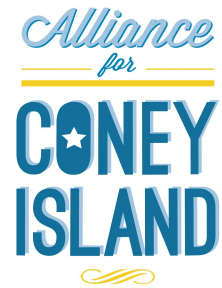


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For Immediate Release:

CONEY ISLAND IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE REOPENING OF THE AMUSEMENT DISTRICT FOR THE 2022 SEASON
Coney Island gears up for a fun-filled year

Coney Island, March 31, 2022 – Thrill-seekers can enjoy the fun a little earlier this season when **Luna Park in Coney Island** opens its gates to the public starting Saturday, April 2nd. The celebration will begin at 11 am with the annual egg cream christening of the Coney Island Cyclone, which turns 95 this year, followed by a fun-filled day at the park. In honor of the iconic coaster's 95th birthday, the first 95 guests to ride the Coney Island Cyclone will enjoy a free ride and an egg cream treat courtesy of Luna Park in Coney Island.

"Our entire team is filled with gratitude and enthusiasm as we open our doors for the 2022 Season," said **Alessandro Zamperla, President and CEO of Central Amusement International Inc.** "It is incredibly exciting to finally have Luna Park in Coney Island filled with guests and joy after a very long winter."

As part of the park's annual charitable tradition for opening day, Luna Park in Coney Island will host children from three local organizations. Children of Promise, the Coney Island Sharks, and Operation H.O.O.D., to highlight their contributions to the community and support them with donations from opening day proceeds.

"We are extremely grateful for our partnerships with local organizations, as we support them with the annual charitable tradition for opening day and look forward to continuing working together to benefit our community," Zamperla continued.

"Spring ushers in the best time of year with warmer weather and never-ending fun in Coney Island. We are ecstatic to welcome New Yorkers and visitors back to the Amusement District for a year unlike any other," said **Alexandra Silversmith, Executive Director of the Alliance for Coney Island.**

The following Sunday, April 10th, **Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park** will follow suit with their decades-long tradition of the "Blessing of the Rides" ceremony on their official opening day of Palm Sunday. The ceremony will take place on the boardwalk in front of Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park beginning at 10 am which will conclude with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the first 102 guests will get a free ride on the Wonder Wheel in honor of its 102nd anniversary.

"The Vourderis family is delighted to invite everyone to the 37th Annual Blessing of the Rides springtime opening," said **Dennis and Steve Vourderis, Owners and Operators of Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park.** "We are excited to continue the legacy of our parents, Denos and Lula Vourderis by inviting the local children from the Salt & Sea Mission to enjoy the rides for free, a tradition since 1985. We look forward to a great 2022 season and creating many more

WONDER-ful memories.”

Also welcoming an earlier season are the **Brooklyn Cyclones** who will have their first-ever April home opener on Tuesday, April 12th against the Jersey Shore Blue Claws. “We’re excited to get our 2022 season started at Maimonides Park,” said **Brooklyn Cyclones Vice President Steve Cohen**. “Our season starts earlier than ever before – on Tuesday, April 12th. That also means that for the first time ever, we will be playing and able to celebrate Jackie Robinson Day on April 15th, the 75th Anniversary of his breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball. We’ve added some new promotional nights throughout the year like FRIENDS Night, Looney Tunes Night, and DC Comics Super Hero Day, and we’ve also brought back the fan-favorite Jersey Thursdays, and even sprinkled in some special appearances from Peppa Pig and the extremely popular kids performers Koo Koo Kangaroo. We are thrilled to be able to provide family-friendly, affordable entertainment with tickets starting at just \$10 for the vast majority of our games. It’s going to be another AMAZIN’ summer here at Maimonides Park.”

