



Turkey Tracks

Newsletter of the New Providence Historical Society

Volume 57 No. 1

Issue #133

March 2024

History of the White House

Everyone knows the address 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The White House is the official residence and workplace of the President of the United States.

Designed by Irish-born architect James Hoban, it has served as the residence for every U.S. president since John Adams in 1800.

This building and its residents have been integral to American history and world history as well. It has been a center for historical drama, including the War of 1812, when the White House was burnt by British forces during the burning of Washington.

On Thursday, **April 18, 2024**, at the Society's Annual Dinner, historian Patricia Wells of the Chatham Township Historical Society will share her in-depth knowledge of America's Executive Mansion.



The **Salt Box Craft Fair** returns on **May 11, 2024**, 9am to 3pm.

Please join us for this exhibition and sale of high quality arts and crafts on the grounds of the Salt Box Museum at 1350 Springfield Avenue in New Providence. In addition to crafts, the society will have a bake sale and free tours of the Salt Box Museum.

On **June 8, 2024**, the Society will host the **New Providence Flea Market**, with a wide array of venerable treasures.



**New Providence
Flea Market**

Board of Trustees Letter

Dear Members,

We are pleased to announce that Maria De Luca has agreed to become Vice President of the New Providence Historical Society. In addition, John Sponauer has agreed to take on membership responsibilities. We thank Maria and John for bringing their energies to these responsibilities. We have several activities scheduled this spring:

On **Thursday, April 18th**, we have our Annual Dinner at the Vintage Tavern in Gillette. Our speaker will be Patricia Wells, Please see page 5 to sign up.

On **Saturday, May 11th**, we will once again hold the Salt Box Craft Fair, hosting artisans with a wide range of handmade arts and crafts. The museum will also be open for tours, while also holding a bake sale.

On **Saturday, June 8th**, we will have our annual New Providence Flea Market, including treasures from the Society's collection. Proceeds from these events support the maintenance of the Salt Box Museum and fund our New Providence High School scholarship program. We encourage any members interested in emptying their attics to rent a booth.

We also plan to resume the tours of the Presbyterian Church cemetery with John Sponauer. Specific dates will be announced on the Society website and Facebook.

Volunteers are always needed and encouraged, especially docents to guide visitors at the museum. Currently, we have several positions to fill, specifically volunteers for the program planning committee, a corresponding secretary, a public relations chair, and an accessions chair. Accessions involves recording and managing donated artifacts and other materials to the society's collection. There is always lots more to do. If you'd like to volunteer or just have questions, please give us a call at 908-665-1034.

New Providence Historical Society Board of Trustees



2024 Calendar for Upcoming Society Events

April 18, 2024	Thursday	Annual Dinner, 6 PM
May 11, 2024	Saturday	Salt Box Craft Fair, 9 AM - 3 PM
June 8, 2024	Saturday	New Providence Flea Market, 9 AM - 3 PM
September 21, 2024	Saturday	New Providence Book Festival, 9 AM - 3 PM

Other events may be added, so check our calendar at www.newprovidencehistorical.com.

Lincoln School Sign Found

If you are old enough, you might remember Lincoln School, once located on the corner of Springfield Avenue and Academy Place. The original part of Lincoln School was constructed on what is now Centennial Park. The later parts of the school were converted into what is today's municipal center. This past fall, the Historical Society received a phone call from John Parlapiano, head of the Department of Public Works, stating he had come across the original Lincoln School sign.



The sign had been hiding on a shelf in the Board of Education's maintenance shop. Mr. Parlapiano recognized it and reached out to our historical society. The Society is currently trying to decide on how to preserve this 15-foot historic signage.

Artifact Exhibit - A Success

During the month of February, the New Providence Historical Society shared many of the artifacts from the Salt Box Museum, with visitors at the New Providence Memorial Library. Special thanks goes to Maria DeLuca who arranged the exhibit. If you missed the exhibit, these same artifacts can be viewed at Salt Box Museum, which is open on the first Sunday of every month from 1 – 3 PM.



The Changing Face of New Providence

Sage & Lavendar formerly at 1312 Springfield Avenue has relocated to Summit.

Moxie Salon and Beauty Bar has opened at 1274 Springfield Avenue.

Marlenny's Full Service Salon and **Mininos Salon** have moved from 157 South Street to 592 Central Avenue.

157 South Street, 165 South Street and the greenhouse behind are scheduled for demolition. This greenhouse in the last of many which supported New Providence's flower industry. These demolitions are in preparation for the new location of the **Primrose School**.



