YANKEE HOMECOMING 2021

Yankee Homecoming — a Newburyport tradition since 1958 — is back! As a matter of fact, it’s “Reimagined” — this year’s theme for a summer celebration that will grace the city’s downtown and waterfront from July 30 through Aug. 8.

While the annual event may be reimagined, Yankee Homecoming will also feature the same, familiar festivities, food and fun that have made it popular with residents and visitors for more than six decades.

After a year off due to the pandemic, many of the traditional events have returned while others remain on hold for now following the uncertainty of the times.

Olde Fashioned Sunday is back the first weekend of Yankee Homecoming along with other beloved favorites. Art on the Bartlet Mall also returns this weekend as 60 artists present their works at the corner of High and Pond streets.

There is also the Virtual High School Battle of the Bands and the Brewfest Fundraiser, to name a few, along with the tasty foods and tantalizing finds offered during the Yankee Homecoming Marketplace stretching two blocks through the downtown.

The marketplace and live entertainment downtown and on the waterfront will continue all week, including the popular Waterfront Concert Series. And that’s just the beginning.

The 10-day festival will also feature the Waterfront Morning Workout Series to kick off each day in addition to heritage tours, the Market Square Day Craft Show, a Coast Guard station open house and If This House Could Talk — a self-guided walking tour that allows one to learn the fascinating stories behind many of Newburyport’s historic homes. In the true spirit of competition, the Cornhole Tournament kicks off its first year while the Door Decorating Contest begins its second. Some of Newburyport’s finest waitstaff will face off in the Waiter/Waitress Race down Liberty Street in a test of skill and speed.

Then, there’s the Support Local Contest — an effort to boost the city’s restaurants with brighter days on the horizon.

Along with that spirit of competition is the spirit of giving, including the annual Veterans Luncheon.

The Generations of Giving event, sponsored by Atria Senior Living, will recognize teen and senior volunteers who give their time and talent to help others.

Yankee Homecoming wraps up the following weekend with a fireworks display and parade along High Street.

EVENT SCHEDULE
The schedule of events for Yankee Homecoming is often updated and some changes may be made after publication of this listing. For the latest calendar, check www.yankeehomecoming.

YANKEE HOMECOMING MARKETPLACE
Sunday, Aug. 1, to Sunday, Aug. 8
Market Square
An open-air, bazaar-like marketplace beginning at 10 a.m. each day and covering two square blocks and offering a wide variety of food
DOWNTOWN ENTERTAINMENT
All week. Check yankeehomecoming.com for an updated list of performances.

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL
BATTLE OF THE BANDS
Local high school bands have submitted videos of their performances and the winners chosen to play during Yankee Homecoming and to receive prizes of $100. The first-prize band will perform Monday, Aug. 2, as opening act at the Waterfront Concert. The winners in the Acoustic/Colo and Most Viewed Video categories will perform during the parade Sunday, Aug. 8. Check NEWBURYPORTYH-BATTLE on Instagram. For more details, go to www.yankeehomecoming.com.

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST
Combining the Yankee Homecoming theme “Reimagined” with their creativity and originality, residents decorate the door to their home and send a photo of it to doordecorating@yankeehomecoming.com or post it on social media with #yhdoorcontest2021. Photos must be submitted by Saturday, Aug. 7, and the first-, second- and third-place winners will be announced Sunday, Aug. 8. Winners receive cash prizes and gift cards to local restaurants. For more information, go to www.yankeehomecoming.com or email doordecorating@yankeehomecoming.com.

SUPPORT LOCAL CONTEST
Restaurant and retail store support have been combined into a single contest. During the week of Yankee Homecoming make a purchase ($20 or more) at any restaurant or retail store located in Newburyport and submit a copy of your receipt to supportlocal@yankeehomecoming.com to be entered into a drawing. At week’s end, three random winners will receive a $100 gift card of their choice to any Newburyport business. The winners will receive an email by Aug. 10. For more details, go to www.yankeehomecoming.com.

