



# New England News

2017 IAAPA Attractions Expo Edition

NEAAPA Newsletter

## Welcome To IAAPA Expo

Welcome to Orlando!

It's always an exciting time of year here at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo. You have miles of aisles to cover trying to find that next big thing to entertain your guests in the upcoming season.

This year's theme, "Creation Nation," offers so many educational opportunities to help fill your toolbox with ideas.

This time is also a great time to connect with so many people in the in-



**IAAPA Attractions Expo At Orange County Convention Center.**

dustry and find out what's new and exciting in their neck of the woods. When it comes to connecting, the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) has dedicated time throughout the week specifically for our members and friends to come together.

This year there will be an additional event to bring our members back together after the Expo just in time to kick off the Holiday season with a family-friendly celebration at Six Flags New England in Agawam, Mass., on Dec. 2.

NEAAPA members will get the VIP treatment on Dec. 2 and enjoy the park's new "Holiday in the Park," which offers an entirely  
(See WELCOME, Page 2)



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**Next Edition:**  
**2018 Annual Meeting**

## Holiday In The Park Event Is Dec. 2

# Six Flags Supports NEAAPA With Fundraiser



AGAWAM, Mass. – Members of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) will be able to enjoy Six Flags New England's Holiday In The Park here and at the same time support NEAAPA.

Six Flags has set up a special fundraiser from 4 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, in which NEAAPA members pay \$20 to see the inaugural holiday event at the park. All of the proceeds from the \$20 ticket sales will go to NEAAPA.

In addition, tickets for NEAAPA family and friends will be available for \$26. Children 3 and younger will be admitted for free. Visit [www.neapa.com](http://www.neapa.com) to purchase tickets online. Please note that NEAAPA discount tickets will not be sold the day of the event at Six Flags.

### About The Celebration

Slated for Nov. 24 to Dec. 31, Six Flags is calling Holiday In The Park New England's largest holiday celebration with dazzling displays of lights, sights, and sounds.

Boasting more than 50 rides, shows, and attractions, Holiday In The Park will also offer roaming interactive holiday characters, storytelling with Mrs. Claus, warm and toasty fire pits, synchronized lighting displays, a breathtaking nightly snowfall and photos with Santa.

For more information visit [www.sixflags.com/newengland](http://www.sixflags.com/newengland).

## Welcome

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new and unique holiday celebration experience unlike anything seen before. Not only will members get to enjoy this special event, but it will also serve as a NEAAPA fundraising event. Details will be available on our website. We hope to see you all there.

As your Board of Directors and committees are hard at work keeping you up to date on the latest news and legislative alerts that affect your everyday business, we always welcome your questions and suggestions.

We hope you can take a break and stop by the NEAAPA booth for a visit. Please know that we appreciate your support throughout the year and look forward to seeing you throughout the show.

Have a Great Week,  
Dorothy Lewis, NEAAPA president



### 115 Years And Counting!

Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H., opened in 1902 as a pleasure resort serviced by The Hudson, Pelham & Salem Railway trolley line. Today, the family-owned park is recognized as one of only 11 remaining "trolley parks" in the nation, according to the National Amusement Park Historical Association. The undated photo above shows guests entering the property with an arcade building at the right.



# Edaville Hosts NEAAPA Summer Meeting



**Jon Delli Priscoli welcomed NEAAPA during lunch.**

CARVER, Mass. – Edaville Family Theme Park here was the host of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' (NEAAPA) Annual Summer Meeting on July 25.

More than 80 members were registered for the day-long event, sponsored by member suppliers Premier Rides, Baltimore, Md., Dippin Dots, Paducah, Ky., and NXT Capture, Orlando, Fla.

Following late-morning registration, the group gathered for lunch at the park's barbecue pavilion where General Manager Brenda Johnson and CEO/President Jon Delli Priscoli welcomed everyone to the property.

During his talk, the park president pointed out that Walt Disney once visited the property decades ago as Disney was developing plans for his California theme park, Disneyland. He also told the gathering that the many antiques prominently displayed throughout Edaville are from his private collections. The vast compilation includes toy trains, dolls, signs and vintage farm equipment in the park museum.

## **Tours Of Historic Property**

Tours of the historic park, which is surrounded by cranberry bogs, took place after lunch with Johnson and Delli Priscoli leading the way.

NEAAPA members were treated to a firsthand look at how Edaville, purchased in 2002 by Delli Priscoli, has changed in recent years.

Adjacent to the Cran Central Junction building stands a vintage 1953 Eli Bridge 60-foot Ferris wheel overlooking the pond and park entrance. During the holiday season the ride provides a spectacular view of Edaville's Christmas Festival of Lights, which features more than 18 million lights.

