

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

WOODBURY AVE. MEETING

There will be an informational meeting tonight (April 30) regarding planned traffic calming improvements on Woodbury Avenue between Bartlett Street and Market Street Extension. The public is invited to attend the 6:30 p.m. session in City Hall Conference Room A. The history and an overview of the project will be presented before a question-and-answer period. For more on the project, see the “Did you know?” section at the end of this newsletter. Contact: 766-1415.

DOG LICENSE REMINDER

Tomorrow (May 1) is the deadline for dog owners to renew their animals’ licenses. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk’s Office to avoid a possible civil forfeiture fine of \$25, per NH law, plus late fees. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are charged \$6.50. Licenses are \$9 for male or female dogs, but \$6.50 for dogs with proof they have been neutered or spayed. Senior citizens over 65 may register one dog annually for \$2. Contact: 610-7245.

CITY BUDGET

The City Council continues its review of the City Manager’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009, which begins July 1, 2008, and will reopen the public hearing on the budget on May 12. The public hearing begins at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers and will be broadcast live on local government access cable Channel 22. The budget document may be viewed online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com.

CHILDREN’S DAY

Due to the 18th annual downtown Children’s Day celebration Sunday (May 4), the High-Hanover Parking Facility will have a flat rate of \$3 between noon and 4 p.m. No parking will be allowed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Pleasant Street between State Street and Market Square; the parking lot at the corner of Market and Hanover Streets, and Market Street from the Market and Bow Street intersection to The Isles of Shoals Steamship Company. Information on the event is at www.proportsmouth.org.

MOSQUITO WARNINGS

The City’s Health Department warns that mosquito-borne Triple E, or Eastern Equine Encephalitis, is expected to be present in the environment this year at levels that can spill over into the human population. West Nile Virus, also spread by mosquitoes, remains a constant presence during the warm weather months. Even with our active mosquito control program, there is a need for personal protection against mosquito bites. Use caution with bug spray around children. Spray it on your palm and then apply to the child. To learn more and how to protect yourself and your family, see www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/CDCS/West+Nile+Virus/default.htm.

NNO OPEN HOUSE

There will be an Open House on Tuesday, May 20, for those interested in participating in the City’s National Night Out citywide block party held annually on the second Tuesday in August. During NNO, representatives from the Police, Fire and other City departments visit participating neighborhoods. Veteran NNO organizers will answer questions and provide suggestions during the May 20 Open House in the Library’s Levenson Room at 7 p.m. If you are unable to attend, contact Sharon Morrison, Portsmouth Citywide Steering Committee Chair, at 512-7832 or sharonmorrison@comcast.net.

RECYCLING CENTER EVENING HOURS

The City’s Recycling Center is now open from 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. It also is open from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. The Center is closed on Mondays and Fridays. Contact: 427-1530.

COLLEGE PLANNING

Parents of elementary, middle and high school students are invited to a College Planning Night next Wednesday (May 7) featuring a presentation by the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation. The Middle School PTA is sponsoring the event, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Next Saturday (May 10) is Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for residents of Portsmouth, Greenland and Newington. Bring unwanted household chemicals to the Portsmouth Department of Public Works facility at 680 Peverly Hill Rd. from 8 a.m. until noon. Proof of residency is required. A list of chemicals is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/solidwaste-recycle-hhw.htm. Empty containers are not considered hazardous and may be put out for the weekly trash pickup. Contact: 427-1530.

MOTHERS AND SONS

Boys in Grades K-5 and their mothers (or aunts, sisters, grandmothers, etc.) are invited to the 13th annual Mother-Son Mother's Day Dance hosted by the Rec Department Saturday, May 10, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Connie Bean Community Center. Cost is \$10 per couple and includes flowers for the Moms. The theme is Hawaiian so please come dressed in your best tropical outfits! For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm or call 766-1483.

RALEIGH WAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Raleigh Way Streetscape Improvements Project has begun with installation of the new eight-inch ductile iron water main. This is the first task of the project that also includes a new sewer line, drain line, granite curbs, concrete sidewalk, street trees, and a new street surface. The project is expected to be completed in mid-July. Upon completion, the one-way circulation pattern for Atlantic Heights takes effect. No traffic interruptions are anticipated, but on-street parking patterns will be impacted from one side of the street to the other as needed. Impacted households will be notified as the work progresses. Contact: Tom Richter, 766-1412.

NO PARKING

The City Council has designated Court Street, from Pleasant to Marcy Streets, as "No Parking" on both sides of the street. Alternate parking solutions in the area include the Wright Avenue Lot (75 cents per hour with a 4-hour time limit) and Marcy Street (75-cents per hour with a 2-hour time limit). Contact: 766-1440.

