

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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Any day now, school supply lists will be arriving in the mail. 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.

TAXI STAND CHANGES

The first parking space on Market Street north of the Bow Street intersection will now serve as an overnight Taxi Stand from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. Only taxi cabs will be permitted to park there during that time period. Also, the High Street taxi stands have been relocated to the easterly side of Pleasant Street between State and Congress Streets, giving taxis greater visibility in Market Square and State Street. High Street now has three 15-minute parking spaces and two 2-hour parking spaces. Contact: 766-1440.

TRAFFIC INTERRUPTION

Traffic on New Castle Avenue will be reduced to one lane every weekday through next Friday (Aug. 3) as crews excavate, place fill material and pave the roadway as part of the New Castle Avenue Seawall Construction Project. Motorists should seek alternate routes to avoid delays between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Local traffic will be accommodated. The project is scheduled to be completed this fall. Contact Tom Richter at 427-1530.

Information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm.

MIDDLE STREET SIDEWALKS

The public is invited to a meeting next Tuesday (July 31) regarding the upcoming replacement of Middle Street sidewalks from Court Street to Union Street with brick. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. The project is scheduled to begin in the fall. Contact: Project Manager David Desfosses, 766-1411.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

For the 13th year, Portsmouth neighborhoods will join thousands of communities nationwide in celebrating “National Night Out” on Aug. 7 from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Throughout the City there will be block parties, cookouts, parades, contests, games, and visits from Police, Fire and Public Works personnel. “National Night Out” is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts; and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/press060707.htm. Neighborhoods participating thus far are: Atlantic Heights, Broad Street, White Cedar Blvd., Christian Shore (Bartlett Street area), Frank Jones (Woodbury Avenue area), Islington Creek (McDonough Street area), Hillcrest Estates, Maple Haven, Osprey Landing, Rogers Street, Sherburne Road, South End, Spinnaker Point, Stonegate and Wibird Street.

SUMMER IN THE STREET

The next “Summer in the Street” requiring the closure of Pleasant Street near Market Square will be Saturday night (July 28) from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. There also will be a closure for Pro Portsmouth’s downtown music program on Saturday, August 4. No vehicular traffic or parking is allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square. For program information, see www.proportsmouth.org.

REC PROGRAM OPENINGS

A few openings remain in some of the many summer youth programs sponsored by the Rec Department. Call 766-1483 to see what’s available.

MIDSUMMER MATINEE

The movie "Cars" will be shown next Wednesday, Aug. 1, and Tuesday, Aug. 7, at 1:30 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room as part of the 2007 Summer Reading Program, Reading Road Trip, USA. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-pms.htm or call 766-1740.

POOL CLOSURE

Peirce Island Pool closes at 4 p.m. next Thursday (Aug. 2) for a road race. The pool will close for the season on Sunday, Aug. 26. Contact: 427-0717.

WOODBURY PAVING

The repaving of Woodbury Avenue from Gosling Road to the intersection of Market Street and Kearsarge Way resumes next Sunday (Aug. 5), with most of the work being done between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. to minimize the inconvenience to motorists. There also will be some lane closures during daytime work to replace manhole covers and traffic loops over the next two weeks. Uniformed police officers will be available to direct traffic. Information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 498-4747.

ECLIPSE RELEASE

Library patrons ages 12-16 are invited to attend a release party for Stephenie Meyer's "Eclipse" on Monday, August 6, from 9 p.m. until midnight in the Levenson Room. Advance registration is required to participate in the vamp games, food, movies and fun, and partygoers are urged to dress in vamp attire or as one of their favorite characters. The book will be available for sale. For more details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/teens-eclipse.htm.

FAMILY GOLF TOURNEY

There are still spots available in the Rec Department's 3rd Annual 9-Hole Family Fun Golf Tournament on Sunday, Aug. 19, at 4 p.m. at Pease Golf Course. Register at Spinnaker Point Rec Center until there are 18 teams of two. The fee is \$60 per team, including a cart. Free refreshments and prizes. Contact: 766-1483.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Nurses at all Portsmouth schools have scheduled summer health registration dates for new students. Dondero, New Franklin and Little Harbour Elementary schools will hold screenings Aug. 22, from 8:30-11 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m., followed by the Middle and High Schools on Aug. 23. To find out what to bring, see: www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/summerhealth.htm.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Portsmouth schools reopen in just about a month -- Aug. 28 for students in Grades 1-12. Kindergarten starts Aug. 30. To see the school calendar, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm and click on the link for the "2007-2008 School Year Calendar."

PHS TRYOUTS

The Portsmouth High fall sports tryouts and practice schedule can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch-tryout.htm.

BOARD OPENINGS

The Building Code Board of Appeals has five openings and there is an opening for an alternate member on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. To learn more about the City's volunteer Boards and Commissions, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm or call 610-7207.

Mark your calendar....

The Library will host a screening of the film "Disappearances" starring Kris Kristofferson on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m. The movie's director, Jay Craven, will answer questions and offer commentary on the making of the film. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-082107.htm.

Did you know...?

This edition marks the two-year anniversary of the City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter. There are now an estimated 1,500 subscribers to this free communications vehicle, while about 300 additional people download the biweekly editions from www.CityofPortsmouth.com each month.

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/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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