DRIVE-IN MOVIE
In this second year of the drive-in movie series, organizers seek to show a different movie each night of Yankee Homecoming. Registration will be required in advance. For more information, including movie selection, go to yankeehomecoming.com.
Hyman’s Pennyworth’s

The Annual Yankee Homecoming

TENT SALE

August 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th

Men’s • Women’s • Children’s Shoes • Boots
Athletic Footwear • Comfort Footwear • Clothing

INSIDER’S TIP: It takes us so long to get ready we’ve already started marking merchandise down. These are already some great deals!

SAS, Crocs, Chippewa, Carhartt, Merrell, Reiker, Teva, Rockport, Nike, Converse, New Balance, Redwing, Dansko, Keen, Vans, Ecco, Asics, Trotter, Timberland, Birkenstock, Sperry, Tom’s Striderite, Taos, Vionic, Barco, Cherokee (Patagonia, Northface and UGG Discontinued Models)

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BLOOD DRIVE
The annual blood drive will be held in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus at the Elks. For more information, go to yankeehomecoming.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 31
CHALK IT UP
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
This free activity allows children, families and adults to create colorful chalk drawings along the Clipper City Rail Trail at March’s Hill, High Street at Broadfield Street. Newburyport Art Association artists will create a trail map of chalk circles and shapes, and provide participants with chalk to draw within those shapes, creating a giant community chalk drawing. Drawing circles/shapes will be 6 feet apart, and local musicians will provide acoustic music for atmosphere and inspiration. Rain date is Saturday, Aug. 7.

ART ON THE BARTLET MALL
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sixty artists will show all types of artwork in this free show at the corner of High and Pond streets.

BREW FEST FUNDRAISER
5 to 9 p.m.
Cashman Park
Brewfest takes place rain or shine under a tent. A list of participating breweries, restaurants and live entertainment can be found at yankeehomecoming.com. Proceeds benefit Yankee Homecoming. General admission tickets are $45 and the first 200 guests to enter receive a free gift. A limited number of nondrinker tickets are available for a $25 donation. All nondrinkers must preregister by emailing brewfest@yankeehomecoming.com and will receive a bottle of water upon entry. No tickets expected to be sold at the gate.

This fundraiser has sold out in advance for several years and we once again do not expect any tickets to be available for sale at the gate. This is a 21+ Event. Ticket and ID required, such as a valid driver’s license, state-issued picture ID, passport or U.S. military ID. No pets or children permitted. For more information: brewfest@yankeehomecoming.com.

SUNDAY, AUG. 1
WATERFRONT MORNING WORKOUT SERIES
This free event is sponsored by Anna Jaques Hospital to get people of all ages out on the waterfront and moving.
8 a.m.: Mom Comm Stroller Bootcamp; 9:15 a.m.: Step in the Right Direction Dr. James DiResta and Dr. Angela Barnes are board-certified podiatrists on the medical staff of Anna Jaques Hospital. The podiatrists at Anna Jaques combine years of experience with the latest advances in medical technology to treat a wide range of injuries and get you back on your feet.

Specializing in family foot and ankle care:
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- Sports and tendon injuries
- Computerized, prescription orthotics

Extended hours now offered. Office operating under full Covid compliance with Mass Dept of Public Health.
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newburyportpodiatrist.com

ENTER TO WIN A $25 GIFT CARD
TO
Collectibles Antiques Mill77.com
Find the hidden beach ball in one ad and you could win!
Scan the QR code using your phone camera and fill out the entry form. A winner will be chosen at random on August 5th. Deadline to enter is August 4th, 2021. No purchase necessary.
Famous Marinades
Sirloin Tips | Boneless Chicken
Boneless Pork | Wings & Thighs

Meats
Full Line of Packaged & Custom-Cut Meats

New Seasoned Steaks
Seasoned With Montreal Seasoning Available In All Cuts

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A Great Selection of Beer & Wine to Compliment Our Food Items

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**OLDE FASHIONED SUNDAY**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bartlet Mall

This event offers activities and attractions for all ages, including food, ice cream and fun on Vendor Row.