K-9 KUDOS

Portsmouth Officer Scott Pearl has been named "K-9 Handler of the Year" by the Working Dog Foundation's Board of Directors. The Board said Pearl, who has been a K-9 dog handler since 2006, was selected from among 30 handlers for his dedication to training, positive attitude, reliability, and overall work ethic within the Foundation. Contact Sgt. Darrin Sargent at 610-7549 with questions about the Portsmouth Police K-9 program. To learn more about the Working Dog Foundation, see www.workingdog.org.

REC NEWS

The Recreation Department's spring trip to New York City is May 17. The \$45 cost includes round-trip coach bus transportation. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-3.htm or call 766-1483. Registration for youth summer programs begins Tuesday, May 27, at the Greenleaf Rec Center. Call 766-1483 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. There will be a number of summer basketball leagues this summer. Call Mike Eliasberg at 433-6650 for further information. The Indoor Pool will have a number of swim classes this summer. Call 427-1545. Spinnaker Point, the City's adult recreation facility, has several ongoing classes. Call 766-1483 or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-9.htm.

LIFEGUARD COURSE

The May 8-20 concentrated Red Cross Lifeguard Course will include 10 classes over the 12-day period. A swimming pretest is required. Call 427-1546 or see <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/indoor.htm>.

SCHOOL NEWS

Portsmouth Public Schools are on spring recess this week. The 7th and 8th grade Band and Chorus travel to Agawam, MA, next Friday, May 9, for their annual competition. Kindergarten and new student registration at

Little Harbour School is Tuesday, May 13. Kindergarten students must be 5 years old by September 30 and must reside in Portsmouth. A link to more information is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm.

BOAT LAUNCH

The Peirce Island Boat Launch opens for the season on May 23. The boat launch is free to all Portsmouth residents. There is a daily fee for non-residents. Non-residents may also purchase a season pass at the Spinnaker Point Recreation Center on Spinnaker Way. For more information, call 766-1483.

NEW SIDEWALKS

Work continues on replacing the sidewalks on Market Street from Hanover Street to Market Square with wider brick sidewalks. Period lighting also will be installed. Contact: David Desfosses, project manager, at 766-1411.

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

Water Division crews are continuing to open select fire hydrants between 8 p.m. and midnight, Monday through Thursday, to release water with enough velocity to carry sediment out of the pipes for the spring flushing. If you see Water Division trucks in your neighborhood during that time, refrain from drawing water until they leave. The flushing can cause a reddish tint to tap water, which may stain clothing. Open faucets and let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

BOARD VACANCIES

There are a number of openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. Information on these boards and how to apply is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm. The vacancies are: Building Code Board of Appeals (2); Cable Television & Communications Commission (2); Conservation Commission (4); Portsmouth Housing Authority (1); Board of Library Trustees (1); Citywide Neighborhood Steering Committee (4); PEDLP Review Committee (1); Recreation Board (6), and Taxi Commission (2).

Did you know...?

The City has 10 major public works projects planned this year. They include street and sidewalk improvements, and sewer and water system upgrades. One of the projects is a \$1 million plan for improvements on Woodbury Avenue, primarily to slow down traffic. The travel lanes will be narrowed, a new parking scheme will be instituted, there will be extensive signing added and a roundabout will be installed at the intersection with Maplewood Avenue. To see the full list of projects, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm.

School-related Fundraisers (2)

Proceeds will benefit the Patty Wojnar Scholarship and Memorial Fund from a special evening of fun and food Monday (May 5) from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Momma D's Casa di Pasta Restaurant (806 Rte. 1 Bypass North). There will be surprise celebrity servers and greeters, including "Bob the Busboy." Eat in or take out. It is suggested that parties of five or more call the restaurant for reservations. Direct event questions to the School Dept. Central Office: 431-5080.

The Cinco de Mayo fundraiser by The Friends Project to benefit its program creating social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities is May 10 at the Elks Club. Doors open at 6 p.m. for appetizers and a silent auction. The live auction is at 7:15 p.m. followed by dancing. Tickets are \$35. Contact: Heidi Chase at 436-7100, ext. 2919, or hchase@portsmouth.k12.nh.us or Nancy Clayburgh at 436-6525.

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/2008/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 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

The City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter is published by the City of Portsmouth. It is not intended to provide legal advice. It is a compilation of the best available information at the time of publication. Events may be subject to change without notice in the time between publication of this e-newsletter and the actual event. Whenever possible, changes will be

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