

June 2009

Community Advisor



The Portsmouth Sheriff's Office,

Inmate Work Crews Around Town

Many of our citizens have seen the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office Work Crews around our City. On garbage trucks, cutting grass, cleaning debris off the side of the roads and various other things. Please know that Inmate Work Crews are allowed to work on private properties as long as the Sheriff's Office has a request from one of the City's many departments, or a non profit organization (Civic League or Church). These requests have to be submitted to the Sheriff's Office in writing and have to include the address and the name of the property owner. We have to have such a letter each time we set foot, or do work on private property. Most times it involves the elderly, sick, or handicapped in our community who are not able to complete the task themselves, or are on a fixed income and cannot afford to hire someone. The Sheriff's Office can provide labor only and the supplies have to be donated or bought by others. These inmates are non-violent offenders and are permitted by a judge (upon sentencing) to work in such programs. The Sheriff has the discretion to put them into a work release or alternative work crew program, if he has the room at the work center and the inmate is willing to follow the rules and policy for this program. The difference between the two programs is this that the inmates in the Work Release Program have a job and are able to continue to work and take care of their families while they are serving their time in jail. The employer of a family member will pick them up from the work center each day and return them at the end of their workday. When an inmate qualifies for work release and has no employment, but would like to support his family, we will help them to find work. However, sometimes it is not easy since employers have to meet certain criteria. This will save some tax payers money, since that family will hopefully stay off public assistance. The Alternative Work Crews are the inmates you see around town doing odd jobs for the City and in the community. These guys are supervised by a Deputy and can earn \$6 per hour in electronic money towards their court fines. This enables them to come out of incarceration without any debt. For special projects those inmates on the

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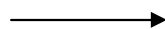
Alternative Work Crews are volunteers, such as the work done on the old Parker Field which has brought a lot of joy to the children of Mt. Hermon and London Oaks. The work crew worked on the baseball field for nearly two weeks. They have refurbished the concession stand and the bathrooms. This park was abandoned by the City almost twenty years ago and now Portsmouth children are playing baseball again, trying to stay out of trouble. Recently we had a news segment on Wavy TV 10 about a couple in need and the work crews were there doing a great job. When you ask one of those inmates why they are doing these jobs.... They most likely will respond that they are trying to pay society back with doing something good, instead of sitting in a cell. So if you know someone that fits this description and is in need of help, please contact your civic league or your church to write the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office. We are here to help and make a difference.



Working for You!

Proud employee's of the Sheriff's Office

The employees of the Sheriff's Office are very proud that some of our co-workers made the news. We are all doing our jobs and are not asking for any recognition, but sometimes it is good to hear that we are doing well and that the public hears about the other side of the Sheriff's Office. We are not the primary Law Enforcement Agency, but we are always in the background assisting and working in the shadows, with other Law Enforcement Agencies. All too often the Sheriff's Office is being criticized by some who believe we are not trained and supposed to work Civil Process, Court Security and Corrections only. However, we are doing a number of things the public knows very little of. For example, gathering information on criminal cases, executing warrants, and arresting the bad guys. When the Police respond to a scene and the suspect is gone, they take out a warrant for the person's arrest. That will go to the warrant bureau and that office is manned by deputies. They will actively go out and search for the suspect and negotiate with the family of the wanted person. In the news you will hear that the suspect may have surrendered or has been arrested by authorities. In more cases than it is known, the suspect has been arrested, or turned himself in to a deputy. Sometimes the suspects receive the information the deputy has left with some family members or friends and will get in touch with the deputy, because they are aware that we are looking for them, and figure they are better off surrendering. In some instances they will call a deputy to meet them and they will be arrested without incident. Our deputies are always in communications with the primary agencies and pass the information on when it takes a joint effort. Such situations occur on a daily basis. The Sheriff's Office works with Federal Agencies, different Police Departments, and other agencies nationwide. We are working well together and are pleased of the working relationship we are having with the officers and their agencies. Just recently Sgt. Melvin Hike of the Sheriff's Office arrested a suspect in connection to a shooting death. The suspect turned himself in and called Sgt. Hike in the middle of night to come and pick him up. Sgt. Hike had worked for three days to get this guy. He is in our custody now and is awaiting trial.



Lt. Lokie Flythe and his K-9 partner Tyger were able to offer their assistance in a inter-state shooting which happened a few weeks ago. Lt. Flythe was on his way home when he heard that a Chesapeake Police officer was shot. He and Tyger were fortunate to find the suspect hiding and Chesapeake Police arrested the man. The very next day Lt. Flythe and Tyger were scheduled at a career day at Victory Elementary School. It was just another day for Lt. Flythe, telling children what it is like to be a K-9 officer and to educate them about his K-9 partner. The only difference that day was, when he brought Tyger out of the vehicle, he said: "Boys and Girls, here is the dog which captured a bad guy yesterday".

