

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

### **MAINE-NH BRIDGES MEETING**

There will be a second public informational meeting tomorrow (Thursday, Aug. 20) for the Maine-NH Connections Study, which will evaluate issues affecting the three existing bridges between Portsmouth and Kittery as well as identify long-term multimodal needs. The 6 p.m. meeting in the Library's Levenson Room is co-sponsored by the Maine and New Hampshire Departments of Transportation. It will be preceded by an open house from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. that will feature a display and summary of baseline data collected thus far. The study's draft Purpose and Need statement will be posted at [www.maineconnections.org](http://www.maineconnections.org) prior to the meeting. To receive regular updates on the study, contact (207) 329-6502 or by e-mail to [cmorris@morriscomm.net](mailto:cmorris@morriscomm.net).

### **WI-FI SPOTS**

If you want to know where the strongest, and weakest, spots are for the City's free wireless Internet access downtown, there's now a map available at <http://bit.ly/13haNI>. High school students working with the University of New Hampshire InterOperability Laboratory (IOL) and City staff recently tested signal strength at various locations to put together the map. The City has worked with a number of partners, including the Chamber of Commerce, BayRing Communications, Port City Web and SingleDigits, to expand the free wireless access with help from a \$350,000 donation of equipment from Cisco Systems. Contact: 610-7255.

### **COMPUTER CLASSES**

The Library has expanded its free computer class offerings to include beginner classes on Internet and Microsoft Word. Like the Computer Basics class and the Email class already offered, the new classes are onetime workshops that can be repeated if necessary. Each class can accommodate up to 8 students, and each student is guaranteed use of a computer. Visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm) to see the schedule or to learn more. Pre-registration is required. Call 766-1720.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED**

With schools reopening in less than two weeks, some Portsmouth residents still need assistance in obtaining back-to-school supplies and clothing. In just two days this week, the Welfare Department has worked with 40 needy students. The Department is in need of more donations of new school supplies (markers, paper, notebooks, etc.) and backpacks (new or gently used). Calculators and plastic pencil sharpeners are especially needed. 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@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:etully@cityofportsmouth.com) or 610-7267.

### **ELECTION FILING PERIOD**

The filing period for candidates for the Nov. 3 Municipal Election opens Tuesday, Sept. 1, and continues until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15. Candidates for City Council, the Police and Fire Commissions, and five seats on the School Board must file their intent to be candidates at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall Room 218 during that period. Candidates for ward offices should contact the City Clerk's Office for more info. The Nov. 3 polling hours will be 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Ward 4 voting will return to Dondero School for the Municipal Election. Contact: 610-7245.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL**

Portsmouth High School freshman orientation is next Thursday (Aug. 27) at 8:30 a.m. The first day of school for Portsmouth Public School students in Grades 1-12 is Tuesday, Sept. 1. Schools are closed Friday, Sept. 4, and Monday, Sept. 7, for the Labor Day holiday. The first full day of kindergarten is Tuesday, September 8. The School Department's Central Office returns to fall hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. as of Monday, Aug. 31. A link to the 2009-2010 school year calendar is at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/school](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school). Contact: 431-5080.

### ***SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS***

The Police Department plans to continue its efforts to apprehend drunk drivers in Portsmouth by conducting a sobriety checkpoint this week, as well as specialized DWI patrols throughout the weekend. The Police Department is forewarning motorists that every effort is being made to apprehend impaired drivers. The Department urges patrons of Seacoast bars and restaurants to act responsibly if they drink alcohol and use designated drivers, cabs or call a friend. Contact: 427-1500.

### ***POLICE & FIRE STATS***

The City's emergency communications center dispatches about 45,000 Police, Fire, ambulance and Public Works calls annually. The Police Department received 38,509 calls for service and there were 1,447 arrests last year while the number of vehicle accidents with property damage decreased 4% to 1,173 and alcohol-related accidents were down by 16%. Meanwhile, the number of Fire Department calls increased in Fiscal Year 2009 that ended June 30 (from 2,287 to 2,535) while the total number of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls inched up from 2,338 to 2,447. To learn more facts about your city government, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm).

### ***NEW DEPUTY CHIEF***

The Police Department has a new deputy chief to work with new Chief David "Lou" Ferland. Captain Stephen Dubois, a New Hampshire native with over 18 years of law enforcement experience primarily in the patrol and detective divisions, recently was promoted to Deputy Chief by the Police Commission. Dubois is a recent graduate of the FBI National Academy, commander of the Seacoast Emergency Response Team and Commander of Operations for the Field Training Officer Program. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and is president of the NH Police Association.

### ***PUBLIC POOL INFO***

The Indoor Pool is closed for maintenance this week and next, and the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool closes for the season Sunday, Aug. 30. The Indoor Pool reopens Monday (Aug. 31) and will remain on summer hours through Friday, Sept. 4, and then be closed for the Labor Day weekend, reopening with its fall/winter/spring schedule on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Registration for mid-September to mid-October swim lessons opens Aug. 31, beginning at 5:30 a.m., for Portsmouth residents. Non-resident registration opens Sept. 8. Contact: 427-1546.