10:30 a.m.
Pet show sponsored by Bartlett’s Cove Pet Care. Register at 10 a.m., visit Bartlett’s Cove Facebook page for more information.

The crowd gets into the act with a tug-of-war with Dash from the Essex County Sheriffs Department’s K-9 Unit.

**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
Roaming Railroad and pony rides, Midway games.

**BRYAN EATON/Staff file photo**

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Indoor, Outdoor, Curved, & Rental Stairlifts

2021 Stairlift Price Comparison

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Factory Trained and Insured with over 50+ years Experience
10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Antique and classic cars.

11:30 a.m.
Opening ceremony and flag raising, main stage and the corner of High and Pond streets.

ART ON THE BARTLET MALL
Sixty artists will show all types of artwork in this free show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the corner of High and Pond streets.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
In partnership with NBPT Cornhole, the beginners tournament will be held Sunday, Aug. 1, at 12 p.m. at Bartlett Mall, $40 per team. The competitive tournament will be held Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Newburyport Elks, $60 per team. For more details, go to yankeehomecoming.com.

WATERFRONT CONCERT SERIES
Bring a blanket, chair and picnic supper or patronize local vendors.
7:30 to 9 p.m.
Waterfront Park
Cold Spring Harbor, a Billy Joel tribute band.

MONDAY, AUG. 2
WATERFRONT MORNING WORKOUT SERIES
7:45 a.m.: Motivate Barre Cardio Nutrition; 9:10 a.m.: YMCA of the Northshore.

GENO OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT
Soldout event at Ould Newbury Country Club. Supported by the Greco family and Starboard Galley.

WAITER/WAITRESS RACE
4:30 p.m.
Cheer servers from local restaurants as they race on Liberty Street in a test of skill and speed while carrying a loaded tray. Registration is at 3:30 p.m. with the race at 4:30 p.m.

WATERFRONT CONCERT SERIES
Bring a blanket, chair and picnic supper or patronize local vendors.

Volunteers and staff get the residents of Brigham Manor into the swing with the Dick Kapland Excellent Jazz Band during the last Yankee Homecoming.

Many quality handmade goods are always available for sale at the Market Square Craft Show.

There is always a lot to see at Art On The Bartlet Mall.
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Not Just Lingerie!
furniture, carpets, paintings....and more!
People cheer on the contestants in the Waiter/Waitress Race.

Singer/songwriter Josef Nocera performs in Market Square, including songs by Elvis, Roger Miller and Frank Sinatra.

7:30 to 9 p.m.  
Waterfront Park  
Way to the River

VETERANS LUNCHEON  
With COVID restrictions just recently lifted, volunteers will deliver free meals to the homes of veterans in place of the annual luncheon. These meals will be delivered via contactless delivery. The meals will consist of ziti with sauce, meatballs, sausage, salad and dessert. Additional meals can be requested for family members. To sign up for a meal, email veterans@yankeehomecoming.com.

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Manufactured Home in Zealand Mobile Home Village
Seabrook, NH • Thursday, August 12th at 11:00 a.m.

SITED ON LOT #25 in the Zealand Mobile Home Village is this 2002 Skyline, Claridge 314CTB, serial #4316-0161P. The unit includes 2 BRs, 2 BAs, 924 sq.ft of living space and central air conditioning. The unit is located on leased land that is renting at $365 per month. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing with Zealand Mobile Home Village, the manufactured home shall be required to be removed from the site.

Assessed Value: $92,400.

INSPECTION: Thursday, August 5th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and one hour prior to auction.

TERMS: Five thousand-dollar ($5,000.00) deposit in cash, certified check, bank check, or other instrument deemed acceptable to mortgagee or agent of the mortgagee at time and place of sale. Balance due at closing within thirty (30) days of sale. Subject to all terms of mortgagee’s notice of sale.

