



Turkey Tracks

Newsletter of the New Providence Historical Society

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March 2025

America's First Decades



General George Washington Resigning His Commission, painted by John Trumbull

Despite producing the US Constitution, the period between the end of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 is mostly ignored. Yet, it was one of the most formative periods of our democracy. Historian Joel Farkas will share the events of this critical period in American history at the historical society's Annual Dinner on Thursday, April 10, 2025. See Page 5 for reservation and dues renewal information.



The **Salt Box Craft Fair** returns on **May 10, 2025**, 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. In addition to crafts, the event will include a bake sale, plant sale and free tours of the Salt Box Museum. Learn more on Page 3.



On **June 14, 2025**, the Society will host the **New Providence Flea Market**, with a wide array of venerable treasures. Learn more on Page 3.



**New Providence
Flea Market**

Board of Trustees Letter

Dear Members,

The cold weather has finally broken as we head into spring. And we have several activities scheduled this spring:

On **Thursday, April 10th**, we have our Annual Dinner at the Vintage Tavern in Gillette. Our speaker will be historian Joel Farkas, discussing America's first decades. Please see page 5 to sign up.

On **Saturday, May 10th**, 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 and a plant sale.

On **Saturday, June 14th**, 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. Or, people may donate goods for sale by the society.

Some members of the Society have been very busy preparing for America's 250th Anniversary. Our preparations include painting the interior of the Salt Box Museum and reorganizing the displays. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped.

We also plan to resume the tours of the Presbyterian Church graveyard with John Sponauer. Specific dates will be announced on the Society's website and on 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 public relations chair, and an accessions chair. Accessions involve 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 10, 2025	Thursday	Annual Dinner, 6 PM
May 10, 2025	Saturday	Salt Box Craft Fair, 9 AM - 3 PM
June 14, 2025	Saturday	New Providence Flea Market, 9 AM - 3 PM
September 20, 2025	Saturday	New Providence Book Festival, 9 AM - 3 PM

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

Salt Box Craft Fair

The **Salt Box Craft Fair** returns on **May 10, 2025**, 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. In addition, the Garden Club will be having its Annual Plant Sale. Craft vendor applications can be found on the website at www.newprovidencehistorical.com/salt-box-fair.



New Providence Flea Market

On **June 14, 2025**, the Society will host the **New Providence Flea Market**, with a wide array of venerable treasures. Vendor fee is \$25, but only \$15 for members. A vendor application can be found at www.newprovidencehistorical.com/calendar



Member & Citizen News

Please welcome new society members: **Christine Tallone, Malathi Ananthakrishnan, Philip Blizzard, Nancy E Oppershauser and Ellen Malosh.**

Jeff Grob has joined the Board of Trustees.

Chris Tallone has agreed to volunteer as our society's new Corresponding Secretary.

Leonard C. Blessing (104) passed away peacefully on February 9, 2025 in Charlotte, NC. He enjoyed a significant career in science education. For 61 years, his home was in New Providence, NJ where he was a member of the New Providence United Methodist Church and the New Providence Historical Society.

The Changing Face of New Providence

Coppola's Restaurant on Central Avenue has closed. Meanwhile, **Wonder**, a multi-menu restaurant has opened at 36 South Street. This location was previously rented by Wells Fargo and its banking predecessors.

The name of the **Village Shopping Center** has been changed by the owners to **South Pass Village**. **Posh Spa & Nails** is the expected tenant at the former Berkshire Hathaway location in the shopping center.

Martindale Hubble, formerly at 121 Chanlon Road, has relocated out of town.

IVX Health, New Providence Infusion Center is operating at 1260 Springfield Avenue, the former Elements Massage location.

A new home is under construction on one of the three lots at 166 Oakwood Drive. The center lot contains the historic white home, built in the 1890s for Pauline Schultz Von Bernuth, one of 11 children of Carl H. Schultz, the "Mineral Water King". The home was later owned by the Lenci Family, then Nat Conti

Construction is on the upswing in New Providence. The combination of residential and commercial space at **44 South Street** is approaching completion. Likewise with the construction of the Primrose Daycare and Preschool on High Street at the corner of South Street.

The bridge at the end of Passaic Street, which crosses into Chatham, is being rebuilt by Union County. It is expected to be closed for approximately a year. Expected completion is January 2026.



44 South Street



Passaic River Bridge between New Providence and Chatham, NJ, circa 1912



The largest construction project, one for affordable housing, is underway on the corner of Commerce Drive and Spring Street.

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 2025 Annual Dinner

April 10, 2025, 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: _____ @ \$49.00 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 5, 2025**.

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 2025: J.R. Bale, Robert Keller & Jeff Grob



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	Chris Tallone
Museum Docent Coordinator	Elizabeth Ryan
Display Coordinator	Maria DeLuca

Trustees

Rick Anderson, J.R. Bale, Maria DeLuca, Jeff Grob,
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