

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

– CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WaterFire Providence Announces The 11th Annual Salute to Veterans Full Lighting on Saturday, November 4

Supported by Rhode Island Energy & Manchester Street Station

Providence, RI WaterFire Providence announces The 11th Annual Salute to Veterans full lighting this Saturday, November 4, 2023 supported by [Rhode Island Energy](#) & the [Manchester Street Station](#). The lighting will begin at 5:36 p.m. and the braziers will remain lit until 10:00 p.m. On shore programming will open at 4:30 p.m.

“WaterFire’s ‘Salute to Veterans’ event is one of the most moving tributes Rhode Island has to help honor and remember the men and women who have answered the call of duty to serve our nation,” said Dave Bonenberger, president of Rhode Island Energy. “As an employer with many veterans across our company, we recognize not only the unique skills and leadership these individuals have, but also the dedication and sacrifices they and their families have made to America. We’re proud to support this special lighting, and hope more Rhode Islanders will join us to help celebrate those that have served.”

WaterFire Providence will pay tribute to longtime volunteer photographer and Navy veteran John Nickerson, who sadly passed away earlier this year. A single brazier will be lit in his honor and a display of his WaterFire photography will be shown on a screen in Memorial Park.

At 4:30 p.m. the night will kick-off with a speaking program on the basin stage in Waterplace park with remarks given by Kasim Yarn, Director, Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs, Governor Daniel J. McKee, Senator Jack Reed, Congressman Seth Magaziner, Secretary of State Gregg Amore, Treasurer James DiOSSa, State Senator Walter Felag, Jr., State Representative Sam Azinaro, Mayor Brett Smiley, and Director EJ McQuade front he

Providence Veterans Affairs Regional Office. The keynote speaker will be Rear Admiral Pete Garvin from the Naval War College.

The speaking program will also feature a performance by the Army 88th and Navy Band. Once the speaking program concludes, around 5:30 p.m, the Rhode Island Professional Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums group will perform as 100 veterans and active-duty service members process into the basin with lit torches and surround Waterplace Park with a Ring of Fire.

Starting at 7:30pm, wreaths will be laid at the World War, World War II, Korean and Rhode Island Nine Beirut Memorials while taps plays throughout Memorial Park. [Rhode Island Energy](#) will illuminate all of the monuments in lights in honor of all of our Veterans.

[Stanley Tree](#) is sponsoring an installation of 100 American Flags on Memorial Boulevard lining the river with another 100 American Flags in the basin of Waterplace Park. In addition they will also be sponsoring the American flag over the Steeple Street Music Stage. The large American flag flying over Waterplace Park is presented by men and women of the Providence Fire Department in honor of all veterans in Rhode Island.

On the confluence, where the rivers meet, there will be a Missing Man Table set up to honor the memory of fallen, missing, or imprisoned military service members. Every piece of this touching memorial has a special meaning, and we invite the public to join us in taking a moment to think about our soldiers that are no longer with us or are missing.

WaterFire Providence will be hosting a Veteran's Resource Fair on the Washington Street Bridge starting at 4:30 pm. The fair will include the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, [Rob Levine & Associates](#), Electric Boat, [Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick LTD](#), [Rhode Island FC](#), and the [Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training](#). There will also be a Mobile Vet Service vehicle provided by [United Way 2-1-1](#).

Visitors can explore through a fleet of military vehicles thanks to Bruce Ferreira and members of the [Rhode Island Military Vehicle Collectors Club](#) (RIMVCC) on the College Street Bridge.

WaterFire Marketplace will return to Canal Street, stop by to support WaterFire with a donation or a purchase of locally designed apparel, glassware, books, and gifts. Make a quick and easy donation with the DipJar and glass blowing by [Gather Glass](#). WaterFire will also have additional ambassador and merchandise stations in front of the RISD Auditorium, and both sides of the basin in Waterplace Park.

The WaterFire Arts Festival Plaza will be on Washington Street and Steeple Street, shop this gathering of local artists and makers in mediums such as glass, photography, sculpture, jewelry and more.

Page 3 of 4

The Steeple Street Music Stage will feature the RI Sound, enjoy two, forty-five minute sets at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

Catch three fire-spinning performances beginning at 6:00 p.m. and continuing at 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. by [Cirque de Light](#).