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Dierdre Anderson, Au.D.
WATERFRONT CONCERT SERIES
Bring a blanket, chair and picnic supper or patronize local vendors.
7:30 to 9 p.m.
Waterfront Park
Country Mile

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4
WATERFRONT MORNING WORKOUT SERIES
8 a.m.: The Dojo (kick boxing); 9:30 a.m.: Pure Barre Newburyport.
GENERATIONS OF GIVING
Seniors (age 60+) and teens who have been nominated will be recognized for making a difference in the lives of Greater Newburyport residents by unselfishly giving of themselves, donating their time, efforts and energy. Sponsored by Atria Senior Living.
WATERFRONT CONCERT SERIES
Bring a blanket, chair and picnic supper or patronize local vendors.
7:30 to 9 p.m.
Waterfront Park
Fortune, a six-piece rock band from Peabody that has opened for national acts and performed for over three decades.

THURSDAY, AUG. 5
WATERFRONT MORNING WORKOUT SERIES
8:30 a.m.: YWCA Greater Newburyport; 9:45 a.m.: Studio Five.
U.S. COAST GUARD OPEN HOUSE
Coast Guard Station Merrimack River will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for tours and demonstrations of lifesaving techniques while learning about the hazards of the mouth to the Merrimack River.
BED RACE
6 p.m.
Federal Street
Teams race beds down the street in this event sponsored by the Newburyport Lions Club. Cost: $30 per team. Interested racers can contact organizer Frank Bertolino at 978-270-0365 or fbp4kw@gmail.com to receive rules and registration forms.
Teams can also register at the starting line at the top of Federal Street as late as 6 p.m. on race day.

FRIDAY, AUG. 6
WATERFRONT MORNING WORKOUT SERIES
8 a.m.: F45 Fitness Salisbury; 9:30 a.m. Pure Barre Newburyport.
WATERFRONT CONCERT SERIES
Beatlejuice, a local favorite honoring music of The Beatles and playing a special tribute to the late Brad Delp.
7:30 to 9 p.m.
Waterfront Park
Rock guitarist Gary Hoey.
ROAD RALLY
Teams consisting of a driver and a navigator (and maybe a few passengers) compete to see who is the best at following route instructions through Newburyport. Teams, which must meet registration requirements, will be scored based on their ability to follow the course accurately and answer questions along the way. Start window: 8 to 10 a.m.; finish window: 1 to 3 p.m. Prizes awarded. Cost is $25 per car. Sponsored by Ron April Realtor.
WATERFRONT CONCERT SERIES
Foreigners Journey, combining the music of two legendary rock bands.
7:15 to 9:15 p.m.
Waterfront Park
FIREWORKS
9:15 p.m.
Bring a blanket or chair and listen to the concert before enjoying a fireworks display put on and partly sponsored by Atlas Fireworks. Co-sponsored by various local merchants, banks and Newburyport residents.

SATURDAY, AUG. 7
WATERFRONT MORNING WORKOUT SERIES
8 a.m.: Crossfit Full Potential; 9:15 a.m.: Sarah Oleson Yoga.
WATERFRONT CONCERT SERIES
Bring a blanket, chair and picnic supper or patronize local vendors.
7:30 to 9 p.m.
Waterfront Park
The Acton Minutemen fire their muskets at the top of Green Street during the Yankee Homecoming Parade.
9:15 a.m.: CREW Barre & Cycle.
PARADE
12 p.m.
Yankee Homecoming comes to a close with the annual parade down High Street. It begins at the intersection of Moseley Avenue and Perry Road, and continues along High Street before ending at Federal Street. Area fire engines will lead the parade followed by the Yankee Homecoming general chairman, Volunteers of the Year, bands, floats and performances. Money will be collected for the Jimmy Fund.

SUNDAY, AUG. 8
WATERFRONT MORNING WORKOUT SERIES
8 a.m.: Crossfit Full Potential (active recovery class);
Yankee Homecoming always concludes with a parade on the second Sunday of the celebration.
Heritage tours and events

Events are all free unless otherwise indicated.

