

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*

COMMERCIAL REVALUATION COMPLETE

The City has completed its revaluation of all commercial, industrial, mixed-use, and apartment buildings with four or more units. Notices with a preliminary assessment are being mailed to each commercial property owner. The list of preliminary values, along with a list of sales, is at www.cityofportsmouth.com. The revaluation found approximately 60 percent of the commercial assessments declined in value while the remaining properties increased. The reappraisal of residential properties should be completed in August. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/assessor or call 610-7249.

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

City offices, schools, the Connie Bean Center, Indoor Pool and the Library are closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day. The Library is also closed on Saturday and Sunday (May 29 and May 30). The Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Memorial Day. There will be no collection of trash, yard waste or recyclables, and the Recycling Center is always closed on Monday. The Monday curbside trash and recyclables collection will be combined with Tuesday pickup, including the downtown district pickup Tuesday evening. There will be no yard waste collection on Tuesday, June 1.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

Friday morning (May 28), the Middle School Band will participate in the Central Veterans Council's "Symbolic Burial at Sea" service at Prescott Park at 10 a.m. On Memorial Day, the Portsmouth High School Brass Ensemble will participate in the Albacore Memorial Day Service at Albacore Park at 10 a.m. The Portsmouth Middle School Grade 7/8 Band and the PHS Clipper Band will march in the annual Memorial Day parade and perform at the South Cemetery ceremonies later in the day.

MEMORIAL DAY STREET CLOSURES

There will be rolling street closures Monday (May 31) as the Memorial Day parade passes. The parade sponsored by the Central Veterans Council begins at 1 p.m. at the corner of Junkins and Parrott Streets and ends at the South Street Cemetery. The street closures will be from Junkins to Pleasant, Pleasant through Market Square to Middle Street to Richards Avenue and then into the South Street Cemetery.

OVERNIGHT ART

Six pieces of outdoor public art by local artists will be installed over a two-week period beginning next Tuesday (June 1) as part of the "Overnight Art" exhibit sponsored by Art-Speak, the City's Cultural Commission. The exhibit, which has a theme of "bridges," will continue through October 10 at various Portsmouth locations. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/overnightart.htm.

RIBBON-CUTTING AT NEW PARK

A brief ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled Tuesday, June 8 at 4 p.m. to mark the official opening of the City's new waterfront park at the corner of Bow and Ceres Streets, which was once the site of the City's Spring Market and later home to the ferry providing passage to Kittery. The ceremony begins at 4 p.m. The small park is adjacent to several waterfront restaurants and the tugboats. The City also has rebuilt the municipally owned portion of Ceres Street and the Market Street sidewalks from Bow Street to the Ceres Street/Deer Street intersection. Most of the funding came from a \$1 million federal grant.

NEW FIRE STATION

The City's new Fire Station 2 is now operating at the corner of Lafayette and Ocean Roads and an open house is planned June 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the public to visit the \$4.2 million, energy-efficient facility. The new station replaces a 42-year-old station, also along Lafayette Road.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Portsmouth Middle School Joint Building Committee has approved a final “green” design for the \$37.5 million renovation of the 80-year-old Middle School. A three-story addition will be connected to the older portion of the building by a window-lined “Student Commons.” Scheduled for completion by September 2013, the project was designed to be environmentally sensitive and energy-efficient.

SEACOAST EVACUATION PLANNING PROJECT

The Fire Department is leading the effort to develop a Seacoast plan for community evacuation and emergency response to hurricanes, major snow and ice storms, train derailments and other hazardous situations. A planning meeting with representatives from mobility, social service and community organizations is scheduled Tuesday, June 8, at 6 p.m. at the Portsmouth High School Little Theatre Auditorium. The goal is to identify people who may need extra help evacuating during an emergency and to create an ongoing community dialogue regarding the diverse communication, mobility and security needs and resources of Seacoast municipalities in the event of the need for evacuation. The project is supported by federal Homeland Security funds. Contact: 610-7353.

MOBILE-FRIENDLY LIBRARY

The Library has a new mobile device-friendly version of its website available that includes a select number of pages optimized for reading on a mobile device such as an iPhone or a Blackberry. The web address for the mobile home page is www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/mobile.htm. You can also get there from any page on the regular website by clicking on the link found below the picture of the courtyard on the left-hand side. Contact: 427-1540.

TREE CITY HONORS

Portsmouth has been named a Tree City USA® community for the 11th year of national recognition. The Tree City program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. Every year since 2003, the City and the Blue Ribbon Committee on Trees and Public Greenery have put out a call to the public for suggested locations that could benefit from the planting of a street tree. A total of 223 trees have been planted under this program and additional trees will be planted this year.

NON-RESIDENT SPINNAKER MEMBERSHIPS

For the first time, Spinnaker Point Recreation Center is offering a limited number of memberships to non-residents who work in Portsmouth or own property in the city. Memberships expire in December and the current, pro-rated fee is \$224 for non-residents and \$112 for residents. Spinnaker Point offers an indoor pool, hot tub, steam room, sauna, full-size basketball court, running track, locker rooms with showers, cardio equipment, weight room, aerobics room, fitness and yoga classes, and more. Call 766-1483 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-8.htm.

RECYCLED ART EXHIBIT

In connection with the recent Portsmouth Sustainability Fair, the Library is hosting a display of art made from recycled materials this month. Local artists submitted works to the Portsmouth Sustainability Initiative “meant to challenge us to think about what we throw away every day and to encourage us to see beauty and possibility in everyday objects.” The exhibit ends Friday. To see photos, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library.

