



# County of Rockland

## Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Rockland celebrates Hudson River Day June 6 & 7, 2009**

Visit [www.rockland.org](http://www.rockland.org) for more events

New City, NY – The County of Rockland will take part in the statewide signature event, Hudson River Day, as part of New York State's Quadracentennial celebration **on Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7, 2009.**

Hudson River Day will consist of a relay flotilla involving boat and yacht clubs from New York Harbor up to Albany. The ships will launch on the evening of Friday, June 5 and spend the night in New York Harbor. Coast Guard Cutters, three Naval ships, along with the "Half Moon," will lead a flotilla of boats from clubs in Manhattan along with New York State heritage flagships the "Onrust," "Woodie Guthrie," "Mystic Whaler," "Shearwater," "Adirondack," and "Clearwater." Also joining the flotilla will be the "John J Harvey Fireboat" and the "Governor Cleveland Tug" from the Canal Corporation for the entire trip to Albany.

"We in Rockland are happy to mark this statewide celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Henry Hudson's arrival in New York aboard the Dutch vessel "Halve Maen," said Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef. "Rockland owes much of its rich history to Henry Hudson's historic voyage, and we are pleased to take part in this remarkable commemoration of our region's origins."

The ships will arrive in the Rockland/Westchester area on Saturday, June 6 between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. with an overnight planned for the "Half Moon" (Piermont Pier-viewing only) and the "Onrust" and "Woodie Guthrie" (Nyack Boat Club-public not able to board). As part of the River Day celebration, Nyack Memorial Park will feature family-centered fun, music and dance performances in the Gazebo on Saturday starting at 2:15 p.m. At 6 p.m. Rockland and Westchester church bells will toll and at 9 p.m. Piermont is planning a fireworks display.

Heather Duke, director of the Rockland County Tourism Department and chair of the Rockland Quadracentennial Steering Committee said, "Rockland County is thrilled that the Quadracentennial celebration is under way and look forward to a successful River Day weekend. Be sure to check the Tourism Department's website [www.rockland.org](http://www.rockland.org) for up-to-the minute event happenings and visit the calendar devoted just to Quadracentennial related events."

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On the morning of Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, the ships will set sail at 8 a.m. for a three-hour stop over at the Haverstraw Marina between 11a.m. – 2 p.m. The public will be able to view the ships at the Haverstraw Marina during this time. The 20-person West Point Jazz Knights will perform from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Haverstraw Marina and an exhibition of antique fire trucks will be held in the Marina Parking lot. Although no events will take place at Haverstraw Bay Park or Bowline Park, they will be used as overflow viewing areas.

Viewing of the ships may be apparent from all accessible shorelines at Piermont Pier, Flywheel Park and the public walkway, Nyack's Memorial Park and Nyack Beach State Park. Parking is prohibited on North Broadway in Upper Nyack.

Park in lot #1 in Rockland Lake State Park (off Route 9W in Congers) and walk Rockland Lake Road to Landing and follow Landing down to the River Trail. It will be about 1.5 miles walk up and down steep hills. Rockland Lake Road is the road that goes around the lake. The River Trail between Rockland Lake and Nyack Beach is on the river with unobtrusive views of the water.

The Stony Point Battlefield cannon will be heard at 12 noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. A cannon welcome is planned in the form of ground cannon fire at each overnight port when the ships are first spotted each evening and when they come upon Haverstraw.

Weather permitting, there will be an escort from the air of antique bi-planes of the Rhinebeck Aerodrome commemorating the flight up the river 100 years ago by Wilber Wright on Sunday as well.

Starting at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> take the Haverstraw Marina bus from the following designated parking areas to get to the events:

- \* Stony Point Elementary School on 7 Gurnee Drive
- \* The James W. Farley Middle School on Route 210
- \* In Haverstraw at the Knights of Columbus Parking Lot

Each bus will make stops at GAGA Arts Center, the Haverstraw Marina and each parking area. Bus passengers will be dropped off and picked up at GAGA Arts Center, the Haverstraw Marina and each designated parking area.

For additional on-going events that weekend and throughout the summer please visit the Tourism Department's website at [www.rockland.org](http://www.rockland.org) where you can also sign up to receive advanced notification of events via email.

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