

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*

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE -- TONIGHT

The public is invited to preview the detailed design of the new Middle School, learn about the “phasing plan” for students and faculty during construction, and receive an update on the site logistics tonight (Wednesday, July 21) at 6:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers at City Hall. The session also will be broadcast live on Channel 22 and available afterward in the “webcast archives” at www.CityofPortsmouth.com. The PMS Joint Building Committee also has launched a web page to keep the public informed at www.cityofportsmouth.com/newmiddleschool.

DOWNTOWN INTERSECTION WORK

Work crews have begun installing utility lines at the intersection of Pleasant and State Streets, which is likely to affect traffic patterns and possibly cause travel delays at the busy downtown junction during work hours for several weeks. The City’s contractor is installing water, sewer and drain lines within the intersection as part of the State Street Utilities Upgrade & Roadway Improvements project. It is expected that traffic patterns may shift, or be temporarily detoured, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Access to businesses and residences will be maintained, however. Normal travel patterns will resume at the end of each workday. Contact: 766-1416.

WATER CARNIVAL

Portsmouth children are invited to the City’s 13th Annual Water Carnival at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool next Wednesday, July 28. There will be games and aquatic activities for children of all ages, as well as some 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 29. 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 the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-0717.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

At least 22 Portsmouth neighborhoods will join thousands of communities nationwide in celebrating “National Night Out” on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 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 Captain Mike Schwartz, schwartzm@cityofportsmouth.com, or 610-7510. Participating neighborhoods are listed below:

Atlantic Heights; Aldrich/Thaxter; Cedars; Christian Shore Creek; Cliff Road/Walker Bungalow; Elwyn Park; Feaster Apartments; Frank Jones; Gosling Meadows; Islington Creek; Lafayette Road Residents Association; Margeson Apartments; Meadowbrook Park (Larry Lane); Osprey Landing; Richards Ave.; Rogers Street; Sherburne Civic; Friends of the South End; Spinnaker Point; WAHOO/Wibird; Wamesit and The Woodlands.

PARKING GARAGE STAIRWAY CLOSURE

The Hanover Street stair tower in the High-Hanover Parking Facility will be closed for approximately one month beginning Aug. 2 while crews remove and replace stair treads, risers, and landings. Signs will direct parking patrons to the Ladd Street and High Street stair towers. Contact: Tom Richter, 766-1412.

PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY

Portsmouth has been named a “Preserve America Community,” one of 29 designated in 2010. First Lady Michele Obama sent a designation letter to the city, the only one named in New England this year. The Preserve America Community Program recognizes communities that use their heritage resources to share the myriad benefits of historic preservation with residents and visitors. The program is administered by the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation with assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

SOUTH MEETING HOUSE REFURBISHED

The City recently rededicated the South Meeting House at a ceremony celebrating the refurbishment of the South End landmark that previously housed the Children's Museum. The year-long project included replacement of the roof, clock tower repairs and painting the building, which was originally constructed in 1731 as a parish meeting house and then rebuilt by the City in the mid-1800s. The City Council authorized use of \$205,000 in Urban Development Action Grant funds for the work so that no taxpayer money would be necessary. When work crews uncovered unexpected problems that required repairs, the Friends of the South End contributed about \$2,300 toward the project. The City is now seeking an appropriate tenant for the space.

PD PROMOTIONS

The Police Commission recently voted to promote Detective Sergeant Christian Cummings to the rank of lieutenant and Detectives John Peracchi and Thomas Grella to the rank of sergeant. Cummings, who has been with PPD for 12 years and most recently served as supervisor of the NH Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, will become shift commander in the PPD Patrol Division. Peracchi has been with PPD for 13 years, is the Department's polygraph examiner and recently received the PPD Investigator of the Year Award. Grella is a 20-year veteran, most recently in the Detective Division where he has been one of the primary coordinators for the Citizen Police Academy. The new sergeants also have been assigned to the Patrol Division.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Portsmouth schools reopen in about six weeks – Wednesday, Sept. 1, for students in Grades 1-12 and Tuesday, Sept. 7 for kindergarten – but parents of new students should make an appointment now at the appropriate school to register their children. 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. 16, 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.

"THE LAST STATION"

"The Last Station," based on a novel focusing on the final years of the marriage of Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy (War and Peace) and his wife Sofya, will be shown tomorrow (Thursday, July 22) at 7 p.m. as the concluding film in the Library's Summer Film Series in the air-conditioned Levenson Room. Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren were nominated for Academy Awards for their roles as the couple. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm or contact: 427-1540.

BOA, HDC ARCHIVES

Recordings of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Historic District Commission meetings can now be viewed anytime in the "webcast" archives at www.CityofPortsmouth.com. These meetings also may be viewed live via any computer with access to www.cityofportsmouth.com and via Cable Television Channel 22. BOA meetings are rebroadcast on Sundays at 7 a.m., Tuesdays at noon, and Thursdays at 8 p.m. The Historic District Commission meetings are rebroadcast at noon on Saturdays.

NEW COMPUTER CLASS

The Library will offer a new computer class on PowerPoint next Tuesday, July 27, at 2 p.m. Attendees at the free class will learn how to use design templates for slides; how to add WordArt, clip art and animations; and how to save, view and print a presentation, as well as posting it online for others to view. Prerequisites: a Microsoft Word class – or familiarity with using the keyboard and mouse; highlighting, copying, and pasting text; and using the basic elements of the Windows operating system. To learn about all the Library's computer classes, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm. Call 766-1720 to register.

OUTDOOR POOL INFO

The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool will close at 4 p.m. Thursday, August 5, because of a road race. The pool is open daily until Aug. 29. 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, 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 26) and ends Aug. 20. Registration continues during normal pool hours until classes are filled. For the registration policy and program details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1546.

"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 three Saturday evenings (July 24, July 31 and Aug. 7) 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.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

A Sea Serpent Costume Party and programs on surfing and cartooning are among the fun events scheduled over the next two weeks as part of the Library's "Make a Splash – Read" summer reading program. The entire calendar can be viewed online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/summerreadingprogram2010calendar.pdf or contact: 766-1740.

WRITERS CIRCLE FOR KIDS

Kids ages 10 to 12 are invited to join the Library's Summer Writers' Circle workshop series beginning next Monday, July 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. They'll create unique characters, fascinating places and intriguing plots. In the first half of the workshop morning, the children will learn fun ways to generate story ideas and easy ways to make characters and settings come to life on the page. In the second half of the morning, they'll have a supportive audience for their writing. Space is limited. Open to PPL cardholders. Attendees are expected to sign up for the full series of four workshops. Contact: Kathy Calkins at 436-6307 or the Library at 427-1540.

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.

ROADWORK

Roadwork is scheduled for several City streets over the next two weeks. Barring weather or other issues, crews will be paving Spinney Road, Pinehurst Street, and Lookout Lane on Friday and Fairview Drive on Monday. Paving also is scheduled next week on Thornton Street, Whipple Street, Meredith Way, Clinton Street and Pine Street. Anyone with questions should contact Tom Richter at 766-1412. Meanwhile, crews are working on replacing traffic signals and making improvements at the intersection of South Street and Lafayette Road, including adding a left turn lane on the end of South Street for traffic turning south on Lafayette Road. 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.

Mark Your Calendar...

- The Recreation Department's fall/winter brochure will be available Aug. 16.
- Registration for the Rec Department's fall soccer program for boys and girls in grades K-4 opens Aug. 30.

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 from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 7 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Fridays. 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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