Just a couple of days ago, Sgt. Brett Johnson of the Community Enforcement Unit was working in conjunction with the US Marshals Office and arrested a suspect in Portsmouth who was wanted in South Dakota on a \$1,250,000 bond. Sgt. Johnson acted on a tip he had received from an informant and got in touch with the US Marshals to confirm this info. He then followed this man's associates and when he got the chance arrested him with the help of two US Marshals. This guy has numerous drug charges and Sgt. Johnson was able to seize his 2008 Cadillac Escalade, which is now the property of the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office. The suspect is currently in the Portsmouth City Jail awaiting extradition to South Dakota. Just a regular day at work for the deputy, but another bad guy is off our streets.

A word from Sheriff Watson

I would like to thank everybody, who came out to vote in the primary Election on June 9th. You braved the heat and the rain to be actively involved in the politics of our community. Government starts in our own backyard and here voters have the highest impact. I understand that not everyone has voted for me and I have an opponent in November's General Election too. I am still grateful for all who took the opportunity and their right to vote seriously. The right to vote is a freedom which a lot of people laid down their lives for and not available in all nations. I will serve you all with pride, and hope for a big voter turn out in November. Thank you all again.

Bill Watson

If the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office can be of help to you, your family, friends, or neighbors, please do not hesitate to give us a call. We have many programs geared toward children, seniors, and can help to make your home and business more secure. The number for our Community Service Unit is 686-6525 and the main office number is 393-5461. I have a open door policy and I will always be available to you.

The Turtle man



Every organization has individuals in their midst who have different interests, hobbies and work in the community during their spare time. I would like to introduce you to Deputy Garland Butler. He is a former police officer and after he retired from the City of Portsmouth started working for the Sheriff's Office. He is known in some parts of our City as the Sheriff of Churchland and knows every nook and cranny in Portsmouth. Anyone who meets Deputy

Garland Butler will soon find out that he has a tremendous love for animals and nature. I believe he appreciates little critters more than he does human beings sometimes. He started about twenty years ago to take in turtles that have gotten hurt and he takes care of them. Garland will dress their wounds, mend their shells, feed, shelter, and just take care of them until they are well enough to be set free again. In his home in Churchland, he has built a paradise for turtles in the back yard and in his Florida room. The turtles which cannot be returned to the wild, have found a good home. Over all those years Dep. Butler has accumulated a lot of turtles and has become somewhat of an expert on the subject. He receives calls from all over the Tidewater Area as he is known as the Turtle Man. People will call him if they come across a wounded critter, find a turtle in their backyard (dug in for the winter), or just want to get rid of one. Dep. Butler will also help people find care for hurt birds, squirrels, and other animals, as he knows folks that will care for them. I found out that turtles really do not make good pets in a presentation Garland gave at the Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve a couple of weeks ago. He was there to educate children and adults alike on turtles. He told them about the first turtle he found and how badly it was hurt and that he still has her. The audience asked a lot of questions: How can you tell if it is a boy or a girl turtle? What do feed them? How old do they get? How many different types of turtles are there? Garland answered them all patiently and showed them all the turtles he brought along. Captain LeCompte's son, Jacob was his assistant and he herded all the turtles (which were all over the pavilion) to make sure none of them got lost. The Virginian Pilot and the Currents had several news articles on Deputy Butler over the years because of his knowledge and concern for the local wild life. If you have any questions in reference to this call Deputy Butler and he will be glad to help you or show you all his turtles (393-5030).

March of Dimes

We at the Sheriff's Office participate yearly in fundraisers for the March of Dimes. You may have seen us in our uniforms outside the Wal-Mart store on Frederick Boulevard raising awareness and money for the March of Dimes. Saving Babies was the theme in the month of May for the entire Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Watson made it interesting for all of us to get involved, by offering a "Food Party" as a prize for the division or team that raised the most money for this good cause. One team in Corrections was able to out shine all the rest of us, in this friendly competition and this is "A" Team under watch commander Lt. E. Branch. I know Lt. Branch inspired her team and they seemed to have come up with some great ideas to make money. Which they will not tell the rest of us! They collected the respectable sum of \$1,015 as a team. As you can see, they are the winners and are already debating what they want the Sheriff to buy. We also had an event at City Park, which we named "Family Day". This day was set up for children and parents to have a fun, carnival like day. We had magic tricks, balloon animals, face painting, ring toss, ball toss, a Spiderman bounce, and sack races. Of course we had all kinds of food, drinks and baked goods there too. Next year we are planning to do "Family Day" again, since everyone there had a great time. With this said I am pleased to announce that all of us at the P.S.O. collected \$6,354.54 and turned it over to the March of Dimes. Thanks to all of you, who donated to Save the Babies.

