

This City of Portsmouth Community Newsletter includes information about City-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Editions are e-mailed every other Wednesday. To join the distribution list, or be removed, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com. – *City Manager John P. Bohenko*

FAMILY NIGHT

Tonight is this summer's final Peirce Island Outdoor Pool "Family Night" from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. There will be lots of activities and grilled food is available for a small fee. Contact: 427-0717.

DOG CHANGE

Effective immediately, dogs no longer are allowed off-leash on Peirce Island following a City Council vote to institute the ban until the Animal Control Committee studies the issue and reports back in September. Portsmouth has a leash law but there are seven areas where dogs under voice command may be off leash. For the list, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/press080806.htm. Maps are available at the City Clerk's office.

SEAWALL RECONSTRUCTION

The public is encouraged to attend an informational meeting on the Newcastle Avenue Roadway and Seawall Reconstruction Project next Tuesday, August 15, at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. Project details will be discussed. For more info: www.cityofportsmouth.com/press081506.htm or contact: 766-1415.

CABLE TV FUTURE

A public hearing on Portsmouth's cable television franchise-related needs, including possibly establishing a community access channel to carry locally produced programming, is scheduled next Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 7 p.m. at Portsmouth City Hall by the City and its Cable Commission. In advance of the hearing, a 42-minute informational video about public access cable TV will be shown Saturday (Aug. 12) and Monday (Aug. 14) at 7 p.m. on Channel 22. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/cable081606.htm.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The "Treasure Reading" children's summer program ends Saturday (Aug. 12) with a 4 p.m. raffle drawing at the Library. Contact: 766-1740.

SUMMER IN THE STREET

On Saturday night (Aug. 12), no traffic or parking will be allowed on Pleasant Street from Porter Street to Market Square from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. for Pro Portsmouth's "Summer in the Street" downtown music program. Program information is at www.proportsmouth.org.

BOOK TV BUS

Residents of all ages are welcome to take a free tour of the C-Span "Book TV" Bus on Saturday, Aug. 19. It will be parked near the Library in the Bridge Street Parking Lot from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The 45-foot-long motor coach has a production studio for author interviews and a media demonstration center. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/cspan.htm or call: 766-1703.

CHIMNEAS & OTHER BURNING

With the exception of gas and charcoal grilling in above-ground, non-combustible containers, fire permits are required for any outside burning in Portsmouth. This includes chimneas and metal fire pits, which must be at least 25 feet from any structure and should never be installed on combustible surfaces like decks. Seasonal permits for them are available for \$5 at any Fire Station, unless you live in the South End roughly bordered by Pleasant and State Streets where burning is never allowed. Other outside burning requires a permit to be obtained that day, and burning is only allowed from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. unless it's raining. See: www.cityofportsmouth.com/fires/firepermit.htm or call 427-1515.

BIKE RACK

In response to an increase in bicycle commuting to work and as a preferred mode of transportation around town, a new bike rack has been installed at City Hall. It can accommodate five bicycles and is located to the left of the front entrance garden as you face the front door of City Hall.

SCHOOL INFO

If you are new to Portsmouth and have school-age children, please register them for school. Registration packets may be obtained at the Central Office, but registration takes place at the specific school. Portsmouth High freshmen orientation is Thursday, August 24, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The first day of school for students in Grades 1 - 12 is Tuesday, August 29. The first day for kindergarten is Thursday, August 31.

HEALTH REGISTRATIONS

Summer health registrations for new students will be held in advance of the Aug. 29 opening of school. Nurses at Dondero and New Franklin Elementary Schools will be available Tuesday, August 22, and the Middle and High School health registrations will be August 24. Times are 8 a.m.-11 a.m., and 12:20-2 p.m. Bring: child's birth certificate, immunization record, current physical exam record, completed registration paperwork (available from the Central Office or at each school) and proof of residency.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

The City's Welfare Department is accepting donations of school supplies to help those unable to afford to buy clothing or supplies for their children to return to school. Back-to-school help ranks only behind Christmas as the most frequently requested aid for children. Drop off new school supplies (markers, paper, notebooks, calculators, etc.), backpacks, socks, and gift cards to local department and clothing stores at the Welfare Department in City Hall Room 204. Contact: 610-7267.

GRAVE ENTERTAINMENT

"Spirits Past – 2006: Bringing the Dead to Life" continues this evening when Barbara Griswold presents "A Timeless Tragedy: A Story of Smuttynose," at Pleasant Street Cemetery. The next event in this free educational series sponsored by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee is Tuesday (Aug. 15) when Jeff Warner presents "Music of the Residents" colonial and maritime music at Point of Graves. All programs begin at 6 p.m. To learn more, visit www.portsmoutholdgraves.org/events.asp or contact: 436-5096.

CEMETERY SERVICE

The City recently honored Louise Tallman for her many years of volunteer service on behalf of the City's cemeteries. Several decades ago, she began an exhaustive survey of the various cemeteries, including the four City-owned historic burial grounds, large privately owned cemeteries, and little-known family plots. This led to the publication of comprehensive indexes for each cemetery, which can be accessed at the Library and at the Portsmouth Athenaeum. Mrs. Tallman, a member of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee, also has devoted thousands of hours to restoring and maintaining the cemeteries.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The City has begun the process of selecting a design engineer for an approximately \$20 million upgrade to the 50-year-old Madbury Water Treatment Plant serving Portsmouth, Newington, New Castle and portions of Greenland and Rye. Once a design engineer is hired by September 1, it will take an additional 1.5 to 2 years of design work before construction begins on an upgraded or new water treatment plant. The facility must be completed by 2010 so the City can meet future water quality requirements. Contact: 427-1530.

FAMILY TOURNAMENT

If you want to be part of the 2nd Annual 9-Hole Family Fun Golf Tournament on Sunday, Aug. 20, at 4 p.m. at Pease Golf Course, sign up now as space is limited to 18 teams of two. The fee is \$55 per team, including a cart. Free refreshments and prizes. Register at Spinnaker Point Recreation Center. Contact: 766-1483.

ROADWORK

Work continues on Hanover Street related to the new intermodal transportation facility. Reconstruction work continues on Crescent Way, including new water, sewer, and drain lines, as well as streetscape improvements. Miscellaneous paving projects also continue. Minimal traffic disruptions are expected. Work on replacing sidewalks along Middle Street should begin soon. The latest information on City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Every effort is made to prevent disruption of general traffic flow. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays. Contact: 498-4747.

Did you know...?

Market Street recently was named New Hampshire's 2006 Best Shopping Street by Boston magazine's *New England Travel & Life*. Mayor Steve Marchand said the distinction reaffirms that Market Street and downtown Portsmouth represent a premiere shopping destination offering unique shops, galleries and boutiques, along with historic architecture and a gracious welcome mat for visitors and local residents.

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/2006/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 7 a.m. until 3 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 closed Sunday.

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