

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*

JBC APPLICATION DEADLINE

Residents interested in applying for the two Public Member openings on the Joint Building Committee (JBC) for the new Portsmouth Middle School must complete a “Boards and Commissions Appointment Application” and return it to the City Clerk’s Office by 4:30 p.m. next Wednesday (Sept. 9). Mayor Tom Ferrini and School Board Chairman Mitch Shuldman said they hoped the Public Members would have an architectural, construction or engineering background, and requested a resume or curriculum vitae be submitted with the application, which is available in the City Hall lobby, at the City Clerk’s Office and at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/BoardsandCommissionsApplication.pdf. The JBC will be comprised of three members each from the City Council and School Board, a Library representative, and the two Public Members. 610-7245.

EEE WARNING

EEE, or Eastern Equine Encephalitis, has been found in several Rockingham County locations. The Health Department reminds everyone that it’s important to protect against this rare, but dangerous, viral illness contracted from the bite of an infected mosquito. Wear insect repellent, keep window screens in good condition, and drain standing water from potential mosquito breeding areas such as outside containers and unmaintained swimming areas. This also protects against West Nile Virus. Although the City has routine mosquito control measures in place each summer, additional measures have been taken following the discovery of EEE elsewhere in NH. They include additional spraying and posted warnings at parks and playgrounds. To learn how to protect your home, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/eee.htm. Report unmaintained pools to the Health Department at 610-7273.

LABOR DAY

City offices, the Library, Schools, Indoor Pool and the Recycling Center are closed next 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. For Recycling Center hours, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-rc.htm.

SAGAMORE BRIDGE LIMIT

Due to deterioration of the Route 1A bridge spanning Sagamore Creek, the City has now banned vehicles over six tons from crossing the structure. Passenger cars, SUVs, van-type school buses, pickup trucks, and ambulances and rescue vehicles with gross weights up to the 6-ton limit are still permitted. Click on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/maps/index.html to see recommended alternative routes for heavier vehicles. The City is working with its consultants and the NH Department of Transportation to evaluate whether to accelerate replacement of the bridge, which was built in 1941 and repaired in 1984, and also consider repair alternatives for the interim. Contact: 427-1530.

ELECTION FILING PERIOD

If you want to run for elected office in the City of Portsmouth, you have until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15, to advise the City Clerk’s Office of your intent to be a candidate for City Council (9 positions), the Police and Fire Commissions (2 each), and the School Board (5). To learn more, including necessary qualifications, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/filing.htm. Candidates for ward offices should contact the City Clerk’s Office in City Hall Room 218 or call 610-7245 for more info. The Nov. 3 polling hours will be 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Ward 4 voting will return to Dondero School. Contact: 610-7245.

BARTLETT STREET PROJECT MEETING

There will be a Sept. 10 public information meeting to kick off the yearlong Bartlett Street Sewer Separation Project including water, sewer, drainage and minor streetscape upgrades on Bartlett Street, Islington Street and

Jewell Court. Representatives from the City, the contractor and engineering firm will provide an overview and present a preliminary schedule for the \$4 million project, which is anticipated to begin in October. Area residents and businesses are urged to attend the 7 p.m. meeting in City Hall Conference Room A to learn more about the project. Contact: 766-1416.

ZONING, SITE REVIEW HEARING

There will be another public hearing Sept. 10 on the City's draft revised Zoning Ordinance and draft Site Review Regulations. The hearing, which begins at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers, also will be televised live on Channel 22. The draft land use regulations may be viewed 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.

STATE STREET PROJECT MEETING

A public information meeting is scheduled Sept. 16 on the \$3.7 million State Street Utilities Upgrade and Roadway Improvement Project scheduled to begin soon. The 7 p.m. meeting in City Hall Conference Room A will discuss the project designed to replace and separate the aging combined sewer and water pipes while improving the safety and the appearance of the corridor. The State Street Project, which the State of New Hampshire ranked as the No. 1 federal stimulus project for wastewater funding, is expected to begin at the end of September and be completed next fall. All businesses along the corridor between Pleasant Street and the Memorial Bridge will remain open for business during the period. Contact: 766-1416.

