

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*

RAIN BARRELS SHIPMENT

The final shipment of black rain barrels available for discounted purchase by Portsmouth water system customers is scheduled to arrive next week. Interested customers are urged to place orders now if they want black barrels. Blue barrels are available, however. Thus far, over 600 rain barrels have been purchased by Portsmouth system customers, who can order up to two 60-gallon plastic barrels at a reduced price of \$30 each, thanks to a federal grant, by going to www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/ws-barrels.htm. The cost is added to the water bill. Rain barrels can save about 1,300 gallons of water during the summer months.

SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

The Police Department plans to continue its efforts to apprehend drunk drivers in Portsmouth by conducting sobriety checkpoints in coordination with State Police and the State Liquor Commission. The Police Department is forewarning motorists that every effort is being made to apprehend impaired drivers. The Police Department urges patrons of Seacoast bars and restaurants to act responsibly if they drink alcohol and to use designated drivers, cabs or call a friend. Contact: 427-1500.

PINE STREET PARK

Park and playground improvements were recently completed at the Pine Street Park and Playground at the corner of Bartlett and Pine Streets in the Christian Shore neighborhood. The \$85,000 project, funded through the City's Capital Improvement budget, included installation of new accessible pathways, picnic tables, park benches, bike rack, park sign, new playground equipment and improvements to the basketball court. Contact: 610-7226.

SOFTBALL FOR SARAH FUNDRAISER

The Portsmouth Firefighters Charitable Foundation will hold the 1st Annual "Softball for Sarah" fundraiser, Police Dept. vs. Fire Dept. softball game Sunday, August 22, at Alumni Field (next to the Middle School) at 155 Parrott Ave. The game benefitting firefighter Sarah Fox, who has been diagnosed with cancer, begins at 2 p.m. and will include raffle prizes, performances, food/drink vendors, and local celebrities. The requested entry donation is \$7 but kids are free. This is an all-age, alcohol-free family fun event open to the public. First-come seating so bring lawn chairs! Donations will be accepted at the event, or send them in advance to: Portsmouth Firefighters Charitable Association, Attn: Softball for Sarah, Portsmouth Fire Station 1, 170 Court St., Portsmouth, NH 03801. Contact: James Heinz at 427-1551 or jamesheinz140@comcast.net, or Russell Osgood at (207) 451-3052 or russ-osgood@myfairpoint.net.

LINCOLN AREA PROJECT

The City will hold an Aug. 18 public meeting on the Lincoln Area Sewer Separation project, which is in the area bounded by Richards Avenue, Middle and South Streets, and part of the City's long-term plan to separate older combined sewage and stormwater pipes. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room and will discuss the Contract 3A project design and potential impacts associated with construction. The City's staff, consulting engineer and contractor will be available to answer questions. Construction is scheduled to begin in late August to early September, and will include improvements to the sewer lines, drain lines, water mains, roads and curbing. Contact: 766-1416.

ELECTION INFO

Absentee ballots are now available for the September 14 State Primary election. Applications may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm#a-ballots for registered voters unable to get to the polls in person between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day because they will be working, out of town, or request an absentee ballot due to religious observance or physical disability. To be counted, absentee ballots must be returned to the City Clerk's Office in person by 5 p.m. on September 13 or received in the mail by 5 p.m. on Election Day, September 14. The City Clerk's Office will remain open until 5 p.m. on Monday, September 13, to issue and accept absentee ballots.

NEW CHAPLAIN NEEDED

The Police and Fire Departments are inviting pastors and priests serving the Portsmouth area to consider applying for the volunteer position of chaplain for the public safety agencies. A search committee has been formed to find a replacement for Father Angelo Pappas, who is leaving the area. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to: Kathleen Levesque, Portsmouth Police Department, 3 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801, or contact info@pd.cityofportsmouth.com or 610-7423.