Many exciting things are happening in Coney Island this season, including the return of the fan-favorite **Mermaid Parade**. Celebrating its 40th year, the in-person celebration will be held on Saturday, June 18th where mermaids and sea creatures will fill the streets as we celebrate the official start of summer. “We’re so excited for the upcoming 2022 season” **Adam Rinn, Coney Island USA's newly appointed Artistic Director** avidly states. “Between a revamped sideshow cast, our longstanding programs like Burlesque at the Beach, and new programs such as the Coney Carnival of Comedy we’re thrilled to be opening the doors of our multifaceted arts center in the heart of Coney’s amusement district for the first full season in two years. We’re also looking forward to showing off some of our recent acquisitions upstairs in our Museum. And let’s not forget the first in-person Mermaid Parade since 2019 on June 18. We can’t wait to see your smiles.”

The **New York Aquarium**, a boardwalk staple, and important anchor within the Coney Island community will be opening its newly completed PlayQuarium. “This spring visitors will be able to experience the newly opened PlayQuarium – our first fully bi-lingual English/Spanish installation. Children can touch and climb their way through the exhibit while learning about marine ecosystems in New York City and other parts of the world,” said **Craig Piper, WCS Director of City Zoos/Interim NY Aquarium Director**. The PlayQuarium exhibit will allow families to connect with our ocean while kids can learn how animals communicate underwater, explore a life-sized kelp forest and play the role of a scientist while searching for bioluminescent fish in a submarine. PlayQuarium is the latest exhibit to open at the New York Aquarium, after the breathtaking Spineless exhibit which opened in 2020; and the massive Ocean Wonders: Sharks! which opened in 2018.

“The Coney Island amusement district is an important economic engine in the Southern Brooklyn community and suffered through the COVID-19 pandemic. The seasonal opening of Coney Island will not only provide a boom for the region but should spread joy throughout the City as the beloved sights, sounds, and smells of spring and summer return,” said **US Rep leader Hakeem Jeffries**.

“Nothing says ‘warmer weather’ and ‘summer’ like Coney Island and all of the family attractions it has to offer. And thanks to our great partners, New Yorkers will be able to enjoy these activities earlier this season,” said **Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso**. “From an amusement park to the aquarium, great food, and the beach, Coney Island is a summer staple for all New Yorkers. As we continue to move past the restrictions of the past two years, it’s time to enjoy the great culture, food, and past times our great city has to offer.”

“I am thrilled to attend the opening season of Coney Island’s amusement park. It symbolizes the beginning of the recovery from the pandemic. This day brings smiles and joy to Coney Island residents and visitors. It promotes the beauty and glory of Coney Island while helping local businesses thrive. I am honored to represent America’s playground and look forward to an awesome season! Thank you Alliance for Coney Island for always supporting this great tradition,” said

Councilmember Ari Kagan.

"I am thrilled to once again be part of the great annual spring tradition of opening America's Playground. I want to thank the amusement operators and their workers for all of their hard work so everyone can enjoy the festivities a bit earlier this year. I can't wait to see all of the amazing things that will happen during the summer in Coney Island!" said **State Senator Diane Savino**.

"As we celebrate the first few days of spring, Coney Island residents know that the opening of the Amusement Area is just around the corner. We are thrilled for the reopening of the small businesses that are home to the iconic boardwalk and beach as well as world-renowned rides and games which can only be found on our beloved peninsula. Congratulations to all of the businesses that have worked hard to open their doors again this season, especially the iconic Cyclone which turns 95 years old. I can't wait to see families, children and visitors enjoying the People's Playground very soon," said **Assemblymember Mathylde Frontus**.

"For a century, generations have enjoyed the sights and sounds of this boardwalk and all it has to offer, and as a lifelong New Yorker, my family is no exception," said **Andrew Kimball, President, and CEO of New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC)**. "New Yorkers are eager to get back to their favorite entertainment, and recreation destinations like Coney Island to support the small businesses hard hit by the pandemic. I am delighted that, along with my colleagues at NYCEDC, the Alliance for Coney Island, and other City partners, we can kick off another season for all New Yorkers to support these small businesses, while enjoying a visit to this historic seaside attraction."

"You know summer is near when Deno's Wonder Wheel begins whirling around for the season in Coney Island! It's a summertime staple in New York City, and we are so excited for our boardwalk to be teeming with laughter, fun, and good eats all summer long," said **NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue**. "We encourage all New Yorkers to visit Coney Island and enjoy the views of this iconic beachfront oasis."