The Cran Central ride area further back into the property includes classics such as an Eli Bridge Scrambler, Sellner Tilt-A-Whirl and a rare Allan Herschell Astronaut. The park recently added a Spinning Lady Bug Coaster from SBF/VISA Group of Italy. The ride was supplied by Rides4U of Somerville, N.J., a NEAAPA member.

In 2015 Edaville opened Thomas Land, based on the popular Public Broadcasting cartoon series Thomas & Friends about a number of steam locomotives that work on the fictional island of Sodor.

"I completed the project in six months," the park owner said of the massive expansion which includes 11 new rides, shops and a show featuring the trains. The mix of family rides in Thomas Land are from Zamperla, another NEAAPA supplier member.

Of course, the star attraction at the park is riding aboard the Edaville Railroad pulled by Thomas himself. Many NEAAPA members took in the leisurely excursion during the afternoon.

More than 30 attended the association's board meeting at 4 p.m. in the Thomas Land Party Room with NEAAPA President Dorothy Lewis presiding.

A traditional cocktail hour followed with dinner served after the park closed at 6 p.m. in a tented area overlooking the pond. Featured speaker during dinner was Gina Romano of new NEAAPA member supplier Martin and Vleminckx of Haines City, Fla.

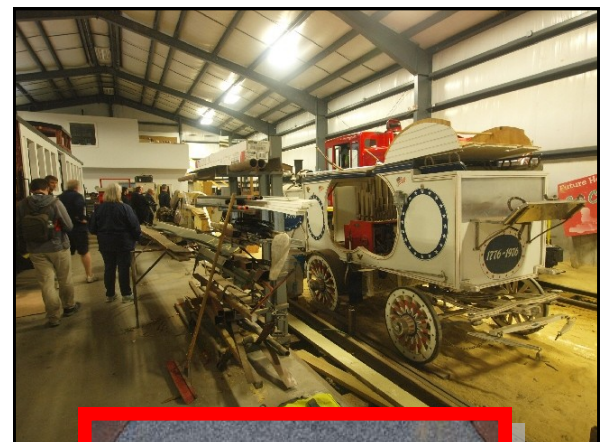
Romano, who serves as a board member of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' (IAAPA) Foundation, discussed the value of the foundation and member properties in helping to shape the leaders of tomorrow within the industry.

For more information about the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, visit [www.neaapa.com](http://www.neaapa.com).





# Photo Highlights From NEAAPA

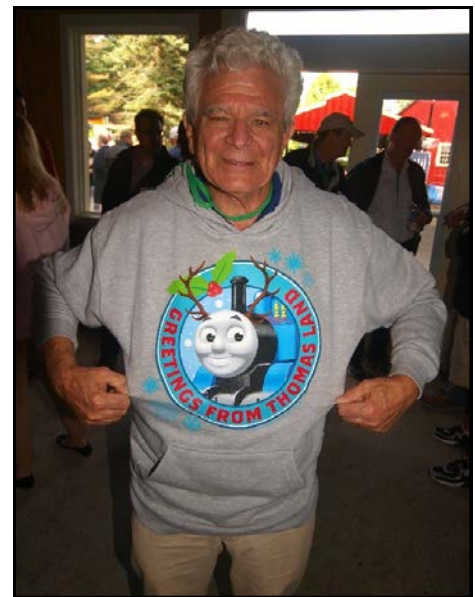




# Summer Meeting At Edaville



NEAAPA Summer Meeting Concluded With This Group Picture.



## Annual Meeting Edition Deadline

*New England News* will publish its Annual Meeting Edition in March. Deadline for submissions is Feb. 10. E-mail stories and photos to [ron@quassy.com](mailto:ron@quassy.com) and [secretary@neaapa.com](mailto:secretary@neaapa.com) for consideration.



# Lake Compounce GM Jerry Brick Is Named Person Of The Year

## Honored During 20th Annual Golden Ticket Awards

Jerry Brick, general manager of Lake Compounce in Bristol, Conn., was named Person Of The Year during *Amusement Today's* (AT) 20th annual Golden Ticket Awards, held Sept. 7 and 8 at Lake Compounce and nearby Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn.

In presenting the award, AT Publisher and Editor Gary Slade commended Brick for his “passion and commitment to providing a quality, thrilling and safe amusement park that caters to the New England family audience.”

“I was extremely honored to be given Person Of The Year award from *Amusement Today*,” Jerry said of the accolade. “I believe that the Lake Compounce team does a great job in making me look good every day. I have been

working in an industry that I really love working in, and I am very fortunate that I enjoy what I do.”

