department in City Hall Room 204. Contact: etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com or 610-7267.

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Parents of new students should make an appointment at the appropriate school to register their children for the 2009-2010 school year. Registration is Aug. 19 at New Franklin School, and on Aug. 27 at Dondero, Little Harbour, and the Middle and High Schools. The hours are 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and noon to 2 p.m. 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 2009-2010 school calendar, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/school.

DELAYED OPENINGS

Portsmouth schools will have nine scheduled delayed openings during the 2009- 2010 school year. On every third Wednesday, September through May, students will come to school two hours late according to the established delayed opening schedule in each school. Teachers will be using this time for focused professional development to better meet the needs of all students and increase student learning. Additional information is posted at: <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/>.

POOL CLOSINGS

Peirce Island Pool will be closing at 4 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, August 6) due to a road race in the area. The Indoor Pool will be closed Aug. 17-30 for its annual maintenance, reopening Aug. 31. The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool closes for the season Sunday, Aug. 30. More info on the Peirce Island Pool can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm. Contact: 427-0717.

FALL/WINTER REC PROGRAMS

The brochure detailing the upcoming fall and winter Recreation Department programs will be out by Monday, Aug. 17. It also will include the dates to register for the Rec Department's various adult day trips. The brochure will be available at all Rec facilities, as well as online on the Rec Department's page at www.CityofPortsmouth.com.

FALL PHS SPORTS

Portsmouth High School fall sports tryouts and practices begin in less than two weeks on Aug. 17. The schedule can be found by clicking on the "Portsmouth High School 2009-2010 Fall Tryout Information" link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

HOLIDAY PARADE THEME

It may be only August, but the City already is planning the 2009 Illuminated Holiday Parade. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, beginning at 6 p.m. Mayor Tom Ferrini has chosen the theme of "A Portsmouth Christmas." As many as 8,000 people are expected to line the 1.1-mile route. Holiday Parade

application forms will be available by Oct. 1 at www.CityofPortsmouth.com or can be requested by e-mailing Parade@CityofPortsmouth.com or by calling 610-7281.

MEMORIAL TREE PLANTED

The City of Portsmouth and the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Trees & Public Greenery have planted a Concolor Fir near the flagpole at City Hall in memory of former Mayor Evelyn Sirrell, who died May 8 at the age of 78 after a period of declining health. She was responsible for creation of the Trees & Greenery Committee. Prior to her retirement in December 2005, Sirrell served eight years as Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, two as Assistant Mayor, and an additional four years as a City Councilor.

DOGS ON THE ISLAND

"The Big Dog Show," a free traveling exhibit of 20 larger-than-life metal dog sculptures, will be on display on Peirce Island beginning next Thursday (Aug. 13) through the following Tuesday (Aug. 18). The sculptures will be set up on the grassy area near the boat launch parking lot. Award-winning metal sculptor Dale Rodgers is taking his exhibit on a six-week tour of New England. For information, see www.thebigdogshow.com.

"READING BUG" EVENTS

The Library's summer reading program is drawing to a close but there are still a few more fun events scheduled. All events are free to Portsmouth Library cardholders. Some talented local teen musicians will present an acoustic showcase at 7 p.m. tonight (Wednesday, Aug. 5) in the Library's courtyard (inside if it rains). There will be a recycled fashions workshop for teens from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. tomorrow (Aug. 6). Next Wednesday (Aug. 12), there will be a program on learning Baby Sign Language to communicate with babies up to 2-years-old even if they're physically unable to form words yet. The session is from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. The reading program's complete schedule is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/summerreading2.pdf. Contact: 766-1740.

JOIN THE CARBON CHALLENGE

Join the thousands of households in Portsmouth, the state and New England who already have taken the NH Carbon Challenge so you can begin reducing your energy costs now. Simply 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. Portsmouth and Keene have challenged each other to see which city is able to inspire the most residents to take the quick survey and learn how to save energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10,000 pounds annually without huge lifestyle changes. Contact: 610-7215.

ROADWORK

Final paving is planned for Gates, Washington (Hancock-Pleasant), Hancock, and Howard Streets over the next two weeks, and paving and re-striping of State Street between Middle and Church Streets is scheduled, along with the final paving on Aviation Drive. Crosswalks and pavement striping are planned for Woodbury Avenue, as well. Drainage and paving work is scheduled to begin on Shaw Road. The brick sidewalks on Gates and Washington Streets are scheduled for completion, as are the brick sidewalks on Middle Street. Phase 2 of the Raleigh Way Streetscape Project continues with water line installation between Saratoga Way and Kearsarge Way. 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

Mark Your Calendar....

Portsmouth High School freshman orientation is Aug. 27, Portsmouth schools reopen for teachers on Aug. 31, for students in Grades 1-12 on Tuesday, Sept. 1, and Tuesday, Sept. 8, for kindergarten. The School Department's Central Office will revert to its normal hours of 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, as of Monday, Aug. 31.

Did you know...

You can save electricity by taking steps to cool your house without air conditioning. Ceiling fans use only about as much electricity as a light bulb—or 2 percent of the amount of electricity of a central air system. You can cover south-facing windows with light-colored shades or blinds to reduce solar heat gain. If it's cooler than 80 degrees outside, try opening a window at the highest point of your house and another on the shady side of the

ground floor to create a natural air flow through your house. To learn about the City of Portsmouth's sustainability initiatives, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/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, 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.

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 local government cable Channel 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com.