



**For Immediate Release:**  
January 1, 2020

**Media Contact:**  
Sarah Blackwell  
O: 585-394-0787 x4  
C: 315-225-0256

**Old Sturbridge Village and Coggeshall Farm Museum Announce Partnership**  
*Old Sturbridge Village will take on management of Coggeshall Farm Museum,  
invest in living history in the New England area*

**Sturbridge, M.A.** – On Jan. 1, 2020, [Old Sturbridge Village \(OSV\)](#) in Sturbridge, M.A., and the [Coggeshall Farm Museum](#) in Bristol, R.I. will launch a transformational partnership intended to sustain and expand living history in the New England area. Under the agreement, Old Sturbridge Village will manage the Coggeshall Farm Museum, handling all back-office functions, supporting day-to-day activities, bringing new programming to the Farm and positioning OSV President and CEO Jim Donahue as Executive Director at the R.I.-based museum.

The Coggeshall Farm Museum sees about 10,000 visitors annually, while Old Sturbridge Village brings in over 260,000 in an average year. Through this partnership, Coggeshall Farm Museum will benefit from the proven success and knowledgeable staff at Old Sturbridge Village – expanding opportunities for reach and visitation. The two entities will work collaboratively to rebuild the successful agricultural and horticultural programs that the Farm is known for, while introducing new programs and experiences that have seen past success at OSV. Two full-time employees from the Village will be stationed at the Farm year-round to oversee new and existing operations, supervised and supported by the team at Old Sturbridge Village.

This partnership provides a mutual benefit to the two museums, which are synergistic in both mission and organizational structure. Old Sturbridge Village interprets life in an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century rural New England village, while Coggeshall Farm Museum interprets life on a marsh farm in the 1790s. In this partnership, Old Sturbridge Village will bring greater sustainability to Coggeshall Farm Museum and help better utilize financial resources. A

small management fee, paid to OSV by the Farm, will be invested back into the larger initiative of supporting living history as a critical piece of the New England experience.

“When visitors come to Coggeshall Farm Museum and Old Sturbridge Village, we want them to find meaning and relevance in the stories of the lives of New Englanders who came before us,” says Jim Donahue, President and CEO at Old Sturbridge Village. “We want them to be inspired to learn a craft, to raise a garden, to farm and to find out more about the people who lived in our community two centuries ago. We hope that our visitors become members – and that our members find their inner historians, curators, farmers and crafters through experiences at both of our museums.”

Donahue also gave credit to the boards of both museums for having a bold vision for sustaining living history in the region through this partnership.

**More information on this partnership can be found at: [osv.org/coggeshall](http://osv.org/coggeshall)**

###

### ***About Old Sturbridge Village***

*Old Sturbridge Village, first opened to the public in 1946, is one of the country's oldest and largest living history museums, celebrating life in early New England from 1790-1840. It is the largest living history museum in the Northeast. Each year, more than 250,000 visitors interact with costumed historians, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades, and meet heritage breed farm animals. Situated on 200 scenic acres, the Village is a collection of more than 40 historic buildings - including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms and three water-powered mills - restaurants, shops, the Old Sturbridge Academy Charter School and the Old Sturbridge Inn and Reeder Family Lodges.*

*Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass., Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary seasonally. Daily admission is: \$28 for adults, \$26 for seniors, \$14 for College Students, \$14 for children ages 4-17, and children 3 and under are admitted free. Each admission includes free parking. Village Members and Season Pass holders receive free standard daytime admission. For details, visit [www.osv.org](http://www.osv.org).*

### ***About Coggeshall Farm Museum***

*Coggeshall Farm Museum was incorporated in 1973 as “a quiet, authentic place for 20th-century Americans to observe the lifestyles of 1750 Rhode Island.” In the last decade, interpretation of the site has refocused primarily on the 1790s, the decade between the American Revolution and the Industrial Revolution, known as the Federalist Era.*

*The Coggeshall Farm Museum preserve and interprets this 1790s Rhode Island salt-marsh farm. It serves the local community and beyond as a living museum and vital educational resource through demonstration of daily farm activity and honest interpretation that reflects its historical, multicultural influence. For details, visit: <https://www.coggeshallfarm.org/>.*

