

# PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP

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

Newsletter No. 46

[www.portsmouthpartnership.org](http://www.portsmouthpartnership.org)

August 2014

10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
Portsmouth Partnership  
Golf Tournament  
Wednesday,  
September 10, 2014  
Bide-A-Wee Golf Course  
Celebrating the  
United States  
Coast Guard



Tournament Sponsor  
**Wheelabrator Portsmouth Inc.**  
A Waste Management Company

## PARTNERSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT CELEBRATES 'COAST GUARD CITY' STATUS

THE PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT has, for nine years, been a fun gathering of diverse community leaders consisting of educators, business owners, elected officials, non-profit leaders and others. In this 10<sup>th</sup> year, however, there's a new twist: in honor of Portsmouth's 6<sup>th</sup> year as an official **Coast Guard City**, our city's Coast Guard and military partners are invited to play at a specially discounted rate. This will provide a great opportunity for our city's business leaders and its military partners to share experiences and forge relationships.

PORTSMOUTH IS HOME TO THE USCG FIFTH DISTRICT COMMAND, and the two share a 200-plus year history, formalized in 1820 when the U.S. Lighthouse Service anchored its first lightship off Craney Island. Today, the Coast Guard is one of Portsmouth's largest employers, with over 2,500 military and civilian members.



THE COAST GUARD's Portsmouth base members take their responsibility as community partners seriously. On April 23<sup>RD</sup> they hosted Portsmouth high school students for an intensive look at the crucial role that Science, Technology, Engineering and Math play in virtually all of the Coast Guard's operations – from Search and Rescue to Marine Safety Operations, Law Enforcement, Coastal



Security, National Security, Cyber Security and more. Students toured and examined two Coast Guard Cutters, an MH-60 helicopter, and a 25' inflatable RB-S. Representatives from **NOAA** described how Modeling and Simulation assist in the tracking of weather systems as well as HAZMAT spills, and a STEM panel of experts, including top-ranking U.S. Coast Guard brass and Portsmouth's Mayor Wright, hosted a question-and-answer session detailing the vital role that STEM disciplines increasingly play in all aspects of their careers. The kids were impressed. Hopefully, they will take their real-world lessons back into their classrooms, and share them with others. In the meantime, Portsmouth's U.S. Coast Guard plans to make the **STEM Expo** an annual event.

THE GOLF TOURNAMENT is the Partnership's signature fund-raiser each year, providing funds to run affiliates including the Lefcoe Leadership class, GPDC, and PortsEvents, which produces weekly Farmers Markets and First Friday Courtyard Concerts. All are welcome to participate and enjoy. Please call Bria Matchett at 397-8473 for further info.

## Portsmouth Reads Celebrates Success, Seeks Funding



The founders of **Portsmouth Reads**, back in 2005, determined that if we are to foster our kids' future reading ability, literacy's building blocks must be laid as early as possible. But how, where, and by whom? Brainstorming sessions produced a solution: train child care providers (pictured at left) on the topics that were part of teachers' annual certification, and let them take these skills into the day care centers where they

work; provide two-hour training sessions on each month's second Saturday, from September through April, at no charge; provide refreshments at each session at no charge. Training sessions would help providers gain strategies to implement in their classrooms, plus offer valuable networking opportunities.

**The result?** 12 years ago, 24% of Portsmouth's kindergarteners scored poorly on PALS tests, which measured their preparedness for school and learning. Recent statistics show a great trend: the number has dropped to 11%.

**Initial funding of just over \$23,000** from the **Beazley Foundation**, the **Portsmouth General Hospital Foundation** and the Portsmouth Community Foundation (now the **Southeast Virginia Community Foundation**) has lasted nearly 10 years. The challenge now is to attract new funding, continue the success our city's young kids have shown, and continue to be the model program which other cities have worked to duplicate. Want to help? Please call 641-2145 or 397-2981 for info.

## Ocean Marine Hosts Luncheon, Career Expo for Ship Repair Association

**TODAY'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** need to know about the superb career opportunities that the maritime industry offers. But . . . how best to reach them? The **Southeast Maritime and Transportation Institute** asserts that an informed high school teacher or counselor is the best ambassador. Accordingly, in July it hosted a week-long session for over 25 educators which included immersive, hands-on experience with maritime employers and employees. Participants met industry leaders, toured work sites, engaged in problem-solving activities, and created models for future replicable materials, competitions and curricula.

**PARTICIPANTS** learned from Bill Crow, President of the **Virginia Ship Repair Association**, about VSRA's outreach and its promotion of both the industry and its educational opportunities. They also enjoyed a tour of Portsmouth's **Ocean Marine** facilities, hosted by President and Partnership member Jim Bento, and saw first-hand the variety of work offered in a typical day's operation of a marina, dry storage facility and ship repair center for pleasure craft – very LARGE pleasure craft (see photo at right).

**THE SOUTHEAST MARITIME AND TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE** is confident that tomorrow's maritime industry workers are out there, and pleased that, through the cooperation of today's educators, it will attract a future generation of workers that is greatly needed.



OCEAN MARINE photos courtesy of Jon Abrahams



## JOB, INTERNSHIP AND MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES . . .

**Is your company looking** for seasonal or summer help? The Portsmouth Public School System has responsible students eager to work in the areas of nursing, culinary arts, child care, the hospitality industry, industrial welding, and more. To find out how you, your company and our kids can benefit, please contact:

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Portsmouth Public Schools

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**PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP - CITY OF PORTSMOUTH - PHRA**  
**GPDC 15 years 1,000 jobs \$22,000,000 tax revenue**

