



City Seeking Volunteers for New Sister City Commission



The first delegation from Kinsale, Ireland, after they marched in the 1999 Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade, included Charles Henderson (holding flag), Helen O'Donovan, Michael Frawley, Sr., Ted McNamara, Mayor Tomas O'Brien, Eddie McCarthy and Rob Jacob. In the back row is Jack Walsh, Newporter Joe Brady, Rose Frawley and Hal McElroy.

With an eye toward strengthening the City's international ties, Newport residents are being invited to apply to serve on a newly constituted Sister City Commission, which will be charged with promoting and organizing the City's various Sister City exchanges.

The group, which replaces Newport's former Hospitality Commis-

sion, will consist of nine total members, including seven appointed by the City Council and two appointed at large in staggered three-year terms.

With six Sister Cities spread out across the globe, Newport's Sister City Commission is designed to promote peace through people-to-people relationships—with program offerings varying greatly

from basic cultural exchange programs to shared research and development projects between cities with relationships that foster growth among the communities involved.

Sister Cities provide opportunities for citizens to learn about, experience, and explore other cultures through long-term partnerships including student exchanges, community celebrations, and economic development opportunities.

Newport's Sister Cities include Kinsale, Ireland; Shimoda, Japan; Imperia, Italy; Skiathos, Greece; Ponta Delgada, the Azores; and St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. These long-standing relationships have served as the underpinning for countless traditions and cultural exchanges over the years, and will be firmly on display this April as the City celebrates its 25th anniversary of friendship with the citizens of Kinsale.

All those interested in serving on the new Sister City Commission are encouraged to apply online through the City's volunteer Talent Bank at CityofNewport.com/TalentBank.

The Great Cutter Race of 1905

The Museum of Newport Irish History announces the fifth and final presentation of its 22nd Annual Lecture Series, to be presented at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, at the Wyndham Newport Hotel, and live-streamed via Zoom. The lecture is made possible by a generous gift from Frank Furtado, given in memory of his wife, Barbara Carr Furtado.

Guest speaker Steve Marino will present an illustrated talk titled: "The Great Cutter Race of 1905: An Irish Tale of Gilded Age Newport." He will tell the tale of the 4-mile rowing race in Newport Harbor that pitted the members of the recently established Hibernia Racing Club of Newport against the champion cutter racing crew of the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Squadron, assigned to the USS *Kearsarge*. Racing cutters became popular in Newport Harbor during the Gilded Age, and thousands of Newport's citizens, Navy sailors, tourists, workers,



Wooden cutters were common accessory vessels to Navy ships of the late 19th and 20th century era. They were used to move personnel from place to place. This photo appeared in the Newport Daily News on Sept. 8, 1903.

and gamblers assembled to watch these 12-man boats compete. The August 1905 challenge race remains legendary.

Reservations are required for both in-person and Zoom participation. A \$5 fee/donation to attend in person is payable at the door (no fee to Zoom).

For a complete talk overview, speaker bio, and links to reserve, visit NewportIrishHistory.org.





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