Upcoming Events

APRIL
20th – Saturday – 11am-4pm
Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Celebration!

21st – Sunday – 6am
Sunrise Service in Allaire Chapel – Free event.

27th – 28th – 11am – 3pm
Allaire BBQ and Brew Festival

MAY
4th – Saturday – 11am-4pm
HISTORY KIDS DAY!

11th – Saturday – 8am-3pm
Late Spring Flea Market

11th – Saturday – 10am-2pm
Workshops – Woodcarving, Leather, Blacksmithing.

18th – Saturday – 10am-4pm
Craft Festival & Spring Auction.

JUNE
1st – Saturday – 10am-4pm
Civil War Encampment.

1st – Saturday – 10:30-8:30pm
Evening Lantern Tour, Skirrsh

2nd – Sunday – 10am-3pm
Civil War Encampment – 8th
Saturday – 8am-3pm
Early Summer Flea Market.

22nd – Saturday – 11am-4pm
continued:
Maria Allaire’s Wedding – a reenactment of J.P. Allaire’s youngest daughter’s marriage to Thomas Andrews.

JULY
4th – 7th – Flag Exhibition
Chapel 11am – 4pm $2 per person.

6th – Patriotic Food Festival

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FEES FOR EVENTS GO TO: www.allairevillage.org and click on the Events tab.

Weekend parking $5 per car begins Memorial Day weekend.

A message from the Board of Trustees:
The board of trustees seeks to strengthen community and DEP support, as well as internal AVI programs. We are completing a year-long process to renew the 2019 AVI twenty-year license to operate. A Review of Buildings has been compiled and IT and Structure Reports shared with the State to bring greater attention to the need for repair and expansion. Board members have sought legislative support to secure additional funding to improve and expand park restrooms. The roof and gables of the Visitor Center/Museum will be repaired in 2019. We have encouraged the quarterly skills workshops and the summer camp destination program. The recent luncheon brought together volunteers, members, staff and trustees who work together at major events. Thanks to this dedication, The Historic Village at Allaire is a thriving community.

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The management staff is dedicated to cultivating opportunities, ensuring growth, and embracing new strategies that will enhance the village experience and provide guidance and support to our patrons and volunteers. It’s a privilege to work with all these talented folks. We are a diverse, yet well knit group dedicated to promoting the village, its history, and the education of visitors of all ages. Follow us on Facebook, visit our website, become a member of the museum - one of the best ways to be part of our future! Access the new membership brochure online or on your next visit to the museum. As an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Allaire Village, Inc. fundraises in order to preserve the 13 historic village buildings and artifacts entrusted to us, as well as present the many quality education programs offered throughout the year. With your donations and participation, we can make this a reality. As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you in the village!

Spotlight on Felicity Bennett

Felicity is the newest addition to the Allaire Village Inc. staff although she’s been with us almost 2 years! Felicity started with us as an intern in 2017 and has recently become a part-time employee, working as the Curatorial Assistant in the Village library. Felicity is a graduate of Rutgers University and is finishing her MA in Museum Professions at Seton Hall University. She has been visiting Allaire since she was a child. During her internship at Allaire she focused on organizing the library for research use, conducting inventories of items in the collection, and entering object data into Past Perfect- our museum collections database. In her spare time Felicity likes to spend time in nature and pursuing her hobby of photography. She has also been known to portray Wednesday Adams at Haunted Allaire!

As we embark on the 2019 season, I want to say thank you to all our hard-working and dedicated volunteers, donors, patrons, and staff. We have come so far in the last year, and a half and we couldn’t have done it without you. I expect that 2019 will be a year of fine tuning – literally and figuratively. We’ve embarked on a strategy to embrace the village’s core interpretive programming – what was it like to live and work within the factory town that James P. Allaire created as the Howell Iron Works Company.

