



NEWBURYPORT PRESERVATION TRUST

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www.nbptpreservationtrust.org

Linking the past with the present and future



Quarterly Newsletter of the Newburyport Preservation Trust

Spring 2019

Newburyport Preservation Week 2019 celebrates 'Small Houses – Big History' on May 17, 18, & 19



Preservation Week 2019 shines the spotlight on the smaller houses throughout Newburyport that contribute so much to the neighborhood ambiance within the city's National Register Historic District. The houses pictured above – still vital, functional, and much-loved homes in the 21st century – average 1234 square feet of living space.

NPT aims to expand its reach to serve 'Next Generation Preservationists'

More than a year ago, at the annual meeting of the Newburyport Preservation Trust in February 2018, the general membership joined board members in a lively discussion of how to engage younger members of the community.



Next generation preservationists have made a splash in recent months online and on the street. The Institution for Savings supports our youth initiatives through its concert sponsorship.



Droll dispensers of pointed humor wondered aloud if we were defining "younger" as, say, people under 60. But under discussion was the need to get even the youngest generations to really think about why people in every culture save "stuff" in the first place – from random keepsakes, to family heirlooms, to structures – all of which are repositories of memory.

Since that discussion, NPT has expanded its reach. For the past several years, school groups have been regular visitors to NPT's Powder House Park & Learning Center. But now our Instagram presence; Preservation Week programs; internship and community service opportunities; and even scholarship plans in the works, will serve the next generation of preservationists, wherever they may land. Details on these initiatives will be forthcoming in future newsletters. ■

Preservation Week 2019, "Small Houses – Big History," Friday through Sunday, May 17-19, shines the spotlight on Newburyport's smaller footprint homes in the National Register Historic District, how they fit into the city's history, and how they contribute to neighborhood ambiance.

Highlights include a keynote speaker, a fund-raising concert, architectural walking tours, a youth scavenger hunt, and the annual awards ceremony and reception.

To view, download, or print the complete schedule of Preservation Week 2019 activities – so you don't miss a beat during the weekend – visit the NPT website at www.NbptPreservationTrust.org.

The action begins on Friday, May 17 with keynote speaker Chris Scoville of the Boston Preservation Alliance, presenting "Beyond Brick and Mortar: Preserving a Sense of Place." His talk will be at St. Anna's Chapel of St. Paul's Church, 166 High Street, Newburyport, at 7 p.m. Admission is free, and a reception follows.

Saturday sets sail with "Ships on State: A Nautical-Themed Family Scavenger Hunt," for elementary-aged kids and their grown-up assistant navigators. Meet at 10 a.m. at the compass at Market Square. From that starting point participants will navigate up State Street and through the South End looking for clues. Refreshments and prizes await at the finish line. Admission is free.

At 11 a.m. prepare to step lively for a history-packed architectural tour of the North End. Meet at the north end of the Cushing Park parking lot at Kent Street. Featured on this tour are neighborhoods of small homes that grew up around the Ocean Mills complex in the mid-19th century. The tour leader is NPT board member Reg Bacon. Admission is free.

Window Woman of New England once again presents an open house and "Sash Revival" for Preservation Week, this time

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On-the-rise Chris Walton Band headlines NPT fund-raising concert Saturday, May 18

The Chris Walton Band is featured in a Preservation Week fund-raising concert for NPT's youth initiatives at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 18, 2019 at St. Paul's Church, 166 High Street, Newburyport.

Admission is \$22.00 in advance at Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.com); or \$25.00 at the door (cash or check only). The concert is sponsored by the Institution for Savings.

The music of the future meets the architecture of the past when the vibrations of this fun-loving five-piece rock and rhythm-'n'-blues group tune up the ancient Rockport granite of St. Paul's Church. Don't miss the chance to see The Chris Walton Band, from Berklee College of Music, before they hit L.A., New York, and Nashville. Iowa native Chris Walton is a singer-songwriter – and classically-trained pianist and cellist – who blends soul, blues, and pop in the vein of John Mayer. This band's name will surface many times in the years ahead, so see them this time and you'll be able to say: "I saw them in Newburyport!" This concert is a fund-raiser for NPT's Youth Initiatives, and is made possible through a grant from the Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation. ■

See the Chris Walton Band before they hit it big in L.A., and you can say "I saw them in Newburyport."



Preservation Week 2019 ...

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with demonstrations from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Amesbury workshop, 44R Elm Street. Admission is free.

You can have a blast at Powder House Park & Learning Center, 57 Low Street, on Saturday afternoon, with tours of the 1822 Powder House from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

The Chris Walton Band is the feature of NPT's fund-raising concert 7 p.m. Saturday at St. Paul's Church. Read all about this event in the separate article on this page.

On Sunday, May 19 advanced registrants will break out the walking shoes again for a an architectural walking tour – and interior tours of three selected homes – in the South End. The tour leader is preservation architect and NPT founder Linda Miller. The tour steps off at 9 Madison Street at 1 p.m. Advance online registration and a donation of \$50.00 are required. This tour is

limited to 15 people. Register and donate in advance at the Events page of the Newburyport Preservation Trust website, www.NbptPreservationTrust.org.

The climax of every Preservation Week is the presentation of NPT's annual Preservation Awards. Each year at the end of Preservation Week, NPT recognizes the finest preservation efforts across the city during the past 12 months. Once again this year, our host venue is the Custom House Maritime Museum, 25 Water Street, where



Nifty-stepping trekkers navigating the sidewalks on NPT's Preservation Week walking tours will see these compact but much-loved houses – still fully functional in the 21st century – on Saturday and Sunday, May 18 & 19.

NPT members are invited to a reception at 4:30 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony. Admission is free, although attendance is limited to NPT members; award recipients and guests; and Custom House Maritime Museum members. So NPT members, join us for the celebration!

Preservation Week is an annual community-wide event sponsored by the Newburyport Preservation Trust to celebrate Newburyport's historic character and unique architectural legacy. We thank this year's Preservation Week Partners: the Institution for Savings (for generous sponsorship of NPT's youth program initiatives), St. Paul's Church, the Custom House Maritime Museum, and Window Woman of New England.

The Newburyport Preservation Trust was formed to raise public awareness and to advocate for local historic preservation, and is an all-volunteer, registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Join us! Consider yourself invited! ■

Did your house get a surprise valentine?

Dozens of Newburyport residents woke up to an extra surprise on Valentine's Day morning February 14 when they found heart-felt hand-written valentines hanging on their doors proclaiming love for their historic houses.

The project by 20 members of the Newburyport High School class of 2021

was an outgrowth of participation on NPT's Instagram page which debuted in fall 2018. In addition to private homes, some parks and public buildings received valentines, including the former Kelley School, now a condo development project on High Street.

Several valentines were sent in by long-distance participants – recent Newburyport High School graduates now away at college.

The surprise "valentine tagging" was a top-of-the-front-page story in the *Daily News* on February 14, 2019. ■

