



For Immediate Release

August 16, 2017

Contact: Bob Mazzone

(203) 406-3303

bmazzone@soundwaters.org

HarborFest Set for Saturday, August 26

Full Day of Waterfront Activities for All Ages at Harbor Point

Harbor Commissioner, Ray Redniss, named Commodore of HarborFest 17

Evening Fireworks Spectacular!



Stamford, CT – SoundWaters HarborFest 17, a day of fun and exciting activities on Stamford Harbor, will take place on Saturday, August 26 from 10am – 6pm at the Harbor Point Waterfront located at 2200 Atlantic Street. Plenty of free parking is available in the Harbor Point garages and parking lots. HarborFest will culminate in a spectacular fireworks display, sponsored by the City of Stamford and the Stamford Partnership.

HarborFest 16 attracted over 5,000 people and HarborFest 17 will have even more to see and do for all ages.

Ray Redniss Named HarborFest Commodore; Honored at the Commodore's Reception

Starting a new tradition of honoring great friends and advocates for Stamford Harbor and Long Island Sound, SoundWaters has named Stamford native and local businessman, Raymond L. Redniss, as its first HarborFest Commodore. Ray will be honored at the official HarborFest Launch Reception on Friday, August 25 at Stamford Yacht Club. The public is invited and may purchase tickets at SoundWatersHarborFest.org.

A longtime member of Stamford Yacht Club and former board member of Young Mariners Foundation, Ray has a deep history in local sailing, water safety and environmental advocacy. He is currently Vice Chairman of the Stamford Harbor Management Commission and Principal Surveyor of Redniss & Mead, a Stamford based engineering, surveying and environmental consulting firm.



What Can You Do at HarborFest 17?

Here are some highlights:

Race for the Mayor's Trophy in the Cardboard Kayak Races, sponsored by Aquarion Water

The wildly popular Cardboard Kayak Race is returning. Teams will build their boats from 1:00 - 3:00pm from supplied cardboard and tape and then race them on the Harbor. The race will take place at 3:00pm. The race is open to all comers, but teams must register in advance and space is limited. There is a \$200 team registration fee to cover the cost of materials. Teams may register at SoundWatersHarborFest.org.

Take a Harbor History Boat Tour with the Stamford Historical Society

Enjoy a leisurely boat tour of Stamford Harbor and learn all about the colorful history of our great harbor since 1642. Led by the Stamford Historical Society and Stamford Yacht Club, tours will depart HarborFest at 10:15 and 11:15am, 12:15 and 1:15pm. Seating is limited. Tickets for the Harbor Tour cost only \$5 per person and may be purchased on-site at the HarborFest Information Tent.

Try Scuba Diving in the Go Dive Now Pool

Have you ever wanted to try SCUBA diving, but didn't know how or where? Well you can in the Go Dive Now pool at HarborFest. The Go Dive Now pool is a 20x30 foot, 15,000-gallon mobile pool. It comes complete with dressing rooms, all the newest diving equipment, including wetsuits and fins for all ages. So bring your bathing suit when you come to HarborFest. Minimum age for diving is 10 and divers 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult also trying scuba. The Go Dive Now pool is free to the public and will be open on Friday, August 25 from noon - 5pm and during HarborFest on Saturday from 10am - 6pm.

Play a Round along the Water on the HarborFest Seaside Golf Links, presented by Redniss & Mead

HarborFest is bringing golf to Stamford Harbor! Constructed just for HarborFest, the nine-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 newest course costs just \$2 per person.



Build a Boat, sponsored by Bright Horizons Children's Centers

Not old enough to build a cardboard kayak? Even young children can have fun building a small boat at HarborFest. Children will get instructions from SoundWaters Young Mariners 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.

Kids Games and Activities, sponsored by the Stamford Recreation Department

With everything to do at HarborFest, if your kids still have energy to spare, the Stamford Recreation Department will be at HarborFest from 11am – 1pm running all sorts of fun, active games for children.

Or just Paint a Picture of Boats, sponsored by Pinot's Palette

If you're more of the artistic type, you will enjoy the Pinot Palette's waterfront studio where you'll get inspiration from the many harbor scenes. For \$10, Pinot's Palette will provide you with a 10"x10" canvas and all the painting supplies and tips you'll need to create your marine masterpiece. This is an ideal activity for all ages.

Tour the Boats of Stamford Harbor

Tour and learn about all the important boats that work on Stamford Harbor.

- 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.
- Schooner SoundWaters – Come tour the "floating classroom of Long Island Sound," a beautiful three masted schooner that sails daily out of Stamford Harbor

Learn how to Fly Cast, sponsored by Orvis

No one knows fly fishing better than Orvis and their experts will be at HarborFest to teach you the fluid and graceful art of fly casting. Look for the Orvis tent along the waterfront.



Sail Long Island Sound on the Schooner *SoundWaters*

SoundWaters will sail with the public from its HarborFest dock at 12:00pm, 3:00pm and 5:30pm. Come aboard the iconic Schooner *SoundWaters* for a beautiful afternoon or romantic sunset sail on Long Island Sound. The sails will sell out quickly so advance reservations are recommended at SoundWaters.org/sails.

Explore Stamford Harbor on a Kayak or Paddleboard

Want to get on the water in a human-powered boat? SoundWaters has plenty of kayaks and paddleboards for rent on the Harbor Point waterfront. All the equipment sold out last year so it's a good idea to reserve your boat in advance at SoundWaters.org/rentals.

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.

