

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 TODAY

The public is invited to a fun-filled afternoon of rides, games and food at the New Franklin Lawn Fete from 4 to 7 p.m. today (June 11).

SUMMER MOVIES

The Library launches its “Summer Cinema” series of free movies tomorrow (June 12) at 7 p.m. with “The Savages.” The movies and popcorn will be free every other Thursday evening in the Levenson Room. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm. Next up is “Things We Lost in the Fire” starring Halle Berry on June 26. Contact: 427-1540.

GRADUATIONS

The Middle School graduation is tomorrow (June 12) at 6:30 p.m. in the High School’s Stone Gymnasium. Portsmouth High graduation is Friday (June 13) at 5:30 p.m. in the Stone Gymnasium. The high school ceremony will be broadcast on Channel 22 the next evening (June 14) at 7 p.m.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Friday (June 13) is the deadline for high school students to apply for enrichment programs being offered this year as part of the Portsmouth High Summer School program. The application may be downloaded from www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/phs/index.htm by clicking on the “Summer School 2008” link. Registration for regular Summer School is Wednesday, June 25, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at PHS. Applications also are available in the PHS main office. Contact: Summer School Coordinator Amy Donovan at 436-7100, ext. 2925.

MARKET SQUARE DAY

Market Square Day is Saturday (June 14) and much of downtown Portsmouth will be vehicle-free and pedestrian-friendly. No parking will be allowed on several downtown streets between 4 a.m. and 6 p.m. A \$5 flat-rate parking fee will be collected from each vehicle entering the High-Hanover Parking Facility between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m., and a \$3 rate will be collected from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Payment upon entry to the facility is expected to reduce delays for those leaving after the Market Square Day events. Free shuttle bus service will be available from the Fox Run Mall Festival Parking overflow lot. For event details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/police/news061408.htm or proportsmouth.org.

MARKET SQUARE DAY TRAFFIC INTERRUPTIONS

The Market Square 10K Road Race, which begins promptly at 8:58 a.m. on Saturday (June 14), may cause periodic and significant traffic interruptions. At least 1,500 racers are already registered. The race begins at the North Church, travels on Summer to State to Bow to Market to Hanover to Maplewood to Dennett to Woodbury to Bartlett to Islington to Essex to Middle to South to Middle to Miller to South to Marcy. The full route may be found at www.proportsmouth.org/MSDRoadRace.cfm.

SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

Portsmouth Police, in conjunction with State Police and the State Liquor Commission, are launching a new series of sobriety checkpoints to apprehend drunk drivers this summer. The checkpoints will be supplemented by DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Hunter saturation patrols through the Seacoast. Motorists are forewarned that authorities plan to make every effort to apprehend drunk drivers, and urge patrons of local bars and restaurants to use designated drivers, cabs or to call a friend rather than drink and drive.

SCHOOL ENDING

The last day of school for Portsmouth Public School Grades K–11 is next Wednesday, June 18. It will be an early release day, and all schools will follow their regular early release schedules.

NEW NOVEL READING

A nationally acclaimed novelist will read from his novel about poet Robert Frost's life next Wednesday (June 18) in the Library's Levenson Room at 7 p.m. Brian Hall's novel "Fall of Frost," stays true to the external facts of Frost's life, but speculates about his thinking. The free event is co-sponsored by RiverRun Bookstore. Hall authored three previous novels and three non-fiction books. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs-061808.htm or call RiverRun at 431-2100.

WATER-SAVING TIPS

There are a number of things you can do in your garden and lawn this summer to reduce water consumption, which will help the environment and your water bill, according to the City's water department and sustainability coordinator. They say watering in the early morning reduces water loss through evaporation. Also, avoid watering on very windy days. Drip irrigation is the most efficient watering method because it reduces the possibility of waste through wind, evaporation, runoff or over-spraying. Add mulch around plants or dig mulch into the soil surface to hold water near plant roots in dry weather. Instead of using a hose to clean paths, patios and driveways, use a broom or rake.

CITY BUDGET

The City Council has approved the \$82 million budget for Fiscal Year 2009, which begins July 1, 2008. The approved budget document, along with the version originally proposed to the City Council, can be found online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/budgets.htm by clicking on the "Adopted Annual Budget" link.