Summer Alzheimer's Memory Cruise

This is the first time an event for Alzheimer's Disease is being held in our City. Certainly we are all familiar with Alzheimer's and may even know someone with this degenerating disease. The event is sponsored by: the Mustang and Ford Club of Virginia, Allen's Landscaping and Maintenance, Bayside Harley Davidson, and the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office. Motorcycles and cars are welcomed to take part in the Poker Cruise.

When: July 11, 2009 (Saturday)

Where: Bayside Harley Davidson— 2211 Frederick Boulevard, Portsmouth.

Registration: 8:00 a.m.— 10:00 a.m.

Registration Fee: \$20

- Costume contest - trophy awarded to the best dressed in the era of their car.
- Round trip cruise 72 miles.
- Car trailer available if needed.
- Door Prizes.
- Free caps for the first 50 participants.
- Food & Music.

VIN Etching

All vehicles carry a federal-assigned number known as a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Making sure those numbers are marked permanently on a vehicle's window steer's thieves away. Why? Well, for one thing, disposing of a vehicle whose windows have been VIN etched takes time, trouble and money, all in short supply for thieves. That's because the windows of a VIN Etched vehicles must be stripped and replaced before a thief can get rid of the car, a costly and time-consuming process. VIN Etching obliterates any potential profit professional thieves might have gleaned from the lucrative practice of selling windows and windshields for parts via chop shops. VIN Etching is simple, fast, safe and won't mar the look of your vehicle. Numbers are etched into the glass with a chemical solution. Those numbers will be there for good.



The Portsmouth Sheriff's Office, Portsmouth Fire Department, Portsmouth Police Department, and the Safety Town Committee will host a

VIN Etching of Vehicles

in conjunction with the

Virginia State Police H.E.A.T.



For information you on the event please call:

Portsmouth Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention:	686-2565
Portsmouth Fire Department:	393-8765
Portsmouth Police Department:	393-8092



VIN Etching is also available for motorcycles.



SAFETY TOWN
CITY - POLICE - SCHOOLS - COMMUNITY

Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.)

This is a **FREE EVENT**, let the experts protect your vehicle or motorcycle!

When: August 7, 2009

From: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Wal-Mart on Frederick Blvd. -Parking Lot.



A phone number to keep

Here's a number worth putting in your cell phone and your home phone speed dial:

1-800-goog411. 1-800-466-4411

This is an awesome service from Google, and it's free -- great when you are on the road. Don't waste your money on information calls and don't waste your time manually dialing the number. I am driving along in my car and I need to call a restaurant but I don't know the number.

I hit the speed dial that I have programmed in (800-goog411), for information. The voice at the other end says, "City & Province." I say, "Portsmouth," He says, "Business, Name or Type of Service." I say, "Flagship Restaurant." He says, "Connecting" and someone at the "Flagship" answers the phone. How great is that? This is nationwide and Google provides the service absolutely free! No "Information" charge and no long distance charge.

Check it out and go to <http://www.google.ca/goog411> and watch the short clip for a quick demonstration.

Good advice on Soda Cans

I recently received this in an email and thought I'd share it with all of you.

Drinking from Soda Pop Cans

This incident happened recently in North Texas . A woman went boating one Sunday taking with her some cans of coke which she put into the refrigerator of the boat. On Monday she was taken to the hospital in critical condition and placed in ICU. She died on Wednesday...

The autopsy concluded she died of Leptospirosis. This was traced to the can of coke she drank from. Tests showed that the can was infected by dried rat urine and hence the disease Leptospirosis.

Rat urine contains toxic and deathly substances. It is highly recommended to thoroughly wash the upper part of soda cans before drinking out of them. The cans are typically stocked in warehouses and transported straight to the stores without being cleaned.

A study at NYCU showed that the tops of soda cans are more contaminated than public toilets (i.e.)... full of germs and bacteria.

So wash them with water and soap before putting them to the mouth to avoid any kind of fatal accident.

