

The
GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

SUMMER 2018





The Point Association

The Point Association is a group of neighbors working together to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood by getting to know each other; preserving our historic heritage; maintaining the Point’s residential character; beautifying our parks, streets, and piers; and promoting public policies that strengthen all of Newport’s

neighborhoods.

The Green Light is published four times each year: the first week of March, June, September, and December.

Cover photo courtesy of Pam Breves

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The Volvo Ocean has come and gone, press, and now the upon us, despite what our calendars tell us. As you will see in this issue, an energized Point Association has worked hard to put together a lively and varied program of coming events. In some cases, they are new initiatives, in others, expansion of activities that have for some time been well received on the Point. Sailing, gardening, music...there’s something here for everyone.

Race visit to Newport mostly with good “summer season” is upon us, despite what our calendars tell us. As you will see in this issue, an energized Point Association has worked hard to put together a lively and varied program of coming events. In some cases, they are new initiatives, in others, expansion of activities that have for some time been well received on the Point. Sailing, gardening, music...there’s something here for everyone.

All is not leisure, however. The Point Association has also focused on the “work” of maintaining a “livable” community. The new project in this context is composting. The program announced in our last issue is underway and appears to have been well received. An update and an application form are included in these pages.

Work or play, there is much here to bring the community together. That in itself is a goal to be applauded in this widely acknowledged era of community disintegration and divisiveness. Enjoy and get involved!

Alice Clemente

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors—

Greetings! As I write this message to you, Newport is abuzz with excitement about the Volvo Ocean Race and the stopover in Newport at the end of the 8th leg of the race. There is so much activity and enthusiasm in Newport as the world watches our city welcome the sailing teams.

The 2018 Volvo races are just another example of the wonderful city we live in and the abundance of exciting events and activities for the residents and neighbors.

By the time you read this, the Volvo Races will be gone, but we can all look forward to a summer to share many events and activities with our family, friends and neighbors. Newport's summer is active with the Classical Music, Jazz, and Folk Festivals; the Flower Show and Secret Garden tours; the Tennis Hall of Fame tournament; and the many special events hosted by local organizations – just to name a few.

The Point Association will also be hosting many activities and events this summer, and we hope you will join in those special opportunities to celebrate the season with neighbors. Top on the list is our annual Plant Sale, our work on the beautification of our parks and open spaces, and the annual Summer Cocktail party – all mainstays of our summer activities on the Point. This year we are embarking on 3 new activities: sponsorship of the Music on the Lawn Series at St. Johns Church, a Sunday of four Block Parties across the Point, and a new Independence Day celebration to highlight the “Patriotic Point”. More information on these new events and activities is featured in this edition of *The Green Light*. Please take a moment to read the articles – and plan to participate!

The Point Association is excited about this summer with our new events and activities. We look forward to seeing you over the next few months – and sharing in yet another wonderful season with neighbors on the Point!

Best regards,



Tom Hockaday
President

THE PATRIOTIC POINT: “SHOW THE COLORS” ON THE FOURTH OF JULY!

By Cynthia Lafferty and Ann McMahon

The Point Association is encouraging all of our residents to fly our flags this 4th of July week-end. The display is to be known as the “Patriotic Point”. Those of us who have been in Newport awhile are thrilled with the grand display of flags on the Point’s Maitland Court as flags fly from every cottage on both sides of the street!



If we all display the red, white and blue, our Navy families will have a visual symbol of our gratitude as they travel to and from the Base. Patriotic bunting and small flags in window boxes are other ways of displaying our ensign. It is hard to overdue it when you are talking about the flag of the United States.

Here is how it all began:
The stars and stripes flag of the United States of America was created in 1776 by an act of Congress. The colors red, white and blue symbolize a liberal democratic, secular republic. Our flag was the first national flag to use the five pointed star as an emblem.

The flag was first raised on Prospect Hill in Somerville,

MA on January 1, 1776 when the Continental Army came into formal existence. Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, sewed the first flag after receiving a request from Congress prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

On the evening of September 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key, a lawyer from Georgetown, was detained aboard an American truce vessel on the Chesapeake Bay near the flagship of a British admiral who was in the process of attempting to capture Baltimore, MD. The first item on the agenda was, however, the attack on Fort McHenry, a military installation guarding the city’s sea approach. Because the need for secrecy was great, Key was prohibited from returning to shore. After much shelling during the night over Fort McHenry, when morning came, Key saw the American flag flying over the fort. This inspired Key to write a poem which ended up being a patriotic song entitled “The Star Spangled Banner”, which by an act of Congress was declared our national anthem.

The flag now stands as an important reminder of the United States’ national heritage.

In our historic neighborhood, let’s all show the colors on the Fourth of July



IT IS HAPPENING!

