



## The “Non” Newsletter Newsletter

### Dear Members of the Old Village Association,

If you have been waiting for the Spring/Summer Old Village Association Newsletter, this version without our usual features will be a sad disappointment. But, for the past few months, the Board of the Association has been overwhelmed with a series of issues needing immediate attention (and considerable mailings) which did not necessarily involve all our members – but which were VERY time-consuming! No, we haven't dropped off the overlook but are merely trying to balance the National Register District application with “everything else!”

### What You're Reading Now:

- (1) Those of you who are NOT in the proposed National Register District have before you an update on assorted winter/spring happenings, all of which we plan to discuss round-table style at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 26th at the Chatham Beach and Tennis Club at 7:00 pm.
- (2) If you ARE in the district, enclosed you will also find a four-page information bulletin with the latest details about the application. Please read it carefully – it's our last effort to reach everyone.

**Please Know that All Old Village Association Members  
are invited (urged!) to attend↓**

**The National Register District Informational Meeting**  
*Sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Commission*

**Wednesday**  
**August 15th at 7:00 pm**  
**Eldredge Public Library**  
(with coffee and conversation)

# The Latest News from The Old Village

## Main Street Reconstruction

In March the town produced a “new” version of the reconstruction plans. We attended the Advisory Committee meeting with Gibby Borthwick, Town Surveyor, and a representative from VHB, clarified some questions we had with the drawings and sent a packet of information to those Main Street residents affected. With the help of David MacAdam, our Wastewater Advisory Committee representative, we researched the possibility of sewer lines along a section of Main Street and determined that any new road construction should certainly be put on hold until the Town decides exactly where new sewers are going. The Town agreed (saving us a possible double-dig).

As a stop-gap measure, the Highway Department has just finished (in three days!) repairing parts of the sidewalk and laying down a new road surface.

## Long Range Plan

Under the theory that “the devil’s in the details,” Debbie Aikman and Elinor Gelsey are reading the LRP with an eye to how it will affect the Old Village. The Board is particularly concerned about the wording in the plan which suggests rezoning the area from 400 Main Street to Bridge Street from residential to a “new designation allowing limited multi-family and inns by Special Permit/Special Conditions.” We will report to the Annual Meeting about this and other proposed changes.

## The Shuttle



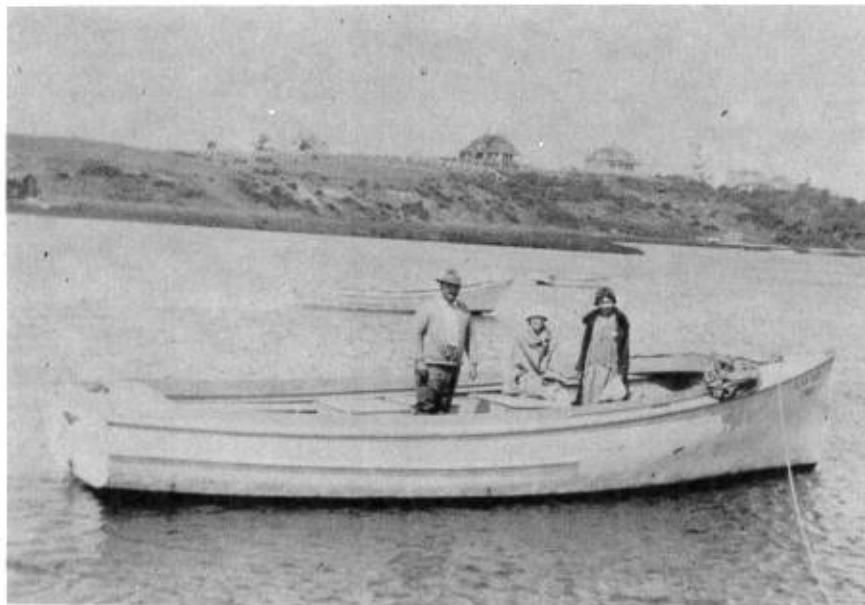
For two weeks this summer, from July 30 to August 12, the Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring, on a trial basis, two shuttle “B” buses, one of which will run from the West Chatham A&P to the Overlook, via Oyster Pond; the second will travel from the Chatham Elementary School to the Overlook, via the Fish Pier and Chatham Bars Avenue. The planned schedule is for the buses to run every 20 minutes from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. This will result in 72 stops at the Overlook each day. The Board is planning to monitor the shuttle to ascertain its effect on parking, congestion and traffic in the Old Village.