### Held In Starlight Theatre

The gala evening, honoring “The Best Of The Best” in the amusement industry, was staged in Lake Compounce’s Starlight Theatre with RWS Entertainment Group of New York kicking off the program with its production of *House Of Burlesque*, incorporating a number of pop songs with a circus-style theme.

Other New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) members recognized in the balloting:

- \* Best Indoor Roller Coaster – *Revenge of the Mummy* at Universal Studios Orlando, Orlando, Fla. The ride was built by NEAAPA supplier member Premier Rides, Inc. of Baltimore, Md.
- \* *Story Land*, Glen, N.H., came in third among Best Children’s Parks.
- \* Placing among the Top 50 Steel Coasters in the world: No. 3: *Superman The Ride*, Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass.; No.14: *Wicked Cyclone*, Six Flags New England.
- \* Placing among the Top 50 Wooden Coasters in the world: No. 3: *Boulder Dash*, Lake Compounce; No. 45: *Wooden Warrior*, Quassy.

For the 13th consecutive year, AT recognized students who plan to pursue a career in the amusement industry and are employed by the Golden Ticket Awards’ host parks. These individuals – Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets - exemplify the spirit and integrity of the amusement industry by promoting the cornerstones of safety, service, courtesy and cleanliness at the highest level, while consistently exceeding job expectations.

(See **GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS**, Page 7)



**Jerry Brick with his Golden Ticket Award.**  
(NEAAPA photo)





## Golden Ticket Awards

(Continued From Page 6)

Those named were: Shyenne Burks and Ricky Kudla of Lake Compounce and Frank Hamedl and Kayla Szabo of Quassy.

### More Than 300

More than 300 industry professionals attended the two-day event, which kicked off with a Friday evening reception at Quassy. A cocktail hour with strolling entertainment was held on the park's midway with a number of thrill rides in operation, including the award-winning Wooden Warrior coaster.

A dinner on the lakefront was capped off with a 3-D fireworks display.

Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy all of Lake Compounce's rides and attractions on Saturday as well as a couple of behind-the-scenes tours.

A cocktail hour and dinner were staged at the park's catered outing pavilions followed by a ceremonial parade to the awards ceremony.

"We can't thank Lake Compounce and Quassy enough for the incredible job they did in hosting this year's Golden Ticket Awards," Slade said. "They really showed everyone what New England hospitality is all about. We also greatly appreciate the support of all of the sponsors which helped make the event such a huge success."

The Golden Ticket Awards are the results of an international poll conducted by *Amusement Today*. The prestigious survey asks experienced amusement park voters around the country and world to rate the "bests" in 23 categories. For complete 2017 Golden Ticket Awards results, visit [goldenticketawards.com](http://goldenticketawards.com).

The 2018 ceremony will be held at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo

### Just The Ticket!

Photo at the right: *Amusement Today's* Janice Witherow helps Publisher and Editor Gary Slade cut the first piece of cake during the 20th Annual Golden Ticket Awards kickoff event held at Quassy Amusement & Waterpark in Middlebury, Conn. The evening social included cocktails, strolling entertainment, dinner and 3-D fireworks over Lake Quassapaug.



### Students Recognized

*Amusement Today* recognized these students as Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets during the 20th annual gala held at Lake Compounce. From the left: Shyenne Burks, Frank Hamedl, Kayla Szabo and Ricky Kudla. (NEAAPA photos)





# NEAAPA Members Introduce New Attractions

With the dust just settling on the 2017 summer season for member properties, there are a lot of irons in the fire for 2018 as new projects are taking shape.

In the case of Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H., a major attraction was introduced this fall. The family-owned park added a Matterhorn ride called Ice Jet.

With 20 seats that swing outward as the ride speeds up, the spectacular attraction has an incredible light package and elaborate theming. For more information visit [www.canobie.com](http://www.canobie.com).

## Taking A Spin

Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass., will debut

a giant pendulum ride next spring titled HARLEY QUINN Spinsanity.

“Innovation is part of the Six Flags DNA and we deliver new, groundbreaking attractions every season at Six

Flags New England,” said park President John Winkler. “HARLEY QUINN is an iconic DC Super-Villain and we are excited to add this action-packed thrill ride with her name next to THE JOKER, BATMAN, and SUPER-MAN in our extremely popular line-up of DC branded attractions.”

HARLEY QUINN Spinsanity is an extreme pendulum ride that will swing guests back and forth, higher and higher, at up to 70 miles per hour on a dizzying journey that will leave riders feeling as wild and out of control as HARLEY QUINN herself.