Curbside Composting Pick-ups Begin on the Point

FoodCycle's cargo bike starts curbside pick-ups of subscribers' kitchen scraps on Monday, June 4, 2018.

FoodCycle is a start-up residential compost company working in partnership with The Compost Plant, an established Rhode Island company collecting food scraps from businesses, institutions, and restaurants. FoodCycle is operating a 6 month demonstration project on the Point starting in June 2018. This summer, a cyclist peddling the FoodCycle's cargo bike will be a regular Monday-morning feature in the neighborhood. The cyclist will pick-up buckets full of compostable scraps from the curb of FoodCycle's subscribers and replace those buckets with clean, empty buckets, to be filled and picked-up the following Monday.

Composting is good for you and good for our environment. FoodCycle is providing an easy way for you to join the Compost Movement. The EPA estimates that 25% of landfill waste could be composted. The gases created by decomposing organic materials in landfills are the single biggest emitters of toxic methane gas into our atmosphere. Instead of filling up the Johnston Landfill, the only landfill remaining in Rhode Island, you can compost your kitchen scraps by working with FoodCycle and The Compost Plant. Instead of polluting the air, your kitchen scrape will transform into excellent, full-spectrum, nutrient rich, compost that will heal the soil and boost the production of any plant with the good fortune of growing in it.

When you compost, you help our Planet!

The fee for the curb-to-compost service is \$180 for one bucket for the 6-month program. Neighbors will be able to add buckets or join the program mid-season at a pro-rated fee, provided there is capacity.

If the program proves sustainable, Food Cycle will continue curb-side pick-ups in the Point neighborhood and expand to other Aquidneck Island communities. If you have not yet subscribed to FoodCycle, please complete the form, write your payment check, and send the form and your check to address listed.

Each household that subscribes to FoodCycle by July 1, 2018, will receive a free one cubic bag of The Compost Plant's Rhody Gold Compost at the end of the project in November.

SUMMER 2018

FoodCycle

Subscription for 6 Month Demonstration Project
26 Curbside Kitchen Scrap Pick-ups – Monday, June 4, through Monday, November 26, 2018

YOUR INFORMATION (Please print legibly)

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Email: _____

Phone: _____

Phone accepts Texts Yes No

Preferred contact:

Email Phone Text

The cost for the 6 month curbside pickups is \$180.

There is an additional charge of \$20 for the first kitchen scrap bucket and an additional charge of \$30 for the second bucket.

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2 Buckets: Price \$180 + \$20 + \$30 = \$230

Make checks payable to FoodCycle. Then mail this subscription form and your check to

FoodCycle
c/o 44 Wapping Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Buckets will be delivered to your address during the last week of May, 2018.

I understand I am committing to a 6-month pilot program,

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact Person: Jason Spitalnik
Email: aquidneckfoodcycle@gmail.com
Phone: 401.714.6111
Facebook: Aquidneck Food Cycle

ADOPT A PLANTER – COMMUNITY GARDENING POINT STYLE

by Richard Abbinanti

Fairy garden? Succulent heaven? Some plantings to attract the butterflies? Create your own theme. The Point Association Beautification Committee is looking for a few more volunteers to Adopt a Planter – one of eleven that are located in Storer and Battery Park, Van Zandt Ave. at the pier, and tiny Martin Park on Washington St. Each planter will be different and the “horticulturist” can design his or her own arrangement. The volunteer provides the plantings and is also responsible for maintaining the space, keeping it free from litter and weeds and keeping it watered. A small sign will identify the volunteer’s name, business or, if preferred, the contribution by an anonymous “friend”. Help us keep our parks and public areas beautiful by caring for a small piece of “real estate” of our Point Neighborhood.



Richard Abbinanti, at rabbianti@pace.edu, would like you to contact him directly to reserve your planter and to confirm your assignment of a planter even if you have already done so.

2018 PLANT SALE



The Point Plant Sale team takes a moment to pose for us. Thank you to everyone who worked and purchased at the Sale.

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POINT ASSOCIATION TO SPONSOR ST. JOHN'S "MUSIC ON THE LAWN"

by Peter Berton

The Point Association is happy to announce that it is the 2018 overall season sponsor of St John's Church's "Music on the Lawn" series. These family-friendly concerts are a delightful opportunity to meet your neighbors, listen to great music and share a picnic or glass of wine. Sunset over Narragansett Bay turns it into a sublime experience.

The concerts are free thanks to your Association and to the sponsors of the individual concerts. They will take place on the third and fourth Thursday evenings during July and August from 6 to 8:30 PM. Creatively named food trucks – Rhody Roots, featuring organic food, and the Castaway Café will be there to serve up some tasty meals. Purchases from the trucks and wine and beer from the licensed bartender on site help defray the cost of the concerts.

