



For Immediate Release

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**Newport Celebrates the Season with the
11th Annual Holiday Harbor Lights Illuminated Boat Parade!**

Newport, R.I., October 30, 2008- Sail into the most wonderful time of the year at the 11th Annual Holiday Harbor Lights Illuminated Boat Parade, a dazzling display of nautical holiday spirit along the Newport Harbor waterfront! The parade will be held along the Newport Harbor waterfront on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 6 p.m., as part of the 38th Annual Christmas in Newport calendar of events. Viewing of the event is free of charge, making this a great family event to get into the spirit of the holiday season.

The best viewing of the Holiday Harbor Lights Illuminated Boat Parade will be at Bowen's Wharf, Christie's Landing, Perrotti Park, and points along the wharf areas. At 6 p.m., a participating boat will first deliver Santa Claus to Bowen's Wharf for their annual tree lighting. At 6:30 p.m., parade boats will rendezvous just south of the Goat Island Causeway and then proceed east leaving Newport Yacht Club to port. Boats will then travel south along the downtown waterfront and then turn around and return to the Goat Island Causeway area. Once again, to complement the festivities on the water, the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority will have The Pell Bridge illuminated throughout the season.

The parade will feature a variety of water craft from Narragansett Bay including leisure boats of all sizes, commercial fishing boats, tug boats, and Coast Guard and Navy vessels. Magnificently decorated vessels will compete for prizes in the following categories: Best Holiday Team Spirit, Best Decorated Commercial Sailboat and Powerboat, Best Decorated Recreational Sailboat and Powerboat, and Best Decorated Fishing Boat.

The event is open to any business, organization, or boat owner interested in participating. Parade organizers also encourage all Newport harbor waterfront owners to decorate porches and docks for the event through the Holiday season. An award will be presented to the most dazzling display as observed by the Harbormaster from the water that evening.

The event has no rain date. If the weather is questionable, a recorded message will be available at 401-845-5815. Any organization, business, or boat owner, that would like to get involved in the 11th Annual Holiday Harbor Lights Illuminated Boat Parade, should contact Tim Mills, Newport Harbormaster at (401) 845-5815.

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The Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the City of Newport and the five townships of Newport County as a destination resort for business and leisure travel. For further information, please contact the NCCVB Marketing Department at (401) 845-9151 or www.GoNewport.com.