



PORCH TALK



December 2009

Port Norfolk Civic League, P. O. Box 7114, Portsmouth VA 23707

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DECEMBER LEAGUE NEWS



Note from the President:

For Port Norfolk citizens the storm was horrific! On Thursday, after the storm I drove around the neighborhood and noticed many trees had fallen and many streets were flooded. Naturally, the worst was along the waterfront. Mother Nature really gave us a blow, no pun intended. As one person said "it's a humbling feeling".

I'm not fully aware of all the damage individual homes sustained or if there were any personal injuries. I hope not. I've been told neighbors were out helping each other cleaning up debris, particularly along the waterfront when high tide waters covered Bayview Blvd. I was informed the City Of Portsmouth cleaned up the streets along the waterfront to make them drivable and they were out cleaning storm drains on Friday.



Not to minimize anyone's personal circumstance during and after the storm, but I find it miraculous, with all the destruction along the waterfront, Reflection Walk only had two benches come loose a couple of flower pots and two lamp post uprooted along the walk way. Not one memorial brick was lost! Most of the damage suffered was debris washing onto the streets. While walking along the path at Reflection Walk, I came across this one lone flower, blooming in all its glory. I found it amazing it survived the storm. Perhaps a higher power was watching over the neighborhood and the park.

I would like to personally thank all the folks that helped clear debris in and around Reflection Walk, and more importantly, for helping your neighbors!

—Phillip DeSiano, President
Port Norfolk Civic League

Port Norfolk's NEAT Officer is Portsmouth's Top Cop, Chris Gilmore. Please contact him if you see anything suspicious happening in the neighborhood. 757-235-5655

For Board member email addresses, visit our website at www.portnorfolk.org

PORCH CHATTER

Birthdays

Wishing everyone who celebrates a birthday in December an incredible day . . . Yvonne DeSiano, Virginia Goyena, Benny Hoofnagle, Justin Kohmetscher, Felecia Sawyer, and Tim Wolf.



Birthdays are obtained from the League membership list. If you have someone who's special day you'd like to recognize, email publicity@portnorfolk.com.

In Deepest Sympathy

Our condolences to the family of Gregory A. Dodge. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Preservation Corner

A monthly guideline designed to help preserve the historic homes and buildings in the Port Norfolk Historic District.

PAINT

"Painting is one of the least expensive ways to maintain historic fabric and make a building an attractive addition to the historic district. In some instances buildings may be painted inappropriate colors or colors are placed on the building incorrectly. Do not use overly bright or obtrusive colors. Select a color scheme appropriate to the time period in which your building was constructed and compatible with adjacent structures."

Reference: Port Norfolk Historic District Design Guidelines, Section V, paragraph F. A Certificate of Appropriateness is required from the HPC before conducting most exterior alterations.

Please contact the planning office prior to doing any work which is visible from a public right-of-way. This includes both the house and yard!

If you have historical or code guideline questions/concerns please call: (757) 393-8836.

Non compliance penalties include-corrective action and/or fines.

Authority:
Portsmouth Historic Preservation Commission
(HPC)



SATELLITE DISHES

In keeping with the historic concept of our neighborhood, please have your satellite dish placed at the rear of your house eliminating view from the street, if at all possible. Please do not place in your front yard or on the front of your house.

Neighborhood Watch

Crime

Please remove all valuables from your cars. More and more individuals are reporting stolen GPS's as one example.

Attempted Break-in

Recently while at work one of our neighbors in the 100 block of Florida discovered that there had been an attempted break-in. The garage door showed evidence of an attempt to pry the lock, on the entrance door, as well as the backdoor of the home.

Locks have all been replaced and our neighbor requested this information be shared so everyone could be made aware.

Neighborhood Safety

In the event of an emergency some of your best help and support may be from your neighbors. Here's a list of things we can do to help make our neighborhood safer.

- **Meet with your neighbors** (attend civic league meetings). Get to know your neighbors.
- **Create a personal support network.** Agree to watch each other's home when you are away. Check on each other after a disaster. Swap keys and lists of whom to notify in an emergency.
- **Attend talks** on neighborhood crime watch and emergency response (again, civic league meetings).
- **Report** unusual or suspicious behavior to the local law enforcement.

Be A Good Neighbor

- Please don't park your vehicle on the grass in your front yard.
- Please remember, flattened cardboard boxes go in the alley.
- Bagged leaves and grass clippings go in the alley (in clear plastic bags).
- Limbs go to the curb.
- Bulk trash goes to the curb.

Bulk Trash

- Bulk is picked up on Friday's. Please do not place bulk on the curb until Thursday night.

Leaves

- The city only sweeps the curbs four times a year. Please remove the leaves in front of your home. It will help the water drain!



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



2009 Holiday Tour of Homes

Historic Port Norfolk
Sunday, December 6, 2009
3:00—7:00 pm

Rain or Shine

Ticket Sales:

Advance Tickets \$10.00
Military Discount \$5.00
(w/Military ID)

Tickets are available at: The Lofty Bean, Pizza Box, Village Hair Design located in Port Norfolk and Anderson-Wright and Kitchen Koop located in Olde Towne Portsmouth.