In addition to Reverend Nathan Humphrey and Peter Berton (Artistic Director), Point residents Ed Carnes, Anne Cuvelier, Bill Martin, Nancy Scott Barr, and Jane Walsh assist with the production of Music on the Lawn.

July 19 The Strattones (South County band) - Sponsored by Newport Shipyard

July 26: The Larry Brown Swinglane Orchestra - Sponsored by Sardella's Restaurant and The Marina Pub on Goat Island

August 23: Mike Warner and The Ubiquitones - Sponsored by Pasta Beach Restaurant

August 30 Doug Woolverton and The Groove Merchants - Sponsored by Caleb & Broad Restaurant and Point Wine & Spirits

Friends, picnics, music, wine, children cavorting and a breathtaking sunset – sensational! But guess what - there's more! A 50/50 raffle will be held each evening

where the winnings will be split between the lucky individual and St John's. Mark your calendar for an idyllic summer evening all within a block or two of home. See you there, Neighbor!

Visit www.saintjohns-newport.org for further details and other summer music such as the Bach and Friends Organ Recitals (Sundays at 2:45, 5:45 and 7:45 this season) and several events leading up to the St. John's Choir's tour of England August 1 – 15th.



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THE VARS FAMILY ALBUM

The History and Archives Committee has recently received the gift of 126 photos and documents that record the long history of this family's life on the Point. The collection can be accessed on the Point Association's Flickr Account: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/146411860@N03/sets/72157695781662984>

It can also be accessed from the Point Association Website's History and Archives page.

The Point Association thanks the Vars family for this thoughtful addition to the archives, with special thanks to Bonnie Finn who scanned, researched and sent the files. Future historians will find it a valuable resource in telling the story of this exceptional neighborhood.

A CORRECTION

by Alice Clemente

In the 2018 spring issue of the *Green Light*, page 10, King Covell was incorrectly identified as the husband of Virginia Covell. Virginia was in fact married to his brother Robert R. Covell. The Covell brothers were well loved and respected members of a family with a distinguished history on the Point. Robert was a Harvard educated musician, an accomplished pianist and pipe organist, who also played the viola and violin. He played the organ at several churches in Newport and was a member of the Swanhurst Choral Society. In a recent email, Virginia Arnold added that Robert "sang at Carnegie Hall as a tenor." (For a wonderful article on Robert Covell and the 1942 Point Christmas carolers, see *GL*, winter 2013.)

William "King" Covell, also Harvard educated and an organ player (he was organist at St. John's), taught Ancient and Medieval History at Rogers High School but is perhaps best remembered by many as a friend and mentor to the young people of the Point. To this day those "young people" speak fondly and appreciatively of the many ways he enriched their lives. At a reunion some ten years ago, more than one said that he had kept them "off the streets and out of jail". These young people came to be known as "the Maxies": boys who from the 1930s to the 60s hung out at 72 Washington Street, the Covell family home, now Villa Marina. (See "The Maxies Meet Again", *GL*, fall 2007 for an account of that reunion.)

What extraordinary people these three members of the Covell family were and what exemplary Point citizens.

SUMMER BLOCK PARTIES

PLANNED

by Pamela Kelley

Block Parties are a great way to meet your friends and neighbors (and guests) and celebrate summer. It's open to all (including your dogs!). On Willow St, the cats may be attending as well...



The Point Association, with local hosts who live on the particular block, will be holding four simultaneous Block Parties this summer on Sunday, July 22 from 4 to 7 pm in the following locations:

Bayside Avenue between Sycamore St. and Van Zandt Ave.

Cherry Street between Third Street and Guerney Court

Willow Street between Third Street and Chase

Bridge Street between Washington Street and Second Street

Bayside has been holding one at their location for the past 11 years, and we thought it'd be a good idea to join them and spread the joy to other parts of the neighborhood. It would be BYOB and munchies to share, with the PA supplying tables and some "starter" wine and chips. People can attend whichever they'd like to but for meeting neighbors, the nearest one might be the best plan. And for party-hoppers, they can visit all of them!

POINT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

by Tom Kennedy

The annual meeting was held on April 19th in St. John's Guild Hall with around 70 members present. Festivities started with wine, cheese and snacks in the rear of the hall at 6:30 p.m. Cynthia Lafferty had the hall decorated beautifully with forsythia and daffodils supplied by Botanica Garden Center. At 7:00 p.m., Tom Hockaday, the Association president, called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending with a special appreciation for the presence of State Representatives, Dawn

Euer and Lauren Carsen, and City Council members Susan Taylor, Kate Leonard and Jean-Marie Napolitano. At the outset Tom called special attention to the tables set up around the hall and asked the membership to investigate the various committees and activities represented at those tables after the meeting.

