

PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP

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

BUSINESS serving COMMUNITY

Newsletter No. 53

www.portsmouthpartnership.org

July 2015



WHEELABRATOR'S ENERGY FROM WASTE OPERATION: GOOD FOR PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS

Most of us don't know what happens to our trash once the city picks it up. In Portsmouth, it goes to what's called the Refuse Derived Fuel or RDF plant near Cradock. There it is shredded, processed and conveyed under Victory Boulevard to a massive energy plant where it is used as fuel to generate steam to provide heat and hot water for the adjacent Norfolk Naval Shipyard and electricity that is sold onto the nation's power grid.

Solid waste from Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk and Virginia Beach also come to the energy from waste operation in Portsmouth. Those localities, plus Franklin and Southampton and Isle of Wight Counties, form the Southeastern Public Service Authority or SPSA. This regional alliance was started in the 1980's but is scheduled to end in 2018 if the members do not agree on a new "Use and Support Agreement."

Wheelabrator Portsmouth hopes it continues and that the communities will keep relying on energy from waste, rather than diverting our discards to either SPSA's regional landfill in Suffolk or another one nearly a hundred miles away. Those are other options SPSA is considering. Neither is as environmentally friendly as energy from waste, according to Rob Johnson, manager of the Wheelabrator plants, who spoke at a recent Partnership luncheon. "Our process reduces greenhouse gases and, because we're local, there is no long haul trucking required that adds to air pollution," Johnson said. **Wheelabrator employs 145 people** and has a \$68-million economic impact on the region, according to a study conducted by Dr. James Koch of Old Dominion University. Many of those people work in **Portsmouth, which receives some \$3-million a year in tax revenue and water purchases from Wheelabrator.** "This is an important business for our city," said David Tynch, a past president of the Partnership. "Wheelabrator has become a good neighbor and corporate citizen in Portsmouth since they bought the plants in 2010. We need to keep them around."

But Wheelabrator won't be around, said Rob Johnson, if the communities choose another method for disposal. Currently nearly 800,000 tons of municipal and commercial waste arrive annually at the RDF facility. "We cannot replace that with trash from another source," Johnson told the audience. He also noted that the Navy would be a big loser. "We have a contract to provide them steam through 2023. If we do not have trash, we cannot continue to operate as an EFW facility." In addition, the **steam and energy produced at Wheelabrator account for 40% of a sustainability goal the Navy's Mid-Atlantic region, stretching from Maine to Virginia, must meet.** "We should be doing more to keep the Navy in Hampton Roads, not less," said Tynch.

SPSA and the localities will decide soon which direction to go beyond 2018. "We have made a very attractive offer to continue being the waste disposal option of choice," said Johnson. "But we have to generate enough revenue from tip fees, which will go down anyway in Portsmouth and elsewhere after 2018, and energy sales to cover our operational costs. Energy from waste will never be as cheap as landfilling, but from an environmental perspective, it is the better solution, and we have a proven track record of reliability and ability to support the strategic goals of the Navy both locally and regionally."

Anyone who would like more information on Wheelabrator or would like to tour the company's operation can call Joel Rubin, a member of the Partnership board, at 757-456-5212.

Cherry Carpet and Flooring: 68 Years and 3 Generations of Leadership, Success and Partnership



For 68 years Portsmouth's Cherry Carpet has been a robust corporate citizen, a business whose employee and customer loyalty speak volumes about the integrity and skills of the Cherry family. But, in addition to being hands-on leaders within the company and committed community volunteers, all three generations of Cherrys have served with the Portsmouth Partnership or its predecessor, the Portsmouth Industrial Foundation; third- generation Ross serves as the Partnership's Treasurer today. Founder Arthur and son Brad, a previous Portsmouth School Board Chairman, have both been honored as Portsmouth's First Citizens. Now, the Cherry family's commitment to the city of Portsmouth has been demonstrated once again with the significant investment in the recent expansion and upgrade of their London Blvd. showroom.

With customers from all over Hampton Roads and beyond, Cherry's team members combine their expertise with state-of-the-art computing systems to design and select from a wide array of flooring solutions, all within the clients' budgetary needs. The design and installation teams can handle both commercial and residential projects, and their experience enables them to understand a project's logistics, meet its deadlines, and minimize disruption to clients in the process.

The Cherry family remains dedicated to serving its customers, protecting the environment, and giving back to the community. Recent support has gone to organizations including the **Roc Solid Foundation**, the **HER Shelter**, the **Portsmouth Service League** and **Girls, Inc.** We thank the Cherry family for its example and its continuing commitment to Portsmouth!



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:

Craig Hill, Coordinator, Career and Technical Education

Portsmouth Public Schools: 822-2711 or 822-2927

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PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP - CITY OF PORTSMOUTH - PHRA
GPDC 17 years 1,000 jobs \$25,000,000 tax revenue

