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## NEWPORT HONORED WITH “ABOVE AND BEYOND” AWARD

The city was recently awarded an “Above and Beyond” Award for its support of an employee member of the National Guard. The organization, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), gave the city this award for its support of Pat Dodson, an employee of the city’s public works department.

The award recognizes employers that have exceeded legal requirements for granting leave and providing support for military duty by employees. Only members of the National Guard or military reserve may submit nominations. This nomination was submitted by Pat Dodson in recognition of the city’s efforts during his deployment in Iraq. Dodson has served two tours in Iraq, and the city wholeheartedly supported him throughout both tours.

Mayor Bain noted that “The city recognizes the importance of its employees who hold full-time positions supporting the citizens, but who have also dedicated a significant part of their time outside the city to meet the professional and mission demands of the National Guard.” The award recognizes the city’s commitment to their contributions.



*Pat Dodson, back at work for Newport*

While the award is quite an honor for the city of Newport, Pat Dodson, and his work in the National Guard, exemplifies the ultimate in public service. The city is proud to have Pat as an employee.

## PERSONNEL CHANGES

Several new employees have joined the city recently. The airport welcomes **Jim Rodriguez**, Lead Line Worker, and **Rory Dambach**, Line Worker. Public Works welcomes **Pat Dodson**, back from a year in Iraq with the National Guard. New to Public Works are **Melissa Roman**, Engineering Technician; **Cody Olsen**, Water Treatment Plant Operator; **Robert Swanson**, Water Treatment Plant Operator; **Jim McLaughlin**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator; and **Tom Bennett**, Water Distribution. **Chris Rampley** joined the Fire Department as a Relief Apparatus Operator. **Tanya Timberlake** is the new IT Technician in the City Manager’s Office. **Priscilla Klein** is Court Clerk and Administrative Assistant in the Finance Department; **Michael Gonzalez** is Youth Programs Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department. The Library welcomes **Stacy Johns**, Library Clerk, and **Keith Garrett** joins the Police Department as a Police Officer.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public notice of all City of Newport meetings will be made by posting on bulletin boards at the following locations:

**City Hall, 169 SW Coast Highway**

**Newport Public Library, 35 NW Nye Street**

**Newport Recreation Center, 225 SE Avery Street**

Notice will also be posted online, on the City of Newport website, at [www.thecityofnewport.net](http://www.thecityofnewport.net)

Anyone interested in serving on a City Board may pick up an application at the City Manager’s Office in City Hall, or download an application from the City’s website.

## STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES VISIT NEWPORT'S SISTER CITY, MOMBETSU, JAPAN

Mombetsu, Hokkaido, Japan is Newport's official Sister City. The relationship was established on April 8, 1966, and the cities have enjoyed an enriching friendship. Over the years, there have been many exchanges of visits, with citizens from Mombetsu visiting Newport, and Newport residents visiting Mombetsu.

In July, a delegation of students from Newport visited Mombetsu. The group of four adult chaperones and 11 students spent nearly two weeks in Japan.



*Students and chaperones take a break in a Tokyo park*

The delegation arrived in Tokyo, and spent several nights in a traditional Japanese hotel. A citizen of Mombetsu met the group in Tokyo and helped facilitate their visits to various cultural sites. Wayne Belmont, one of the adult chaperones, remarked that all were impressed by the extreme cleanliness of Tokyo and the efficiency of its public transportation system. The students were also impressed by the sheer size of Tokyo, the largest metropolitan area in the world. From Tokyo, the delegation flew north to central Hokkaido, the island on which Mombetsu is located. A trip through the countryside of Hokkaido brought the group to Mombetsu, where they spent ten days with their host fami-

lies. They attended many formal and informal events planned for their visit by the residents of Mombetsu, including a banquet at a local hotel, where the delegation presented their gift to the people of Mombetsu, a print by South Beach artist Rick Bartow.

"We were all amazed at how quickly we found common ground with the Japanese people we encountered, in spite of the language barrier and the dramatically different culture," Belmont said. "It was a life-changing event for the students, and a life-affirming event for the chaperones."

## TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT IS THE GOAL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT

The city continues to make strides in keeping its residents informed of happenings at city hall. More than ever, government officials hear that citizens want transparency in their governments. They want to know what is going on. They want to see how decisions are being made, and they want to be able to trust their governments.

Newport is keenly aware of its citizens' right to know what their government is doing, and is always looking for ways to make information about city business easier for citizens to find. Toward that end, the city has begun producing electronic City Council packets; placing the audio file of City Council meetings on the city website; and most recently, videotaping City Council meetings for viewing on Charter's channel four.

City Council packets contain all the information that Council receives prior to a meeting. Last year, the city began preparing electronic packets and placing the electronic packet on the city website. This accomplishes two things; It cuts down on the amount of paper used to

print the hardcopy packets. And, it gives much greater access to the citizens of Newport. The website is accessed at [www.thecityofnewport.net](http://www.thecityofnewport.net). On the city website, click on "public meetings" at the top of the page. A drop down menu will display; click on "city council." This will bring you to the page that has not only the City Council agendas and electronic packets, but also the audio files

In mid-July, the city began videotaping its City Council meetings. Regular City Council meetings occur on the first and third Mondays of the month, and they are broadcast on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:00 P.M., and second and fourth Thursdays at 10:00 A.M. This is a great opportunity to see your local legislators in action.

The city's records are public, and available to the public on request. The City's public records policy, fee schedule, and request form, is available on the city website (click City Government, then choose City Manager) or by contacting Peggy Hawker at 574-0613.