This evening's theme, "Make a difference, get involved," was stressed by Tom several times during the opening remarks and later on during the meeting. Father Humphrey, pastor of St. John's, was thanked for his hospitality and made a few remarks, drawing attention to the activities of the church choir. Peter Stoltzfus Berton, choirmaster, then spoke, thanking everyone for their support of the choristers. He also made a plea for new choir members and continued support of the choir's upcoming England tour.

Tom then reviewed some of the activities and accomplishments of the past year, highlighting the Martin Luther King Center fundraiser, which collected over \$13,000. Also mentioned were the plant sale, beautification efforts in the parks, the daffodil planting, the tree lighting at Storer Park at Christmas, the annual cocktail party at Villa Marina, the New Year's party, the sponsorship of St. John's "music on the lawn", cooperation with Alliance for a Livable Newport and the city government, all for the benefit of our neighborhood and its inhabitants. Bill Rauch then gave a brief Treasurer's Report. John Ward made a plea for support of beautification efforts and especially the plant sale. Joan Rauch of the Events Committee spoke about new initiatives,

especially block parties and a flag showing campaign. Robin Gardiner reported on membership and the website. Tom Hockaday made a plea for contributions to the *Green Light*. Then Meredith Spitalnik, a board member of the Aquidneck Community Table, explained a new composting initiative and a trial roadside compost collection program was offered to those interested.

Then Bari Freeman, Executive Director of Bike Newport, made a slide presentation explaining the history of Bike Newport and its many initiatives and accomplishments. The basic thrust of the organization is to improve and encourage bicycling in an environment now centered on automobiles. Some of the many topics she touched upon in her presentation include: a bicycle map, a "bike to work" day, the installation of bike stands, education of the public in maintaining

their bicycles, improvement of the infrastructure with bike lanes, a Community Bike Project (which restores old bikes for use), "Elliot's ride for everyone" (June 10 at Fort Adams), the Big Blue Bike Barn (a repository for bicycles near Miantonomi Park), Neighborhood Loops (with street signs), the planning of a Newport Bike Path, and Newport Waves, an acknowledgment of pedestrians and bikers promoting safety.

At 8:30 p.m. Tom Hockaday ended the meeting and invited all to visit the committee tables and to get involved. The rest of the refreshments were enjoyed by all.



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STILL A MYSTERY

by Shelby Coates

On October 28, 2017, an article, authored by the Reverend Erik Larsen of Middletown's St. Columba's Chapel, appeared in the *Newport Daily News* affirming that a \$1,000.00 reward was still being offered for the safe return of a bronze effigy sculpture which had been stolen in 1971 from the top of a churchyard monument. The rendition was of a reclining Professor Raphael Pumpelly (1837-1925) whose Newport residence had been, since 1881, located on Gibbs Avenue, a block north of Catherine Street. The companion effigy of his wife, Eliza, remains today where originally placed in the Chapel's cemetery.

Much has been written about Pumpelly's extraordinary and productive life. In a Spring 2002 article in the *Journal of the Newport Historical Society*, for example, he was characterized as one of Newport's "Renaissance Men" of the Gilded Age, his education abroad having led to a career as a geologist, archeologist, world traveler and explorer, author, and Harvard Professor of Mining. Much less has been known, however, of the churchyard sculptor—upon whom the balance of this article primarily focuses.

Gerome Brush was born in New York City in 1888 (during the Great Blizzard of that year) as the first child of renowned painter, George de Forest Brush (1855-1941) who had been a pupil, as a young man, of the French master painter, Jean Leon Gerome after whom the elder Brush's son was named. Gerome Brush's mother, Mary Taylor Whelpley, was a direct descendent of the Reverend John Davenport, a co-founder of the New Haven colony in 1638 as a theocracy.

Although the Brush family (to which six daughters were added) came to consider Dublin, New Hampshire, as "home," travel was often and extensive—Morocco, England, Paris—but most consistently, Florence, Italy, to which sojourns sometimes became protracted. Gerome and his sisters were tutored by the father to the extent that his own busy career and the family travels permitted.

Gerome's early years were adventuresome. He and his oldest sister, Nancy, climbed in the Alps, attaining the 12,605 foot high summit of the "Aiguille du Midi," an exacting challenge for the two youngsters who were still relatively inexperienced mountaineers. In December of 1908, when southern Italy and Messina, Sicily were struck by a devastating earthquake killing thousands, Gerome headed south from Florence to participate in the relief

and lengthy reconstruction efforts. He became one of those receiving a "Merit Medal" from King Victor Emmanuel of Italy in recognition of the assistance to the distressed populace that had been voluntarily rendered.

