

POLICE FROM 1

Wiring in the building has all the complexity of a central nervous system. For example, forget the two-way mirror — a new conference room has closed circuit television allowing detectives to watch interviews as they are conducted, and communicate to the officer giving the interview with the use of microphones and ear pieces.

It used to be that officers had to use staff members' offices to conduct interviews, says Wrenn.

The conference room will also serve to welcome members of all law enforcement agencies for meetings, should the need arise.

The department's detectives will also be a lot happier. Where all detectives had to share a tiny office in the old building, the new facility has sectioned off work stations, with each detective given a personal desk.

The three patrol lieutenants also had to crowd around one tiny desk in one tiny windowless office that bears a resemblance to the new facility's cell block. Now, in a room with a view, each lieutenant has his own desk.

Other surprises in the seemingly endless trail of bells and whistles in the facility include a "soft cell" — a room where its apparently impossible for an unruly prisoner to harm himself or others; an automatic finger printing system that leaves old fashioned ink archaic and sloppy; multiple two-sided evidence lockers, including a refrigerated locker for blood and bodily fluid evidence; a fitness center, meaning the department no longer has to pay for officers' gym memberships; and

a lab with a fuming chamber that looks to rival anything on television's "CSI."

Lastly, there is the control room — with multiple screens and radios lining the room, and everything from desks that raise electronically (should the dispatcher feel the need to stand) to a phone and radio beside the toilet (should something come up in the unfortunate moment when nature calls).

Wrenn has spent the bulk of his 30 years in department waiting for working towards such a facility. Failed attempts were made in both 1980 and 1990, Wrenn said, to move out of the incredibly inadequate facility.

Because of the new facility, Wrenn's department — still clad in its distinctive green, which matches much of the upholstery in the new building — finally has a shot at national accreditation, he said.

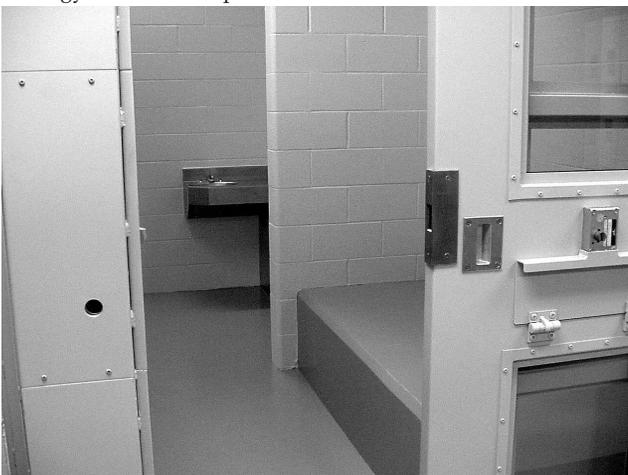
"You have to reach a certain performance level," he says. "And it was impossible to do that in the old facility."

Wrenn, virtually the face of the green-clad department, will also get a spacious new office.

"We're gonna get in this building and we're gonna say 'how did we ever operate over there?'" he comments.

Other officers wandering in and about the facility just before it opened, with smiles they couldn't suppress, seemed as happy as, well, kids in a donut shop.

"The smell is even terrific, isn't it?" one officer stated before turning to Wrenn. "This is a credit to your administration, Sir."



SLEEP TIGHT — This juvenile cell, almost identical to the adult cells, represents the luxurious accommodations of the new Hampton police station's cell block.

— Atlantic News Photo by John Deming

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

ENTERTAINMENT

The tradition continues...

SRT hosts annual gospel concert 'Set the House on Fire'

SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

PORTSMOUTH | The public is invited to join the Seacoast Repertory Theatre in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Day at the seventh annual "Set The House On Fire" gospel concert. This very popular event will take place on Monday, January 17 at 7:30 p.m. at SRT, located at 125 Bow Street in Portsmouth.

Over the last six years, the community support for this event has been outstanding and proves to be a sell-out year after year.

Returning to emcee for the seventh year is Sharon "Brown Sugar" Jones; other returning performers include T.J. Wheeler's Funky River Band, Chris Tian, and Jim McDougall's Funky Divas.

New to the program this year will be the Reverend Jeffrey McIlwain of the North Star Baptist Church, backed up by James "Batman" Kaddy on drums, Skip Gallant on organ, Richard Gardzina on sax, and Duke Norman on keyboard. And — last but not least — it's "As One" Gospel featuring the fabulous voices of Gordon Michaels with guest vocalist, Darlene Wynn accompanied by James A.



'As One' featuring Gordon Michaels, Darlene Wynn, and James A. Early

Early.

