

BLOCK PARTY

September 19, 2026

ALL DAY

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Museum Open

FREE admission with online registration. Regular admission at the door. [Click here to register!](#)



10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Children’s Craft | Boathouse

Craft your own bat friend in celebration of Bat Appreciation Day.

10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lawn Games & Activities | Riverfront Lawn

Compete in games of croquet, tic-tac-toe, ring toss, and graces. Play with bubbles and make your own piece of rope with our **Rope Walk Machine**.

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Food Vendors | Lower Gravel Lot

Turtle Café | Thirsty Cactus | Deep River Ice | Porky Pete’s BBQ | Whisktopia

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Tours Aboard the historic sailing ship *Onrust* with Captain Dan Walls

MORNING

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Source to Sea with Sustainable Essex | Riverfront Lawn

Find out what you can do to help your environment with members of **Sustainable Essex**, and learn all about the Source to Sea River Clean-Up!

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Hands-on History Booth | Riverfront Lawn

Join **Essex Historical Society** to learn about different historical modes of communication, from quills to morse code!

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Yoga taught by Haley Cann | North Deck

Free with online registration.

10:30 – 11 a.m.

The Connecticut River Museum’s Annual Meeting for Museum Members | Lay House

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

“Influence of Early Dutch Explorers Along the Connecticut River” | Lay House

Lecture by Johan Varekamp.

MIDDAY

12 – 12:15 p.m.

1772 Foundation Check Presentation | Lay House

A representative from **Preservation Connecticut** will present a check to the Museum in support of its grant request. This will help fund the restoration of the windows in the historic Hayden Chandlery building.

12:45 and 1:30 p.m.

Tours of the Historic Lay House

Join Elizabeth Kaeser, Executive Director, for a guided tour.

12 – 3 p.m.

Children’s Theater Adventure | Riverfront Lawn

Join **Tree House Players** for an interactive storytelling of *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess.

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Photo Booth | Riverfront Lawn

Join **Essex’s Semi-Q Committee** for fun photo opportunities!

AFTERNOON

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Live Music by Java Groove | Riverfront Lawn

From Swing to Sinatra to Sting!