The WaterFire Arts Festival Plaza kicks off on Washington Street and Steeple Street from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. where visitors can browse and shop from a variety of local artists and makers in mediums such as glass, photography, jewelry, and more. This outdoor artisan fair will showcase some of the great artwork created in Rhode Island and offer visitors the opportunity to support the local arts economy by purchasing work by Rhode Island-based artists.

On Washington Street, visitors can explore Recycled SilverWear, [Ecuador to your door](#), [Into the Woods](#), [Emma Joyce Art](#), [Jade's Gems](#), [Jeremy Schilling Fine Art](#), [Adelante Shoe Co.](#), [Moonlight Jewelry](#), [Land and Seaglass](#), and [Julia Gash](#).

On Steeple Street: [All Things Lavender](#), [Sophie Foulkes](#), [Broken Arrow Studios](#), [Odettas](#), [Glass Monkey](#), [M PEARL](#), [Revibed Vinyl](#), [Tigris Handmade](#), [Design WhatHaveYou](#), [goddex apothecary](#), [CandlesByJudith](#), [Pouever Creations](#), and Sunu Body.

[Andrew Anselmo](#), Origami Master will be hanging out all night at Market Square and visitors can find [A Silent Soapbox](#) living statue at the bottom of Washington Street Bridge and Canal Walk starting at sunset. [Ten31 Productions](#) will be illuminating the World War Monument in Memorial Park.

The Starry, Starry Night installation returns to Memorial Park near the Crawford Street Bridge; [add your light to the night](#) by wishing on a star or dedicate a luminaria candle lantern.

Food Fairs will be open on Washington Street and College Street. Enjoy local food from festival favorites.

Washington Street: [Kettle Korn Express](#), [One2Taco&More](#), [Full House Q](#), [The Incredabowl Food Company](#), [Duck Press](#), [Caribbean Delights](#), [Saugys](#),..

College Street: [Pita Pocket](#), [Spanglish](#), [Pam's Grill on the Go](#), [Poppin Minis](#)

[Trinity Brewhouse](#) will have two locations, one on the corner of Canal and Steeple Street, and the other on the corner of Canal and Washington Street. They will be serving up local brews and wine from 4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

WaterFire Providence 2023 Season Supporters

[State of Rhode Island](#), [Governor Daniel J. McKee](#); [Rhode Island Commerce](#); [The City of](#)

[Providence](#), [Mayor Brett P. Smiley](#); [The Providence City Council](#); [The Rhode Island General Assembly](#); [Dunkin'](#); [Providence Tourism Council](#); [Rhode Island State Council of the Arts](#); [Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau](#); [PVDfest](#) & [FirstWorks](#); [The 28th North American Catalysis Society Meeting](#); [Rhode Island Energy](#); [Bank Newport](#); [Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation](#); [Brown University](#); [Cox Business](#); [Check the Stigma Hockey Classic to benefit Horizon Healthcare Partners](#); [Amica Insurance](#); [Rhode Island School of Design](#); [Fidelity Investments](#); [Textron Charitable Trust](#); [Bank of America](#); [United Way of Rhode Island](#); [Rhode Island Department of Education](#); [XQ Institute](#); [Cox Media](#); [Rhode Island Monthly](#); [WPRI 12 & FOX Providence](#) & [The Rhode Show](#); [Cumulus Media](#); [iHeart Media, Inc.](#); [The Providence Journal](#); [IGT](#); [JP Morgan Chase & Co.](#); [Gooseneck Vineyards](#); [United Site Services Northeast](#); [Stanley Tree Service Inc.](#); [AJT Supplies](#); [Fire Works Catering](#); [McLaughlin & Moran, Inc.](#); [Dan's Management Company, a Dunkin' Franchisee](#); [Let's Roam](#).

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About WaterFire Providence

WaterFire Providence® is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy. Each year nearly 1 million people come to downtown Providence to experience WaterFire contributing over \$149,000,000 to the local economy, generating over \$9,000,000 of direct tax revenue for the State of Rhode Island and supporting 1,294 jobs for community residents and strengthening Providence's Creative Capital and Rhode Island's State for the Arts brands. For information about WaterFire Providence and the WaterFire Arts Center visit <https://waterfire.org/>.