

GREENPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 23

Issue Number 4

September - October 2023

President's Message

Welcome to our September/October 2023 issue, kicking off the fall season after a record breaking soaker of a summer. This is the time of year when we start to look forward to the crisp air and changing colors of fall, waiting to greet us like an old friend.

In addition to our annual year end November luncheon, we have two very interesting programs lined up for you.

September will feature officials from the Greenport Fire department giving a presentation on the history of fires in Greenport. In speaking with these officials, the program promises to be very interesting and one you won't want to miss. In October Keith Niver will share the history of his family's iconic music store; also a very informative program.

Hope everyone is well and I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

President Apicella

Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 21st - 6:00 p.m. - Greenport Community Center
Program: The History of Fires and the Greenport Fire Department
Refreshments following

Thursday, October 19th - 6:00 p.m. - Greenport Community Center
Election of Officers/Directors
Program: The History of Niver's Music Store
Refreshments following

Thursday, November 9th - Noon - Kozel's Restaurant
End of year luncheon - no speaker

Other News

What an interesting program for July! Greenport bee keeper, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, gave a most interesting talk on the nature and behavior of the incredible honey bee! Honey bees rule! We all received a complimentary jar of her honey, straight from the hive! Thank you, Maria!

20 members enjoyed our annual summer fun picnic at the Hudson Boat Club on August 17th. The variety of dishes were delightful and tasty and a great time was had by all! Our thanks to the Hudson Boat Club for hosting us.

President Apicella has been in touch with the NYS office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and had an encouraging dialogue regarding a possible matching grant to get the next phase of the Toll House restoration in motion. It will be a complicated process but because that south wall is in a very precarious situation we may be eligible for emergency funding. Stay tuned.

Great New Greenport History Display

Check out the new display case at the Town Hall featuring office supplies from decades gone by, including a Town Code book and a 1987 Sesquicentennial Key to the City of Hudson!! The display was organized by Jennifer Pinkowski of the Building Department. Congrats to all in actively saving Greenport History!



Carol Biernacki
Collections Chair

End of Year Luncheon

The annual End of Year Luncheon will be held at Kozel's on Thursday, November 9th, 2023 at noon. (Note this is the second Thursday of the month.) The buffet will be served at 12:30. While subject to slight change, the menu includes: fruit salad, green salad with dressings, lemon chicken, sirloin tips with mushroom gravy, ziti and meatballs, salmon cooked with dill, mashed potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower mix, bread/rolls with butter, sliced cake and pies, coffee and tea. Cost of the buffet will be \$25 which includes the gratuity.

We need to give Kozel's a count of those who plan to attend by Tuesday, October 24th. Please let us know as soon as possible. There will be a sign-up sheet at our October meeting. You may also sign up by phoning Pat Hart (518) 828-6747 or Vickie Goodrich at (518) 821-8197. Members and non-members are welcome. Send payment to Pat Hart, 520 Rt.66, Hudson, NY 12534 by November 2nd, checks payable to Greenport Historical Society.

2024 Slate of Officers and Directors

In accordance with Article VI of the Greenport Historical Society Constitution, the following slate of Officers and Directors will be voted on at the annual meeting, Thursday, October 21st, 2023.

Officers:

President (Interim)	Lynn Hart
Vice President	open
Recording Secretary	Barbara Ellsworth
Corresponding Secretary	Marlene Edgley
Treasurer	Pat Hart

Directors:

2024	Sal Cozzolino (3rd year of 3 year term)
2024-2025	Brian Goodrich (2nd year of 3 year term)
2024 - 2026	open (3 year term)

Please note additional nominations may be made by any member of the society prior to the election. Write-in-nominations are acceptable. Elected officers and directors take office at the beginning of the calendar year. Please consider one of the vacancies. No one works in isolation. We are at a critical point in our organization and our future depends on you!

