

PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Promoting economic growth, leadership and education within the City of Portsmouth

Newsletter No. 33

www.portsmouthpartnership.org

April 2012



RUDISILL, PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATE BUSY YEAR



2011-12 PARTNERSHIP PRESIDENT PHIL RUDISILL presided over his last board meeting as President on March 12 and looked back on what was a productive and eventful year. In addition to welcoming Bria Matchett as Administrative Assistant, the group in 2011-12 added new members Senator Louise Lucas, YMCA Executive Director Richard Wentz, Attorney Christine Piersall, Wheelabrator executive Rob Clendenin, TCC Provost Dr. Michelle Woodhouse and businessman Ross Cherry. Support also continued for the Portsmouth Invitational Tournament, while the annual Partnership Golf Tournament raised \$26,000, and former Partnership president Bob Williams was chosen as Portsmouth's 2010 First Citizen. Other Partnership efforts and successes included the following:



EDUCATION Having contributed \$20,000 toward the expansion of the Children's Museum of Virginia through the **Partnership Foundation**, we took pleasure in honoring and thanking retiring Senator Fred Quayle for his support of the Children's Museum, the Sports Hall of Fame, TCC's Portsmouth Campus, the Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve, and the Portsmouth Public Libraries – all previous Partnership grantees. The champion Norcom Greyhounds were given a luncheon in their honor (pictured left) at the Sports Hall of Fame, where a **\$500 scholarship** was granted to a deserving team member. In April, an event at the Montgomery Grille honored retiring Lefcoe Leadership facilitator **Horace Savage** and raised **\$2,500** toward a **scholarship** in his name and, in August, a fund-raiser at Mario's produced over **\$3,300** to fund the **Portsmouth Schools Foundation's** Innovator Grants program. Finally, in addition to granting the final installment of a **\$25,000 TCC Career and Technical Scholarship**, Partnership members joined Bob Williams to spearhead a **Boys and Girls Club** effort to retain the current program at Hodges Manor Elementary, restore a program at Douglass Park, and create a new program at Waters Middle School.

Champion Norcom Greyhounds' Banquet, top; Horace Savage, Sen. Louise Lucas, Del. Matthew James, Center; Mario's fundraiser for Portsmouth Schools Foundation



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT The **Partnership Development Foundation** cheered the opening of the new **Royal Farms** convenience store, located at Churchland Boulevard and Towne Point Road in Churchland. The retailer sits on one-half of the PDF's original five acre site; the other parcel is currently listed for sale. **PortsEvents'** Court Street **Farmers' Market** moved to a weekly format in 2011 with 28 vendors attracting growing crowds of eager shoppers. Meanwhile, First Fridays' **Courtyard Concert** series brought over 3,000 visitors to **Portsmouth's Art and Cultural Center**, generating over \$5,000 in beverage contributions which combined with a matching grant to total **\$20,000** for the **Portsmouth Museums Foundation**. The **Greater Portsmouth Development Corporation** was glad to announce that **Chick Fil-A** will soon appear across from the WalMart on Frederick Boulevard, providing high-quality retail along the city's busiest corridor.

PortsVaEvents.com
TOWNE BANK
Presenting Sponsor

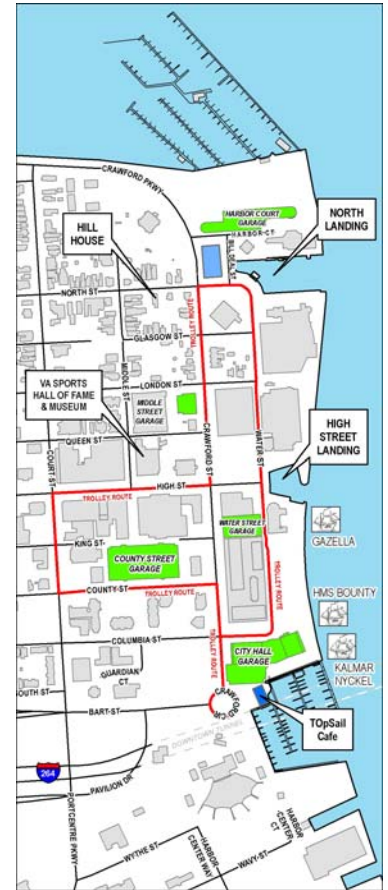
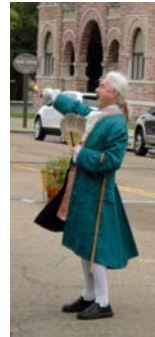




OpSail2012Virginia is coming to town June 8-10 and the Partnership has expanded the City's annual **Seawall Music Festival** to include free tours of **three visiting tall ships**



and a Coast Guard cutter, free trolley service along the waterfront, music, events, re-enactors, history lessons and more to visitors along Portsmouth's waterfront. Four of Portsmouth's elementary schools are participating in the Adopt-A-Ship program, and kids of all ages will be encouraged to complete a "Passport" indicating visits to all of our visiting ships, the **Portsmouth Naval Shipyard** and **Lightship Museums**, the **Hill House Museum** and the **Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Museum**. A **TopSail Café**, located at Ocean Marine, will offer food from Roger Brown's and Brutti's, beverages, games, face-painting, music, souvenirs and more to visitors, providing fun for kids and a welcomed rest stop for mom and dad.



TRANSPORTATION The threat of looming tolls on the Downtown and Midtown tunnels brought the **Martin Luther King Leadership Steering Committee** and the Portsmouth Partnership together in support of Senator Louise Lucas's budget amendment providing for additional state investment to reduce toll fares. Members of both organizations and others rode a bus to Richmond to attend a Senate Finance Committee hearing on the proposal. It is hoped that this effort marks only the first of many opportunities for cooperation between the two groups. Meanwhile, the Partnership continued to provide support both for **high speed rail** and for the construction of a **Bowers Hill Station** to link future Portsmouth light rail to the high-speed corridor.



LEADERSHIP The 16th annual **Lefcoe Leadership** class added visits to the General Assembly and the State Supreme Court to its schedule, and completed an ambitious hands-on project at the Westhaven Boys' Home which included exterior paint work, carpet, window and curtain replacement, and the donation of sports and leisure equipment to the facility. The Lefcoe program's 357 graduates continue to seek ways in which to serve their community.



THE PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP'S VOLUNTEERS, while pleased with the accomplishments of 2011-12, are excited at the many opportunities that 2012-13 holds under the leadership of **President Jim Bento**. The Partnership will continue to forge strong, productive relationships as it seeks to promote economic growth, education and leadership in our historic seaport city.



PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP - CITY OF PORTSMOUTH - PHRA
GPDC 14 years 1,000 jobs \$14,000,000 tax revenue