We would appreciate it if members who live along the route (Lower Main Street and Bridge Street) will let us know if they are encountering any difficulties – or improvements – during the trial period. This issue will also be discussed at our Annual Meeting on August 26th. The Association Board will then write an assessment for the Selectmen and the Chamber.

## A Bit of News That Makes All This Worthwhile

If you remember at the last Association Annual Meeting, there was a framed montage of some faded, old pictures, which were barely recognizable. Thanks to Anne Rogers and David MacAdam, who have been working hard all winter, this wonderful record of Old Village everyday life in the early 20th century has been restored and documented. The Association is proud to publish *A Family Album of the 20’s* for all to enjoy.

Not only that . . . our authors are willing to take on other Old Village memories (print and pictures) to create a boxed set. They would like to hear from you if you have any subjects you are particularly interested in, or any pictures or stories to share. Over the past two years, the Association and the Chatham Historical Commission have done extensive research on our architecture. This project, which is devoted to the people of the Old Village, will expand our knowledge of the past and bring our neighborhood to life.



The Black Duck from *A Family Album from the 20's*

## The National Register District Application

Finished, submitted and approved! As we read through the application, our pride in the Old Village and its heritage is even stronger than it was two years ago. And, in 2001, a renewed focus on our heritage and the protection of our historic houses from demolition seem even more pressing. We hope you will all attend the informational meeting on August 15th to voice your continuing support for the application,

### Capewide National Register District Working Committee Formed

#### One Last National Register Note:

Although the Old Village is still in the application stage for a National Register District, those of us who studied the very modest review process became convinced that it will affect very few Old Village property owners. We could imagine months, perhaps years, going by without an application. Since most of the reviews occur locally, it is even less likely that any project will require Cape Cod Commission review. To present this in context, since 1990, the Cape Cod Commission has reviewed only ten proposals for the demolition or substantial alteration of National Register contributing properties out of nearly 3500 buildings eligible for review. Only four of those ten involved single family homes. Needless to say, no one (except those determined to rip down an historic house in the Old Village) is going to be travelling to Barnstable any time in the near future!

The fact that most reviews are carried out by the Chatham Historical Commission and rarely involve the Cape Cod Commission directly presented a rather unique problem. After all, the Old Village Association's mandate is to serve the needs of its members. We figured the only way to do this is to be in the loop – and keep abreast of the process even if none of our property owners were involved. We talked with Sarah Korjeff, the Historic Planner for the Cape Cod Commission, about creating an informal committee to meet with the Commission on a regular basis, composed of National Register District representatives and those who are working toward forming Districts.

Thanks to her support and with the encouragement of Kay Fraser, Chatham's representative to the Commission, the Working Group held its first meeting on May 10. Joining the

Chatham contingent – Carol, Norm and Nancy Yeaw from the Chatham Historical Commission – were people from Yarmouth, Orleans, Hyannis and Falmouth. A wide variety of issues were discussed, many of which involved getting out clear, accurate and uncluttered information to the public and simplifying the review process.

We're excited by this development, which, if we become a District, allows Chatham and the Old Village to have a larger voice at the Cape Cod Commission, to take advantage of their expertise and to keep our local interests front and center. An added bonus is the opportunity to meet people from other communities who have a stake in preserving Cape Cod neighborhoods. The next meeting will be in September. We will discuss this at our Annual Meeting and would appreciate having your ideas.

### A Final Word

As we zero in finishing the work on the National Register application, we must understand that this alone will not guarantee the future of the Old Village. The pressures of growth, rising property values and increasing tourism will continue to challenge us in the future. To keep the spirit of our neighborhood intact through these changing times will require each of us to remember the values we hold so dear and to continue to work with each other to keep for future generations what we cherish today.

On the Beach at Chatham on Cape Cod, Mass.



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Old Village Association Newsletter  
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### Plan to Attend BOTH Summer Meetings

Wednesday, August 15th: Informational Meeting, National Register District  
7:00 pm EPL Forgeron Room

Sunday, August 26th: Old Village Association Annual Meeting  
Chatham Beach and Tennis Club 7:00 pm



...Yes, there WILL be a real Newsletter in your future.

It will return in fine form as soon as the Association Board has time to take a breath.

For the next issue, we have a wonderful account of Old Village tennis –  
that's right, tennis. Do YOU know the location of one of the courts?

Or, better still, did you play on it?

Have a wonderful summer,

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### Old Village Association Board of Directors

Debbie Aikman  
Elinor Gelsey  
Ann O'Connell  
Richard Towne

Sally Daniel  
Ellen McKinley  
Carol Pacun  
Robert Walsh

Kathleen Earnshaw  
David MacAdam  
Theodore Streibert