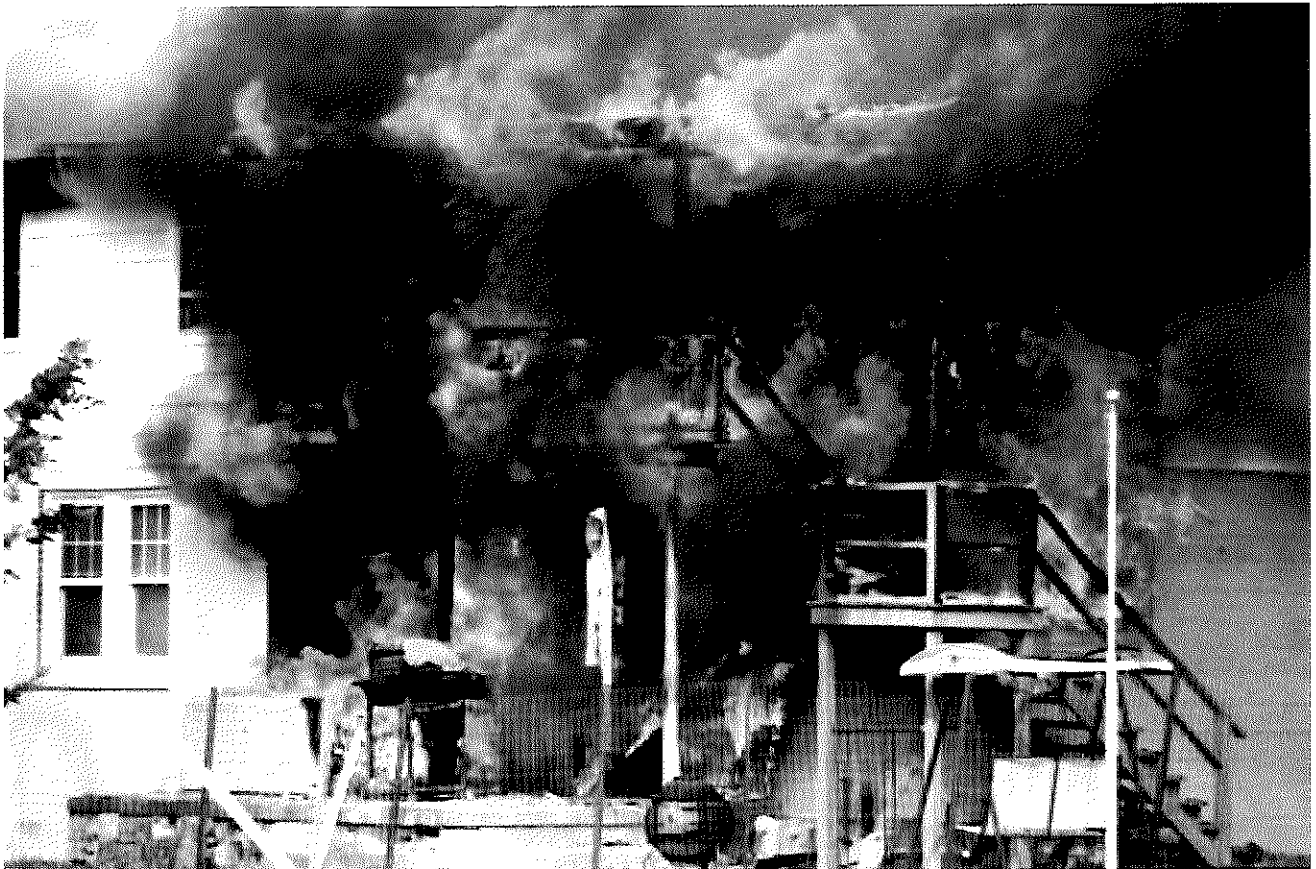
History of Fires and the Greenport Fire Department

Greenport Historical Society
Thursday, September 21st, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Greenport Community Center - Town Hall Drive

Fire Prevention Week (October 8 - 14, 2023) is just around the corner, so it seems appropriate that we look at the early history of fires and how fires have changed the way we approach fire protection in the town of Greenport.

Doug Garrison, the Training Officer and former Chief of the Greenport Fire Department, will present a short talk on the history of fires and the formation of the Greenport Fire Department. Topics will include some of the great historical fires that have occurred globally, a look at fires that occurred in Greenport prior to the formation of the Greenport Fire Department and a look at its formation and some incidents over the years since.



How Niver's Radio Shack Became Niver's Inc.

Greenport Historical Society
Thursday, October 19th, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Greenport Community Center - Town Hall Drive

After nearly 85 years in business, Niver's Inc. closed its doors for good in 2022, having served the community for decades, for the last several supplying instruments to school kids, pianos and organs for the community and servicing electronics. Hear the story of how "Niver's" got started in the 1930's by young entrepreneur, Harold Niver, who at the age of 13 built his own radio. Learn how the business started in the area of Columbia and Green St., relocated within that area and changed its focus several times, first starting as a gas and service station (that also installed and serviced car radios.) and later switching to radios, tv, stereos and appliances, eventually adding organs and pianos. Learn how big business forced the store's change to a concentration on music.

Our speaker, Keith Niver, has been involved with the store since his father's untimely death in 1964 when he and his mom took over the business. For 58 years Keith has kept this icon alive and while still legally named Niver's Inc., Keith always answered the phone with "Niver's Music." Most of us will always remember driving past 801 Columbia St. and seeing that iconic neon sign, "Niver's Inc." Another piece of history not to be forgotten.

On display will be some artifacts showing the evolution of Niver's from a gas station to radio store, to video electronics, to music. Some items may be for sale.

