

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

The public is invited to tonight's (July 9) basketball game between Portsmouth Police officers and members of the Friends Project, a team comprised of special needs adolescents. The game begins at 6 p.m. at the South Mill Pond basketball courts. PPD is running a basketball league for Seacoast area youths this summer, and the special needs youth play there on Wednesday nights, Middle School girls play at New Heights on Thursdays and Middle School boys play at the South Mill Pond courts on Fridays. The games begin each night at 6 p.m. The league is coordinated by School Resource Officers/Detectives Robert Munson and Aaron Goodwin.

PUMP STATION MEETING

There will be a public information meeting tomorrow evening (Thursday, July 10) regarding the City's planned two-month electrical upgrade of the Mechanic Street Wastewater Pumping Station at the corner of Mechanic and Gates Streets. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room A. Work begins next week to replace antiquated electrical equipment to improve the operation and efficiency of the two main pumps. The odor control system also will be replaced with a new activated carbon system. During construction, access around the pumping station may be restricted and parking may be affected for short periods. Contact: 766-1416.

SUMMER CINEMA

The film "In Bruges" starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson will be shown tomorrow evening (Thursday, July 10) at 7 p.m. in the Library's Levenson Room as part of the Summer Cinema Series. The movie is about two hitmen holed up in Bruges, Belgium. "Charlie Wilson's War" will be shown July 24. For more information, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/library/lib-programs.htm or call 427-1540.

PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

A student exhibit entitled "FOCUS: A Photographic Journal of Seacoast NH" will be on display in over 50 downtown Portsmouth storefront windows beginning Friday (July 11) through July 20. FOCUS is a collaborative project of the Citywide Neighborhood Committee and Portsmouth Middle School. A total of 165 eighth-grade students photographed Portsmouth and Newington on a single day in October, taking over 13,000 shots. Each participating student has one photograph in the show displayed in storefronts on Market, Bow, Congress (including Vaughn Mall), Pleasant, Daniel, State, Ceres, and Penhallow Streets. Contact: Project coordinator Robin McIntosh at appledore@comcast.net or 502-5923.

SUMMER IN THE STREET

Part of Pleasant Street near Market Square will be closed for the next two Saturday evenings (July 12 and 19) 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. For program info, see www.proportsmouth.org.

INCREASED DOWNTOWN PATROLS

The Police Department has implemented a summer plan that reallocates resources, namely plain-clothed detectives, for a greater downtown presence guarding against alcohol-related violations. Portsmouth has more than 130 bars, restaurants and stores selling alcohol, the highest per capita in the state. Alcohol-related calls to the PPD dramatically increase in the summer. In an effort to keep the downtown area safe for all, there will be zero tolerance for such alcohol-related offenses as drunken driving, disorderly conduct, urinating in public, and carrying open containers. The public is urged to report such offenses to the PPD or make an anonymous tip through Crime Stoppers at 431-1199 or www.seacoastcrimestoppers.org.

G'DAY FOR READING

The Library's 2008 Summer Reading Program has a number of fun events scheduled over the next two weeks. Children ages 3 and up can make a boomerang from 10 a.m. to noon today (July 9) through Saturday. On Monday and Tuesday, from 1 to 2 p.m., and every day for the rest of the week from 10 a.m. until noon, children

can make aboriginal bark paintings and an Aussie animal puppet during those hours the following week. On Wednesday, July 16, "Creatures Down Under" (including a wallaby) will be in the Levenson Room from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. See Ronald McDonald and his 30-minute "Ronald's Sunsational Reading Show" on July 22 from 1:30 to 2 p.m. Contact: 766-1740.

ART MYSTERIES

"Authentic, Fake or Restored? Decoding Mysteries in Art" is the title of a Library program scheduled July 23 at 6 p.m. in the Levenson Room. Curators from the Currier Museum of Art will discuss their investigations into technique, materials and style that confirmed the authenticity and value of two major works in the Currier's collections: the legendary 17th Century cupboard owned for generations by the family of Meshech Weare of Hampton and a rare relief by Renaissance master Antonio Rossellino. A reception follows at the Discover Portsmouth Center, where everyone is invited to view the Russell Cheney exhibition, "From Impressionism to Yankee Modernism: Portsmouth and the New Hampshire Coast," and "New Hampshire Then and Now: Historical and Contemporary Photographs of the Granite State by Peter Randall." Contact: 427-1540.

