



## **Celebrating National Travel & Tourism Week in Newport News**

**Newport News, VA, April 12, 2016** – In celebration of National Travel & Tourism Week, May 1-7, the Newport News Tourism Development Office has planned several events to increase awareness of the importance of travel and tourism.

As it does each year, the Newport News Tourism Office will launch National Travel & Tourism Week with its *Newport News Tourism Awareness Contest*. The contest – dubbed “*Where in the World Can You Find These Parks in Newport News?*” – will start May 1 in the *Daily Press* newspaper. This year, we’re paying homage to our city’s many parks, particularly Newport News Park, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016. In honor of the park’s golden anniversary, we’re giving away 50 prizes to 50 winners. Prizes range from restaurant gift certificates and museum memberships to overnight stays at local hotels and themed gift baskets.

The *Annual Newport News Tourism Awards Luncheon* will be held in the picturesque setting of Newport News Park on May 3. During the luncheon, the recipient of the 2015-2016 *Gregory Cherry Tourism Professional of the Year Award* will be announced. The award is given annually to a hospitality industry employee who has made an outstanding contribution in promoting travel and tourism in the city. Additionally, the Newport News Hospitality Association will award their 2016 tourism scholarships to students interested in taking or already enrolled in college classes related to travel and tourism or hospitality management.

On May 4, a day-long *Familiarization Tour of Newport News* will be held for front-line personnel, as well as visitor center staffs and other hospitality industry professionals. The tour will be a fast-paced, comprehensive overview of all Newport News attractions, giving participants first-hand knowledge of everything the city has to offer visitors.

The Newport News Tourism Development Office will also participate in a regional *Thank the Visitor Day* May 6 at Norfolk International Airport and at the East Coast Gateway Welcome Center. A re-enactor who portrays *Captain Christopher Newport* (the city’s namesake) will greet visitors at the airport, and one of the Visitor Center travel counselors will go to the Welcome Center to thank motorists traveling east on I-64.

The Newport News Hospitality Association will hold its annual *Hospitality Employee Appreciation Day* the Wednesday after National Travel & Tourism Week, on May 11. Front-line employees from Newport News attractions, hotels and restaurants will participate in friendly competitions like a bed-making contest and a restaurant relay around the fountain in City Center at Oyster Point. The event also includes a buffet lunch, entertainment provided by a professional DJ, and carnival games with prizes.

For additional information about the National Travel & Tourism Week events in Newport News, contact Janie Tross, consumer marketing/visitor center manager, at 757-886-7777 or by e-mail at [jtross@nnva.gov](mailto:jtross@nnva.gov).

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