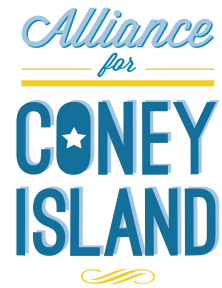


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For Immediate Release:

Coney Island Prepares for Even More Thrills for the 2019 Season!

Coney Island, April 11, 2019 – After months of anticipation, Coney Island is ready to open it’s attractions again for the 2019 Season.

Starting at 10:30 AM on Sunday, April 14th, Coney Island admirers are invited to join in on the opening day ceremonies at **Deno’s Wonder Wheel Amusement Park** and **Luna Park**. The Blessing of the Rides ceremony started decades ago by their late parents, Constantinos [Denos] and Theodora [Lula] Vourderis, includes a blessing of the rides, a salute to the American flag presented by the Ceremonial Unit of the FDNY and a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by free admission for 300 children from the Coney Island Salt N Sea Mission, a local non-profit organization that assists the homeless, battered women and at-risk children for over 30 years. "With the 100th year anniversary of Deno's Wonder Wheel now just a year away, we are delighted to be now opening for our 99th year. We celebrate the life and passion of our parents and grandparents who dedicated their lives to providing Coney Island with a warm welcoming amusement park on the Boardwalk. We hope to see everyone for the Blessing of the Rides on April 14th." **said the Vourderis Family, owners and operators of Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park.**

At 11:15 AM, opening day ceremonies continue with a speaking program and press conference including remarks from local elected officials, followed by the Annual *Egg Cream Christening* at the **Coney Island Cyclone** presided over by Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams.

“We’re thrilled to celebrate another year filled with exciting new adventures, traditions and endless fun in Coney Island,” said **Alessandro Zamperla, President of Central Amusement International**. “Since our opening in 2010, Luna Park has attracted record breaking crowds, expanding the excitement beyond just rides and games. This year, we look forward to embracing the legacy of Coney Island as well as bringing new, exhilarating attractions to the park.”

“Our Coney Island community looks forward to welcoming millions of tourists for another amazing season in America’s Playground, a seaside sensation like no place else. There’s something for everyone, and I thank the Alliance for Coney Island and all those committed to promoting a great climate for local economic development and family-friendly fun.” **said Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams.**

“I am ecstatic to help usher in the 2019 season and all that Coney Island has to offer. We look forward to visitors enjoying our new attractions, along with all of our iconic amusements and join us for our full calendar of free, unique events.” **said Alexandra Silversmith, Executive Director of the Alliance for Coney Island.**

"I am excited to celebrate the season opening of Coney Island, a bustling and beloved feature of New York City. As a native Brooklynite, I'm proud to see this great regional attraction generate another year of joy and leisure for its nearly 7 million annual visitors. I look forward to the continuing redevelopment and revitalization of the Coney Island community, for many decades to come." **said U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.**

"Opening Day in Coney Island means again opening the doors to the People's Playground and a world of wonder, excitement, and rich tradition like no other. I am thrilled to help kick off another incredible summer of amusements, attractions, eateries, and experiences - all by our beautiful beach and newly landmarked Riegelmann Boardwalk – for millions of locals and visitors alike to enjoy," **said Council Member Mark Treyger (47th District).**

"I'm thrilled to be apart of the celebration which has become the unofficial start to Summer! The event seems to grow each year, and each year we see an even more resounding success. I can't wait to see what this Summer season brings us!" **said Senator Diane Savino.**

"The annual season opening of Coney Island's Amusement Park signals two time tested truths to long-time Coney residents and all Brooklynites: first, Spring is finally here. And secondly, children and adults alike will be waiting in anticipation for the annual blessing of the rides, a time honored tradition which local families have enjoyed for over 30 years. I'd like to congratulate Luna Park and Deno's Wonder Wheel as they enter another season and wish them a year of success as they bring smiles to the faces of children from all over New York City and even around those traveling from around the world." **said Assemblymember Mathilde Frontus.**

"I'm excited to celebrate Opening Day of the People's Playground for yet another summer," **said James Patchett, President and CEO of New York City Economic Development Corporation.** "We are proud that our investments in ferry transportation, new amusements, and neighborhood infrastructure are supporting Coney Island's renaissance."

"Opening day in Coney Island is symbolic for many New Yorkers as the "unofficial" start of summer. We're excited to bring guests from around the world a memorable experience when they visit this iconic location. We have a lot of fun and exciting things happening this year from new attractions opening, new eateries and a robust line up of events like Friday Night Fireworks, Flicks on the Beach, the Sandsculpting Competition and our new favorite, the Coney Island Music Festival. We look forward to seeing everyone having a good time this year!" **said Cindy Godla, Events and Marketing Manager of Alliance for Coney Island.**

Luna Park has many exciting things on the horizon. With several new attractions slated to open this season, Luna Park now offers guests a wider variety of food choices while visiting their parks. New additions include the redesigned food court "Flywheel Eats" named after the iconic flywheel of the beloved Cyclone roller-coaster, a steampunk inspired eatery featuring traditional amusement park fare and the new "Half Moon Food Court" will offer a variety of grab and go snacks. Pizza connoisseurs can head over to the "Al Cavallino", a new traditional pizzeria opening next to the B&B Carousel.