LOCAL ARTIST EXHIBIT

Artwork by Portsmouth resident Jane Sydney is on exhibit at the Library through next Saturday, Aug. 14. Sydney travels to the “western deserts frequently and finds the stark beauty of the desert terrain along with the contrasting light plays with her creative muse allowing her to photograph details which might be overlooked at first glance.” To learn more about her art, visit her website at www.janesydney.com. Contact the Library at 427-1540.

POOL CLOSING INFO

Peirce Island Pool will be closing at 4 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, August 5) due to a road race in the area. The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool closes for the season Sunday, Aug. 29. More info on the Peirce Island Pool can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm. Contact: 427-0717.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

It's not too early to consider making a donation to the Welfare Department's annual back to school drive. Last year, the Department assisted approximately 100 students with back-to-school needs. Considering economic pressures, we anticipate 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 now at the appropriate Portsmouth school to register their children for the 2010-2011 school year. Appointments will be scheduled at all schools for Thursday, Aug. 26, between 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 2010-2011 school calendar, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/school.

PHS FALL SPORTS

Portsmouth High School fall sports tryouts and practices begin in less than two weeks on Aug. 16. The schedule can be found by clicking on the “Portsmouth High School Clippers 2010 Fall Athletics” link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm.

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

You can now ask the Library for a personalized list of reading recommendations based on your own reading preferences. Just fill out the form at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/booksforyou.htm and a librarian will send you a list within two weeks. Ever wondered what the Portsmouth librarians are reading? Just visit the “Staff Picks” page at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/staffpicks.htm and click on the photo of a staff member to see a bookmark listing their most recent top picks. You can also print out each bookmark to take with you. Contact: 427-1540.

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, Strawberry 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 online, by calling 766-1720 or stopping by the Library's Reference Department. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/MuseumPasses.htm.

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 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.

KEEP COOL, SUSTAINABLY

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.

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

Due to high demand last month, the Library is offering another free PowerPoint class in August. To get more information about all the free computer classes being offered at the Library this month, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/computerclasses.htm and call 766-1720 to register.

GARAGE STAIRWAY CLOSURE

The refurbishment of one of the four stairway towers in the High-Hanover Parking Facility, which was postponed last month because of a materials delivery delay, has begun and will result in the closure of the tower for approximately one month. The Hanover Street stair tower will be inaccessible to the public during the work period. Signs will direct parking patrons to use the Ladd Street and High Street stair towers instead. The Fleet Street stair tower also will remain open. Contact: 766-1412.

MORE POLICE PROMOTIONS

The Police Department has announced three new promotions. Master Patrol Officer Rich Webb has been promoted to sergeant, and Master Patrol Officers Matt Hester and David Colby were promoted to Detective. Webb, who has been with the Portsmouth Department for 12 of his 15 years as a policeman, has served as a Field Training Officer, member of the Seacoast Emergency Response Team, Advisor to the Explorer Post, and a member of the Crime Scene Investigation Team. Hester is an 18-year law enforcement veteran, joining the Portsmouth force in 1997, and recently was named the Lloyd Tibbetts Officer of the Year. Colby has 17 years of law enforcement experience, 15 in Portsmouth, and earned his law degree last year. Contact: 427-1500.

FALL/WINTER REC PROGRAMS

The brochure detailing the upcoming fall and winter Recreation Department programs will be out by Monday, Aug. 16. 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.

STREET CLOSURE

Due to Pro Portsmouth's final scheduled "Summer in the Street" program of 2010 on Saturday (Aug. 7), part of Pleasant Street near Market Square will be closed 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.

SEAWALLS WORK

The City will be rebuilding the seawalls at Mechanic Street near Gates in the area behind the sewer pump station and along South Mill Street. This work, projected to begin this fall, will cause some disruption to the normal traffic flow in this area. Once a contractor is selected, a public information meeting will be scheduled. Contact: Dave Desfosses, 766-1411.

ROADWORK

Paving work is underway 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 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. Work continues at the busy intersection of Pleasant and State Street, affecting traffic patterns between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. as part of the State Street Reconstruction Project. Updates 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.

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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