

TO: Newburyport City Council President James Shanley  
Newburyport City Council

C/O: City Clerk Richard Jones  
60 Pleasant Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
(Submitted electronically)

FROM: Forwarded "in a Motion of Comity" by the Committee of Correspondence (Comity, so called) noted below

SUBJECT: Communication item to preview of upcoming community event(s) to initiate any appropriate approvals by City Council for use of public ways and places, if necessary, and to instigate interest in the broader plans in motion

DATE: October 20, 2009

**Regarding the "Once in a Blue Moon opportunity" (New Year's Eve) event** listing on page 38 of the 2009 – 2010 Newburyport guidebook (see footnote \*) ---

Given the expressed interest in the concept (\*\*) --- in advance for further planning, initiation and promotion --- **it may be prudent to review preliminary plans with the City Council vis-à-vis** any inconsequential use of public ways and places under its purview (as described in footnote \*\*\*).

**To properly initiate the process** and determine whether permission is in fact required, **please consider this memorandum as a communication item for the upcoming City Council meeting agenda.**

Anticipating this request will be forwarded to the proper City Council standing committee for further inquiry or action, current status will be provided at that time. Until then, further insight is advanced on page 2 of this correspondence.

Further revisions to the [Comity.org](http://Comity.org) website will also be posted during the waxing Beaver Moon (Full, at 99% visibility on November 2 - 3) and a preliminary flyer/poster available at that timeframe. In the interim, **should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned.**

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Forwarded in a Motion of Comity ---

The Committee of Correspondence (Comity, so called) "in ye name of ye rest" (\*\*\*\*)

The Dears, Ken and Dominique  
Kathy Heywood  
(Contact: email [comity@comcast.net](mailto:comity@comcast.net))

Footnotes:

\* To view scanned image of page 38 of the 2009 – 2010 Newburyport guidebook, refer to the (pdf) file submitted with this communication, and archived at this Comity.org [hyperlink](#). Correspondence to the Chamber of Commerce dated February 12, 2009 archived at this Comity.org [hyperlink](#) includes the full text for that event listing as follows:

*December 31, New Years Eve  
Celebrate (and cerebrate) a "Once in a Blue Moon Opportunity"*

*Throughout the generations, the Waterside people of Newburyport have measured time and progress with the New and Full Moons that rise at the mouth of the Merrimack River ~ remarking milestones and marking benchmarks with each blue moon ~ an ideal opportunity to reorient and reflect, both individually and as a community. Come to know more about this "Motion of Comity" at [www.Comity.org](http://www.Comity.org).*

\*\* Portions of this communication may be forwarded when reengaging interested parties in the "Once in a Blue Moon" celebration and "cerebration."

[E.g., the Mayor's Office (Mayor John F. Moak, Lois Honegger, Executive Aide to the Mayor); Office of Planning and Development (OPD Director Sean Sullivan); members of the School Committee (in advance of the 11/2/09 meeting); the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority and the Newburyport Waterfront Trust (in advance of upcoming meetings); the Department of Youth Services and the Friends of the Council on Aging, along with other community organizations and private enterprises..]

As you may be aware, these plans have been mentioned (in context) during public forums and private meetings, and set in motion at the Waterside community "[gam](#)" held Labor Day (during the Full Corn Moon). Promotion in earnest expected with the "Turn of the Wheel" (October 31 – November 1) and the Full Beaver Moon (November 2 – 3).

\*\*\* Please note that the family-oriented event would consist of pedestrian activity/revelry similar to "invitation nights" (e.g., "comings and goings" between shops/restaurants, potential scavenger hunts, etcetera). The proper municipal boards [i.e., the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority (NRA) and Newburyport Waterfront Trust (NWT)] will be approached regarding any activity on property under their stewardship. And of course, communication with the Newburyport Police Department will be key.

\*\*\*\* Insight about these terms can be found on the Comity.org website at this [hyperlink](#) --- summarized as follows:

*"In the early 18th Century records of [the Waterside](#) Third Parish of Newbury in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the word committee was commonly spelled [Comity](#). This word, with its provincial spelling, also defines the basic tenet of [the Waterside people's 1763 petition](#) (to set off the parish as the separate town of town of Newburyport --- a deed officially ratified under the colonial governor's seal on February 4, 1764) ---*

*"[...] Comity chose not to form as an organized group but to remain a "[committee of correspondence](#)" for the Waterside movement --- intent on reawakening the Spirit of Community with a "Sense of Place" and a "Sense of Purpose" with words and deeds.*

*"[...] Indeed, the organic movement's timeless (and tireless) agenda was laid out by [the Waterside people's 1763 petition](#). Thus and so, in every sense (and tense) --- all generations who help form the Waterside community of Newburyport remain members of this continuous movement ~ in a [Motion of Comity](#)."*

*The assigned "Comity" (often two or three individuals) would present the correspondence and reports (to the General Court or community at large) --- with the signatories appending the phrase "in ye name of ye rest" --- to indicate the broader citizenry involved in the preparation (or endorsement) of the report, proposal or appeal.*