

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

EVENT TONIGHT

Portsmouth High School is holding Summer School Registration from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. tonight (June 25) at PHS. Contact: Amy Donovan, Summer School Coordinator, at 436-7100, extension 2925.

BOND RATING UPGRADE

One of the nation's largest bond rating agencies has upgraded the City's bond rating, which will save Portsmouth taxpayers thousands in reduced borrowing costs. Moody's Investors Service increased the rating from Aa3 to Aa2, citing such factors as strong financial management, a healthy economy, a diverse and sizable tax base, and low debt burden. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/bond.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 10 p.m. The first closure is Saturday night (June 28) and the next one will be July 5. No vehicular traffic or parking will be allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square. For program information, see www.proportsmouth.org.

NEW PEIRCE ISLAND POLICY

Effective next Tuesday (July 1), all of Peirce Island will be a refuse "carry-in, carry-out" area, with the exception of the inside perimeter of the outdoor pool complex. The City Council recently approved the pilot program. As of Tuesday, all trash receptacles will be removed from the island, other than inside the pool area. The policy was recommended by the Peirce Island Committee as a way to decrease trash dumping on the island.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City Hall, the Library and the Recycling Center will be closed next Friday for the July 4th holiday. The Library closes for the holiday weekend at 5 p.m. Thursday and does not reopen until 9 a.m. Monday, July 7. The Friday, July 4th, garbage and curbside recycling will be collected the day before on Thursday. Yard waste will not be collected Thursday or Friday, but the regular schedule resumes the following week. Contact: 427-1530.

FIREWORKS

The City's annual fireworks display is Thursday, July 3, at the South Mill Pond, located across from Portsmouth City Hall, beginning at 9:15 pm. The rain date is Saturday, July 5. Police want to remind everyone that City Ordinance prohibits personal fireworks, including sparklers. Due to the fireworks display, the Dog Park will be closed from 6 a.m. Thursday until 10 a.m. Friday. 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 Thursday. The Library closes at 5 p.m. Thursday as Parrott Avenue will be closed to traffic as of 4 p.m. Vehicles will be towed from the playground lot on Junkins Avenue at 10 a.m. Thursday 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. Thursday, 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.

MOTORCYCLE NOISE

Portsmouth Police are again 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.

SUMMER CINEMA

"Things We Lost in the Fire" starring Halle Berry and Benicio del Toro will be shown tomorrow evening (Thursday, June 26) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room as part of the Summer Cinema Series. The free two-hour, R-rated film deals with the aftermath of a woman's life shattered by the killing of her husband. "In Bruges" starring Colin Farrell will be shown July 10. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm or call 427-1540.

SUMMER READING

The Library's "G'Day for Reading" summer reading program with an Australian theme is underway. Special events include making a boomerang Saturday (June 28) from 10 a.m. to noon for children ages 3 and up to help decorate for the program. On Monday, June 30, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will pay a visit from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and bring along animals as well as provide information about the SPCA and being a responsible pet owner. Contact: 766-1740.

TEEN EVENTS

Workshops on recycled fashion (details below), photography and poetry are among the teen activities planned at the Library in July and August. Advance registration is required for: Recycled Fashion Workshop scheduled July 14-17; Photography on July 28, July 30, and Aug. 1; and Poetry Aug. 4-7. Teen Gaming Nights are planned July 16 and 31, and a "Breaking Dawn" release party is planned Aug. 2. Contact Jenny Calivas at 766-1740 or jhcalivas@lib.cityofportsmouth.com.

RECYCLED FASHION

Things can be better the second time around. Teenage girls and boys ages 12 and up must register in advance for the July 14-17 "Recycled Fashion" workshop where they'll turn old clothing into something new at the Library from 10 a.m. until noon. Contact Jenny Calivas at 766-1740 or jhcalivas@lib.cityofportsmouth.com.

EDUCATIONAL HOMESTAY PROGRAM

School Superintendent Robert Lister is working with the EF Educational Homestay Program planning to bring 85 students from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Russia and Spain to the Seacoast area July 9 to August 4 and is seeking volunteer families to host them evenings and weekends during their four-week stay. Students attend a daily program studying English in the morning and participate in group activities in the afternoon. For more info, see www.ehomestay.org or contact r_josephs@hotmail.com.

SUMMER REC OPENINGS

Openings still exist in some Summer Rec Department programs. Registration continues at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. Program brochures are at Rec Department facilities and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. Call 766-1483 to see which programs have openings.