Tickets purchased the day of the tour—\$12.00
Port Norfolk Community Center
423 Broad Street, Port Norfolk
Portsmouth, Virginia 23707

Join us for a free Christmas concert performed by the Port Towne Magic in the Port Norfolk Community Center, 432 Broad Street, Portsmouth Virginia 23707. Performance begins at 3:00 pm.

For information call Yvonne DeSiano at 399-7526.

Holiday Home Decorating Contest December 5, 2009



It's time to get your wreaths hung, your lights sparkling, and all your holiday trim creatively displayed for the Annual Port Norfolk Home Decorating Contest. It's easy to enter the contest. All residents of Port Norfolk are eligible to participate. No tedious entry forms to complete, no entry fees required. Houses need not be extensively decorated to win. Sometimes a very simple or traditional decorating style is picked as a winner! An impartial panel of judges will conduct the judging on Saturday, December 5, 2009. Each of the five award winners will be recognized with a coveted Winner of the Holiday Home Decorating Contest sign to proudly display in front of their homes.

City of Portsmouth Communiqué

To: Port Norfolk Residents
From: Battalion Chief Jeff Terwilliger,
Emergency Management Coordinator,
City of Portsmouth
Date: Thursday, 19 Nov 2009
Subject: November Nor'easter

On Friday, November 13th and Saturday, November 14th, damage assessment teams were deployed throughout the city. The purpose was to assess the types of damages sustained and provide some estimates for the damages. The damage estimates were needed in order to allow officials to determine if our communities sustained enough damage to warrant federal assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA.

Portsmouth Emergency Management staff met with Commonwealth of Virginia officials on Sunday, November 15th and toured the areas in the city that were most heavily impacted by the storm. On November 18th, FEMA officials were in Portsmouth to view the damages to our public facilities.

The damage estimates have been submitted for review and all areas of the city have been assessed. Now we await FEMA's determination for the City of Portsmouth's possible program eligibility. We will inform you of their determination.

Also, the Public Works Department is currently collecting residential bulk and brush debris that has been placed at the curb on normal trash collections days. Bulk debris, including furniture, rugs, appliances, etc., should be placed in one pile, and brush debris, including tree limbs, plywood, and concrete, should be placed in a separate pile.

Here are some telephone numbers that might come in handy as citizens continue to recover and move toward normalcy:

Portsmouth Department of Social Services
405-1800

Department of Public Works/General Services
Bulk and Brush Collections
393-8120 ext. 7363, 7385 or 7316

Mosquito Control
393-8666

American Red Cross
446-7700

The City of Portsmouth is requesting that citizens report the damages that were sustained to homes, businesses, or other properties as a result of the November nor'easter. Please use the *Damage Assessment Notice* insert. Respond to these questions, by email, voicemail, or by mail. Email: damageassessment@portsmouthva.gov; Telephone: (757) 393-8035; Mail: Permits and Inspections/Damage Assessments, 801 Crawford Street, Portsmouth VA 23704.

PORCH TALK

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www.publicity@portnorfolk.org



Thursday, December 3, 2009, 7:00 pm
Port Norfolk Recreation Center
432 Broad Street

Join your neighbors for the Annual Holiday Potluck. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share—an appetizer, bread, spread, cheese, side dish, salad, vegetable, main dish, or dessert and your festive spirit!

We suggest you label your serving utensils and dishes so you will be sure to take home the items you brought. Also, it is very helpful if you would cut servings into smaller, tasty portions to serve as many as possible.

The Civic League will provide the plates, napkins, cutlery, and drinks.

Thank You

A very special thank you to everyone who came down to Reflection Walk and assisted with the clean up! Your help was sincerely appreciated.

Just a reminder — our parks are maintained by volunteers and from cash donations. We receive no funds from the City of Portsmouth.

The Nor'easter took it's toll on Reflection Walk. We need your assistance to replace items that were destroyed. Think of the parks this holiday season—give a cash donation in a loved one's name.

Civic League Meeting

No Meeting in December

The next Civic League meeting is scheduled for:

**Thursday
January 7th
7:00 pm**

Monthly meetings are held in the Port Norfolk Recreation Center at 432 Broad Street



Massage Therapy Gift Certificates
Perfect for holiday giving!!

Teri's Touch Therapeutic BodyWorks
359 Broad St. 2nd Floor 201-1601

Buy 1 gift certificate at regular price, get \$10 off each additional one (up to 3 additional) of equal or lesser value.

Offer expires 12/23/09 Call 201-1601 to purchase.



Advertise in Porch Talk

Business Card \$35.
¼ Page \$70.
½ Page \$140.

publicity@portnorfolk.org

2009 Port Norfolk Civic League Membership Form

Name: _____ Birthday Month(s): _____

Address: _____ Park Donation: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Mail or take this form with \$5.00 for each membership to Gail Hoofangle at 2919 Adriatic.
Park donations should be mailed to Port Norfolk Civic League, P.O. Box 7114, Portsmouth VA 23707.