Burglaries are on the increase

With the economy on the downside and the unemployment rate steadily rising it not surprising to see more larcenies and burglaries. I am not as fortunate as some to be able to afford a burglar alarm system and believe I am not the only one in this predicament. On the other hand I do have a little advantage over most of our citizens. No...., it is not my training or me carrying a weapon. I know people who will come to your house and advise you of your homes weak points. Our home is our castle....., or so we think. It is surprising to see how sometimes the most simple things can make your home more secure, things we not always recognize ourselves. Reason being, we do not think like criminals. The people I know are also happy to serve you. The Sheriff's Office employ's the only two certified Crime Prevention Specialists in the City of Portsmouth. Major D. Clemons and Lt. Leon Whitehurst went to school on this subject and are certified to help you make your house and business more secure. They will come to you, check out your house, yard and so on, and then proceed to tell you the weaknesses of your castle. I said it prior, sometimes the smallest things can make a big change. These changes can be made only with a investment of our own labor and very little money. This fit in my budget and I hope you will take the opportunity and use this free service the Sheriff's Office offers it's citizens. You may contact Maj. Clemons or Lt. Whitehurst at 686-6525. They will be happy to serve you.

We need your help!

As in previous years the Sheriff's Office is once again offering air conditioners to our seniors, handicapped citizens on a fixed income, and disabled veterans. We are asking for your help, in order to help others. Our budget is limited, but we would like to accommodate everyone that calls us for help. If you have an air conditioner (110 Volt) which you are not using anymore, please give us a call. We will pick it up, recondition it, and install it in the house of someone in need. If it is in need of minor repairs, we will look at it and fix it. Please call us at 393-5280 or 393-5461 if you have a unit that you no longer use. It is a donation and you can take it off your taxes.



Duty and Honor

With 4th of July coming up, we are thinking about the brave men and women of our Military. The sacrifices they make, fighting in strange, far away countries for everything we believe in as Americans. Our heroes that laid down their lives in the fight against terrorism.

The people from all over the world, the old country, who came and settled in this new land. Who gave their blood and sweat working on the land, creating townships, a government and enforced the law. Standing up and fighting for what they believed in and for their love of Liberty and Freedom. All the people that came before us and made this land, the great country it is today. We are a country rich with people from all corners of the world, their food, customs, and traditions, make us so diverse and still we stand together.

I also think of people right here in our community and at work. The daily duties they carry out, regardless of what it is, they achieve it with respect for all involved. Especially one small group comes to mind and this is the Honor Guard. These men and women who joined the Honor Guard are volunteers. They do not get paid for all they do and they do a lot. Whenever asked to represent the Colors or stand guard at a funeral, or special event, they stand for hours at a time, always at attention. They are at most official City functions and do so willingly. In parades they walk with their full uniform with overcoat in the extreme cold, heat, or rain, and march for hours with the flags held high. In parades they are the first ones there and have to wait at

least a couple of hours before they even get started. These men and women may have just gotten off from a 12 hour shift in the jail, or a full day at the office and still put in the requested hours, only to go back to work at the end of the event. This ladies and gentlemen is worth mentioning and deserves respect. I know that this is not the military, they are not away from home, and may not get shot at, but it still shows a sense of duty to the citizens and the department. I don't think it is too big



of a stretch to compare that, they are giving of themselves and their family under sometimes miserable conditions and you will still see pride in their faces. They too wear a uniform and serve, even if it is in a different way. This is why I chose to write about the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office Honor Guard on this upcoming July 4th, they are dedicated, respectful servants of Portsmouth. Thank you to the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office Honor Guard for all you do.

Inmate Trade School

A few months back Sheriff Watson looked into the possibility to get a trade school going for our inmates. He contacted Tidewater Builders Association (TBA) and it was promising until the last moment when the financing fell through. The inmates who were scheduled to go to school were very disappointed, because they already had been tested and had high scores. Since then the Sheriff was approached again by TBA and asked if he could provide labor for a building which was contracted by TBA and their class had graduated before the building was complete. Sheriff Watson's response was put them through school (class room and onsite training with certificate of completion) and I will ask the inmates. Five of the ones that were scheduled to go to the original class wanted too and so it was a done deal. They started to go to school and worked, learning onsite. In the evening when they came back to the Work Center they studied and helped each other out. One of the inmates was released a couple of weeks ago and already has a job. He is still going to school too and has asked the Sheriff for his help so he may get his license back. He needs it for his job and is now able to drive back and forth to work, school and home. All the inmates who are in school are promised job placement and if they are still incarcerated they can go on the work release program and support their families. Cool thing is they have a job when they are released and a new found pride. This class will graduate July 10th and had a little celebration last week, which was given to them by the employees of TBA. We were told by some of the employees of TBA, that they were very apprehensive at first having to deal with inmates, but now they are all for the program and said that the men were study-



ing hard and were respectful to all personnel. The morale of the inmates in our Work Center is high, since they know they have the opportunity to better themselves with our help. It has made a big change for them. We are hoping that this will benefit all and the students will stay out of the judicial system with a brighter future ahead of them.