

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com. – City Manager John P. Bohenko

JULY 4th CLOSURES

City Hall, the Library and the Recycling Center will be closed next Wednesday for the July 4th holiday. Wednesday's garbage and curbside recycling will be collected on Thursday. Yard waste will not be collected on Wednesday or Thursday, but the regular schedule will resume the following week. Contact: 427-1530.

JULY 4th FIREWORKS

The City's annual fireworks display is Tuesday, July 3, at the South Mill Pond, located across from Portsmouth City Hall, beginning at 9:15 pm. The rain date is Thursday, July 5. Police want to remind everyone that City Ordinance prohibits bringing personal fireworks, including sparklers to the South Mill Pond, since this can create an unsafe condition for the large crowds expected. Due to the fireworks display, the Dog Park will be closed from 6 a.m. Tuesday until 10 a.m. Wednesday. Dogs are never allowed at Leary and Central Fields, South Playground or the Connie Bean Playground. The tennis and basketball courts, playground and baseball areas will close by noon Tuesday. Vehicles will be towed from the playground lot on Junkins Avenue at 10 a.m. and from Parrott Avenue between Richards Avenue and Junkins at noon.

FIREWORKS PARKING

Due to the fireworks, the High-Hanover Parking Garage will charge a flat \$3 fee from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday, July 3. There will be no parking on 23 streets near the South Playground (except for residents of those streets): Parrott Avenue, Junkins Avenue, Mt. Vernon Street, Pleasant Street, South Street from Miller to Marcy, Richmond Street, Rogers Street, Edwards Street, Livermore Street, Wentworth Street, Melcher Street, Whidden Street, Franklin Street, Pickering Street, Hunking Street, Gardner Street, Gates Street, Howard Street, Elwyn Avenue, Sherburne Avenue, Rockland Street, Kent Street, and Richards Avenue.

SUMMER MOVIES

The next film in the Library's Summer Cinema Series is "Music and Lyrics" shown tomorrow night (June 28) in the Levenson Room at 7 p.m. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies-summer.htm for more information. The next movie in the Wednesday afternoon Chinese Cinema series is "Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles" on July 11. The Chinese films begin at 1 p.m. and are followed by a discussion. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-movies1.htm

SUMMER IN THE STREET

With the return of Pro Portsmouth's "Summer in the Street" downtown music program, part of Pleasant Street near Market Square will be closed on select Saturdays from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The first closure is Saturday night (June 30) and the next one will be July 7. No vehicular traffic or parking is allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square. For program information, see www.proportsmouth.org.

DOGS OFF-LEASH

A new map showing where dogs can be off-leash in Portsmouth is now online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/maps/dog-off-leash-areas.htm.

SUMMER READING

It's not too late for children ages 4 and up to participate in the Library's 2007 Summer Reading Program that goes through August 4. They'll keep track of their reading time on a "Reading Road Trip U.S.A." log to earn coupons to spend in the Pit Stop Summer Reading Store. There are also lots of special programs throughout the summer, such as "Boston's Museum of Science Presents Animal Invaders" for children 7 and older only on July 10 from 1-1:30 p.m. To learn more, visit: www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-pms.htm.

FAMILY CHESS

The Library is hosting Monday evening Family Chess Nights from 7-8:30 p.m. through the end of July. All ages and levels are welcome. Experienced players will be on hand. Several boards will be set up in the Hilton Garden Meeting Room. Bring your chess set. Light refreshments will be provided. Contact: 766-1740.

OUTDOOR POOL

The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool is now open for the season. Evening open swim times are Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:15 p.m. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm for information on all pool hours, activities, and swim lessons. Pool admission is free for Portsmouth children and \$1 for adult residents while non-resident children pay \$1 and adults pay \$2.

SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION

Registration opens next Tuesday, July 3, for Session 2 swim lessons (July 23-Aug. 17) at the Peirce Island Pool. Register there from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. on July 3, or any weekday from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. until lessons are full. Lessons are free for Portsmouth children. More information and the Pool's summer schedule are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm . Contact: 427-0717.