While visitors may have to wait until later in the season to enjoy some of their favorite events like Friday Night Fireworks, there is still plenty to see and do on opening day. Concluding the opening day ceremonies, the first 99 guests in line for the Wonder Wheel and 92 guests for the Cyclone Roller Coaster will be able to ride a piece of history for free, while other area favorites like **El Dorado** and **Brooklyn Go-Kart and Mini Golf** will be open and ready for businesses starting at noon.

The newest addition to Coney Island sports teams, **Rugby United** will be playing a home game against the San Diego Legion at MCU Park on April 14th starting at 1pm. Tickets are on sale now at rugbyunitedny.com.

Celebrating their 15th anniversary, the **Coney Island History Project** will be free of charge from 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM on April 14th. They invite visitors to take in some of our amazing history with their display of artifacts, photographs, maps, and films of Coney Island's colorful past.

Brooklyn's favorite baseball team, the **Brooklyn Cyclones** will throw their first home pitch of the 2019 season on June 14th, the team is currently offering pre-sale tickets with the code: BOARDWALK for the new season.

Every Friday and Saturday from June 28th to August 31st guests can enjoy some after hours fun at the **New York Aquarium** until 10PM. The Aquarium is home to hundreds of beautiful exotic fish and marine animals and features the newly opened exhibit Ocean Wonders: Sharks! that boasts a 57,000 square-foot exhibit showcasing sharks from around the globe.

For those looking to grab a bite to eat while enjoying the fun, all your favorite boardwalk concessions will be open this weekend as well. **Coney Cones, La Famiglia Pizzeria, Nathan's Famous, Paul's Daughter, Place to Beach and Tom's Restaurant** are all back and ready to serve up some delicious eats.

Other local eateries in the area such as **Applebee's Grill & Bar, Gargiulo's Restaurant, Grimaldi's, IHOP, Nathan's Famous, Pete's Clam Stop, Surf City and Totonno's** are currently open for businesses. For something a little sweet, **IT'SUGAR, Lunatics Ice Cream, Rita's Italian Ice** and **Williams Candy** can be sure to fulfill any sweet tooth.

Those looking to have a few drinks can enjoy options like **Kitchen 21** with their impressive 82 foot bar serving 32 different beers, boardwalk favorite **Ruby's Bar and Grill** or the **Coney Island Brewery**, who is currently going under an expansion that will triple them in size.

Those looking to grab some great Coney Island memorabilia to round out their day can shop at boardwalk stores and boutiques, the **Brooklyn Beach Shop** and **Lola Star** which will be open from 11am-7pm.

Live entertainment lovers are sure to enjoy themselves at the 5,000 seat **Ford Amphitheater** which will host a mix of concerts, family shows and sporting events this year ranging from rock band Coheed and Cambria to R&B legends Boyz II Men. Concert tickets are on sale now at Ticketmaster.com.

2019 will also mark the 37th year of the biggest party in Coney Island! A must-see on everyone's bucket-list, the legendary, iconic and *very* eccentric **Mermaid Parade** will fill the streets of Coney Island with mermaids and sea creatures on June 22nd as we celebrate the official start of summer. This year's King and Queen will be Arlo and Nora Guthrie, the children of the late singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie who wrote some of the most significant American folk songs such as "This Land is Your Land".

This year, even the **Coney Island YMCA** is getting in on the fun times on the Boardwalk with a 5k "Fun Run" taking place on May 11th as a warm-up to the Brooklyn Half which ends on the Riegelmann Boardwalk on May 18th. For details, visit active.com.

The amusement attractions will be open on weekends through Memorial Day, and open every day during Spring Break from April 19th to 28th. Starting Memorial Day weekend, the famed Coney Island Beach will be open to the public and amusement attractions will go into a full 7 day-a-week operation.

To plan a trip to Coney Island and stay up-to-date on all events, make sure to visit **ConeyIslandFunGuide.com**. Sign up for our weekly newsletter and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, **@ConeyIslandFun**.

Alliance for Coney Island

The not-for-profit Alliance for Coney Island, Inc. is a private-public partnership dedicated to continuing the year-round revitalization of Coney Island. The Alliance represents local businesses, nonprofits, and the community, with support from the New York City Council, the Brooklyn Borough President and New York City Economic Development Corporation. More info at www.AllianceforConeyIsland.org.

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