"Reopening Coney Island's amusement district this season will mean new jobs, more economic activity, and lots of fun," said **Commissioner Kevin D. Kim, NYC Department of Small Business Services**. "From watching the Cyclones play to riding the Wonder Wheel, this seaside treasure has a range of entertainment for New Yorkers and tourists alike. Coney Island is a quintessential New York City attraction, so bring your family and friends to support our local businesses!"

"The days are getting longer, the temperature is slowly becoming more tolerable and there is a special feeling in the air. It's finally time for our amusement area to come to life! Here's hoping that this season will be the best. Time to start living again. This is the light at the end of the tunnel. Here's to a Wonderful, Fabulous, Terrific year," said **Lucy Mujica Diaz, Chair of Community Board 13 and District Manager Eddie Mark**.

Coney Island Brewery, whose large air-conditioned taproom is home to 12 rotating taps of fresh beer brewed on-site, will host a broad variety of events year-round (many of which are free!) including live music, drag shows, BINGO, karaoke, and many more. Visitors can also see a rotating selection of local artwork on display and available for purchase. Now offering a full kitchen menu and café featuring everything from wings and sandwiches to fresh salads and vegan options, they are just a quick 5-minute walk from the Stillwell train station and built into Maimonides Stadium on Surf Avenue. It's the perfect place to stop while visiting the neighborhood any time of year.

Other local eateries in the area such as **Gargiulo's Restaurant, Hook & Reel, IHOP, Nathan's Famous, Pete's Clam Stop, Surf City** and **Teraza** are currently open for business, while boardwalk concessions **Al Cavallino, Coney's Cones, Nathan's Famous, Paul's Daughter, Ruby's Bar and Grill, Salt & Sizzle**, and **Tom's Coney Island** will be open starting Saturday, April 2nd.

Anyone in need of a caffeine pick-me-up or sweet treat can head to **Auntie Anne's, Carvel, Cinnabon, IT'SUGAR, Lunatics Ice Cream, Red Mango, Starbucks, or Williams Candy** who will all be open and ready to welcome in the spring visitors.

No trip to Coney Island is complete without a souvenir so be sure to stop at retail stores, the **Brooklyn Beach Shop, Coney Island Beach Shop, or Surf & Stillwell** for some original Coney Island memorabilia.

The **Coney Island History Project** will have banners on display at Deno's Wonder Wheel starting April 10 previewing the History Project's special exhibitions for the 2022 season, *Remembering Astroland: 60th Anniversary*, and *Barbara Rosenberg's Coney Island Photos*. A booth will be on the boardwalk in front of Deno's Wonder Wheel Park on April 10th featuring historic artifacts, photographs, maps, ephemera, and films of Coney Island's colorful past will be on view at the Coney Island History Project exhibition center, open free of charge on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day from 1:00-7:00 pm.

Later this season, Luna Park in Coney Island will be unveiling its newly added sites as part of its expansion project, adding more ways to have fun in New York City. Additional details on the forthcoming attractions and pedestrian plazas will be announced later this season.

The **Coney Island Amphitheater** will be active with a large variety of community events, paid concerts and an exciting series of *free* SummerStage shows. Also, this summer, look for the grand re-opening of the **Child's Restaurant** and its rooftop lounge overlooking the boardwalk and the Coney Island beach, at West 21st Street.

The amusement attractions will be open for New York City School's Spring Break starting Friday, April 15th through Sunday, April 24th then weekends only through Memorial Day. Beginning with Friday, May 27th, attractions will go into a full 7 day-a-week operation.

Many can look forward to the return of summer events old and new, like the Festival of New York which will be taking place on West 12th Street between Surf Avenue and Wonder Wheel Way on various weekends throughout the summer and feature a wide variety of activities from live music, performances, and more. Visitors can stay up-to-date on all local events by visiting the Coney Island Fun Guide at coneyislandfunguide.com or by signing up for the weekly in-season newsletters and following on Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, and Instagram, [@ConeyIslandFun](https://www.facebook.com/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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