In 1913 Gerome married a beautiful actress, Louise Seymour, and his exquisite bust of her, which he titled "Joan of Arc," became one of his most admired sculptures. (Although principally a sculptor, he was also a painter and a muralist.) During World War I, he, in collaboration with a unique group of other artists, fashioned camouflage patterns for merchant ships, and he supervised application of them by the painters on the ships in the ports of Norfolk, New York, and Boston. In 1919, one of his proposers having been Henry Holt, the publisher, he was elected to membership in the Century Association. In a January 23, 2002 feature article in the Metro section of the *New York Times*, the Association's stately Stanford White edifice was described as "one of Manhattan's most prestigious clubs."

The relationship between the Brush and the Pumpelly families evolved beyond the close friendship that had originated in Dublin in 1901. (In addition to his main residence in Newport, Pumpelly had a summer villa in Dublin.) In 1926, Gerome's youngest sister, Thea, married T. Handasyd Cabot, Jr., a grandson of Professor Pumpelly and a former St. George's School student.

The 1929 crash and ensuing economic depression put a damper on the art world of that era. Nevertheless, in 1936 Gerome was commissioned to interview and sketch each member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The charcoal renditions displayed each musician with his instrument and there were accompanying bios for each. The book was published by Boston Merrymount Press that year.

Gerome's career never attained the fame of his father's whose "Indian and the Lily" painting sold at a Sotheby's 2004 auction for \$4,824,000 and whose work was given a retrospective exhibit at Washington's National Gallery in 2008. It is amply evident, however, that Gerome was a man of high artistic talent and creative energy. Fate was kind to Gerome in the sense that the 1971 theft of the Pumpelly sculpture occurred subsequent to his passing in Lincoln, Massachusetts in 1954. The \$1,000.00 reward offer for the return of the sculpture to the St. Columba Chapel's cemetery, unfortunately, remains unclaimed.

“FAST AS A CAT”

CATBOAT BUILDERS AND CATBOATS ON THE POINT

by Lisa Stuart

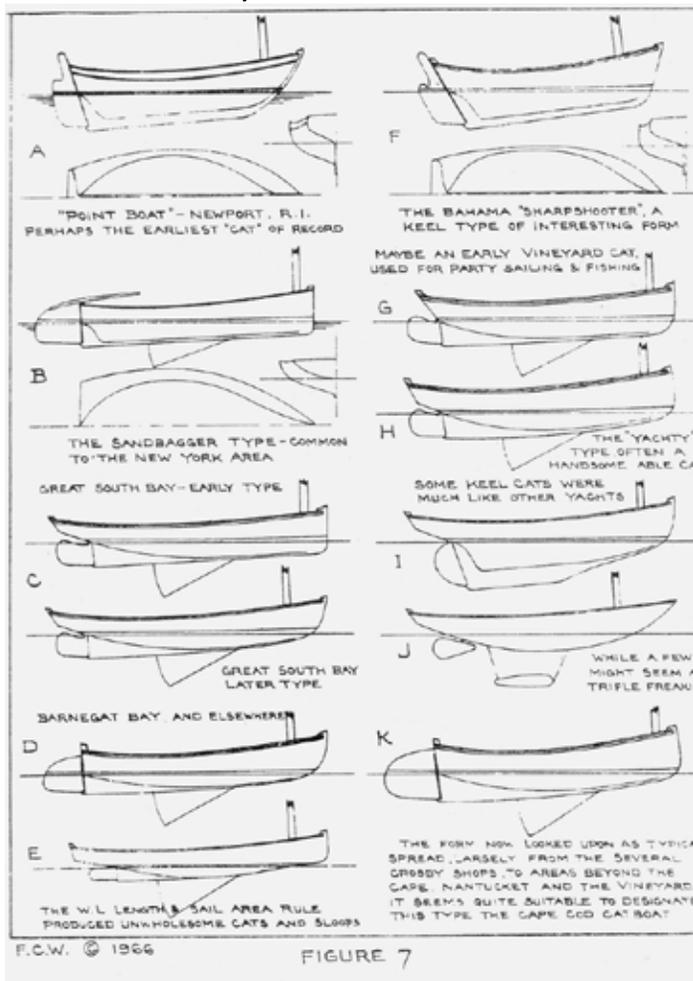
This is the first installment of a three part series about Catboats on the Point. It discusses the evolution of catboat design and provides a history of the boat builders of Long Wharf. Part 2 will look at the use of catboats for pleasure and ferrying, fishing and lobstering, and racing. Part 3 talks about the catboats owned by Point residents over the years.

With names like *Twinkle*, *Penguin* and *Ursula*, the image of catboats happily sailing off the Point is an iconic Newport image. These uniquely American boats were largely built from 1870 to 1915 by the boat builders on Long Wharf. For generations Pointers have treasured these unpretentious, practical and beautiful boats. Like their namesake, catboats have nine lives and each has a story to tell.

