Winter Weather Preparations – Never Too Early to Plan

While the City’s first snowfall may not yet be in the forecast, residents are advised to review their winter storm readiness as we approach the winter season and snow removal may become necessary. City snow plowing operations are in effect for snowfalls of approximately two (2) inches or more. The City recommends that all motorists stay off the roadways, if at all possible, during a snowstorm as City personnel face additional difficulties due to narrow streets, parked cars on roadways, one-way traffic, steep hills and poor visibility. Higher total snow accumulations and/or severe weather conditions may lead City officials to call for a parking ban on certain streets. All parking of automobiles on these streets is banned for limited periods to facilitate road treatments and the removal of snow. The number of streets included in the parking ban ordinance was increased earlier this year to 24, and the streets have been posted with snow emergency/tow zone signage.

The streets included in the ordinance are Annandale Road, Bellevue Avenue: (Kay Street to Bowery St), Bedlow Avenue, Bliss Road, Broadway, Coggeshall Avenue, Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard, East Bowery Street, Farewell Street, Friendship Street, Gibbs Avenue, Gould Street, Kay Street, Powell Avenue, Spring Street, Sumner Street, Thames Street, Third Street, Warner Street, Washington Street, Washington Square, West Narragansett Avenue, William Street, and Van Zandt Avenue, from J.T. Connell Memorial Road East to Malbone Road.

Residents are urged to plan for where they will park if a ban is announced and to sign up at www.cityofnewport.com for Code Red alerts to be advised of any parking bans. Motor vehicles parked on a named street one-half hour after the public ban has been announced may be towed to a place of storage at the owner’s expense. Residents can utilize the parking lots at the Gateway Center, Mary Street and Easton’s Beach free of charge during parking bans.

Newport’s Emergency Ballot Period

If circumstances arise within 20 days of the election which prevent you from going to the polls on Election Day, you are able to vote an emergency ballot. Emergency ballots can be cast in person beginning October 19, 2016 through 4:00 P.M. on November 7, 2016 at the Canvassing Office on the first floor of City Hall, located at 43 Broadway, during regular business hours of 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

You may also request that an emergency ballot be mailed to you by submitting an Emergency Mail Ballot application to the Canvassing Office by 4:00 P.M. the day before the election. The Emergency Mail Ballot Application can be found on the City of Newport’s website under the Canvassing Department: http://www.cityofnewport.com/departments/canvassing

All voted mail ballots must be returned directly to the State Board of Elections located at 50 Branch Avenue Providence, R.I. 02904 and must be received by 8:00 P.M. the night of the election. Do not return your voted ballot to your local Board of Canvassers. Please contact the Canvassing Office for more information at (401) 845-5384 or (401) 845-5386.
Newport’s Community Garden a Success

After nearly ten years of planning, Newport broke ground on its first community garden this spring. Since opening in mid-May, the garden at Great Friends Meeting House has become a source of beauty, produce, and community for our City. The community project came together thanks to the Island’s network of food growers, businesses, foodies, historians and activists: Aquidneck Community Table (ACT) built and organized the garden project; the Newport Historical Society, which owns the land partnered ACT on the project with the MLK Community Center; and the dedicated team effort of countless neighborhood residents who helped raise funds and donated their labor to build the garden. Grants from the Rhode Island Foundation’s Centennial Fund and Aquidneck Land Trust’s Merritt Fund provided critical funding for materials.

Now in the process of closing for the winter, Aquidneck Community Table’s director, Bevan Linsley, and her team are teaching residents how to “cover crop” to improve the soil before the next growing season. “We learned a lot about running community gardens this year and will put our experience to work developing and improving programs next year. We want to reach out to experienced gardeners who have the time to partner with new gardeners - putting the community in our gardens! We have wonderful feedback from those new gardeners about how much they enjoyed the experience, and tastes, of their first garden.” Bevan says. To find out more about how to get involved or to apply for a bed for 2017 at the Great Friends location, contact ACT at info@aquidneckcommunitytable.com, or go to www.aquidneckcommunitytable.org

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission

Regional thinking and regional solutions offer the best way, and perhaps the only way, to cope with the looming challenges and unmet needs of our Island communities. Coordination and cooperation among our three municipalities, nonprofit leaders, residents and other Island stakeholders can lead to better services at lower cost, as well as new responses to challenges and opportunities that communities cannot implement individually.

The Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (AIPC) was created for just this reason. Established in 1985 by the municipalities of Middletown, Newport and Portsmouth, and the State of Rhode Island, the AIPC is a non-profit organization working to preserve and improve Aquidneck Island’s environment, economy and quality of life. AIPC leads and supports collaborative planning and action to ensure our Island home remains a great place to live, work, visit, and thrive. Over the last 20 years, we have modeled Island-wide thinking and planning through projects such as the West Side Master Plan, our Aquidneck Island Open Space Mapping and the Aquidneck Island Transportation Study. Our work shows that effective and affordable solutions to problems like traffic congestion, food security, clean water and environmental quality can be found — if we are willing to step across town lines to look for them.

To learn more about AIPC or to get involved, go to: aquidneckplanning.org

Newport Fall Restaurant Week

Autumn is for pumpkins, leaves, tricks, and treats and of course, Newport Restaurant Week! Sponsored by Discover Newport, Newport Restaurant Week will begin November 4 and run through November 13, 2016. This fall special will feature more than 50 participating restaurants and will offer extraordinary three-course prix fixe lunches for $16 and three-course prix fixe dinners for $35. Participating restaurants and their Restaurant Week menus will be posted online at: https://www.discovernewport.org/newport-restaurant-week/