43 Floral Avenue, last occupied by **Rare Finds**, an antiques and collectibles shop, will be the future home of **Café Luna**.

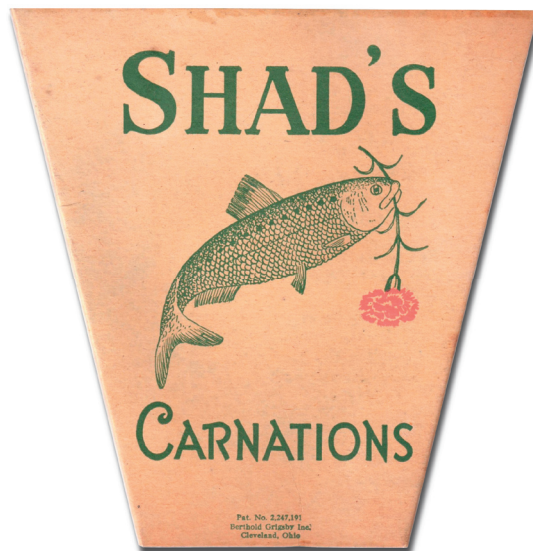
During the fall of 2023, local artist Cindy Gelormini added to New Providence's artistic landscape by painting a mural on the side of the building at 1279 Springfield Avenue. The mural includes many of our town's points of interest.



Member & Citizen News

Please welcome new society member **Gayle Chamberlin Hoyt**.

Conrad "Connie" Shad (80) passed away on September 7, 2023. He graduated New Providence High School in 1960. Conrad was a member of the Georgia Army National Guard's 159th Aviation Company as an aircraft mechanic and the New York Air National Guard's 109th Tactical Airlift Group as an LC-130 Flight Engineer. He also worked as a pilot for General Electric. Conrad's family also managed one of the many greenhouses in New Providence.



Membership Renewal Application

Our annual dues run from April 1st to March 31st, our fiscal year. Please fill in your information and mail your check to the New Providence Historical Society, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974. This will enable us to keep our membership and mailing lists current. Lifetime Members may submit any change in address, phone, email, etc., using this form or via email to newprovidencehistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Be sure to include your preference for Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Mr. or Mrs. Membership dues provide the main income to support the Society's mission and activities, we rely on your renewal.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Date _____

Annual Memberships (Many corporations will match contributions.)

Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____ Business Sponsorship \$25.00 _____

I will volunteer to help:

Computer _____ Research _____ Museum _____ Craft Fair _____ Writing _____

Clerical _____ Grounds _____ Restoration _____ House Tours _____

Reservations for 2024 Annual Dinner

April 18, 2024, Hors d'oeuvre at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM, Cash Bar.

Vintage Tavern, 342 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ 07933

Members are invited to bring a favorite dessert to share with those attending.

Number of reservations: _____ @ **\$45.00** for NP Historical Society Annual Dinner

Donation to cover speaker fee _____ (Optional)

Amount of Check \$ _____.

Please make check payable to NP Historical Society.

Reservations should be received by **April 18, 2024**.

Send checks to:

New Providence Historical Society
c/o New Providence Memorial Library
377 Elkwood Avenue
New Providence, NJ 07974



(Formerly Chimney Rock)



Proposed Trustees - Class of 2024: Rick Anderson, Sara Jane Vignali & Maria DeLuca



New Providence Historical Society Officers & Committees

President	Rick Anderson
Vice President	Maria DeLuca
Treasurer	Kerry Lee
Grounds & Property	Rick Anderson
Membership	John Sponauer
Website & <i>Turkey Tracks</i> editor	J.R. Bale
Social Media	Maria DeLuca
Recording Secretary	Audrey Keebler
Corresponding Secretary	Vacant
Museum Docent Coordinator	Elizabeth Ryan
Display Coordinator	Maria DeLuca

Trustees

Rick Anderson, J.R. Bale, Maria DeLuca, Robert Keller,
Kerry Lee, John Sponauer, Sara Jane Vignali

Email: newprovidencehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Facebook Page: facebook.com/NewProvidenceHistoricalSociety



Salt Box Museum Hours

1350 Springfield Avenue
First Sundays, 1-3 PM
Or by appointment
Telephone: 908-665-1034

Mason Room Hours

at the New Providence Library
Tuesday Mornings,
10 AM to Noon
Second Saturdays, 11AM - 1 PM
Telephone: 908-665-1034
Appointments available

Website:

NewProvidenceHistorical.com

Turkey Tracks is available in
color on our website as a PDF.



New Providence Historical Society
Memorial Library
377 Elkwood Avenue
New Providence, New Jersey 07974