SATURDAY, JULY 31

10 a.m. — Chasing Port History. Pick up scavenger hunt packets at the Custom House Maritime Museum, the library’s Archival Center or at 51 Prospect St. and then walk or bike through the beautiful neighborhoods (approximately 1.5 hours). Learn about local history, visit the Museum of Old Newbury, Custom House Maritime Museum, the Library Archival Center, Bartlet Mall, Joppa Park, and discover house histories through select If This House Could Talk posters. Return the filled-out scavenger hunt form by Aug. 7 at 4 p.m. to participate in a random drawing of prizes that include local history books.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Can You Find Us — Oak Hill Cemetery, Brown and State streets. More than 30 gravesites will be labeled — ministers, benefactors, sea captains such as Francis B. Todd, who was buried in a rum barrel, artists, and the burial site of Anna Jaques, benefactor of the local hospital. Enjoy a stroll through Oak Hill Cemetery while learning about local residents from the past.


1 to 3 p.m. — Newburyport Powder House Park and Learning Center, 57 Low St. (across from Nock/Molin schools). Visit the restored Powder House built in 1822 on Godfrey’s Hill. View the exterior and interior restoration and original cobblestone wagon path. Members of the Acton Minutemen will talk about the importance of the early militias in all the towns of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and to demonstrate the use and firing of the flintlock musket, and various marching maneuvers from the Revolutionary War. The Powder House is an American Association of State and Local History Merit Award winner. If This House Could Talk neighborhood stroll. City residents will display posters with stories about their homes. Stroll Newburyport neighborhoods and look for house stories prominently displayed. Online map: http://map.walknewburyport.com or see http://www.walknewburyport.com for details.

SUNDAY, AUG. 1

9 to 10:30 a.m. — Feathered Friends and Long Forgotten Friends, Oak Hill Cemetery, main gates, Brown and State streets. Join Sue McGrath of Newburyport Birders and local historian Ghlee Woodworth for an outing at Oak Hill Cemetery. Many different species are attracted to the diverse habitat of Oak Hill and while learning to identify birds, see the graves of Newburyport benefactors, sea captains, early American photographers and abolitionists.

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Superior Courthouse open house, Bartlet Mall. Visit the 1805 courthouse, designed by Charles Bullfinch, and learn about its history and beautiful interior and exterior architecture, including the courtroom where President John Quincy Adams and Daniel Webster tried cases. Presented by Essex County Clerk of Courts Tom Driscoll and the Greater Newburyport Bar Association.

12 to 1 p.m. — Old South Church, 29 Federal St., www.oldsouthbpt.org; 978 465-9666. Meet at the Federal Street front doors. Step right in and experience the way the church used to be in the 1700s. Learn about Paul Revere’s bell, see spittoons in the sanctuary, descend into the crypt and discover a forgotten Founding Father buried under the pulpit.

2 to 3:30 p.m. — Clipper Heritage Trail’s Along the Water’s Edge Waterfront Harbor Tour, boardwalk near Black Cow restaurant. Tickets go fast. Make reservations at www.harborours.com. Join historian Ghlee Woodworth and marine ecologist and captain Paul Aziz aboard the Yankee Clipper and enjoy a 90-minute cruise along the Merrimack River. Step back in time and hear about shipyards, Caldwell’s Rum, and a castle while cruising upriver to Amesbury. On the return leg, the Yankee Clipper travels along the shores of Joppa, the home of clammers, fishermen and hunters.

MONDAY, AUG. 2

9 to 10:30 a.m. — Feathered Friends and Long Forgotten Friends, Oak Hill Cemetery, main gates, Brown and State streets. Join Sue McGrath of Newburyport Birders and local historian Ghlee Woodworth for an outing at Oak Hill Cemetery. Many different species are attracted to the diverse habitat of Oak Hill and while learning to identify birds, see the graves of Newburyport benefactors, sea captains, early American photographers and abolitionists.

6 to 7 p.m. — Author-journalist Dyke Hendrickson will talk about the history and health of the Merrimack River in Newburyport Public Library’s Program Room. It is the birthplace of the Coast
Guard, the home of the first major hydro-powered mills in America, the source of a new science of clean drinking water, and the site of one of the first successful labor actions in the U.S. More than 500,000 people still get their drinking water from the Merrimack. But sometimes it is getting dirtier, not cleaner. Hendrickson will address the past and future of this resource. He is the author of a new book, “Merrimack: The Resilient River, An Illustrated Profile of the Most Historic River in New England.”

