

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

ANNUAL REPORT

Want to learn some interesting facts about the Municipal, School, Police and Fire departments and what they do? The City of Portsmouth Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2007 (July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007) is now online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com. For example, the Library recorded 271,774 visits, nearly 8,800 more than the previous fiscal year, despite being closed for two weeks during the move to the new building on Parrott Avenue. The number of items circulated also soared to 375,196 – almost 26,000 above the previous period.

MOSQUITO WARNING

Eastern Equine Encephalitis, also known as Triple E (EEE), has been found in mosquitoes in Rockingham County. A Newton resident, a Newfields youth and a Kensington horse have contracted this dangerous disease. Use insect repellent outdoors. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and help children apply repellents. Make sure there are screens in windows or doorways you leave open. Consider using mosquito netting for children outside in strollers and playpens. Be sure the netting fits well so mosquitoes can't enter and it's safely placed so children don't become entangled. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/eee.htm to learn more.

CITY ELECTIONS

Next Monday (Sept. 10) is the deadline for candidates to file for the Nov. 6 Municipal Election. There are nine openings on the City Council, four on the School Board, one each on the Police and Fire Commissions, as well as several election positions. Candidates must be residents of Portsmouth for two years. Other requirements are listed at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm. Contact: 610-7207. Citizens for Voter Education will be conducting Candidates' Nights for the Council, School Board, and Fire and Police Commission candidates at City Hall in October. The events also will be televised live on Channel 22.

PAY AND DISPLAY

Beginning tomorrow (Thursday, Sept. 6), the City's six new "pay and display" parking meters will be operational at the Worth Parking Lot, on the north side angled parking area on Bow Street, and on Pleasant Street between State and Porter Streets. These meters accept credit cards. All customers parking on a block pay the "pay and display" meter and then display their payment receipt on their vehicle's dashboard. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/transportation/paydisplay.htm. Contact: 766-1440.

DOCUMENTARY

The documentary "Watermarks" will be shown tomorrow night (Thursday, Sept. 6) at 7 p.m. at the Library. The film is about the surviving members of the Viennese Hakoah sports club women's swim team, a world-dominating competitor in the 1930s that was shut down during Hitler's reign. Contact: 427-1540.

PHS SPORTS

Local government access Channel 22 will again be broadcasting Portsmouth High School sports events on Saturdays at 7 p.m. this fall. Today's girls' soccer game with Coe-Brown will be shown this Saturday (Sept. 8). The Sept. 10 volleyball game against Oyster River and the Sept. 12 boys' soccer match with OR will be shown beginning at 7 p.m. on Sept. 15. For the full schedule, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/ch22.htm. PHS athletic schedules can be found by clicking the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch.htm

LIBRARY LEED-CERTIFIED

The new Library is the first municipal building to receive the national LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in New Hampshire and one of only a few in New England. The new \$8 million "green" library was formally dedicated in January. It received the national LEED recognition from the U.S. Green Building Council and received high marks for energy conservation, recycling, materials selection, and daylight and views. To learn more, including how much energy is being saved, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/leed.htm.

SMOKING BAN

Smoking will be banned in all restaurants and bars in New Hampshire as of Monday, Sept. 17. The new ban also includes enclosed places owned and operated by social, fraternal, or religious organizations when open to the general public, such as for public meetings, suppers, bingo, and bazaars. Violators face a \$100 fine. If you see a violation, speak first to the person in charge of the facility. If your complaint isn't resolved, you can download a complaint form from www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/smokefree.htm and submit it to the State.

POLICE TEST

An entry-level police officer exam making candidates eligible for possible employment by Portsmouth Police and 23 other communities will be held Sept. 22 at 8 a.m. by the McIntosh Police Testing Alliance at McIntosh College in Dover. Contact policetest@mcintoshcollege.edu or call 750-1415 for information on how to register. The 15th annual Public Safety/Law Enforcement Expo and Career Day also will be underway at McIntosh. Law enforcement representatives will be available to discuss their agencies, responsibilities and the hiring process.

PORTSMOUTH CRITERIUM

World class bicyclists will compete in the high-speed Portsmouth Criterium race through downtown Portsmouth on Sunday, Sept. 16, requiring the closure of several downtown streets. The streets will be closed from approximately 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and the High-Hanover Parking Facility will offer a flat rate of \$3 during that time period. Portsmouth Police will list all street closures on www.CityofPortsmouth.com a few days before the event. For more information about the race, go to Portsmouthcrit.com.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A link to the new fall Portsmouth Community Education brochure can be found online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm.