MORE PAY & DISPLAY

Two new Pay & Display meters have been installed on Daniel Street between Chapel and Penhallow Streets. All parking spaces in front of the McIntyre Federal Building are now limited to 2-hour parking. The three 15-minute metered spaces that were in front of the Federal Building have been moved to the area in front of the 126 Daniel Street (Old City Hall) and one space was added. There are now four 15-minute metered spaces for customer use on Daniel Street. Contact: 766-1440.

DOG DEADLINE FRIDAY

You have until 4:30 p.m. Friday (May 28) to renew your dog’s license at the City Clerk’s Office or face a late fee of \$1 assessed against each dog license as of Tuesday, June 1. There also could be a civil forfeiture fine of \$25 and a Portsmouth District Court summons if you do not respond within 15 days. Contact: 610-7207.

TUESDAY ELECTION DEADLINE

Next Tuesday (June 1) is the deadline for registered voters to change or declare a party affiliation for the September 14 State Primary election by going to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Also, the Board of Registrars will meet Tuesday (June 1) from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in City Hall Room 211 to accept changes to party registration, and additions and corrections to the checklist. The filing period for all offices for the September Primary is June 2-June 11. The City Clerk's Office will accept filings for State Representative and Republican Delegates only. All other filings are handled by the Secretary of State in Concord. Candidates must designate a fiscal agent. Contact: 610-7245.

ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS

Property tax payments due Tuesday (June 1) can be paid online by going to www.cityofportsmouth.com and selecting the "online bill payment" link. Payments may be made by credit card, debit card and electronic check (ACH) payments. Due to VISA regulations, VISA credit cards can be used for property tax payments but not for water/sewer bills or parking fines. There is a convenience fee for online payment. The fee is retained by the online payment processor to offset charges due to the credit card companies. No fees are forwarded to the City of Portsmouth, which also does not retain credit card or bank information.

SUMMER REC REGISTRATION

Registration for summer Recreation Department camps and sports programs (other than the pool) opens Tuesday (June 1) from 5-8 p.m. and continues during the same hours through Friday at the Greenleaf Recreation Center. Summer program information is in the brochure available at all Rec Department facilities and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. Also, the Connie Bean Rec Center will be closing for the season for after-school basketball play on Friday (May 28).

PEIRCE ISLAND SWIM LESSONS

Free morning swim lessons will be available to Portsmouth children at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool again this year. Evening lessons will have a fee. Registration for Session One (June 28-July 23) opens Wednesday (June 2) at 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Indoor Pool next to Portsmouth High and continues daily during pool hours until classes are filled. Registration for non-residents opens at 8:30 a.m. June 7. Fees range from \$50 to \$60, depending on the number of lessons. For the registration policy and program details, including what to bring, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1546. The full schedule will be available Friday (May 28) at the Indoor Pool and at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/outdoor.htm.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT

The Portsmouth Middle School spring concert is next Wednesday, June 2, and will feature the Grade 6 Band and Chorus, as well as the Grades 7/8 Band and Chorus. The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Portsmouth High School Auditorium.

SUMMER CINEMA

The Library is hosting a "Summer Cinema" series of free movies with state-of-the-art equipment in the air-conditioned Levenson Room on a number of Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. The series begins next Thursday (June 3) with the R-rated comedy "It's Complicated" starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin. The next film will be "Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans" starring Nicolas Cage and scheduled June 17. Contact: 427-1540.

GRADUATIONS

The Robert J. Lister Academy graduation is next Friday, June 4, at 10:30 a.m. Portsmouth High School graduation is Friday, June 11, at 5:30 p.m. Middle School graduation is Thursday, June 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Portsmouth High School.

DULCIMER CONCERT

Matthew Abelson, an accomplished and innovative hammered dulcimer player, will visit the Library Saturday, June 12, to close out the "Music from the Traditions" Sunday afternoon series. Beginning at 2 p.m., Abelson will perform a variety of music from American roots to traditional Irish tunes to classical to Renaissance and Jazz in the Levenson Room. His performances are multi-faceted, weaving together humorous anecdotes, poetry

and dramatic stories. This will be the final concert in the library's Sunday afternoon music series. Contact: 427-1540.

POLICE ADVICE

During the prom and graduation season younger drivers are often distracted. Please take a moment to remind young drivers that NH law requires drivers and passengers under 18 to wear seatbelts. Using funding from the NH Highway Safety Agency, Portsmouth Police plan a traffic safety initiative focusing on seatbelt enforcement, speeding and DWI patrols.

STREET CLOSURES (2 items)

Ceres Street will be closed from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. next Saturday (June 5) for the Piscataqua Waterfront Festival. Also, much of downtown Portsmouth will be vehicle-free and pedestrian-friendly the following Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. for Market Square Day.

ROADWORK

There will continue to be periodic temporary outbound traffic detours along Market Street traffic between Deer and Hanover Streets as crews work to make drainage improvements. Pedestrian traffic and access to all businesses will be maintained. Also, updates on the State Street Reconstruction Project are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/9.htm and the latest info on the Bartlett and Islington Area Sewer Improvements project can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/6.htm. Contact: 766-1411.

BOARD VACANCIES

The most recent list of openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.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/2010/index.htm.

SCHOOL CALENDARS: The School Department's Activities Calendar for all schools is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/allschoolactivitiescalendar.htm. A link to the Portsmouth High sports schedule 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.

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.