

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*

TODAY'S EVENTS

The City's 11th Annual Water Carnival for Portsmouth children is scheduled today at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool so the pool is closed to everyone else until 3 p.m. Contact: 427-0717. Tonight, the Library is hosting a program entitled "Authentic, Fake or Restored? Decoding Mysteries in Art" at 6 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Currier Museum of Art curators will discuss their investigations regarding two major works in the museum's collection. Contact: 427-1540.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The final planning meeting for Portsmouth's 14th annual "National Night Out" is next Tuesday, July 29, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. Businesses wishing to contribute to the event should attend or contact Police Capt. Champlin at 610-7625. Portsmouth neighborhoods will join thousands of communities nationwide in celebrating "National Night Out" Aug. 5 from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. with block parties, cookouts, parades, contests, games, and visits from Police, Fire, School and Public Works personnel. Neighborhoods wishing to participate should contact Sharon Morrison, Citywide Neighborhood Committee Chair, at 512-7832 or sharonmorrison@comcast.net.

POETRY READING

Poet Christopher Locke will read from his recent and older works next Tuesday (July 29) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room. Locke has published three collections—"Possessed," "Slipping Under Diamond Light" and "How to Burn"—and is the recipient of the 2007 Individual Artist Grant in Literature from the NH Council on the Arts. The reading will include poems from his recently completed manuscript, "End of American Magic." The event is free and open to the public. Contact: 427-1540.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

School supply lists soon will be arriving in the mail but 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.

SUMMER CINEMA

"Charlie Wilson's War" with Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts will be shown tomorrow night (Thursday, July 24), at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room as part of the Summer Cinema Series. The movie tells the true story of how a playboy congressman, a renegade CIA agent and a beautiful Houston socialite joined forces to lead the largest and most successful covert operation in history. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm or call 427-1540.

GAME NIGHTS

The Library is hosting a "Family Game Night" tomorrow evening (Thursday, July 24). Join the staff of G. Willikers! toy store to play fun family games from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Library's Youth Services section. There will be a Teen Gaming Night the following Thursday (July 31) at 7 p.m. in the Levenson Community Room. Contact: 766-1740.

MUSIC IN THE STREET

Part of Pleasant Street near Market Square will be closed for the next two Saturday evenings (July 26 and Aug. 2) from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. for Pro Portsmouth's "Summer in the Street" downtown music program. No vehicular traffic or parking is allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square. See www.proportsmouth.org for program info.

BREAKING DAWN

The Library will host a “Breaking Dawn” release party Saturday, August 2, from 9 p.m. until midnight, for ages 12 and up. Advance registration is required to participate in the event celebrating the release of Stephenie Meyer’s final book in the “Twilight” series. The party’s decor, food, activities and costumes (encouraged but not required) are based on the Twilight books. Participants may purchase the book at midnight. Contact 427-1540.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SESSION

The Portsmouth School Board will hold a work session to discuss the size of the new Middle School on Tuesday, Aug. 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at City Hall. Public comments are not received at work sessions, but the public is welcome to attend or watch the proceedings live via local cable Channel 22.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Portsmouth schools reopen in just about a month – Tuesday, Aug. 26, for students in Grades 1-12. Kindergarten begins the following Tuesday on Sept. 2. To see the 2008-2009 school calendar or download a form to enroll new students in the Portsmouth School System, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm and click on the links. 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.

CAMP FUNSTUFF

There are a limited number of vacancies for some of the weeklong sessions of Camp Funstuff, the Rec Department’s program for children entering Grades 1 through 6. Sign up at Spinnaker Point or call 766-1483 for more information. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-6.htm for the Camp Funstuff schedule.

POOL CLOSURE

Peirce Island Pool closes at 4 p.m. Thursday, August 7, because of a road race. The pool closes for the season Sunday, Aug. 24. Contact: 427-0717.

FAMILY GOLF TOURNEY

Don’t forget to sign up to participate in the 4th Annual 9-Hole Family Fun Golf Tournament scheduled Sunday, Aug. 17, at 4 p.m. at Pease Golf Course. Registrations will be accepted at the Spinnaker Point Recreation Center until there are 18 teams of two. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-7.htm or call 766-1483.

ROADWORK

Paving is planned on Blossom and Shearwater Streets, Sagamore Grove Road and Wholey Way. The streets will be closed to all but local traffic during paving. Meanwhile, the Raleigh Way project area will see new concrete sidewalks and general clean-up and lawn restoration over the next two weeks. No traffic disruptions are expected. Also, new signs will be installed as a part of the new traffic patterns for Atlantic Heights. Contact Tom Richter at 766-1412 with questions. 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.

VACANCIES

There are a number of vacancies on the City’s volunteer boards and commissions, including three openings on the Safe Routes to School Committee. Needed are one parent each from New Franklin School, St. Patrick’s School and the Middle School. Visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm for information on these openings, as well as those on several other City panels.

Did you know...

This edition marks the three-year anniversary of the City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter. There are now an estimated 1,550 subscribers to this free communications vehicle, while approximately 200 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/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.

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