PEIRCE ISLAND POOL

The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool is now open every day through Aug. 24. Weekday mornings are reserved for children's swimming lessons but afternoons, weekends and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings until 7:15 p.m. are for everyone. If the Outdoor Pool closes for inclement weather, the Indoor Pool will open for open swim from 1:30-4 p.m. Check with the Outdoor Pool staff at 427-0717 or call the Indoor Pool at 427-1546.

SWIM LESSONS

Registration opens next Tuesday (July 1) for Session Two of free swim lessons at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool. Sign up between 5:30-7:30 p.m. or anytime after that during normal pool hours until all classes are filled. Lessons run three days per week for four weeks beginning July 21 and ending Aug. 15. Lessons are free for Portsmouth children and taught by certified Red Cross instructors. For registration policy and program details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1546.

SUMMER WORKOUT

The Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center is air-conditioned so don't let the summer heat keep you from working out. Call 766-1483 for information on adult summer programs, or see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-8.htm.

REPORT INTERNET CRIME

Internet crime victims are urged to notify Portsmouth Police, as well as the appropriate federal agency keeping track of such criminal activity. Portsmouth Police have compiled a list of pertinent online sites to report Internet crimes of child exploitation; obscenity; online fraud, identity and e-mail scams; computer intrusion/hacking; questionable business practices and online transactions involving foreign companies. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/internetcrimeresources.htm or call Detective Leclair at 610-7430.

SCHOOL INFO

Although classes have been out for only a few days, the School Department has information available online related to school reopening in August. Information on tryouts and practices for fall sports, which begin the week of Aug. 18, can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch-tryout.htm. School reopens for students Aug. 26. To see the 2008-2009 school calendar or download a form to enroll new students in the Portsmouth School system, click on the links at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm.

FAMILY GOLF TOURNEY

Space is limited for the 4th Annual 9-Hole Family Fun Golf Tournament on Sunday, Aug. 17, at 4 p.m. at Pease Golf Course. Register 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. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-7.htm or call 766-1483.

ROADWORK

No parking is allowed on Gates Street between Marcy and Washington Streets on weekdays from now through July 11 while a new gas main is installed. Gates Street will be open to local traffic only during that period. Work is continuing on the Raleigh Way Streetscape Improvements Project. 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.

POLICE PROMOTION

Police Detective Mark Newport, a 13-year veteran of the department, has been promoted to sergeant and will be returning to the Patrol Division. In 2003 and 2006, Newport received awards from the State of New Hampshire for outstanding performance in felony case investigations. He has been a member of the NH Attorney General's Drug Task Force and a federal drug task force. He is a trained hostage negotiator who has been a member of the Seacoast Emergency Response Team since 1999.

BOARD VACANCIES

The City's volunteer boards and commissions still have 25 openings to be filled. The Building Code Board of Appeals has one vacancy for a mechanical engineer or master plumber, and two for electrical engineers or master electricians. Other vacancies are: Cable Television & Communications Commission (2); Conservation Commission (4); Historic District Commission (1); Board of Library Trustees (1); Citywide Neighborhood Steering Committee (1); PEDLP Review Committee (3); Portsmouth Housing Endowment Fund Advisory Board (2); Recreation Board (6), and Taxi Commission (2). More information and how to apply is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Mark your calendar....(3 items)

The city's 11th Annual Water Carnival at the Peirce Island Pool is July 23 and details are at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm. The Library will hold a release party for "Breaking Dawn," Stephenie Meyer's final book in the Twilight series, on Aug. 2 from 9 p.m. until midnight. Call 427-1540 to register. On Tuesday, August 5, neighborhoods throughout Portsmouth will be joining forces with thousands of communities nationwide for "National Night Out." Contact Portsmouth Citywide Steering Committee Chair Sharon Morrison at 512-7832 or sharonmorrison@comcast.net.

Did you know...

Portsmouth Police Captain Janet Champlin is this year's recipient of the Women in Law Enforcement "Excellence in Performance Award." The award is given annually to a woman police officer in New England who makes a significant contribution to her profession, her agency, and the success of other women officers. Champlin has been involved in several important Portsmouth Police initiatives, including The Child Advocacy Center, which centralizes the investigation process and protects child victims of sexual assault, and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force which she oversees as Bureau of Investigation Services commander.

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 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, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

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 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.