Mr. Michaels is known throughout the greater Boston area as one of the premier cabaret artist and achieved notoriety as an innovator, creating and hosting the popular Gospel Brunch at the House of Blues that recently closed in Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Tickets for the "Set the House on Fire" gospel concert are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door. To purchase tickets, please call the SRT box office at (603) 433-4472 or (800) 639-7650; or purchase tickets online at www.seacoastrep.org.

SPEAKING UP FROM 11

oratorical process. Eighth graders also go through that formal process, and students from both grades have the opportunity to share from the stage — before a generally large and supportive audience — at Winnacunnet High School. (Some students who presented as seventh graders often enjoy a return performance the following year as eighth graders.)

And how do the students feel about taking part in a North Hampton School tradition that has gone on for more than four decades?

"I like it a lot because it gives us all a chance to learn about random topics," says one student. Is there a nervousness factor involved? "Yes," says another eighth grader. It happens just before stepping in front of the microphone, "but once

you get going, it's OK."

Overall, the annual Wayne I. Elliot Oratorical Contest (named for the well-loved former NHS teacher who began it all) and the process surrounding it is something which provides educational benefits for its student participants before, during and well afterward.

"To me, the real success happens in the process," says Hoffman. "To do what these guys are doing here just amazes me."

The community can be amazed as well when North Hampton School presents the 41st annual Wayne I. Elliot Oratorical Contest on Wednesday, January 12 at 7 p.m. in the Winnacunnet Community Auditorium. For more information about the event, call the school at (603) 964-5501.

SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

NEWBURYPORT | The Firehouse Center for the Arts, located in Market Square in downtown Newburyport, has announced that there will be a "Battle of the Bands" on Sunday, January 16 at 3 p.m., sponsored by the Musical Suite of Newburyport.

This performance will take place at the newly refurbished theater at the Newburyport High School, located on High Street.

Finalists have been chosen from a group of area bands who have submitted their CDs or tapes and judges have now selected the final bands. These judges are respected figures from the music world and have served as judges for both preliminary and final rounds of this competition.

Bands included in this performance are all high school musicians and are highly motivated to perform in front of a live audience.

First, second and third prizes will be awarded that night, and will include musical equipment and recording sessions.

This "Battle of the Bands" is a fundraiser for the Firehouse Center for the Arts and the

Society for the Development of Arts & Humanities (SDAH). SDAH's mission is to advance the arts and humanities in the greater Newburyport region by fostering the growth and development of the individual artists and cultural organizations through its programs and services, stimulating under-

stand of and participation in the arts and humanities and presenting, sponsoring and producing a broad range of cultural, educational and artistic programs.

Tickets for this performance are \$5 and can be purchased at the door day of show. For further information, please call the Musical Suite in the Tannery of Newburyport at (978) 462-8225.

FAQs

- What**
'Battle of the Bands'
A fundraiser
for the Firehouse Center
and the Society for the
Development
of Arts & Humanities
- Where**
Newburyport High School
High Street, Newburyport
- When**
Sun, Jan 16, 3 p.m.
- Who**
Musicians from
area high schools
- Sponsor**
Musical Suite
of Newburyport
- Admission**
\$5 at the door
- Phone**
(978) 462-8225.

EXETER HOSPITAL DELIVERS



For more than 15 years, Exeter Hospital has organized Operation Santa Claus, a project that provides needy families in the Exeter area with gifts at Christmas time. During recent holiday observances, employees from Exeter Health Resources and collaborative organizations provided gifts for 21 area families. Pictured here preparing for gift-giving are (from left) Jane Dobbie, Brenda Quackenbush and Karen Carrier from Exeter Hospital; and Julie Hazell-Felch from Lamprey Health Care.

— Atlantic News Courtesy Photo

Deadline looms for Chamber award entries

SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

EXETER | The Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce would like to remind individuals and/or businesses in the Exeter area community that the deadline to nominate businesses for Business of the Year is swiftly approaching.

The deadline to submit a completed entry is Friday, January 14, 2005. Forms can be picked up at the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce office, located at 120 Water Street in Exeter, or online at www.exeterarea.org.

The award program is modeled after the state awards presented by Business NH Magazine and the NH Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives each May.

The categories are: Manufacturing/ Technology, Education/ Non-profits, Retail/ Wholesale, Real Estate/ Construction/ Engineering, Health Care, Financial Services/ Insurance, Business Services and Tourism/ Hospitality.

Nominees must be members of the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce and exemplify good business practices, contribute to their

communities and serve as role models for other businesses. Merit, not size, should be the key consideration in making nominations.