**Canobie Lake Park's new Ice Jet ride takes patrons by storm. (Submitted photo)**



**HARLEY QUINN Spinsanity. (Submitted photo)**



## New

(Continued From Page 8)

Highlights of the ride include:

- \* 40 riders will be powered at speeds of nearly 70 mph.

- \* The ride swings back and forth while rotating counter-clockwise.

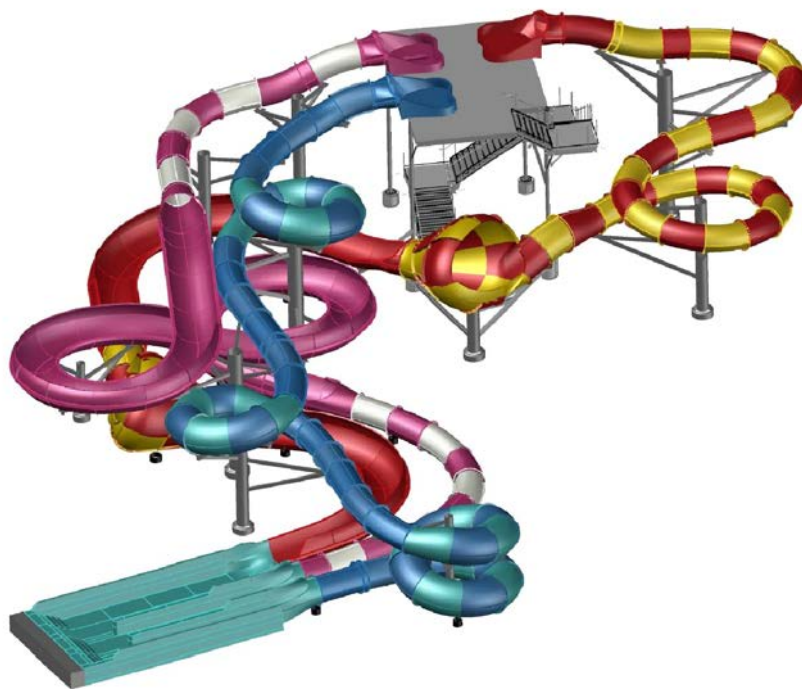
- \* As guests swing higher and higher, they will experience a feeling of weightlessness at 147 feet in the air before plunging down from 15 stories.

For more information visit [www.sixflags.com/newengland](http://www.sixflags.com/newengland).

### Largest Project

Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., has embarked on its single-largest investment in the park's 110-year history.

Three new giant water raft rides and a beach café are currently under construction at the family-owned property.



Rendering of Quassy's new raft rides. (Submitted photo)



Fiberglass sections of the new waterslides being installed at Quassy Amusement & Waterpark wait to be assembled. (Quassy photo)

The new slides, with a combined length of more than 1,000 feet, will be part of Splash Away Bay waterpark and have been named Category 5 Rapids.

"These new attractions will take our waterpark experience to the next level," said Quassy President Eric Anderson. "They will be extreme raft rides and accommodate up to two persons per raft. The project will also greatly enhance our waterpark capacity — making for a more enjoyable day for our guests."

One slide will feature two funnels that will oscillate each tube multiple times and generate the suspended-weightlessness sensation (See SLIDES, Page 10)



## Manufacturers & Suppliers News

### Premier Rides Opens New Coaster

Member supplier Premier Rides of Baltimore, Md., has a new custom-designed, triple-launch coaster operating in Finland.

Hype's grand opening in June at Särkänniemi Amusement Park was attended by thousands of theme park enthusiasts, excited to see what the "hype" was all about.

The ride was completed ahead of schedule.



### Themendous On Reality TV Show

Member supplier Themendous, LLC, a creative theming and design firm in Union City, N.J., was featured on the A&E reality TV series Shipping Wars in October.

The episode showed product leaving the New Jersey facility on its way to Branson, Mo.

### New Ride Showcasing At IAAPA



Member supplier Rides4U, Somerville, N.J., which represents SBF/VISA Group of Italy, will showcase a new ride from the Italian manufacturer during the IAAPA Attractions Expo in

Orlando, Fla.

The Mini Break Dance, also called Crazy Cubs in the rendering at above, will seat 16 persons.

The ride will spin clockwise and counterclockwise and provide thrills similar to its much larger counterpart.

Rides 4U will be on the show floor at booth 5415.



## Slides

(Continued From Page 9)

Two gigantic serpentine slides will round out the three-ride attraction. The new slides will all depart from one platform and conclude in runoff troughs near Saturation Station interactive water play area.

The slides are being constructed in an area known as the grove, where a number of picnic tables were located. All of the product is on location after more than 20 trucks delivered fiberglass and tower sections in September and October.