BURN PERMITS

The Fire Department reminds everyone that 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.

MORE WI-FI

Free wireless Internet access is expanding in Portsmouth. Additional transmitters were installed recently at the High Hanover Parking Facility and City Hall, providing access to most wireless computers within about 500 feet. Wi-fi access is already available year-round in Market Square and an additional 20 access points are planned for installation downtown in the near future. Several local technology companies and the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce have partnered with the City to increase wi-fi access free to taxpayers through equipment donations and a state grant.

SUMMER READING

The Library kicks off its Summer Reading Program "G'Day for Reading" Monday, June 23, from noon to 2 p.m. at Four Tree Island. Sign up for the program, go on a walkabout, play games with an "Aussie theme," listen to stories, and more. Bring a lunch. Dessert and beverage will be served. Rain date is Tuesday, June 24. Contact: 766-1740 or lowly@lib.cityofportsmouth.com.

PEIRCE ISLAND POOL OPENING

The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool opens Monday, June 23, and will be open every day for nine weeks. Weekday mornings are reserved for children's swimming lessons but afternoons, weekends, and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings are for everyone. Admission for Portsmouth residents is free for children and \$1 for adults with proof of residency, and the cost for non-residents is \$1 for kids and \$2 for adults. To learn more, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm.

OUTDOOR POOL LESSONS

Session One of swim lessons at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool begins the week of June 23. Registration continues during normal hours at the Indoor Pool located next to Portsmouth High School until all classes are

filled. Lessons are free for Portsmouth children and \$60 for non-residents. To learn more, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-1546.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DESIGN

The School Board and City Council will hold a joint meeting Monday, June 23, regarding community reaction to design concepts for the Middle School. There will not be an opportunity for public input but the 6:30 p.m. session will be broadcast on local government Channel 22. For more info, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/middleschool.htm.

SUMMER REC PROGRAMS

There are still spots available in various Summer Recreation Department programs. Registration continues at the Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center. Brochures listing all programs are at Rec Department facilities and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm. Call 766-1483 to see which programs still have openings.

OVERNIGHT ART

A brochure with information and a map about the Overnight Art 2008 installation is now available for viewing online and downloading via a link at www.cityofportsmouth.com/overnightart.htm. The six pieces of outdoor art scattered throughout downtown are on display through the end of August. The artwork was chosen in a competition sponsored by Art-Speak, the city's cultural commission.

DOG FEES

If you missed the May 31 deadline to register your dog with the City Clerk's Office, you are subject to late fees. If you wait much longer, you also could face a civil forfeiture fine of \$25 and a Portsmouth District Court summons if you do not respond within 15 days. Contact: 610-7207.

EDUCATION CONTINUES

The School Department's Central Office will observe summer hours beginning June 23 through August 22. Monday through Thursday hours are 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Fridays are from 7 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Also, the School Department will be hosting a number of activities this summer designed to bring teachers together to collaborate in defining common learning expectations for students and expanding innovative approaches to meeting individual student needs. The major events include a Literacy Institute on June 23-24 and a Math Institute on August 18-20. For more information, contact Steve Zdravec at 431-5080.

ROADWORK

The installation of the new water line is complete on Raleigh Way. The new sewer line is being installed as part of the Raleigh Way Streetscape Improvements Project, with the new drain line thereafter. Contact Tom Richter at 766-1412. Meanwhile, crews are completing work on replacing sidewalks on Market Street between Market Square and Hanover Street with brick sidewalks. 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.

25 BOARD VACANCIES

There are 25 openings to be filled on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. 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...

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.

Did you know...

The City of Portsmouth has 160 miles of water lines, 115 miles of sewer lines, and 62 miles of storm water lines running from the homes and buildings of Portsmouth, under the streets and to treatment plants, or in the case of storm water -- to open bodies of water. Storm water runoff is one of the leading causes of pollution in creeks, rivers and lakes. To learn more about the watersheds in Portsmouth, storm water pollution and what you can do to make a difference in our local environment, go to www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/stormwater.htm.

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. through June 20; from June 23-Aug. 22 the Monday through Thursday hours are 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 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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