

# WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

-CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WaterFire Announces Details of Full Lighting on Saturday June 13th, 2015 – Sponsored by National Grid**

**Providence, RI:** WaterFire Providence is proud to release the details of the next full lighting on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Sunset is at 8:21 p.m. and the fires will be lit shortly thereafter. This lighting is sponsored by National Grid.

WaterFire Providence is pleased to welcome back long time sponsor and community partner, National Grid, as Season Sponsor and Sponsor for our Gaspee Days full lighting. "National Grid strongly supports WaterFire and all that it means for Providence and Rhode Island," said Timothy F. Horan, president of National Grid in Rhode Island. "This signature event has become a leading contributor to the vitality of our economy as it continues to gain international recognition while drawing thousands of visitors who might otherwise not have visited the region."

**WaterFire celebrates The Gaspee Incident and the Birth of America:** Rhode Island was the site of the first organized rebellion against the British crown and led the effort to establish America as an independent nation, a year and a half before the Boston Tea Party. Rhode Island citizens met at Sabin's Tavern to debate the challenges, opportunities, and risks of rebellion, and ultimately decided to take action against the British. They launched long boats after dark and attacked and captured the British sloop, Gaspee, off Gaspee Point, and burned the vessel to the waterline. WaterFire is pleased to bring to life this astonishing history for the fourth year in a row with several WaterFire history presentations.

- **From Flash Mob to Freedom:** Join us throughout the day to follow this thrilling story of daring patriotism by seeing it all unfold in the long-lost twitter feeds of that famous day. Check out the WaterFire Gaspee Twitter feed ([#wfgaspee](https://twitter.com/wfgaspee)) and witness the revolt as it unfolds

- A **concert by the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps** from Washington DC will be on the Waterplace Stage from 7:15 to 8:20. The Corps will march through WaterFire leading followers to the site of Sabin's Tavern.
- **Sabin's Tavern - The Great Debate:** From 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. discover a fascinating re-enactment of the lively debate that occurred at Sabin's Tavern on June 9th, 1772 over whether or not the Colonies should demand independence from Great Britain. At The Wild Colonial Tavern at 250 South Water Street (one block from WaterFire downstream at the intersection of Power Street) five engaging historians, John McNiff, John Concannon, Steven Park, Jonathan Ryder and John Currier, will lead us towards a deeper understanding of what was discussed that night from the perspective of the Providence residents who first started the American Revolution.
- The **Marquis de Lafayette** will be visiting WaterFire accompanied by a contingent of French infantry. He is here to continue telling the next chapter of America's independence, and how he arrived here in Rhode Island with 6,000 troops who were instrumental in our defeating the British during the American Revolution. The Marquis will be addressing the crowds at the site of Sabin's Tavern after the Great Debate at about 10:30 p.m.
- **Walking Tours:** The **RI Historical Society** presents walking tours featuring the Gaspee and much more. Tours depart from the John Brown House Museum located at 52 Power Street at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 each. For more information or to make reservations, please contact Barbara Barnes at 401-273-7507 x362 or [bbarnes@rihs.org](mailto:bbarnes@rihs.org).
- **Open Historic Houses:** John Brown, the Providence merchant who promoted the attack on the Gaspee, later built and resided in a magnificent 18th century mansion. The John Brown House Museum at 52 Power Street will be open from 10 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. with guided tours at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Self-guided audio tours are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, make time to see The Governor Stephen Hopkins House located at 15 Hopkins Street (off Benefit Street) and open for tours between 1:00 and 9:30 p.m. Admission is free, donations are always welcome.

WaterFire Providence is happy to present this full lighting as part of the Providence International Arts Festival will take place on June 11-14, 2015. Building off of Providence's international recognition as a creative city, this first-ever signature event will be a jaw-dropping celebration featuring world-class arts, sculpture, music, food and spectacle in the heart of the city's downtown. The centerpiece of Festival activities is Saturday, June 13, 2015 with events beginning on Kennedy Plaza at 4pm. From the largest stringed instrument on the planet, to the undisputed Queen of African Music, to the Grammy Award-winning ambassador of Mali, to visual transformations of city streets with murals, tape art, and photography, the Providence International Arts Festival will light up Rhode Island's capital city over four days, and engage a diverse international audience.

The WaterFire Arts Festival Plaza, in partnership with Bryce Studio, returns for the 2015 season. Located on both Washington Street and Steeple Street from 6:00 - 11:30 p.m., this outdoor artisan fair will showcase some of the great artwork created in Rhode Island in mediums such as glass, photography, sculpture, jewelry and more. The WaterFire Arts Festival Plaza will offer visitors the opportunity to purchase artwork by Rhode Island-based artists.

The Starry, Starry Night Installation will shine brightly in Memorial Park. Join thousands of WaterFire visitors in Memorial Park where the public is encouraged to add their own light to the night. For a small donation to WaterFire, make a wish upon a star or place your very own message and luminaria candle lantern in the park. The park will be aglow with hanging blue stars and a constellation of twinkling luminaria candle lanterns below.

WaterFire's favorite characters are back!

- Visit the living statues in Memorial Park at the World War I monument. [Ten31 Productions](#) returns with their interactive living statues and gargoyles in Memorial Park shortly after lighting.
- Fire Dancers Benjamin Reynolds and Julie Jerome will dazzle the crowds during several performances throughout the evening at the confluence and on the wall of braziers in Memorial Park.
- Mime artist Michael Grando will make his 2015 season debut. Be sure to catch Michael, in costume as the Commedia dell'arte character Pierrot, as he cruises the river tossing carnations to visitors along the shore.

[Nursing Placement](#) the official first aid provider at WaterFire events will offer first aid care to the public at any time during the event. Additionally, the venue will serve as a meeting place for missing children and parents to reunite. The First Aid RV will be located on Washington Street and can be found on all WaterFire event maps. Nursing Placement will also be taking applications for new team members to help serve the RI population.

Join our sponsor [National Grid](#) on the Washington Street Bridge for a variety of interactive and educational energy efficiency demonstrations from 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

- Make sure you can capture the magic of WaterFire all evening long by visiting National Grid charging stations on Washington Street and Canal Street to recharge your smartphone and other mobile devices during the lighting.
- Learn about making your home more energy efficient with National Grid on Washington Street! With fun and interactive displays guests can learn about how much energy it takes to power a standard light bulb versus the newer, more energy efficient CFL bulbs.
- Every home has one, but what do you do with your old refrigerator when you get a replacement? Join National Grid on Washington Street to let your kids get creative with old refrigerators that are actually ok to decorate and while you learn about how to recycle one of the most common household appliances!

WaterFire Providence released 10 full fire dates for the 2015 season including May 23<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, August 1<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, August 29<sup>th</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>, September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>th</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>. WaterFire is still looking for additional community support to add more dates to the 2015 season to continue making Providence a better place to live, work and visit. For information about sponsoring or supporting WaterFire Providence, please contact Bronwyn Dannenfelser, Director of Resource Development at 401-273-1155 or [bronwyn@waterfire.org](mailto:bronwyn@waterfire.org).

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WaterFire is an independent, non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming WaterFire for all to enjoy. The powerful work of art is installed on the three rivers of downtown Providence as a moving symbol of Providence's renaissance. To learn more about WaterFire or make a donation visit <http://waterfire.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/waterfireprovidence>.

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