Catboats were initially used as pleasure boats and to ferry people. Their broad beam gave them great stability and comfort. Catboat regattas filled Newport Harbor during the late 1800s. They were also built for the fishing fleet. In later years many of the fishing catboats were fitted with engines and became lobster boats.

What is a catboat? In the broadest sense it is any boat rigged with a mast stepped well forward and a single fore and aft sail. L. Francis Herreshoff in his book *The Compleat Cruiser* noted his belief that “the first boats of a fixed type for sailing with a single bang sail” were built in Newport, Rhode Island, perhaps as early as Colonial times.” They were small, single-masted boats with a long keel known for many years as “Point Boats.” After the Civil War, the catboat developed rapidly into a very efficient, all purpose, small fishing boat.

The “Point Boat,” shown in the figure, is thought to be the first generation of catboats. The Point Boats were decked over flush from bow to about amidship, with a sliding hatch in the deck and an oblong cockpit aft. Stone was probably used for ballast and reefing used to suit the breeze. It was a very serviceable craft.



Comparison of Catboat Designs by Fennick C. William.

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It has been proposed by Nathaniel Herreshoff that the first “Point Boat” was *Julia* built by Frederick Charles Herreshoff in 1833. It was a single-masted craft with a tiller-steered, post-and-clad hung astern. Its gaff-rigged sail on a slightly raking mast was loose footed on the boom and supported by a club gaff. Herreshoff labeled the boat “Point Boat” in a drawing. It was later referred to as a “catboat.”

The next catboat to appear was *Collector Pratt* in 1852. It later appears in a 1860 lithographic view of Newport Harbor. *Collector Pratt* was first registered in the record of vessels in 1867 and was listed as a “catboat.” *Collector Pratt* served as a water boat in Newport Harbor for many years. She was broken up in 1899.

THE CATBOAT BUILDERS

Long Wharf was home to many of the great catboat builders. The location gave easy access to the harbor. Long Wharf backed up on the Cove. Boat builders would put the cherry, apple and oak wood used to build boats into the muck of the Cove to cure. The Cove was eventually filled in by the railroad.



North End of Basin, Newport”
 Rhode Island Photograph Collection,
 Providence Public Library, Providence, RI, 1885

Nina Lynette

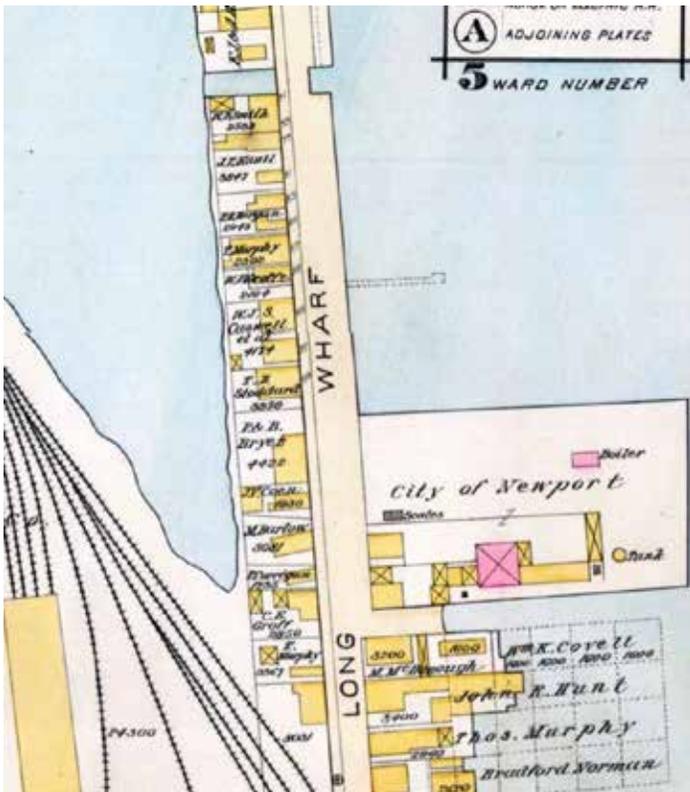
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Boat Builders on Long Wharf 1893

An article from the *Newport Mercury* on December 24, 1887 describes the activities taking place in the Long Wharf shops during the height of catboat building:

Thomas Stoddard & Sons were putting finishing touches to a catboat of uncommon beauty. In Louis B. Caswell's shop, John A. Barker is building a centre-board boat. In Covell's Shop, Josiah and Charles Albro have in frame a large centre-board, square stern catboat. Deacon William B. Groff has completed two new boats. Benjamin S. Caswell has in frame a centre-board catboat. Moses Barlow is engaged primarily in repairing the boats of the Newport summer flotilla. In Louis B. Caswell's shop, John A. Barker is building a centerboard boat. Mr. Caswell is taking time off to build ladders which are in high demand.