NEW POLICE CAPTAINS

The Police Commission recently promoted two lieutenants, Corey MacDonald and Mike Schwartz, to captain. MacDonald is a Portsmouth native who started with the PD as a cadet at the age of 14, was hired as an auxiliary officer and then a full-time officer in 1999. He has a law degree and has held several Police Department positions, including serving in the Patrol and Bureau of Investigative Services divisions, as well as two years as City Prosecutor/Assistant City Attorney. Schwartz is a 19-year veteran of the Department and holds a master's degree in management. He also has diverse experience within the department, has extensive training in investigating abuse of children and elders, and managed several initiatives to combat underage drinking while supervising the Family Services Division.

NEW SENIOR APARTMENTS

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held this week to mark the completion of the conversion of the former Lafayette School into 10 apartments that will be rented to seniors age 62 and older who earn less than 60% of median family income. The City and the Portsmouth Housing Authority have worked in partnership on the \$2.6 million project funded in part with Low Income Housing Tax Credits, as well as federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Federal Home Loan Bank funds. Original building features preserved in the renovation include the exterior, a rooftop World War II-era air raid siren, and interior stairwells. The City also is in the process of completing improvements at the adjacent park. Contact: 610-7226.

ART-SPEAK GRANT

Art-Speak, the City's Cultural Commission, has been awarded a \$6,900 grant from the NH State Council on the Arts to establish a program at Portsmouth Middle School to expose students to potential careers in the arts. The program will be known as *ArtWorks* and will seek to enrich students' knowledge of careers in the arts by creating partnerships between the school district, locally run businesses, and locally based artists contributing to the area's creative economy. The program will focus on eighth-graders, since this age group is beginning to form ideas and make decisions about potential career paths. Contact: 610-7222.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The fall Portsmouth Community Education brochure, offering a wide variety of fun and reasonably priced classes, including new offerings ranging from introduction to the American legal system and speedy Sudoku to how to relax during the holidays and learning beyond the basics of selling on e-Bay, can be found at http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/PortsAdultEd_Fall2009.pdf.

SUPPLIES STILL NEEDED

Even though schools have reopened, some Portsmouth residents still need assistance in obtaining back-to-school supplies and clothing. The Welfare Department is 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@cityofportsmouth.com or 610-7267.

HOMEWORK HELP

Does your child need to do research for a homework assignment? The Library has some hints on how to get started at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-hh.htm. You can also e-mail and call the Library, visit in person and/or make an appointment with a reference librarian to get help. Contact information can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/ask.htm.

DELAYED OPENING

Wednesday, Sept. 16, is the first of nine scheduled Portsmouth Public School 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>.

SOCCER FOR KIDS, ADULTS

The Rec Department has co-ed soccer programs for kids and adults this fall at Leary Field. Registration for the K-4 program ends Friday (Sept. 4). Sign up between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Greenleaf Rec Center. Cost is \$30 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. Tuesday night pick-up games for adults 18 and older resume Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and go through the end of October. Bring shin guards and water. Recreation players only. No scores are kept. Contact: 766-1483.

SWIM LESSONS

Registration is underway for a wide variety of fall swim lessons beginning in mid-September at the Indoor Pool. Call the pool at 427-1545 for details or click on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm.

PHS SPORTS

A link to the Portsmouth High fall sports schedule is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

If you missed the City of Portsmouth's inaugural Sustainability Newsletter, which was mailed or inserted into the local newspaper for every household in Portsmouth last month, you can find the four-page edition online by clicking on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability/timeline.htm. The newsletter was designed to highlight the City's sustainability initiatives, as well as provide residents with ideas on how to incorporate the principles of sustainability in their own lives – and save money. It includes advice on how to make your gardening and eating more sustainable, information on a nearby hiking trail, book suggestions, tips on how to get rid of unwanted catalogues, and even a sustainability self-test. Contact: 610-7215.