Enjoy Stamford's Largest Oyster Bar, presented by Stella Mar Oysters

A summer Saturday afternoon, oysters on the boardwalk at Harbor Point and free; What could be better? Stella Mar Oyster Company will provide the oysters fresh from Long Island Sound and Prime will shuck them for you. All you have to do is enjoy them. The HarborFest Oyster Bar will open at 4:00pm, following the Cardboard Kayak Races.

Get Your Pre-Fireworks fill at a Harbor Point restaurant

All the Harbor Point restaurants and the Ponus Yacht Club are offering HarborFest food and drink specials so whether you're staying late from HarborFest or coming down early for fireworks, you'll find all the food, drink and entertainment options you'll want before you settle in for the fireworks.

Enjoy the Fireworks, sponsored by the City of Stamford and the Stamford Partnership

HarborFest finishes with a bang when fireworks launch over Stamford Harbor at 8:20pm. Bring a blanket and a picnic or enjoy one of the many Harbor Point restaurants or the Ponus Yacht Club. Great waterfront viewing is also available at Boccuzzi Park and Kosciuszko Park.



All proceeds from HarborFest will help fund SoundWaters year-round Long Island Sound education programs. Funding and support to make HarborFest possible is provided by Eversource, Harbor Point, Stamford Health, Aquarion Water Company, Bright Horizons Children's Centers, Redniss & Mead, O&G Industries, Frontier Communications, 95.9 The FOX, Moffly Media, City Carting, Stella Mar Oyster Company, Stamford Yacht Club, the Stamford Historical Society, Orvis, Stamford Motorsports and the City of Stamford Mayor's office, Police and Fire Departments.

Visit SoundWatersHarborFest.org for complete and updated HarborFest 17 information.

About SoundWaters

SoundWaters, founded in 1989, is the premier environmental education organization focused on the protection of Long Island Sound and its watershed. Annually, SoundWaters hosts shipboard and land-based programs for 32,000 children, including 15,000 from underserved communities. SoundWaters works in partnership with schools, communities, civic organizations, businesses and other environmental and educational organizations to develop experiences that foster a sense of responsibility for the environment and encourage actions that ensure the sustainable future of the Long Island Sound ecosystem. For more information, visit SoundWaters.org



HarborFest Schedule of Events (subject to change; check SoundWatersHarborFest.org)

Friday, August 25

- Noon – 5:00pm Scuba diving in the Go Dive Now pool
- 6:00 – 8:00pm Commodore’s Launch Reception, Stamford Yacht Club* \$

Saturday, August 26

- 9:00 – 11:00am: Cardboard Kayak building (Youth Division)* \$
- 10:00am: HarborFest Opening Ceremony
- 10:00am – 6:00pm
- HarborFest Exhibitor Village
 - Scuba diving in the Go Dive Now pool
 - HarborFest Seaside Golf Links open for play \$
 - Harbor History Boat Tours (10:15 & 11:15am, 12:15 & 1:15pm) \$
 - Waterfront Painting with Pinot’s Palette \$
 - SoundWaters Learning Stations
 - Kayak & Paddle Board Rentals * \$
 - Dockside Boat Tours
 - Kids Boat Building
 - Fly Casting lessons with Orvis
- 11:00am – 1:00pm Kids games and activities with the Stamford Recreation Department
- 11:15am – 12:15pm Cardboard Kayak Races for the Mayor’s Trophy (Youth Division)* \$
- Noon: Public Sail on the Schooner *SoundWaters** \$
- 1:00 – 3:00pm Cardboard Kayak Building (Adult Division)* \$
- 3:00pm Public Sail on the Schooner *SoundWaters** \$
- 3:15 – 4:15pm Cardboard Kayak Races for the Mayor’s Trophy (Adult Division)* \$
- 4:00pm HarborFest Oyster Bar (Free)
- 5:30 – 7:30pm: Sunset Sail on the Schooner *SoundWaters* * \$

6:00pm Food & Drink specials at Harbor Point restaurants and the Ponus Yacht Club

8:30pm Fireworks Spectacular, sponsored by the City of Stamford and the Stamford Partnership

* Advance Registration Required

\$ Additional Cost Involved



Pictured (l-r): SoundWaters President, Leigh Shemitz; Stamford Mayor, David Martin, HarborFest Commodore, Ray Redniss; SoundWaters Chairman, Scott Mitchell

Photo Credit: Mike Bagley



JOIN US IN TRIBUTE TO
HARBORFEST 17 COMMODORE, RAY REDNISS



LAUNCH OF SOUNDWATERS
HARBORFEST 17

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

6:00 - 8:00PM

STAMFORD YACHT CLUB

97 OCEAN DRIVE WEST

TICKETS: \$50

8.25.17

SALUTE TO RAY • PRESENTATION OF 2017 YOUNG MARINERS •
MARITIME PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT BY PHOTOGRAPHER RICK BANNEROT

Purchase tickets at SoundWatersHarborFest.org

Race for the
Mayor's Trophy



Cardboard Kayak Race

Saturday, August 26

What floats your boat?

Compete in the 2nd Annual Harborfest 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

Companies, Schools, Teams, Families & Friends

All ages welcome

The Basic Rules**

- Teams of six boat builders register in advance (\$200 registration fee covers the cost of materials)
- Each team receives 10 sheets of cardboard, 3 rolls of duct tape, 6 rolls of clear packing tape, utility knife, yardstick and a marker.
- 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 50-100 feet on Stamford Harbor

** See website for complete rules

Youth Division

Boat Building: 9am - 11am
Race: 11:15am - 12:15pm

Adult Division

Boat Building: 1pm - 3pm
Race: 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Get complete details and register today!
SoundWatersHarborFest.org

#StamfordHarborFest



Presented By
AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment™