### ***FAMILY OUTING IDEAS***

Looking for ideas for a family outing before summer ends? Why not borrow one of the Library's museum passes to get free or discounted admission? There are passes for the Children's Museum of NH, Seacoast Science Center, Strawbery Banke, Warner House (through mid-October), Currier Museum of Art, NH Historical Society & Museum of NH History, Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium (after Labor Day), Peabody Essex Museum, Children's Museum of Maine, and the Portland Museum of Art. Reserve a pass by calling 766-1720 or stopping by the Library's Reference Department. To learn more, see [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/MuseumPasses.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/MuseumPasses.htm).

### ***LABOR DAY***

City offices, the Library, Schools, Indoor Pool and the Recycling Center will be closed Monday, September 7, for Labor Day. Monday's residential and downtown business district trash collection will be Tuesday. Yard waste normally collected on Monday and Tuesday will be collected the following week, or residents may take it to the Recycling Center. The Library also will be closed Saturday, Sept. 5, for the Labor Day holiday. The Indoor Pool will be closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

### ***ZONING, SITE REVIEW REGS***

The next public hearing on the City's draft revised Zoning Ordinance and draft Site Review Regulations will be Sept. 10 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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). Copies also may be reviewed at the Library, City Clerk's Office and Planning Department. Contact: 610-7290.

### ***LIBRARY SUNDAYS RETURN***

The Library resumes Sunday afternoon hours on Sept. 13. The Library will be open on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the fall and winter. For information on Library hours and services, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/library](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/library) or call 427-1540.

### ***SUNDAY AFTERNOON MUSIC***

The Library is launching a monthly Sunday afternoon music series, beginning on Sept. 13 with a 2 p.m. performance by the identical twin Kossoy Sisters known for their clear, bell-like harmonies. Irene Saletan and Ellen Christenson will perform southern mountain songs, along with other traditional and contemporary songs and some of their own compositions, in the Levenson Room. The duo sang in the first Newport Folk Festival, on the original production of Woody Guthrie's *Bound for Glory* and their version of "I'll Fly Away" was featured in the Coen Brothers' movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*. Contact: 427-1540.

### ***MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT***

Incoming eighth-grader Alex MacNair recently made a presentation to the School Board on the Grade 7 Team Voyager's yearlong IMPACT Sustainability project and how the team incorporated the technology of social networking. Team Voyager used a team-wide "Ning" Internet site for blogging, photo/video sharing and virtual interactions with peers and students, all while utilizing Internet safety protocols and focusing on digital citizenship. Alex ran training sessions to help his teammates learn to navigate the Ning to spread the "impact" of Team Voyager's yearlong project.

### ***FALL REC PROGRAMS***

The Recreation Department has planned a full slate of new youth and adult programs for fall. Pick up a brochure at any Recreation Department facility or view it online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm). It includes schedules for fall sports, adult trips, the Indoor Pool, Spinnaker Point Adult Center and the Connie Bean Community Center. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***FALL SOCCER***

Registration for grades K-4 youth soccer is Aug. 31 through Sept. 4 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Greenleaf Recreation Center. There will be separate divisions for boys and girls. Volunteer coaches are always needed. Games will be played Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning at 4 p.m., and Saturdays beginning at 9 a.m. Resident cost is \$30 for shirt, socks and shin guards. Eligible non-resident cost is \$50. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***FALL GOLF***

Adult golf lessons sponsored through the Rec Department begin Sept. 10 at Pease Golf Course. Get rid of your bad swing or learn how to play for the first time. Lessons are 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays and the fee is \$120 for five lessons. Register at Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. Contact: 766-1483.

### ***ROAD CLOSURES***

Chestnut Street will be closed between Congress and Porter Streets from noon on Friday, Sept. 18, to Monday morning, Sept. 21, for the annual Telluride by the Sea Weekend Celebration of Film at the Music Hall. Also, several downtown streets will be closed for part of the day on Sunday, Sept. 20, for the Portsmouth Criterium high-speed bicycle race. Portsmouth Police will list all street closures on [www.CityofPortsmouth.com](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com) a few days before the event but for race information, see [www.Portsouthcrit.com](http://www.Portsouthcrit.com).

### ***TAKEN THE CARBON CHALLENGE YET?***

Help Portsmouth show Keene that "it all begins in Portsmouth" when it comes to sustainability. 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](http://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.

## **BOARD VACANCIES**

There are a number of openings for volunteers on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. For a list of the openings, the duties of the boards and commissions, and how to apply, visit [www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm).

## **ROADWORK**

Paving is planned over the next two weeks on Gates, Hancock, Washington (Hancock to Pleasant) and Howard Streets, as well as State Street and Aviation Drive. Sewer line replacement will continue on Raleigh Way between Saratoga and Ranger 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](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm). Contact: 766-1412.

## **Did you know...**

The Portsmouth Alternative Secondary School, located in the former Sherburne Elementary School building, has been renamed the Robert J. Lister Academy in honor of recently retired Bob Lister, who spent 33 years with the Portsmouth School District. Dr. Lister was the founder of the PASS Program, a project-based differentiated curriculum to ensure success for all students that literally has helped thousands of students remain in school and receive their diplomas. The former special education teacher and superintendent retired at the end of the last school year.

**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](http://www.CityofPortsmouth.com), or the Meetings Calendar at [www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2009/index.htm](http://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](http://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. As of Aug. 31, the Central Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 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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