



The Delaware River and Bay Authority

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Winter WonderFEST Returns for the 2017 Holiday Season Light Spectacular at Cape Henlopen State Park; Ferry Terminal Hosts Christmas Village

(Lewes, DE) Two unique holiday venues, one delightful Winter WonderFEST! Produced by the nonprofit group, Festival of Cheer, this holiday community activity features a fun-filled Christmas Village at the Lewes Ferry Terminal and a Light Spectacular throughout neighboring Cape Henlopen State Park. The dual complementary events will commence on November 17 and continue through the month of December.

“Last year’s Winter WonderFEST was such a huge hit with residents and visitors alike that we couldn’t wait to be part of the sequel,” said Heath Gehrke, Director of Ferry Operations. “With more rides, the addition of a real ice rink, a “Winter Lodge” with food and drink, new carnival games and 30% more light displays in the Park, this year’s festival is bigger and better than ever. If you’re looking for fun, good cheer, and a way to get out and enjoy winter, come celebrate us at Winter WonderFEST!”

The Lewes Ferry Terminal will again be home to a Christmas Village, comprised of carnival rides with a full size Ferris wheel, real ice skating on the new Visit Delaware Ice Rink, music from local groups, great carnival games and warm-up treats including hot chocolate and s’mores fire pit. Santa’s workshop – complete with crafts and activities – will take place inside the Terminal. St. Nick will also be available for self-photos with the young and young-at-heart. Or, come visit ‘the Lodge’ on the carnival grounds to relax with an adult beverage. In addition, the ferry’s ‘On the Rocks’ full pub menu and bar service will be available inside the Terminal.

Christmas Village will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from November 17-December 23. Beginning December 26, the festival is open daily through December 31, 2017. The Visit Delaware Ice Rink is open six days a week. Festival hours are 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Christmas Village will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas day. Specific times and dates may vary. Please visit the Winter WonderFEST website at www.wonderfestde.org.

Winter WonderFEST also includes 60 light displays, a two mile drive-through Light Spectacular, in-car Scavenger Hunt, and a 3-D Experience inside Cape Henlopen State Park. The Light Spectacular inside Cape Henlopen State Park opens to the public on Saturday, November 17 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Gehrke noted that special Ferry foot passenger packages have been developed to make it easier for New Jersey residents to enjoy day trips to Winter WonderFEST. These packages, detailed on www.cmlf.com, make it easy for families, friends, and neighborhood groups to enjoy the full festival at reduced pricing.

Multiple packages, which include shuttle and trolley tours of the light show, are available and must be reserved in advance by calling 800-643-3779. Additional custom packages are also available through the Ferry's Guest Services Department.

Winter WonderFEST aims to bring together residents, visitors, and non-profit organizations to build a holiday tradition, create an opportunity for people to create lasting memories for their family and friends, and raise resources to benefit Sussex County non-profits that focus on health, education, culture and the environment.

To reserve your ferry combo-tickets for Winter WonderFEST, please contact our Guest Services Department daily at 1-800-643-3779 (FERRY) during the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. For more information on the festival, please visit www.wonderfestde.org.

About the Cape May-Lewes Ferry

The Cape May – Lewes Ferry is owned and operated by the Delaware River and Bay Authority, a bi-state governmental agency created by Compact in 1962. The Ferry is open year-round and has carried more than 43 million passengers since its inception on July 1, 1964. In 2016, the ferry service, which connects Victorian Cape May, New Jersey, and historic Lewes, Delaware, transported approximately 275,000 vehicles and nearly 1 million passengers. For schedule, rates and other program information, please visit the ferry's website at www.CMLF.com, or call toll free, 800-643-3779. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @CMLFerry.