SPINNAKER CLOSURE

Spinnaker Point Adult Complex is closed until Friday (Sept. 8) for its annual cleaning. When it reopens, it'll be offering a wide variety of adult classes again this fall. Call 766-1483 or peruse the fall/winter brochure online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm.

INDOOR POOL

The Indoor Pool is offering a wide variety of swim lessons this fall. Registration is underway for lessons that begin Sept. 17 and 18. Click on the link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm for details or call the pool at 427-1545.

SOCCER, SOCCER, SOCCER

The Rec Department has co-ed soccer programs for kids and adults this fall at Leary Field. Registration ends Friday (Sept. 7) for the K-4 program. No registration is required for sandlot soccer Sundays, which resume Sunday (Sept. 9) and continue through Oct. 21, with boys and girls ages 5-7 playing from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. and ages 8-11 from 11 a.m.-noon. All levels are welcome. The Rec Department provides equipment and supervision for this free program. Tuesday night pick-up games for adults 18 and older resume next Tuesday (Sept. 11) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and go through the end of October. Bring shin guards and water. Recreation players only. No scores are kept. Contact: 766-1483.

RECREATION BROCHURE

The fall/winter brochure is now available at all Recreation Department facilities and also is online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. It includes full schedules for fall sports, the Indoor Pool, Spinnaker Point Adult Center and the Connie Bean Community Center. Contact: 766-1483.

HOMEWORK HELP

Does your child need to do research for a homework assignment? The Library has some hints on how to get started at www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-hh.htm.

FLUSHING MAINS

The Water Department begins its fall program of flushing mains on Sept. 17. Let your water run clear if you see Water Department trucks in the neighborhood between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday.

STORY TIMES

The Library's preschool story and lap time programs resume Sept. 19 and continue through Oct. 25. These are free drop-in programs for Portsmouth Public Library cardholders. Lap times are for children up to 36 months and Preschool Story Times are for children 3 and up. Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/childrens-pms.htm for times and other details. Contact: 766-1740.

SILENCE AND POETRY

The "Silence and Poetry" workshop being held at the Library on four consecutive Wednesday evenings kicks off Sept. 19. For more information, including how to register, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-sp.htm.

SCIENCE FICTION

The 1926 science fiction classic "Metropolis" will be shown in the Library's state-of-the-art Levenson Room on Thursday, Sept. 20, as part of a film series in conjunction with three "speculative fiction" book discussions this fall. On Sept. 27, author James Patrick Kelly will be at the Library at 7 p.m. for the discussion of his 2005 book "Burn." See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-speculate.htm for more about the book discussion program and www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-cin.htm for the film series.

ROAD WORK

Work continues on the New Castle Avenue Seawall Project, with sidewalk installation next on the agenda. A concrete sidewalk will be installed on the seawall, and granite curbing and brick sidewalks will be installed on Marcy St (from South to New Castle Ave) and New Castle Avenue from South St to the seawall on New Castle Ave. Work also will begin on the Middle Street sidewalks during the next two weeks but traffic interruptions will be minimal. Information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm.

BOARD OPENINGS

There are five openings on the City's volunteer Building Code of Appeals and one on the Economic Development Commission. There will be two openings on the Library Board of Trustees in October. To learn more about the openings and how to apply, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR (4 items)

- Art-Speak, the City's cultural commission, will hold "The Arts Mean Business" events Sept. 20-21 related to the recent Arts & Economic Prosperity Survey data. More information is at art-speak.org. Contact: 610-7222.
- The first Middle School dance of the new school year is Friday, Sept. 21, from 7:30-10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$4. Open to all PMS students/Portsmouth residents. Contact: 766-1483.
- A Labor Day/Peace Treaty Parade will be held in downtown Portsmouth on Sunday, Sept. 23, beginning at 2 p.m. from Parrott Avenue. There may be traffic interruptions.
- The City's next household hazardous waste collection date will be Saturday, October 13, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Did you know...?

The City has begun a three-year comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan Project to protect natural resources and comply with federal Clean Water Act regulations. The project's goal is to identify and study feasible alternatives and then recommend a final plan for secondary treatment of wastewater. The EPA has declined to renew the secondary treatment waiver for the 4.8 million gallon-per-day Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. Wastewater Master Plan Project Updates will be posted at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/wwmp.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/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 from 8 a.m. until 4 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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without notice in the time between publication of this e-newsletter and the actual event. Whenever possible, changes will be posted on www.cityofportsmouth.com or on the local government cable channel Channel 22. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com.