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# News and

## Norwalk Maritime Aquarium Fall Events

### 7th Annual Festival of Lighthouses Contest!

**Saturday, November 15** – Festival of Lighthouses begins; runs through January 19, 2009. Calling All Artists 14 Years Old and Up! The Maritime Aquarium is soliciting entries for our seventh annual Festival of Lighthouses Contest! Demonstrate your creativity as you build a 3-dimensional lighthouse with working light(s) for a holiday display at the Aquarium, with a chance to win recognition, cash and other prizes!

1st Place Prize: \$1,000; 2nd Place Prize: \$500; 3rd Place Prize: \$250; 4th Place Prize: \$200; 5th Place Prize \$150; 6th Place Prize \$100

One Family Membership to The Maritime Aquarium will be awarded for each lighthouse that is displayed.

Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited. Enter now! Must be at least 14 years old by Sat., Nov. 1, 2008 to participate.

The final deadline for returning the entry form is Friday, October 31, 2008. Completed lighthouses must be delivered to the Aquarium between Nov. 6-10, 2008.

Lighthouses have traditionally guided seafarers around dangerous areas and into the safe harbors of home. This year they'll also guide visitors to The Maritime Aquarium into a cheerful holiday mood as the Aquarium celebrates its sixth annual Festival of Lighthouses. Join the thousands of families who have made a visit to the Aquarium's Festival of Lighthouses a family Holiday tradition. Aquarium ticket holders cast their votes to determine the winners from among the many imaginative entries built by talented artists and crafters from throughout the area.

### Jack-O'-Lantern Spectacular!

**Oct. 23 thru Nov. 2** - For 11 magical nights the outdoor spaces around The Maritime Aquarium will offer an incredible art show presented on glowing pumpkins. Appropriate for all ages, the "Spectacular" is more about being wowed, than scared.

Jack-O'-Lanterns will be arranged into "skits," each with a unique theme and dozens of traditional jack-o-lanterns built around one or more intricately carved pumpkins. Music, lighting, props and special effects complete the effect. Visitors walk from scene to scene, enjoying wonder after wonder, as they wander the show. The scenes will range from Hollywood Stars, pirates of the Caribbean, The Beatles' Yellow Submarine and a laughing tree tribute to George Carlin.

To manage crowds the Aquarium is ONLY selling tickets in advance. Show times are every half hour starting at 6 p.m.. The last timed admission will be at 9:30 pm from Sunday through Thursday and at 10:30 on Friday and Saturday nights. The Jack-O'-Lantern Spectacular will remain open for 90 minutes after the last admission.

Price is \$12 Sunday through Thursday and \$14 on Fridays and Saturdays. Maritime Aquarium members receive a \$2 discount.

Tickets will be sold on this website beginning at the end of September. They are now available at the Aquarium ticket counter. Group reservations for 10 or more are available at 203-852-0700 ext 2206. Payment for groups is due at time of booking. The event is held rain or shine.

## U.S.C.G. Auxiliary Flotilla 72 Offers Fall "About Boating Safely" Courses

The public has a fantastic opportunity to prepare for the upcoming boating season. "About Boating Safely" (ABS), designed to satisfy the requirements for the mandatory CT Safe Boating and Personal Watercraft Operation certificates, will be offered by U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 72 during the Fall. The comprehensive one day course and test, covering all major aspects of safe boating, including: types of boats, safety equipment, CT boating laws, boat handling, radio communications, and personal watercraft operation. It will be offered on October 18 and November 8, 2008. Classes are 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. at the Dominic Lametta Training Center located near the southern end of Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk. The fee is \$80.00 and includes materials and lunch. To register or for additional course information, contact: Peggy Bonhage, Registrar at 203-846-8471.



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# Events

## USCGA Flotilla 26 Monmouth Beach Boating Safety Course

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 26 of Monmouth Beach, NJ will conduct a three-session Boating Safety Course on consecutive Thursday evenings: (7:00 -10:00 p.m.) **October 23, October 30 and November 6, 2008** at the Monmouth Beach Cultural Center, 128 Ocean Avenue, Monmouth Beach, NJ. Individuals completing all three sessions of the course will be eligible to receive their Boating Safety Certificate from the State of New Jersey as well as possible discounts on boat insurance. All persons wishing to operate a power vessel in New Jersey must possess such a Certificate by June 1, 2009. Register now to avoid the 2009 rush. A nominal fee of \$55 per person includes the textbook. Seating is limited, so call 732-613-4558 now to sign up for this very informative course. Pre-registration is required.

## New Jersey's Annual Lighthouse Challenge

Publisher and contributing writer Kelley Anne McGee of Forked River tells us that the 9th Annual Lighthouse Challenge will take place on **Saturday, October 18 and Sunday, October 19, 2008**, rain or shine. The hours of the Challenge are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at all 11 land-based lighthouses in New Jersey: Barnegat, Tucker's Island, Absecon, East Point, Tinicum, Twin Lights, Sea Girt, Sandy Hook, Finn's Point, Cape May and Hereford Inlet. And you get to see a 1st order Fresnel lens displayed at Barnegat Light and Cape May County's Historical Museums. Visitors will receive complimentary souvenirs along the way, as well as a special one for those who complete the Challenge by seeing all 13 sites. Visiting hours will be extended to 8:00 p.m. at Sandy Hook, Tucker's Island, Absecon, Cape May and Tinicum. Please understand that the lighthouses are independently run from one another, therefore there may be some limitations, and/or admission fees. Schedules may vary and requests for donations may or may not be made. Also, some lights may offer extras like special guests, gift shops, food, picnic sites and restrooms. Do check ahead. For more details, please contact New Jersey Lighthouse Society at 856-546-0514 or visit Website [www.njhs.org](http://www.njhs.org).

## NYS Environmental Facilities Corp. Announces Award Winning Marinas

In recognition of National Marina Day, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Acting President Matthew J. Millea announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Clean Vessel Assistance Program (CVAP) Excellence Awards for outstanding support of the CVAP and its mission to help prevent water pollution that could result from recreational boating. The awards were presented in separate events to the Town of Huntington (Marine District) Long Island at the Gold Star Battalion Beach on August 5 and on August 7 at the Cocksackie Yacht Club. Awards are given to a municipal/not-for-profit and a privately owned marina that have used CVAP grants to provide excellent pumpout services to recreational boaters. Winners were selected based on nominations from the New York State boating community.

"EFC congratulates the Town of Huntington (Marine District) and the Cocksackie Yacht Club and for their outstanding dedication in supporting the mission of the Clean Vessel Assistance Program to improve water quality in our State's waterways," said Mr. Millea. "EFC is pleased to have partnered with these marinas in providing recreational boaters with CVAP funded environmental services."

Acting President Matthew J. Millea presented the Cocksackie Yacht Club (CYC) with the Excellence Award in the private marina category to the Club's Commodore Sal Santo who is responsible for the overall management of the Club's day-to-day operations and is an avid supporter of the CVAP, as is the CYC Board. Using more than \$12,700 in CVAP grants, the Cocksackie Yacht Club was able to install its first pumpout in 1995 and a replacement facility in 2006.

The CVAP provides federally funded grants to assist marinas, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations with the costs of installing pumpout and dump station facilities to receive sewage from recreational boats. Grants are available for up to 75% of eligible project costs with a current maximum of \$35,000 per project. Grant assistance, on a reimbursement basis, is also available for the maintenance, operation and promotion of recreational boater pumpout facilities. EFC administers the program under a contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

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