

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

CITY BUDGET

The City Council holds a work session tonight (May 14) for a final review of the City Manager's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009, which begins July 1, 2008. The work session begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. Testimony is not received at work sessions, but the public is invited to observe and also may watch the work session live on local government cable Channel 22. The Council is scheduled to adopt the budget June 2. The proposed budget is online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com.

SCHOOL CONCERTS

One of this month's two All-City Concerts is tonight (May 14) at 7 p.m. at the Portsmouth High Auditorium. It will showcase the Dondero School Chorus, Grade 5 Band and PHS Clipper Band, as well as the PHS Treble Choir and Madrigal Singers. The concert next Wednesday (May 21) at 7 p.m. will feature the PHS Percussion Ensemble, Little Harbour Chorus, elementary strings, and PHS Men's Ensemble, Brass Ensemble and Concert Choir. It will be broadcast Saturday, May 24, at 7 p.m. on local government cable Channel 22. The Middle School Concert featuring choral and band groups is Wednesday, May 28, also at 7 p.m., at the PHS Auditorium.

OVERNIGHT ART

Installation of "Overnight Art" temporary outdoor artwork has begun at six locations throughout downtown Portsmouth. Scheduled for installation this week are Nathan Walker's "Giant Ant" in the flower bed in Market Square, Jeanne Givens "History in Liquid Motion" at the Memorial Bridge Park, and Jason Probert's "Umwelt Bench #5" in Prescott Park on Friday. On Monday (May 19), Jamie Calderwood's "Inside/Out" sculpture is to be installed at the alley next to 16 Congress Street, Susan Schwake's "Dialog" banner will be installed Wednesday at the Hanover Street Parking Garage and on Friday, Roger Goldenberg's "Bookmarks for the Big Reader" is scheduled for installation at the Public Library on Parrott Avenue. All the artwork was chosen in a public competition and will be on display through the summer. See www.art-speak.org or call 610-7222.

LIBRARY TEEN EVENTS

It's "Duct Tape Day" Friday (May 16) for teenagers to make projects like wallets, ties, purses and lunch bags out of duct tape as part of the Library's May series of after-school "Teen Activity" events from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. On Monday (May 19), "Teen Talk Books" from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for those in Grades 6 through 8. The May 23 Friday afternoon "Teen Activity" event is "Create a Creature" and "Personalized Summer Post Cards" will be made May 30. Contact: 766-1740.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The final Middle School dance of the year for Portsmouth residents and chaperoned by Rec Dept. staff is Friday (May 16) from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Connie Bean Center. Cost is \$4. Contact: 766-1483.

SPLASH ART

The Friends of the Portsmouth Public Library invite the public to a reception Sunday (May 18) and to view the "SPLASH! The Art of Portsmouth's Young People" exhibit on display through May 31 during Library hours. Come "enjoy the color and inspiration in this energetic body of work created by our young people" from elementary through high school age. The Sunday reception is from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Contact: 427-1540.

STRAWBERRY BANKE FOUNDING

Portsmouth author and historian J. Dennis Robinson will present a slide show on "The Founding of Strawberry Banke" and sign copies of his recently published book "Strawberry Banke: A Seaport Museum 400 Years in the Making" on Monday (May 19) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Robinson's historically accurate details and unique style of wit, irreverence and spirit will keep you enthralled during this free program. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-051908.htm or contact: 427-1540.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

An Open House is planned 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. Veteran NNO organizers will answer questions and provide suggestions beginning at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news0808.htm. Contact: sharonmorrison@comcast.net or 512-7832.

"ZONING 101"

The City invites the public to attend "Zoning 101" from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. next Thursday, May 22, in the Levenson Room at the Public Library. The meeting is intended to educate the public and local board members about how Portsmouth's land use regulations and boards shape local development and the path the City is taking to ensure more sustainable future development. For the agenda and additional information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/planning/zoning101.htm. Contact: 610-7218.

BOAT LAUNCH OPENING

The Peirce Island Boat Launch opens for the season next Friday (May 23). The boat launch is free to all Portsmouth residents. There is a daily fee for non-residents. For more information, call 766-1483.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

On Friday morning, May 23, the Middle School Band will participate in the Central Veterans Council's "Symbolic Burial at Sea" service at Prescott Park. The Veterans Council also sponsors the Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service on Monday, May 26. Roads will be temporarily closed as the parade passes. It begins at 1 p.m. at the corner of Parrott and Junkins Avenues, continues to Pleasant Street, through Market Square to Congress Street, on to Middle Street to Richards Avenue to the South Cemetery. At the conclusion of the service, the parade travels down South Street to the corner of Junkins Avenue for a review by gathered dignitaries and then concludes at Junkins and Lincoln Avenues.

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

City offices, schools and the Library are closed Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no collection of trash, yard waste or recyclables, and the Recycling Center will be closed. Monday curbside trash and recyclables collection will be combined with Tuesday pickup, including the downtown district pickup Tuesday evening. There will be no yard waste collection on Tuesday.

SUMMER REC REGISTRATION

Summer Recreation Department program registration (other than the pool) opens Tuesday, May 27, and continues through May 30 from 5-8 p.m. at the Greenleaf Rec Center. Registration moves to the Spinnaker Point Center beginning June 2. Program brochures are at all Rec facilities, online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm or call 766-1483. Registration for Peirce Island outdoor pool lessons free to Portsmouth residents begins Tuesday, June 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the Indoor Pool. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1545. The outdoor pool opens June 23.

