

NEWS

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KEYPORT HOUSE TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

HISTORIC, ARCHITECTURAL GEMS

KEYPORT, N.J. – Authentic 19th century Victorians and Federal-style Colonials will be among the private residences showcased on the annual Pearl of the Bayshore Candlelight Holiday House Tour, along with festively decorated public buildings, historic churches and Monmouth County's only Fire Museum.

Hosted by the Keyport Business Alliance, this year's tour will take place from 4 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 10, and will feature 12 stops open to the public for viewing. All will be decorated for the holidays. Advance tickets are on sale now for \$15 each; tickets purchased on the day of the tour will be \$18.

Tour highlights include:

- A home built in 1900 and lovingly restored to its late Victorian splendor by the current owners, with period antiques and furnishings filling each room. The home still has its original crown molding in the parlors, and the fireplace has the original tiles inside and on the hearth. For the holidays, the dining room is set with the owner's great-grandmother's china and silverware, dating from the late 1800s. A collection of vintage nutcrackers is also on display, and members of the Ranney Madrigal Singers and Flute Ensemble will be on hand to entertain visitors.
- Restored by members of the Keyport Fire Department, the Keyport Fire Museum was built in 1900 and served as a firehouse until 1969. On display are artifacts and equipment dating from the 19th century, a section of steel from the World Trade Center's twin towers, and one of the largest parts from the Hindenburg.

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Add one/Keyport House Tour

- A circa 1901 house enthusiastically restored in the Victorian style, with wrap-around porch, fireplace, period lighting, and an eclectic mix of antiques, collectibles, and newer treasures.

The \$15 advance tickets are on sale now until December 9 at Keyport Army Navy, 14 West Front St.; Bad Bob's BBQ, 27 West Front St., and The Front Porch Emporium, 36 West Front St. Tickets also may be purchased by phone by calling Allen Consulting at 732-946-2711.

Tickets will be sold the day of the tour for \$18 each starting at 3 p.m. in the holiday tent at the Mini Park at the intersection of Main and West Front Streets. Two vintage trolleys will be on hand to transport ticket holders from the holiday tent to stops on the tour, which will be held rain, shine or snow. Downtown stores will be open late for holiday shopping, with wreath-making demonstrations taking place at The Front Porch Emporium.

Sponsor support for the Candlelight House Tour and other holiday events hosted by the Keyport Business Alliance is provided by 94.3 The Point, Super Foodtown Food Circus, Valley National Bank, www.2keul.com, The Straub Family of Automobile Dealerships, and BetterHomesNJ.com.

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