There will be a luncheon in March at the Ashworth by the Sea to honor the 2005 Business of the Year Award winners. The event is sponsored by Community Bank & Trust Company, Exeter Hospital, Public Service of New Hampshire, River-Woods at Exeter and Unitil with support from Fiducial-Century Small Business Solutions and Seacoast Hospice.

The Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce, a non-profit business development association, is a vital part of the community and represents more than 500 businesses, professionals, organizations and individuals in Brentwood, East Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Kensington, Kingston, Newfields, Newmarket, Raymond and Stratham. The Chamber also represents members that are not physically located here but do business in the area. For further information, call the Chamber at (603) 772-2411 or visit www.exeterarea.org.

PCG makes a move, expands services

SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

PORTSMOUTH | Portsmouth Computer Group (PCG), a leading on-call information technology (IT) specialist for small to midsize businesses, has recently increased staff, expanded its services and moved to a new technologically advanced, 7500-square-foot building at 30 Mirona Road Extension (off of Route 1) in Portsmouth.

The new technical work space better suits PCG's technology and growth demands with an infrastructure that has grown by 300 percent. The combination of improved internal processes and systems and more functional space helps PCG best address client needs.

"The secure and efficient management of information is critical to our clients," says David Hodgdon, CEO and founder of PCG. "We are excited about the increased capabilities we can offer via our new technology center, enabling us to deliver the highest quality, cutting-edge yet cost-effective solutions."

With the continuing rapid emergence of many new technologies, it is challenging for businesses today to keep abreast of developments, select the right technologies and then manage them effectively in an ever-changing, competitive marketplace.

PCG — whose technicians are Microsoft, Cisco and A+ Certified Network

Professionals — works to help clients take proactive steps in making the most of their technological assets. PCG works to streamline processes and systems while assessing, designing and delivering the best technology solutions for an organization to operate most efficiently.

PCG services include network protection, information security, disaster recovery, remote access, virus protection, wireless solutions, on-call IT, computer sales and ongoing service and support. PCG offers a range of service options tailored to the clients' needs and budgets — via a service contract — which enables the client to manage its ongoing information technology needs in a secure, predictable, efficient and cost-effective way.

"We actually work as partners with our clients to help them determine the best path for their particular business and technology needs, as we assess, create, deliver and maintain short- and long-term technology solutions, keeping in mind the clients' budgets and business goals," says Hodgdon.

Depending upon the complexity of the technology issues being addressed or the level of service required, PCG offers three options from standard, "on-call" maintenance to a midrange package to the PCG "pre-

mier" package, which includes utilizing PCG as an as-needed Chief Technology Officer, providing strategic insight and assisting in short- and long-term planning.

PCG service contracts include a wide range of offerings, depending on the solutions needed to help clients stay proactive in managing their technology systems, including yearly maintenance plans, routine

upkeep of systems, troubleshooting against system failures and providing immediate response to catastrophic issues.

Founded in 1996, PCG provides a full line of IT solutions and outsourced IT services to small and midsize businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies. For more information, visit www.pcgIT.com or stop by the Portsmouth office.

Seafarer's Friend to receive no-cost print communications services

PORTSMOUTH | Brothers Steve Chaisson and Cary Chaisson, owners of Allegra Print & Imaging in Portsmouth, have announced that the recipient of this quarter's Allegra FootPRINT Fund award is Seafarer's Friend, located in Portsmouth.

The Allegra FootPRINT Fund helps nonprofit organizations like Seafarer's Friend "leave a footprint" in the community by awarding print services for promotional and informational materials.

Seafarer's Friend was selected by a review panel based on how print services will be used to further organization goals including service expansion, program enhancement and maximization of existing resources, as well as the organization's innovation and resourcefulness.

The Allegra FootPRINT Fund awards \$500 of printing quarterly to nonprofit organizations and associations seeking financial assistance for graphic design and printing of brochures, newsletters, handouts, invitations, programs and other print communications. Applicants that apply and are not selected to receive the award are eligible to re-apply each quarter.

The FootPRINT Fund Selection Committee is composed of Jason Grucel, Taylor Research & Consulting Group; Rachel Connell, Phillips Exeter Academy; Tim Dolan, Stonehill Environmental; Pat Heath, Seacoast Hospice; Jeffrey Greene, Hunter Greene Carpentry; Tonya Dalhaus, FNX Radio; and Lisa Lange, Allegra Print & Imaging.

"Allegra Print & Imaging Seafarer's Continued on 32"



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Boneless Pork Roast	\$2.49 lb
3-5 lb average	
Lean & Tender Beef Stew	\$2.49 lb
All Natural Sirloin	\$11.99 lb
Strip Steaks	
All Natural Ground Beef	\$4.99 lb
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