



For Immediate Release

August 8 2022

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HarborFest Set for Saturday, August 27

**Waterfront Events, Activities and Education for All Ages at Harbor Point
Featuring the Aquarion Cardboard Kayak Race**



Powered By **EVERSOURCE**

Stamford, CT – SoundWaters HarborFest, a day of fun and exciting activities for all ages, will take place on Saturday, August 27 from 10am – 6pm on the boardwalk at the Harbor Point Waterfront at 2200 Atlantic Street in Stamford. HarborFest is free to the public and there is plenty of free parking in the Harbor Point garages.

Hosted by SoundWaters, the Stamford-based environmental education and conservation organization, HarborFest, a community waterfront festival, will leave visitors smiling, smarter about Long Island Sound and more aware of our greatest local natural resource. According to SoundWaters president, Leigh Shemitz, “HarborFest is fun, educational and free for everyone. Whether you tour the harbor on one of our boats or tour the oyster boat on the dock, enjoy the fresh oysters, play a round of golf or walk your dog in the Under The Sea Dog Parade, you’re going to love your day on Stamford’s thriving waterfront.” Shemitz added. The schedule of HarborFest activities is growing – visit SoundWatersHarborFest.org for the most updated schedule - but here is a sampling of what to expect:

Don’t Miss the Aquarion Cardboard Kayak Race.

The featured event of HarborFest is the **Aquarion Cardboard Kayak Race**. Teams receive sheets of cardboard and rolls of tape and have two hours to build a two-person kayak. Watch the building from 1-3:00pm and then cheer and laugh at 3:00 as these cardboard Titanics take to the water to race for endless fame and the Cardboard Cup.

The HarborFest Oyster Lounge

Thousands of oysters to enjoy, fresh from Long Island Sound, courtesy of Stamford’s own Stella Mar Oyster Company. Relax and enjoy fresh oysters all afternoon and wash them down with refreshing beer and craft cocktails. The Oyster Lounge is sponsored by Pavarini Construction.

Harbor History Boat Tours

Enjoy a 45 minute boat tour of Stamford Harbor and learn all about its colorful history since 1642. Led by the Stamford History Center and Stamford Yacht Club, tours will depart the HarborFest dock hourly between at 10:15am – 1:15pm. Tickets cost only \$5 ea. and seating is limited. Tickets must be purchased on-site at a HarborFest Information Tent. Please, no children under 5 years. The Harbor History Tours are sponsored by O&G Industries.

Harbor Boat Rides on the Schooner SoundWaters

See the Stamford skyline like never before: from the deck of an 80-foot ship. Come aboard the Schooner SoundWaters as it cruises past the beautiful homes and landmarks of Stamford Harbor. Bring your camera and enjoy the ride! Tickets cost only \$5 ea for the 45 minute ride and may be purchased on-site at a HarborFest Information Tent. Rides depart every 90 minutes starting at 11:00am. The Harbor Boat Rides are sponsored by ShopRite.

Play a Round on the HarborFest Seaside Golf Links

HarborFest is bringing golf to Stamford Harbor! Constructed just for HarborFest, the 18-hole layout will wind its way through the Harbor Point waterfront bringing lighthouses, wishing wells, windmills and loop de loops into play. The course is designed for putters of all ages and skill levels to enjoy a challenging and fun game. A round on Stamford's only waterfront golf course costs just \$3 per person. Seaside Golf is sponsored by M&T Bank.

Children's Boat Building

Not yet old enough to build a cardboard kayak? Even young children can have fun building a small boat at HarborFest. Children will get materials to build and decorate a sturdy, small wooden sailboat that they can take home as their HarborFest souvenir. Boat building is free and will continue while supplies last, so arrive early.

Touch-A-Boat

Stamford Harbor has an amazing number and variety of working boats. Many of them will be on the HarborFest docks for the public to visit and learn from their crews. The list of boats is growing, but here is a sampling of the boats to expect:

- US Coast Guard – Learn from the officers and watch demonstrations of water rescues and Coast Guard technology
- Stamford Fire Boat – This boat has all the cool rescue equipment and fire hoses needed to keep people safe on the water

- Stamford Marine Police – The police are on the water every day. Come meet them and learn how they protect us on the Harbor and Long Island Sound.
- Stella Mar Oyster Boat – What’s it like to be an oysterman? Tour a working oyster boat and learn how the oysters we eat are grown and harvested right in Stamford waters.

“Under The Sea” Dog Costume Parade

HarborFest is a pet-friendly event and all types and sizes of dogs are welcome to dress up in their best fish costume and parade down the boardwalk at 12:30pm in the dog costume parade. The parade is sponsored by Spot On Veterinary Hospital and Hotel.

Tour the HarborFest Village

Dozens of the area’s unique and innovative merchants will be on the HarborFest boardwalk all day with product displays, samples and demonstrations for visitors of all ages. Whatever your need or interest, you’ll find it in the HarborFest Village.

All proceeds from HarborFest help fund SoundWaters Long Island Sound education programs. HarborFest is powered by Eversource with additional funding and support from Harbor Point, Aquarion Water Company, ShopRite, the Stamford Harbor Management Commission, M&T Bank, Pavarini Construction, Stella Mar Oyster Company, O&G Industries, 95.9 The FOX and WEBE 108, Moffly Media, WIN Waste, Stamford Yacht Club, Stamford History Center and the Stamford Police and Fire Departments.

Visit SoundWatersHarborFest.org for complete information.

About SoundWaters

SoundWaters, founded in 1989, is the region’s premier environmental education organization focused on the protection of Long Island Sound. Annually, SoundWaters hosts shipboard and land-based programs for more than 32,000 students from pre-K through high school. Currently constructing the Cohen SoundWaters Harbor Center on Stamford Harbor, SoundWaters advances environmental justice and educational equity by creating broad access to Long Island Sound. Our community is stronger when we are connected to and learning from the Sound. Visit SoundWaters.org.

REGISTER TODAY



Aquarion Cardboard Kayak Race

Saturday, August 27

What floats your boat?

Compete in the 6th Annual Cardboard Kayak Race where you will participate in a battle of wits, design, capabilities, and courage! Build a cardboard kayak using the provided materials and race it on Stamford Harbor!

Anyone can compete * All ages welcome

Basic Rules

- Teams of six boat builders register in advance (\$100 registration fee covers the cost of materials)
- Each team receives 6 sheets of cardboard, 4 rolls of clear packing tape, 2 rolls of duct tape, utility knife, & a yardstick
- Boats must be built strictly from supplied materials
- Teams have two hours to build their boats and must be ready to race when the cannon fires
- Two team members will race the boat on the Harbor
- Boat building: 1 pm - 3 pm, Race: 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm



Get complete details and register today!
SoundWatersHarborFest.org
#StamfordHarborFest

 **AQUARION**
Water Company
Stewards of the Environment™



Photo Credit: SoundWaters

Caption: HarborFest visitors enjoy fresh Long Island Sound Oysters all day at the HarborFest Oyster Lounge.



Photo Credit: Michael Bagley

Caption: Action from the Aquarion Cardboard Kayak Race



Photo Credit: Michael Bagley

Caption: Education and exploration at SoundWaters HarborFest



Photo Credit: SoundWaters

Stamford's only Seaside Golf Links gets a lot of play during HarborFest. A round costs only \$3 per person. Great family fun!