FLUSHING MAINS

The Water Department begins its fall program of flushing mains later this month on Sept. 21. You should let your water run clear if you see Water Department trucks in the neighborhood between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday.

LIBRARY SUNDAYS RESUME

As of next Sunday (Sept. 13), the Library will be open again on Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. until next summer. For information on all Library hours and services, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library or call 427-1540.

LIBRARY MUSIC

Pay a visit to the Library next Sunday afternoon (Sept. 13) at 2 p.m. and be treated with the first of six performances in the new monthly Sunday afternoon “Music from the Traditions” series in the Levenson Room. The Kossoy Sisters will perform southern mountain songs, along with other traditional and contemporary songs and some of their own compositions. Known for their clear, bell-like harmonies, this duo’s version of “I’ll Fly Away” was featured in the Coen Brothers’ movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* They also performed at the first Newport Folk Festival. Contact: 427-1540.

TALK BOOKS

After a brief summer break, the Library’s Adult Book Discussion Group resumes Sept. 14 with a discussion of C.E. Morgan’s “All the Living” at 7 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Room. A month beforehand, the Library supplies a copy of the book to any Library member interested in attending its Book Discussion Group. The discussions are informally facilitated and all opinions are welcome. To encourage a more lively discussion, people are encouraged to read the book beforehand. Light refreshments are available. The group will discuss “Olive Kitteridge” on Oct. 19 and “Telex from Cuba” on Nov. 9, will be on hiatus in December and January, and resume meeting from February through June. Contact: 427-1540.

PORTSMOUTH CRITERIUM

World class bicyclists will compete in the high-speed Portsmouth Criterium race through downtown Portsmouth on Sunday, Sept. 20, requiring the closure of several downtown streets. The High-Hanover Parking Facility will offer a flat rate of \$3 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Police will list street closures on www.CityofPortsmouth.com a few days before the event. For more information about the race, go to www.Portsmouthcrit.com.

FALL REC FUN

There are still some openings for adult day trips. To see all the City’s latest offerings of classes, leagues, trips, the Indoor Pool and other recreation opportunities for children and adults, pick up the new fall brochure at any Rec Department facility or view it online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. Also, Spinnaker Point Rec Center is gearing up for another season of programs and adult classes. Call 766-1483 to see what is being offered or check www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm.

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.

SAVE MONEY, CUT CARBON

It’s easy to do – just fill out the online survey at www.nhcarbonchallenge.org to learn how to save an average \$800 annually on your energy bills. Gather your current bills, or estimate them, to see how you can save money. 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 cut energy use 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.

ROADWORK

The Shaw Road reconstruction project is continuing with paving planned over the next two weeks. No major traffic interruptions are anticipated. The Raleigh Way Reconstruction continues with fine grading, paving, and granite curb installation during this time period. Normal traffic patterns have been maintained during this project. Anyone with questions can contact Tom Richter at 766-1412. City work projects may cause temporary traffic delays during work hours. Weather and other factors can cause work delays. Info on all City road projects can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm.

Did you know...

The Health Department conducted approximately 372 food service inspections, reinspections and consultations in Fiscal Year 2009. In addition, the Department responded to 17 public health calls, 2 West Nile Virus/EEE calls, 25 complaints, and 55 walkthroughs for new food service facilities. The City's Health Officer and its Health Inspector are responsible for regulating and inspecting over 250 food establishments, as well as temporary food events such as weekend festivals and the Farmers' Market, in-home daycares, daycare centers, residential care facilities and nursery schools. To learn more about all the City's departments, take a look at the FY2009 Annual Report at www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/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 CALENDARS: The School Department's Activities Calendar for all schools is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm. The link to the high school athletic calendar is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.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 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. As of Sept. 13, the Library will be open Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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