**TUESDAY, AUG. 3**

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — Clipper Heritage Trail’s Along the Water’s Edge Waterfront Harbor Tour; boardwalk near Black Cow restaurant. Tickets go fast. Make reservations at www.harbor tours.com. Join historian Ghlee Woodworth and marine ecologist and captain Paul Aziz aboard the Yankee Clipper and enjoy a 90-minute cruise along the Merrimack River. Step back in time and hear about shipyards, Caldwell’s Rum, and a castle while cruising upriver to Amesbury. On the return leg, the Yankee Clipper travels along the shores of Joppa, the home of clammers, fishermen and hunters.

**TUESDAY, AUG. 3, TO SATURDAY, AUG. 7**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — The Custom House Maritime Museum: Our House is Your Home for Maritime History, 25 Water St. The museum’s exhibits have a fresh, new look with new objects for education and enjoyment. Docents will be on hand. See the Fresnel Lens adorning the entrance before it returns to its original home at Pomham Rocks Lighthouse in Riverside, Rhode Island, on Sept. 1. Pick up Chasing Port History scavenger hunt packets at the Custom House Maritime Museum, the library’s Archival Center or at 51 Prospect St. and then walk or bike through the beautiful neighborhoods (approximately 1.5 hours). Learn about local history, visit the Museum of Old Newbury, Custom House Maritime Museum, the Library Archival Center, Bartlett Mall, Joppa Park, and discover house histories through select If This House Could Talk posters. Return the filled-out scavenger hunt form by 4 p.m. to participate in a random drawing of prizes that include local history books.

**SATURDAY, AUG. 7**

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. — Uncommon Ground — Pawtucket Spaces and Colonized Places on the Molodemak River Frontier. Firehouse Center for The Arts in Market Square. Join Kristine Malpica on this walking tour that explores local and regional history of Pawtucket-Pennacook spaces and colonized places on the Molodemak (Merrimack in English) River frontier. The river served as a vital intratribal conduit of socioeconomic and political interaction for Native groups, as well as cross-cultural exchange and conflict with English colonists.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Can You Find Us — Oak Hill Cemetery. Brown and State streets. More than 30 gravesites will be labeled — ministers, benefactors, sea captains such as Francis B. Todd, who was buried in a rum barrel, artists, and the burial site of Anna Jaques, benefactor of the local hospital. Enjoy a stroll through Oak Hill Cemetery while learning about local residents from the past.

4 p.m. — Chasing Port History. Pick up scavenger hunt packets at the Custom House Maritime Museum, the library’s Archival Center or at 51 Prospect St. and then walk or bike through the beautiful neighborhoods (approximately 1.5 hours). Learn about local history, visit the Museum of Old Newbury, Custom House Maritime Museum, the Library Archival Center, Bartlett Mall, Joppa Park, and discover house histories through select If This House Could Talk posters. Return the filled-out scavenger hunt form by 4 p.m. to participate in a random drawing of prizes that include local history books.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4**

6 to 7 p.m. — A Newburyport Travelogue, Newburyport Public Library’s Program Room. Newburyport has a rich and storied history that connects it to places spanning the globe. Stories of Newburyport can be found in faraway places such as London, the Caribbean, Chile, Oregon, California, Bermuda and Hawaii. With guide Jack Santos, learn about Newburyport’s connections to the world. Find out how you can be a Global Newburyport History Explorer. Seats fill up fast.

**10 to 11:30 a.m. — Clipper Heritage Trail, Down Along and the Ridge. Meet at March’s Hill, top of Bromfield Street. Walk along High Street and hear about the history of March’s Hill and homes of sea captains, an architect, an American Revolutionary soldier, a writer and benefactors. The tour begins and ends at March’s Hill. One of many tours featured in Ghlee Woodworth’s 2020 publication: “Clipper Heritage Trail, A series of self-guided history tours, Volume I.”

