



■ You can learn about Colonial New London life Saturday when the Quoketeug Rangers perform Colonial reenactments, including hatchet throwing and musket firing demonstrations at Riverside Park in New London.

New London's really hopping

Historic regatta, music, kids' activities on tap

The city of New London continues to celebrate its 350th anniversary with another weekend of events.

■ On Saturday, a community picnic in Riverside Park celebrates New London and its ties to America's oldest intercollegiate athletic event, the Yale-Harvard Regatta. The regatta, in its 131st year, began racing on the Thames River in 1852.

The races begin at 4:30 p.m. with the freshman race, and the senior race follows at 7 p.m.

Regatta activities begin in newly restored Riverside Park at 11 a.m. and continue until 9 p.m. Picnickers can bring their own food, or food can be purchased at the park. There are picnic tables and some grills available. Among the food items on sale are barbecued ribs and chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, watermelon, lemonade, iced tea, soda pop, ice cream, cotton candy, popcorn, and cookies. All proceeds from food sales go the B.P. Learned Mission and the GREAT Program at the Benjie Dover Jackson Middle School.

Children's activities coordinated by the New London Department of Recreation include giant bubble making, face painting, games, and story telling at the pavilion from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also for the kids, Bridget the Midget and Tennessee Tuxedo will offer pony and llama rides from 2 to 3 p.m. Softball and basketball courts will be open all day for those interested in a bit of friendly competition.

Musical entertainment will be provided throughout the day. From 1 to 2 p.m., the Sea Notes Barbershop Chorus will stroll the park to serenade picnickers. From 2 to 3 p.m. The Silver Coronets, a group of 30 players, will perform. From 3:30 to 4:30, Please and Thank You, a three member string band, will perform on the main stage. From 5 to 6 p.m., Stephen Kennedy Murphy, as Eugene O'Neill, will perform songs mentioned in "Ah, Wilderness" and other O'Neill works, and popular tunes from the Gay Nineties. From 6 to 7 p.m., enjoy traditional Irish music with Gan Anim. The musical events are topped off with a performance of Finest Kind from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Learn about Colonial New London life when the Quoketeug Rangers perform Colonial reenactments, including hatchet throwing and musket firing demonstrations, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Also from 1 to 2:30 p.m., meet Native Americans and hear their true stories.

"Old New London Revisited," an exhibit of pictures, post cards and memorabilia, and boat safety and knot tying demonstrations will be under the blue and white

Fun for landlubbers, too

The Gales Ferry Community Center holds its annual Yale/Harvard Regatta Day Festival from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at the center on Hurlbutt Road in Gales Ferry.

Artisans and craft booths, silent auction, hayrides, shows by children's performer T-Bone at 2 and 3:30 p.m., balloons and face-painting by Ecam the Clown, flea market, book sale, food, and an appearance by Norwich Navigators mascot Tater the Gator from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. are all part of the festivities.

Call 464-2306 for more information.

tent from noon to 4 p.m. Under the yellow and white tent, "Do You Remember When?" a Riverside Park oral history reminiscence, will be documented from 1:30 to 3 p.m. People are invited to bring their memories of Riverside Park and New London.

Cars, except those for handicapped, will be prohibited from the park. Free bus service will be provided from the Water Street and municipal parking lots. For more information, call 443-3266.

Also on Saturday in New London:

■ The Downtown New London Association Car Show sponsored by the Westerly Putnam Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America takes place at State Street and Union Plaza in downtown from noon to 5 p.m. The event, featuring antique cars and hot rods, food, music, and raffles, is free to the public and open to all antique cars. For more information, call Barbara Neff at 443-3788.

■ Also downtown, one can view the newest show, "Patriotic New London," at the New London Arts Society and Gallery. For more information, call 443-0632.

■ The Second Saturday Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. along Shaw Street.

■ Nathan Hale's birthday will be celebrated at the Hempstead Houses from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free for children. For more information, call 443-4979.

Free shuttle buses will be provided by the 350th Anniversary Committee every 30 minutes between all of Saturday's events. For more information on buses, call 444-6328.

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