WATER CARNIVAL

Portsmouth children of all ages and swimming abilities are invited to the City's 11th Annual Water Carnival at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool on Wednesday, July 23. There will even be events for non-swimmers. The fun goes from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. For children to participate, parents must show a driver's license with a Portsmouth address or a "proof of residency" certificate that can be obtained from the City Clerk's office at City Hall. Rain date is July 24. The Outdoor Pool is closed to everyone else until 3 p.m. on Water Carnival Day. See www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm for general info on Peirce Island Outdoor Pool hours or call 427-0717.

OUTDOOR POOL

The Peirce Island Outdoor Pool is the perfect place to spend a hot, lazy afternoon. 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. There are six lap lanes at the deep end for serious swimmers. Admission is free for Portsmouth children and \$1 for adult residents, and the non-resident prices are \$1 for children and \$2 for adults. For specific hours, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-0717.

SESSION 2 SWIM LESSONS

Registration continues for Session Two free swim lessons at the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool. Sign up at the pool during normal 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 \$60 for non-residents. For registration policy and program details, see www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs-11.htm or call 427-0717.

TEEN EVENTS

The Library is hosting teen workshops on recycled fashion, photography and poetry this month and in 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. Contact Jenny Calivas at 766-1740 or jhcalivas@lib.cityofportsmouth.com.

GUITAR HERO

Teens ages 12 and up are invited to play Guitar Hero and release their inner rock star at the Library's first Teen Gaming Night next Thursday (July 17) from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the Levenson Community Room. They're encouraged to dress up in their coolest rock-and-roll getup. The next Teen Gaming Night will be July 31. Contact: 766-1740 or lowly@lib.cityofportsmouth.com.

SUMMER REC

There are still a few openings in some Summer Rec Department programs. Call 766-1483 to learn which ones are still available. Program descriptions can be found in the brochures at all Rec Department facilities and online at www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/programs.htm.

WATER-SAVING TIP

Be sure to shut off your garden hose by closing the spigot from the house, or hose bib, instead of just turning off the hose handle. Hoses often have leaky connections, which can result in a substantial loss of water and increase your water bill. Even a small, slow leak can result in several gallons of water lost. A continuous leak from a hole just 1/16th of an inch in diameter can leak 24,666 gallons in a month. To estimate your water loss from a leaking hose or faucet, try counting the number of drips per minute and use the online calculator at www.awwa.org/awwa/waterwiser/dripcalc.cfm.

ROAD CLOSURES

There will be rolling street closures Saturday (July 12) for the Annual Harbour Trail 5K Road Race that begins at 9 a.m. at the Middle School on Parrott Avenue and ends there at approximately 11 a.m. No parking will be allowed on Parrott Avenue from the area by the Courthouse to Junkins Avenue. The entire race route through downtown and Strawberry Banke can be found at www.portcity.org/roadrace.cfm. On Saturday, July 19, Bow Street will be blocked to all vehicle traffic from Chapel Street to Daniel Street beginning at 5 a.m. Saturday through 6 p.m. Sunday, July 20, for the Bow Street Fair.

ROADWORK

Work continues on the Raleigh Way streetscape project with installation of concrete sidewalks, driveway aprons, loam and seed, and street trees planned over the next two weeks. No traffic disruptions are anticipated. Questions can be directed to Tom Richter at 766-1412. The latest information on all City road projects is at www.cityofportsmouth.com/projects/index.htm. Weather and other factors may cause schedule delays.

BOARD VACANCIES

There are 26 vacancies on the City's volunteer boards and commissions. For information on the openings and how to apply, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/boardscommissions.htm.

Mark your calendar....

On Tuesday, August 5, neighborhoods throughout Portsmouth will be joining forces with thousands of communities nationwide for "National Night Out." Contact Sharon Morrison, Portsmouth Citywide Steering Committee Chair, at 512-7832 or sharonmorrison@comcast.net.

Did you know...

Eight area restaurants recently sent employees to ServSafe training at City Hall. ServSafe is a nationally recognized comprehensive food safety certification program that includes the topics of: Food Microbiology, Avoiding Contamination, Hygienic Practices, Flow of Food, Storage, Preparation, Service, Food Safety and Crisis Management Systems, Sanitary Facilities and Equipment, Cleaning and Sanitizing, Integrated Pest Management, Regulations and Standards, and Employee Training. Portsmouth establishments represented were Friendly's Ice Cream, Hebert's Restaurant, Sausage Express, State Street Saloon and The Juicery. Also participating were the Country View and La Famiglia Restaurants in Greenland and the Dinghy Dock Café in New Castle.

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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