

Norwalk Celebrates 40th Annual Oyster Festival This Weekend

By Casey Donahue



State Sen. Bob Duff, First County Bank CEO Rey Giallongo, Mayor Harry Rilling, Norwalk Seaport Assoc. President and Oyster Festival Chair Mike Reilly, First County Bank President Bob Granata, and State Reps. Terrie Wood, Fred Wilms and Gail Lavielle Photo Credit: *Carolyn Ripp*

NORWALK, Conn. -- The Norwalk Seaport Association held a ribbon-cutting Wednesday to officially celebrate the opening of the 40th annual Norwalk Oyster Festival, which runs Friday, Sept. 8, through Sunday, Sept. 10.

The Norwalk Oyster Festival offers three days of fun for the whole family. There will be live music from dozens of bands on multiple stages all weekend, including Billy Joel tribute band, Mike DelGuidice & Big Shot on Friday; Latin Rock Santana tribute band, Sacred Fire, and Desert Highway, a band celebrating the music of the Eagles, on Saturday; and Eight To The Bar with swing-influenced music on Sunday.

There will also be aerial stunt artists the Nerveless Nocks Thrill Show, the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show, a craft beer tent, international food court, Kid's Cove with rides and games, an arts and crafts pavilion, an oyster-slurping contest, and more.

The Oyster Festival will be held at Veterans Park on Seaview Avenue in Norwalk. Festival hours are 6 to 11 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Through a partnership with the Norwalk Parking Authority, attendees can save \$2 off parking at any on-street parking meter or outside lot just over the bridge in South Norwalk using the Parkmobile app on their cellphone with the code: oyster2off. In addition, for those who want to take the train, Metro-North offers discount packages.

Police are warning that motorists should expect delays in lower East Norwalk and South Norwalk. Motorists should also be cautious due to increased pedestrian traffic in the area. While the festival is open, Seaview Avenue will be closed to traffic. Lower East Avenue will become a one-way street for northbound traffic only. Streets surrounding Veterans Park will be designated "Resident Parking Only". Violators will be ticketed and possibly towed. Traffic officers will be positioned throughout the area to allow for a smooth flow of traffic. Motorists are asked to be attentive to their directions.

More Oyster Festival information and tickets can be found at www.seaport.org or by calling 203-838-9444.