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4 p.m. — Chasing Port History. Pick up scavenger hunt packets at the Custom House Maritime Museum, the library’s Archival Center or at 51 Prospect St. and then walk or bike through the beautiful neighborhoods (approximately 1.5 hours). Learn about local history, visit the Museum of Old Newbury, Custom House Maritime Museum, the Library Archival Center, Bartlett Mall, Joppa Park, and discover house histories through select If This House Could Talk posters. Return the filled-out scavenger hunt form by 4 p.m. to participate in a random drawing of prizes that include local history books.

**SUNDAY, AUG. 8**

12 to 4 p.m. — The Custom House Maritime Museum: Our House is Your Home for Maritime History, 25 Water St. The museum’s exhibits have a fresh, new look with new objects for education and enjoyment. Docents will be on hand. See the Fresnel Lens adorning the entrance before it returns to its original home at Pomham Rocks Lighthouse in Riverside, Rhode Island, on Sept. 1. Pick up Chasing Port History scavenger hunt packets to learn more about Newburyport history. For more information, visit www.thechmm.org or call 978-462-8681.

**To learn more about Newburyport’s history:** Clipperheritagetrail.com — Free downloadable tours, brochures, maps and free smart phone tours. An American Association of State and Local History Merit Award Winner.

This model, featured during If This House Could Talk, gives a history of the house behind it at 88 High St. in Newburyport.

Visitors tour a motor lifeboat at U.S. Coast Guard Station Merrimack during an open house held for Yankee Homecoming.
In 1958, the first year of Newburyport’s weeklong summer celebration, Yankee Homecoming, most of the city’s factories and mills had closed, as well as downtown businesses, due to the economic climate. Storefronts were left empty, and the federal initiative of “urban renewal” loomed large and threatened to demolish the bones of many communities.

In the meantime, New England artist Jack Frost had launched a crusade to revive appreciation for the heritage and beauty of New England by bringing back natives and visitors to the region’s towns and cities. His idea was to hold homecoming celebrations that would “share with others the many historical landmarks still standing.” “It seemed that children and adults should be invited to see where history was made,” Frost wrote in the volume he published to promote this goal, “Yankee Homecoming 1958. The National Pilgrimage Back East Where It All Began.”

By chance, Frost and Joe Mathers, then manager of the Newburyport radio station WNBP, met on Cape Cod and Frost shared his idea with him. Frost later met with George Cashman, who along with Joe Mathers was inspired by Frost’s vision to approach Newburyport’s business community members and city officials with the concept of a first Yankee Homecoming.

Newburyport, the last community to join, was accompanied by 29 other New England communities that held their own celebrations.

George Cashman became the first Yankee Homecoming chairman. Understanding the national significance of the beginnings of the U.S. Coast Guard in Newburyport, George Cashman chose Aug. 4, the birthday of the Coast Guard to be the basis of celebration. Every year since 1958, Yankee Homecoming has recognized the Coast Guard for its contributions to our community.

Over the years, Yankee Homecoming has grown to highlight more and more creative initiatives that have been welcomed by the event organizers, residents and visitors.

Today, these include longtime annual events that showcase road races, the much-anticipated Olde Fashioned Sunday, Waterfront Concerts on the Merrimack River, Family Day at Maudslay State Park, Market Square entertainment, and craft and artisan fairs.

The eight-day event wraps up with a spectacular fireworks display and grand parade past the historic houses of High Street. Events celebrating Newburyport’s history have grown to include explorations of the city’s Civil War history, church tours reflecting its connections to New England’s religious history, and guided walks of the old burying grounds as well as many tours of historic homes and buildings.

That first year, Newburyport was joined by dozens of communities throughout New England in providing a “Yankee Homecoming Celebration.” Today, Newburyport is the only community that continues the tradition, in itself a demonstration of the phenomenal volunteer effort both on the part of individuals and businesses that goes into organizing the event.

Ghlee E. Woodworth is a Newburyport native. Jane Uscilka is a writer and editor and former Newburyport resident. Reprinted from www.yankeehomecoming.com
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DS & Associates
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617.946.4050
peter_danas@ml.com

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
100 Federal Street
17th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
fa.ml.com/ds

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