PINE STREET PARK

The City will hold a neighborhood meeting at Pine Street Park and Playground on Wednesday, May 28, to obtain input on the type of park and playground improvements residents would like to see there. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. The rain date is Wednesday, June 4, also at 6 p.m. Contact: 610-7226.

MEMORIAL BRIDGE DESIGN MEETING

There will be a May 29 public information meeting on the proposed rehabilitation of the Memorial Bridge between Portsmouth and Kittery. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at City Hall. The NH Department of Transportation will discuss the update on the design and construction control options for the bridge jointly owned by New Hampshire and Maine. A separate approach bridge owned by the City that carries U.S. Route 1 (Scott Avenue) over Daniel Street also will be discussed with regard to the preferred replacement option. Contact: 271-3725.

WOODBURY AVE. PROJECT

Following the April 30 information meeting regarding planned traffic calming improvements on Woodbury Avenue, it was determined there should be additional study and public input for the intersection of Woodbury

and Maplewood Avenues. Therefore, the Woodbury project slated this summer will be constructed from Bartlett Street to Woodlawn Circle. The rest of the project will be completed in a future budget year. Contact: 766-1415.

ROADWORK

Work continues on replacing sidewalks on Market Street between Market Square and Hanover Street with brick sidewalks, as well as the Raleigh Way Streetscape Improvements Project that is anticipated to continue through mid-July. No major traffic interruptions are expected. The latest information on all City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays. Contact: 498-4747.

WALK NH WEEK

Portsmouth residents are invited to participate in Walk NH Week 2008 during the first week of June with walks of one to three miles in length planned from the Community Campus and the South Mill Pond Playground. There will be walks June 2 at 12:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. from the Community Campus and a walk from the South Mill Pond Playground on June 4 at 5:30 p.m. For more info, see WalkNH.org.

OUTDOOR BASKETBALL LEAGUES

There will be a number of outdoor basketball leagues offered over this summer. Call Mike Eliasberg at 433-6650 for specific age divisions.

SUMMER AT SPINNAKER

Spinnaker Point, the City's adult recreation facility, will be operating this summer with the same hours as during the winter. Come and check out the great facility that the City offers to its residents. Call 766-1483 or check out www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-8.htm.

DOG DEADLINE

Failure to renew dog licenses by May 31 can lead to a civil forfeiture fine of \$25, per NH law, plus late fees and a Portsmouth District Court summons for those who do not respond within 15 days. All dogs that have received a first rabies shot must be registered with the City Clerk's Office. Puppies 3 to 7-months-old are charged \$6.50. Dog 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: 610-7207.

NEW PARK

The City recently dedicated the new Powder House Park, which is located at the site of the Islington Street water tower that was removed last year from the corner of Islington and Essex Streets. The urban pocket park is in front of the circa-1811 powder house that is more visible following the tower's removal. The park includes a flagpole, historical marker, granite benches, brick walkways and new landscaping.

FRAUD ALERT

Police have received reports of an apparent telephone fraud scheme involving a male speaking with a thick accent who claims to be a government employee and threatens a loss of Medicare benefits if the victim does not provide personal identifying information, including bank account numbers, so that the man can provide what he claims is a new Medicare number. Police warn this is a fraud and reminds residents not to provide personal identifying information to unknown callers. Anyone receiving such a call should hang up and contact Portsmouth Police at 427-1500.

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. You should open faucets and let the water run until it becomes clear again. Contact: 427-1552.

YOUR PRIMARY VOTE

If you voted in the Presidential Primary and want to change your political party status to undeclared or another political party, there is a June 3 deadline to do so before the Sept. 9, 2008, State Primary Election. Otherwise,

you will receive a ballot from the same political party as you voted for in the Presidential Primary. To change your status, you must complete the necessary form at the Office of the City Clerk in City Hall Room 218 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Contact: 610-7245.

BOARD VACANCIES

Volunteers are needed to serve on the City's boards and commissions. The Building Code Board of Appeals has one vacancy for a mechanical engineer or master plumber, and another for an electrical engineer or master electrician. Other vacancies are: 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). More information and how to apply is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Mark Your Calendar...(4 dates)

The Board of Registrars will hold a public session Tuesday, June 3, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in City Hall Room 211 for additions and changes to the voter checklist. It will be the last day to change party affiliation before the Sept. 9 primary election. Contact: 610-7245. The Portsmouth Alternative School (PASS) graduation is June 6, at 10:45 a.m. at Sherburne School. Middle School graduation is June 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Portsmouth High. PHS graduation is June 13, at 5:30 p.m. The last day of school is expected to be June 18. Contact: 431-5080.

Did you know...

The Police Department has a new captain and two new lieutenants. Lieutenant Fred Hoystadt, a 15-year veteran of the Portsmouth force and a former Stratham policeman, recently was promoted to captain. Hoystadt also commands the Seacoast Emergency Response Team. The Police Commission also has voted to promote Sergeant Steve DuBois, a 14-year officer, to Lieutenant in the Patrol Division and Sgt. Frank Warchol, a 13-year veteran, to Lieutenant in Personnel and Training.

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.

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