

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*

LINCOLN AREA PROJECT -- TONIGHT

There will be a public information meeting tonight (Wednesday, Aug. 18) to discuss the design and schedule for the Lincoln Area Sewer Separation project in the area bounded by Richards Avenue, Middle and South Streets. City staff, and the City's consulting engineer and contractor will be available to answer questions beginning at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Work begins late this month or early September on the project, which is part of the City's long-term plan to separate older combined sewage and stormwater pipes. Contact: 766-1416.

ANNUAL REPORT

The City has released its Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report detailing what each City department accomplished between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010. It shows the Library recorded 455,834 visits in FY10, a whopping 162,062 more than the previous year. In addition, there were 488,630 items (books, videos, audio, magazines, etc.) circulated, an increase of almost 4,000 from Fiscal Year 2009. Also, the City recorded 579 births, the fourth consecutive year of decline. Of those, only 131 children were born to Portsmouth residents. The number of marriages increased to 291 (only 75 involving a Portsmouth resident) and deaths were up slightly at 319 (168 from Portsmouth). To see the full report, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/annualreport/index.htm.

DRUNK DRIVER APPREHENSION

In its continuing efforts to apprehend drunk drivers, the Police Department will conduct a sobriety checkpoint this week and also utilize specialized DWI patrols throughout the weekend. 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.

CITY FINANCIAL AWARD

The City has been awarded its 17th "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" for the annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is prepared following the end of each fiscal year under the guidance of Finance Director Judie Belanger. This most recent award covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports and the Annual Budget documents can be found on the Finance Department's page on www.CityofPortsmouth.com.

EEE WARNING

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is a dangerous viral disease that can be spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. EEE has been found in several mosquito pools in surrounding states. Given the history of the spread of EEE, the City's Health Department is warning that we can expect to see this dangerous virus in mosquito populations here in NH. Citizens should be vigilant in protecting themselves against mosquito bites. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/EEEFactSheet.pdf.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you are a registered voter unable to get to the polls in person between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sept. 14, you may request an absentee ballot for the State Primary if you will be working, out of town, or want one due to religious observance or physical disability. Applications may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm#a-ballots. 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. Contact: 610-7245.

REGISTER TO VOTE

The last day to register to vote before the Sept. 14 primary is Tuesday, September 7, although voters may register at the polls on Election Day and undeclared voters may choose a party on the day of the Primary and then return to undeclared status after voting if they wish to do so. You can register to vote now at the City

Clerk's Office at City Hall between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and the Board of Registrars also will meet from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sept. 7 to register voters. Contact: 610-7245.

BLACK BARRELS HERE

The final shipment of black rain barrels available for discounted purchase by Portsmouth water system customers has arrived, but there still are plenty of the blue variety available. Thus far, over 675 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. Customers are reminded to pick up their pre-ordered rain barrels at the Department of Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Road between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Rain barrels can save about 1,300 gallons of water during the summer months.

DOWNTOWN PARKING REPORT

The "Report on Parking Impacts and Downtown Vitality" prepared for the Planning Board can now be viewed online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/files/dpfgr-072010.pdf. The 22-page report was prepared by the Downtown Parking Focus Group and City staff.

LOOKING FOR PHS YEARBOOKS

The Library is seeking a replacement for its missing 1984 Portsmouth High School yearbook. The Library's collection of yearbooks begins with 1949 so the Library also would be interested in any high school year-end commencement lists or booklets that might mention or picture the classes prior to 1949. It is believed that there were no formal hardbound PHS yearbooks prior to 1949, but that there were photocopied soft booklets given to students. If you would like to donate or share what you have, contact Michael Huxtable or Nicole Cloutier at 427-1540.

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

The PG-rated film "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" will be shown in the Library's Levenson Room at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, Aug. 19). The program is free for Portsmouth Public Library cardholders. Reminder: Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult in the Library at all times. Contact: 766-1740.

FIREFIGHTER FUNDRAISER

Bring your lawn chairs and come see the Police and Fire Departments battle it out on the softball field for a great cause Sunday (Aug. 22) beginning at 2 p.m. at Alumni Field next to the Portsmouth Middle School. The Portsmouth Firefighters Charitable Foundation will hold the 1st Annual "Softball for Sarah" fundraiser to benefit firefighter Sarah Fox, who has been diagnosed with cancer. The event will include raffle prizes, performances, food/drink vendors, and local celebrities. Admission donation is \$7 but kids are free. Additional 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.

MCDONOUGH STREET AREA MEETING

The City will hold a public information meeting next Wednesday, Aug. 25, regarding the McDonough Street area project involving sewer and drain line replacement and streetscape improvements. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The affected area includes Dover, Salem and Cabot (only the northwest side of Islington) Streets and McDonough Street from Cabot to Dover Streets. Work on the \$400,000 project is expected to begin this fall. Contact: 766-1411.

OUTDOOR, INDOOR POOLS INFO

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. The Indoor Pool reopens Tuesday, Sept. 7. A grand reopening celebration is scheduled Sunday, Sept. 12, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Come see your old friends and check out the new programs being offered. For further information, call 427-1545.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

With schools reopening in two weeks, some Portsmouth residents still need assistance in obtaining back-to-school supplies and clothing. The Welfare Department already has worked with several needy students and 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 or 610-7267.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Portsmouth High School freshman orientation is next Thursday (Aug. 26) at 8:30 a.m. The first day of school for Portsmouth Public School students in Grades 1-12 is Wednesday, Sept. 1. Schools are closed Friday, Sept. 3, and Monday, Sept. 6, for the Labor Day holiday. The first full day of kindergarten is Tuesday, September 7. The School Department's Central Office returns to fall hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. as of Monday, Aug. 30. A link to the 2010-2011 school year calendar is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school. Appointments for new student registrations will be Thursday, Aug. 26. Call the appropriate school to make one. Contact: 431-5080.

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. It includes schedules for fall sports, adult trips, the Indoor Pool, Spinnaker Point Adult Center and the Connie Bean Community Center. Beginning Monday (Aug. 23), adults can register for the scheduled adult day trips by signing up at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. Contact: 766-1483.

SEA CREATURE ADOPTIONS

As part of the "Make a Splash" Summer Reading Program, the Library has teamed up with the Blue Ocean Society's "Adopt-a-Creature" program. Kids earn "sand dollars" for each hour they read which then can be donated toward adopting a local whale, shark or sunfish. Thus far, readers have adopted three creatures. Contact: 766-1740.

FALL SOCCER

Registration for the very popular soccer program for grades K-4 is Aug. 30 through Sept. 3 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.

LABOR DAY

City offices, the Library, Schools, and the Recycling Center will be closed Monday, September 6, 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. 4, for the Labor Day holiday.

WIFFLEBALL CHALLENGE -- FUNDRAISER

A Seacoast Wiffleball Challenge is planned Saturday, Sept. 11, beginning at 9 a.m. at Portsmouth's Alumni Field next to the Middle School to benefit the Portsmouth Police Honor Guard and the Jaden's Ladder organization that supports domestic violence survivors. There also will be a home run derby. For more info, see <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/swc-091110.pdf>.

ROADWORK

Paving work is underway on Thornton Street, Whipple Street, Meredith Way, Clinton Street and Pine Street. 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. 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.... (2 items)

The City's fall Household Hazardous Waste Day will be Saturday, September 11. The Library resumes Sunday afternoon hours on Sept. 12.

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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