Buildings on Long Wharf are in foreground of photograph. Sailboats are in harbor and town of Newport is in background.

William Walton Covell, whose shop was located at 92 Long Wharf, built four pleasure catboats. They were 16 to 18 feet in length. His shop was later taken over by the Albro Brothers.

Thomas D. Stoddard, whose shop was at 88 Long Wharf (later 99 Long Wharf), is credited with building *Marie, Falcon, Jennie, Emma* and *Hattie* (later renamed *Penguin*). Stoddard lived an entire life on the Point. As a child he lived at 14 Poplar Street. His father died when he was ten years old and he was raised with his five siblings by his mother Hannah Caswell Stoddard. According to the *Newport Daily News*, his shop "was one of those popular places of rendezvous for the older citizens of Newport, especially those who were interested in boats and shipping."

Button Swan, originally named William Henry Munroe, was raised by his uncle John Swan a Newport fisherman. He is known for his small, open-cockpit keel catboats. In 1872 he built the original *Kingfisher* catboat for Benjamin Smith of 64 Washington Street. It contained a well for live fish. One of his boats can be seen in Mystic Seaport.

John Gladding, 41 Long Wharf, built *Romeo* in 1900. He also ran a livery fleet that rented boats to tourists and summer residents.

Benjamin Caswell's shop was located at 27 Long Wharf and Louis Caswell's Shop at 66 Long Wharf. The Caswell family built many catboats over their 50 years on Long Wharf. John W. and W. H. Barker worked at Louis Caswell's Shop. The Barker Brothers built *Rhode Island* in 1881 and *Kingfisher II* in 1895.

The *Dove* was built by Benjamin Caswell in 1875. The *Dove* was reported broken up and abandoned in 1899.

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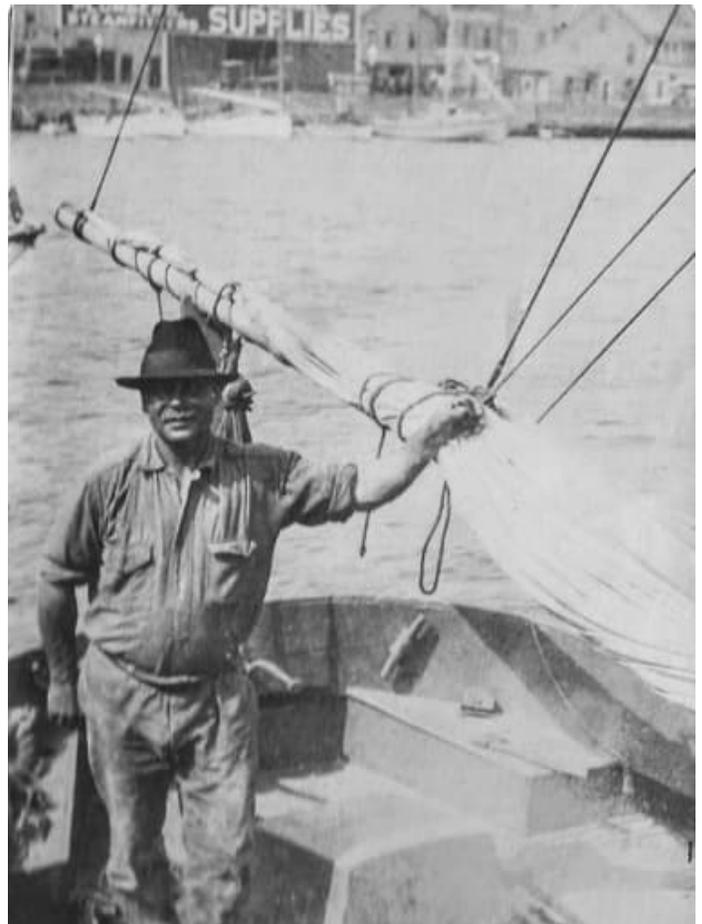
Caswell died in 1927 at 99 years old and was considered the last of the catboat builders in Newport.

Timothy Crowley was one of the most prolific of the catboat builders. He built the big cats including *Alice E.*, *Arusa*, *Dora W. Hunt*, *Lois*, *Marion*, *Niobrara* and *Catspaw* which famously beat *Cygnnet* in a race.



Boat shop on Long Wharf

Other catboat builders included Richard Yeoman, George Carr, William Groff and Joseph Kane. Yeoman built *Parole* 1882 for James Luth. She was licensed for fishing. Carr built six to seven catboats including *Violet*. Joseph Kane built *Four Brothers* for John and Daniel Richardson in 1890. She was eventually altered to gas screw. He also built *Olga*, a fishing catboat, for Christian Francis in 1897.