Over the winter our historical interpretive staff looked at how we could further interpret the social hierarchy at the Howell Works. Artifacts in the homes have been rearranged and brought out of storage for display and demonstration. The Row House, Foreman’s Cottage, Manager’s House, and Allaire Mansion have never looked better! To encourage more visitor engagement at the Allaire Mansion, there will be historical interpreters throughout the home to interpret its unique history, décor, and “fit” within the village. You can check out the upstairs of the Allaire Mansion, which has been totally refreshed! It’s received the greatest overhaul inside since it opened to visitors in 1997. There are plans for new drapes, and a new lighting and fire alarm system have been enhanced. A gallery of Allaire paintings will soon be on view in the “mud room.” Trade shops have new paint, exterior walkways have been repaired, and the addition of relevant 19th century crafts and guilds is well underway. This initiative will develop and strengthen the portrayal of trades that were once prevalent and in about the Howell Works. The Enamel Building, General Store, and Row Houses are on the list this year to receive some TLC. The latter is very exciting, as plans include not only a new roof, doors, and windows, but a total refresh of all woodwork on the exterior. Once these three buildings are tended to, it will leave the Carriage House and Gardiner’s Cottage in line for a total restoration. Also planned for the 2019 season – Development of special weekend tours of the village and the use of the outdoor classroom space at the top and base of the Blast Furnace; Paintings of Howell Works buildings that no longer exist staged in locations throughout the village; The Allaire library reorganized and opened on a regular basis for research by 2020. To enhance our Chapel, a new organ was installed and a piano is also on its way, and the amount of weddings and other functions that take place here is on the rise! Recently a wedding party used the Blast Furnace as the backdrop for their special day! Onsite food service has been absent from the village for nearly five years. A plan to solve that problem, as early as June 9th, is in the works. More TBA soon! A “memorial bench” program has been “rolled out”, and an enhanced personal/corporate membership program is gaining momentum. Help us get the word out on these exciting opportunities.

See the new Allaire logo apparel – online, at the General Store, Enamel Building’s Museum Store, Both stores and the Bakery are now open with expanded hours for the 2019 season.

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Crowns on women’s hats were taller in the early 1800s. During the 1830s, the “turban” style of the period had brims that were closer to the face, and sometimes the hat was piled on top of the head and named for the god Apollo, which had been carried over from Napoleon Bonaparte’s Egyptian campaign in 1798. These hairstyles included Apollo knots, wearing the hair styled for them, by their mother, friend or servant, replicating the hairstyles desired during the Revolutionary War, by women who did in the nineteenth century. We look different than women because we want to look the part.

There were bonnets for women which were worn by both male and female members of the household to sleep in. Caps were also worn to keep hair clean and safe when working around the fire in the home. Bathing was not a daily habit. It was easier to wash out your cap than to have to wash your hair. Caps were not tied with ribbons and flowers. There were some that tied under the chin, had ruffles, had no ruffles, etc. There were caps that did not have ties. There were caps that could be tied behind the head if the ties were long enough. The “romantic period” which refers to the 1830s, included very full puffy sleeves. Making it necessary to design the hats to accommodate the female silhouette of the period.

What’s a Shrub?
Not a bush - but a DRINK! A shrub is the name of a two-ingredient drink made in this fashion were also known as drinking vinegar. Drinking vinegar is often infused with fruit juice, herbs and spices, for use in mixed drinks. The shrub was sold in most public houses throughout England in the 17th and 18th centuries. The American version of the shrub has its origins in 17th century England when vinegar was used in the preservation of berries and other fruits. Fruit preserves made in this fashion were also known as shrubs and the practice carried over to colonial America. By the 19th century, typical American recipes for shrubs used vinegar poured over fruit (traditionally berries) and left to infuse from overnight or up to several days. Afterwards, the fruit would be strained out and the remaining liquid would be mixed with a sweetener such as sugar or honey and reduced to make a syrup.

The Allaire Village Auxiliary creates a quilt yearly to raffle off—proceeds of which go toward support of education programs at the Historic Village at Allaire. This year, the “Spirit of Allaire” quilt is a stunning tribute to James P. Allaire’s Howell Works and its role in the history of our nation. Conceived and designed by Auxiliary members, Linda Cafone and Pat Lumberlold, the quilt is fabricated, hand-stitched and quilted by members of The Bog Iron Quilters – all of whom are members of the Allaire Auxiliary. If you’d like to take this beauty home, you can purchase a raffle ticket at the Allaire Village General Store, the Visitor Center/Row House Museum or at select special events at the Historic Village. Tickets are $2.00 apiece and only a limited number will be sold. Don’t miss your chance to own one of-a-kind work of art – sure to become a treasured family heirloom for generations to come.

Family Treasures On View
Stop by the Museum in the Visitors Center and see the new display of Allaire Family personal items from the collection. Some of these items have not been seen for over 15 years and represent the personal tastes and personalities of the Allaires, from James P. to Hal, Aunt Tillie and Margaret. Collection includes, spoons, wax seals, baby cups, and the family Bible. We hope you’ll come and enjoy this very special tribute to our founder’s family.