

Past and Future Developments for the City

by Mayor Henry "Harry" Winthrop

Happy New Year! It is an honor to once again serve as Newport's Mayor. I'd like to first thank Jeanne-Marie Napolitano for her steady leadership of the council for the past two years and to welcome new council members, Jamie Bova and Susan Taylor. Congratulations to all council and school committee members who were inaugurated on December 1. We, as a council, are looking forward to a very busy and productive term with a focus on enhancing Newport's year-round economy and improving the City's communications capabilities.



I am happy to report that Newport has seen hundreds of millions of dollars in investments over that past few years. Renovation projects that include Mrs. Astor's Beechwood, the Tennis Hall of Fame, the Audrain Building, the Viking, Marriott and Hyatt Hotels, the Broadway Streetscape, Washington Square, the Opera House, the Gateway Center and Fort Adams all positively impact the City's economic vitality and its physical landscape.

The re-alignment of the Pell Bridge ramps and the Innovation projects in the Newport's North End will be the largest economic development project in Rhode Island since the redevelopment of downtown Providence. Re-aligning the bridge ramps will open up 43 acres of land for development. Acquiring the Naval Hospital property will add another 17 acres, and with the relocation of Newport Grand, another 24 acres will become available for development. The exciting renovation of Sheffield School as a business incubation center will begin this year and is scheduled to be completed in 2018. This effort will result in good paying jobs coming to our community.

Improving communications is a very high priority of this council. A new, upgraded website will focus on ease of use for residents and businesses as well as improving outreach using a variety of communications strategies.

As always, the council's top priority will be public safety and quality of life. This is a very exciting time for our beautiful City and one that we should all enjoy.

Stay tuned!

Sign Up for the 2017 King Park Dingy Rack Program Lottery to Begin February 1

If you've been waiting to gain access to the dinghy racks at Newport's King Park, now is your chance! Applications will be available on February 1, 2017 online and at the Harbormaster Office at 39 America's Cup Ave, and will be accepted Feb 1-28, 2017. Applicants may submit via mail or in person at the Harbormaster Office. Mailed applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2017. There is one application per person allowed. You must be 18 years or older to apply. King Park racks are available to kayaks and dinghies 14 ft. and under (LOA), but paddleboards are not allowed.

Each application will be assigned a numbered ticket, placed in a bucket and put into a public lottery drawing. The drawing will occur at the Newport Harbormaster Office on March 6, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The Harbor Department and a third party agent will administer the drawing until all rack spaces are filled. Any remaining names will be placed on waiting list. Applicants are welcome to attend the drawing, but winners will be notified by email within 1 week of lottery drawing. The winning applicants must pay for and pick up stickers by March 31, 2017.

After March 31, 2017 all unpaid stickers will be released to applicants on the waiting list.

To learn more about the Dinghy Storage Program, go to: <http://cityofnewport.com/departments/enterprise-fund-programs/harbor-division/mooring-docks>



Reflecting back on Two Years of Service in Newport

by Former Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano



A happy and prosperous New Year to all! It has been a great honor to serve as Newport's Mayor over the past two years. I look forward to a very busy and productive new council term but I would like to reflect on the projects and progress over the past two years. After an exhaustive search, the council was very happy to announce the hiring of former City Solicitor and Interim City Manager, Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq. as permanent City Manager. We are very fortunate to have him running our City.

The last two years were filled with news of creating a year-round economy. We worked very hard to secure financing for the Sheffield School incubation center as well as developing relationships with companies that would invest in the Newport North End Innovation Center. City staff, council and the Planning Board have been diligent in revising the Comprehensive Land Use Plan that sets a shared vision for our City. Thank you to former council members Marco Camacho, Naomi Neville and Justin McLaughlin for all of their hard work on the Comp Plan. A strategic plan is also well on its way to completion.

Project highlights include securing funding for the much needed rehabilitation of the Transportation Center at the Gateway which is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2017. The City has been well served by Senator Teresa Paiva Weed and our federal and state delegations in securing funding for this important upgrade.

The Broadway Streetscape is well on its way to completion and the area is seeing a revitalization as merchants and residents organized and participated in the very successful Broadway Street Fair and holiday events. A special thank you to City staff for decorating the lamp posts with holiday lights and another big thank you to the merchants and Thompson Middle School students who installed and decorated the evergreen trees along the sidewalks! What an inviting entryway into our City!

Other highlights of the past two years are the parks and beaches smoking ban, sea level rise studies and mitigation plans, and the City's contribution to the Pell Endowment Fund. *Thank you!*

What is the Role of a City Manager Versus City Mayor?

The City of Newport operates under a "City Council-City Manager" form of government. The "City Manager" serves as the Chief Administrative Officer who is responsible for overseeing all day-to-day City operations, directing all administrative City departments including public safety, finance, civic investment, public services, utilities, human resources, planning and zoning. The City Manager is responsible for providing high quality services to Newport's residents and visitors. The City Manager is hired by the City Council. Seven City Council members are elected every two years. Four members serve the entire city as At-Large members and three members serve designated "wards." Newport is divided into three wards. Every two years, the "Mayor" is elected (from the At-Large members) by the seven councilors to serve as the "Chair of the Council." The Mayor's duties include chairing the council meetings and serving as the public face of the City at press conferences, ribbon cuttings and City-related celebrations.

To learn more about the City Manager versus the City Mayor's role, go to:

<http://cityofnewport.com/departments/city-manager>.



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THE CITY OF NEWPORT
City Hall – 43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840
Phone: (401) 846-9600

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