Vasilious Hanos on his Catboat Olympia in the early 1900s. (Photo courtesy of the Hanos Family)

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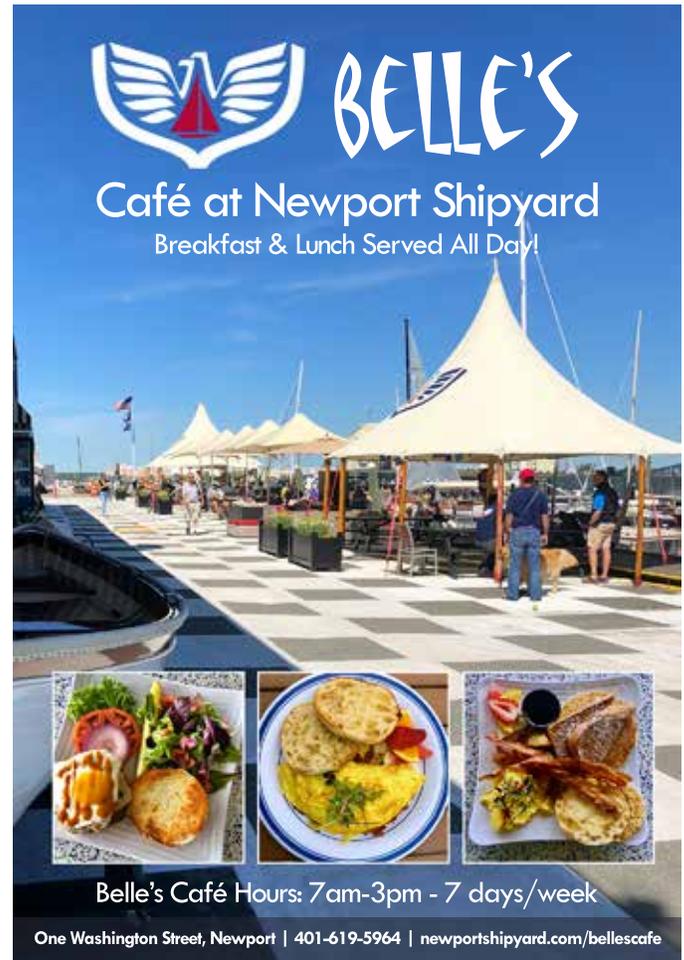
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ARE WE LIVABLE YET? WHY ALN IS IMPORTANT TO THE POINT

by Ann McMahon, Point representative to ALN

The Alliance for a Livable Newport (ALN) acts as an “umbrella” organization for all the Newport Neighborhood Associations. The Board is made up of representatives from each of the neighborhoods as well as advisers from the community at large. ALN’s role is to act as an honest broker in community concerns, usually by the presentation of forums that shed light on the (often controversial) issues faced by the citizens of Newport.

ALN is important to Point residents as it fosters public discussion on citywide issues that have a huge impact on our neighborhood such as the Pell Bridge ramp re-alignment and the development of the former Navy Hospital property. Fortunately, many members of our community attend the ALN forums. This involvement and outspokenness by our neighbors is noticed by civic decision makers and is the way we make things better for the Point and for our City.



THE POINT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please mail this form to: PO Box 491, Newport, RI 02840, with check made payable to: The Point Association

If you prefer, apply and pay online at: www.thepointassociation.org

Individual \$10 Family \$15 Subscriber \$25* Patron \$40*

**Subscriber & Patron levels support The Point Association’s continued efforts to beautify and protect our special neighborhood.*

Please check membership status: Renewal New Member

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Primary Email: _____

POINT COMMITTEES & ACTIVITIES

Many hands make light work. Please check your volunteer interests.

Beautification Waterfront *The Green Light* Plant Sale Communications
 Membership Event Planning History & Archives Public Services

Thank You !

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 15, 16 & 17
Secret Garden Tours throughout The Historic Point ~ www.secretgardentours.org

Week of July 2, 2018: “A Patriotic Point Celebration” – the Point Neighborhood Flag Showing Campaign

Sunday, July 22, 2018: Point Neighborhood Block Parties.

The Point Neighborhood and Point Association will hold 4 block parties simultaneously from 4 pm to 8 pm –

Planned locations:

Bayside Avenue, Cherry Street, Willow Street and Bridge Street. Watch the Points of Interest for more details!

Thursday, August 23, 2018: Point Association Summer Cocktail Party, Sanford-Covell Villa Marina

Thursday, October 4, 2018: Point Association Fall Membership Meeting

Thursday, December 6, 2018: Point Neighborhood Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling in Storer Park

Monday, Jan. 7, 2019: Annual Point Neighborhood New Year’s Party, Newport Yacht Club