NIGHT PAVING

A major project to repave Woodbury Avenue from Gosling Road to the intersection of Market Street and Kearsarge Way is scheduled to begin July 8, with most of the work occurring at night between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Traffic will be disrupted so the paving is being done at night to try to minimize the inconvenience to motorists. The project will continue through the end of July.

ITEMS RECOVERED

Portsmouth Police are seeking the public's help in identifying recovered personal items believed stolen from unlocked vehicles in April and May. Most were taken from vehicles parked along Union Street, Cabot Street, Rockland Street, Highland Street, Middle Road, Islington Street, Peverly Hill Road, Gosling Road, Corporate Drive, Grafton Drive, International Drive, and the Route One By-Pass. Police believe some thefts were never reported, due in part to owners not realizing the items were gone. Contact: Detective Thomas Hart at 610-7472.

AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND

Five conceptual plan alternatives have been developed for the African Burial Ground commemorative park and memorial on Chestnut Street. The different design options can be viewed at www.cityofportsmouth.com/community/abgSketches-061907.htm. These plans were developed following input at a May 5 public forum and were presented for discussion at a second forum June 19. The African Burial Ground Committee will be discussing the various conceptual plan options and will ultimately make a recommendation to the City Council.

COOL DONATION

Five air conditioners have been donated to the City of Portsmouth for emergency distribution to low-income, medically fragile residents who are elderly or suffer from disabilities. The donation allows Fire, Police, Health and other City workers to respond quickly if they encounter a critical need. The air conditioners were donated by Project CoolAir, sponsored by Portsmouth-based Area HomeCare & Family Services, which teams with local housing authorities, organizations and charities to raise funds to buy the air conditioners. Contact: 610-7260.

MOTORCYCLE NOISE

Portsmouth Police are joining with other Seacoast law enforcement agencies to curb excessive motorcycle noise this summer. The allowed limit is 106 decibels. Other laws require anyone under 18 to wear a helmet, drivers to have windscreen or eye protection, and an inspection by July 1. Call 427-1500 or visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/index.htm and click on the "Motorcycle Noise" link in the blue box.

PHS TRYOUTS

Summer vacation has just begun for Portsmouth schools, but the High School already has posted information on fall sports tryouts and first practices. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch-tryout.htm.

FAMILY GOLF TOURNEY

Space is limited for the 3rd Annual 9-Hole Family Fun Golf Tournament on Sunday, Aug. 19, at 4 p.m. at Pease Golf Course. Registration continues at Spinnaker Point Recreation Center until there are 18 teams of two. The fee is \$60 per team, including a cart. Free refreshments and prizes. Contact: 766-1483.

MORE ROADWORK

Replacement of Congress Street sidewalks with brick and period streetlights is expected to be completed next week. Meanwhile, the New Castle Avenue seawall replacement and roadway project is continuing. The latest information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 498-4747.

BOARD OPENINGS

There will be five openings on the Building Code Board of Appeals in July. Learn more about the City's Boards and Commissions at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Mark your calendar... (2 items)

The City's 10th Annual Water Carnival at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool is Wednesday, July 25. For details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm. On Tuesday, August 7, neighborhoods throughout Portsmouth will be joining forces with thousands of communities nationwide for "National Night Out." See www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press060707.htm.

Did you know...?

If the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool closes for inclement weather, the Indoor Pool will open for open swim. The rainy day open swim hours will be Monday through Friday, 1:30-4 p.m., during June, July, and the first week of August. You can check with the Outdoor Pool staff at 427-0717 or call the Indoor Pool at 427-1546.

MEETINGS: For a list of upcoming City-related meetings, agendas for future meetings and minutes of past meetings, see www.CityofPortsmouth.com or the Meetings Calendar at www.cityofportsmouth.com/calendar/2007/index.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 Thursday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 7 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Library hours are: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and closed Sunday.

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