

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*

NEW CITY COUNCILOR

The City Council has a new member with this week's swearing-in of Jerry Hejtmanek. He replaces Ned Reynolds, who resigned because he is moving out of the area. Hejtmanek, a retired business executive, most recently was vice chairman of the City's Planning Board and also has served on the Historic District Commission. The City Charter requires that if an elected official resigns before the end of the term, the person receiving the next largest number of votes in the previous municipal election assumes office. Hejtmanek finished 10th in the November 2007 municipal election.

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 2008 (July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008) is now online at www.CityofPortsmouth.com. Here are some of the facts you'll find: the number of births, deaths and marriages in Portsmouth declined in FY08, and 17 civil unions were recorded; the City issued 962 building permits with a construction value of \$89.8 million, compared to 917 permits with \$64.1 million in value the previous year; and the Library recorded 285,495 visits, nearly 14,000 above the previous year. The number of books, audio and video items circulated soared to a total of 443,371, or over 68,000 above FY07.

MOSQUITO WARNING

The City's Health Department strongly urges residents to eliminate mosquito breeding areas on their property. The department, which monitors regional West Nile Virus (WNV) activity, reports the potentially deadly virus has been found in mosquitoes in 11 Connecticut towns and one person became ill. New Hampshire is now in what is considered the high-risk period for both WNV and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). That period stretches from the end of July until the end of October. For information on protecting yourself and your home from mosquitoes, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/eee.htm.

SUMMER DANGER

With the hottest days of the summer approaching, Portsmouth Police remind everyone never to leave young children or pets in unattended vehicles, even for a minute. On an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a car—even with the windows rolled down two inches—can reach over 100 degrees within 10 minutes and continue to climb to over 130 degrees. On a bright, sunny day, even when it's as low as 60° F outside, temperatures can reach life-threatening levels inside a vehicle. To report a child or pet emergency inside a vehicle, call 911 or directly dial Police Dispatch at 436-2145.

TOMALLEY WARNING

For those who equate summertime with eating lobster, the City's Health Department is reminding the public to avoid consuming tomalley, the soft green substance found in the lobster's body cavity, due to concerns it may contain unsafe levels of Paralytic Shellfish Poison toxin, or "red tide." The State recently issued the warning, adding that it is safe to eat all other lobster meat because the toxin does not transfer to the meat of the lobster, remaining in the tomalley that acts like a liver/pancreas for lobsters. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/Lobster-Tomalley-Warning-071808.htm.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

It's not too early to consider making a donation to our annual back to school drive. Last year the Welfare Department assisted over 100 students with their back to school needs. Considering recent economic pressures, we are anticipating an even greater number of requests for assistance for school related supplies this year. All school supplies or gift cards are welcome. Especially needed are backpacks, new or gently used. Drop off donations at the Welfare Department in City Hall Room 204. Contact: etully@ch.cityofportsmouth.com or 610-7267.

RALEIGH WAY CHANGES

A new one-way traffic circulation pattern will take effect with the imminent completion of the first phase of the Raleigh Way Streetscape Improvement Project. Directional signs indicate one-way traffic and two-way traffic on certain streets. There was strong neighborhood support for the one-way traffic circulation pattern, which was approved by the Traffic and Safety Committee and the City Council. Contact: 610-7226.

POOL CLOSINGS

Peirce Island Pool will be closing at 4 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, August 7) due to a road race in the area. The Indoor Pool will be closed Aug. 18-24 for its annual maintenance, reopening Aug. 25. The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool closes for the season Sunday, Aug. 24. Contact: 427-0717.

ELECTIONS COMING

The Democratic and Republican primaries are Tuesday, September 9, and the general election is Tuesday, Nov. 4. Information on how to register to vote, absentee ballots, and other election topics can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/voteinfo.htm or call 610-7207.

FALL/WINTER REC PROGRAMS

The brochure detailing the upcoming fall and winter Recreation Department programs will be out by next Friday, Aug. 15. It will include the dates to register for the Rec Department's various adult day trips. The brochure will be available at all Rec facilities, as well as online on the Rec Department's page at www.CityofPortsmouth.com.

FALL PHS SPORTS

Portsmouth High School fall sports tryouts and practices begin in less than two weeks. The schedule can be found at www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/athlsch-tryout.htm.

FAMILY GOLF

The Rec Department's 4th Annual 9-Hole Family Fun Golf Tournament at Pease Golf Course is fast approaching. Sign up at Spinnaker Point soon for the event scheduled Sunday, Aug. 17, at 4 p.m. as registrations will close once there are 18 teams of two. For details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-7.htm or call 766-1483.

TEEN GAMING

The Library hosts a Teen Gaming Night next Thursday evening (Aug. 14) from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Levenson Community Room. Contact: 766-1740.

ROADWORK

Paving is planned this week on Maplewood Avenue between the Route 1 Bypass and Route 95 Overpass, and possibly other locations, depending on weather. Information on all City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Contact: 498-4747.

WOODBURY AVE. PROJECT

The Woodbury Avenue traffic calming improvements project between Bartlett Street and Woodlawn Circle is out for public bid and expected to be completed by the end of November. The project involves installation of granite curbing, pavement resurfacing, lining and striping, drainage work, traffic signal work and sidewalk installation. The City plans additional study before proceeding with work at the intersection of Woodbury and Maplewood Avenues. To see the technical specifications for the current project, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/purchasing.htm and click on the link for Bid No. 02-09 for the 59-page document. Contact: 766-1415.

BOARD VACANCIES

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) currently has two vacancies. These are among a number of openings on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. For more information, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Mark your calendar.... (3 items)

Portsmouth Public Schools reopen Aug. 26 for students in Grades 1-12, and for kindergarten on Sept. 2. The “Overnight Art” exhibition artists will be available on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. near their art pieces scattered through downtown to discuss their works before the public artwork is de-installed the following week. More information on the exhibit is at www.art-speak.org. Author Kate Christensen, whose novels include “Epicure’s Lament” and “The Great Man,” will read and sign copies of her books on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room at an event co-sponsored by RiverRun Bookstore. Contact: 427-1540.

Did you know...

Portsmouth has been named one of the “20 Best Towns in America” by Outside Magazine, standing at No. 4 in the rankings of locations presenting the most opportunities for “living the good life.” The list was topped by Washington, D.C.; Chattanooga, TN; and Ogden, Utah. The endorsement by Outside, which claims 2 million readers, comes a few months after Prevention Magazine named Portsmouth as New Hampshire’s “most walkable city.”

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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