The new café will overlook Lake Quassapaug in the heart of the waterpark, which is adjacent to the park's Quassy Beach.

The new attractions will open Memorial Day weekend along with Quassy Beach and Splash Away Bay. For more information visit [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com).



### New Coaster Coming

Palace Playland, Old Orchard Beach, Maine, will introduce a new family steel roller coaster for 2018. Sea Viper will offer amazing oceanfront views and the property.

The new coaster will be 70 feet tall with speeds of up to 40 mph. For more information visit [www.palaceplayland.com](http://www.palaceplayland.com).

## New England Association Of Amusement Parks And Attractions

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# Big E Sets Attendance Mark During 17-Day Run

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – The Big E (Eastern States Exposition) smashed its all-time attendance record as 1,525,553 passed through the gates during the 17-day fair here Sept. 15 – Oct. 1.

“I am humbled to see the incredible support of Eastern States Exposition by our loyal fair patrons. The 2017, 101st edition of The Big E broke records again, recording for the first time in history over 1.5 million guests,” said Eugene J. Cassidy, president and chief executive officer of the fair.

“Patrons of New England’s Great State Fair braved days of punishing temperatures that pushed the heat index to above 100 degrees, they endured a 55-degree drop in temperature accompanied by rain, and yet they came in great numbers to participate in, enjoy and support this organization and all it stands for,” he added.

The previous attendance mark of 1,498,605 was set in 2014. In addition, the Sunday, Oct. 1 attendance of 137,208 was also a new record for the final day of the exposition.



**Avenue Of States at The Big E. (NEAAPA photo)**

A single day attendance record was also set on Sept. 23 when 171,879 guests passed through the turnstiles. Other daily attendance marks broken were: Sept. 21, 85,019; Sept. 28, 89,905; and Sept. 29, 109,871.

## Great Entertainment

Fairgoers were treated to some outstanding ticketed and free entertainment at the xfinity arena which included Cole Swindell, for KING & COUNTRY, Grand Funk Railroad, Smash Mouth, Cam, Night Ranger and the TwinE Country Fest.

The Court of Honor Stage in the heart of the fairgrounds, sponsored by xfinity, included classic bands such as Vintage Trouble, Village People, Ten Years After, the Lovin’ Spoon-

ful and The Red Hot Chilli Pipers.

In addition, “American Idol” winner Nick Fradiani, with Carly & Martina and the White Hut Cheeseburg Eating Contest also took the stage. The Machine Performs Pink Floyd was the final performance on Oct. 1.

Other daily entertainment included Camel Kingdom, Mardi Gras and Daily parades, The Big E Circus Spectacular, Hilby, the Skinny German Juggle Boy, a variety of car shows, and the Collector Car Experience featuring Mike Brewer and Wayne Carini.

## Traditions Abound

Fairgoers also enjoyed the traditional Avenue of States where each New England state is represented with a variety of displays and food in respective buildings.

Storowton Village Museum offered tours of its 19th century buildings, staffed with villagers in authentic dress of the era and presenting historic demonstrations on the village green.

More than 40 rides were provided by North American Midway Entertainment on The Big E Midway.

## About The Big E

Founded in 1916, The Big E is America’s only multi-state fair celebrating the rich history, culture and traditions of the six New England states.

The Big E annually draws more than 1 million visitors through its gates in West Springfield, Mass., and the 17-day event has grown to become the largest fair in the Northeast. The 2018 edition of the fair is slated for Sept. 14-30.





# Halloween Events Staged At Member Facilities

Halloween events continued to be popular among member properties this fall and here is a sampling of what some attractions offered:

**Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular** — Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, R.I., presented its annual Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular Oct. 5 – Nov. 5.

Guests traveled through time to visit with dinosaurs, explore the ice age, and peek into the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Rome.

New to the event this year was the Soaring Eagle Zip Ride, allowing patrons to see the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular from 115 feet high.

**Not-So-Spooky** — Edaville Family Theme Park, Carver, Mass., introduced a new event on weekends in October.

Its Not-So-Spooky children's trick or treating event afforded youngsters the opportunity come in costumes and trick or treat around the entire park. Rides and attractions were also operated.

**SCREEEMFEST** — Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H., held its annual SCREEEMFEST Sept. 23 — Oct. 29. Held Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, the event featured five terrifying haunted houses, including the newest haunt, The Culling.

SCREEEMFEST also had roaming monsters, a monster parade throughout the park and Halloween-themed games.

**Fright Fest** — Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass., staged its annual Fright Fest on weekends Sept. 23 — Oct. 29. New was CarnEvil, an area where guests wandered through a twisted area full of freak-show fantasy.

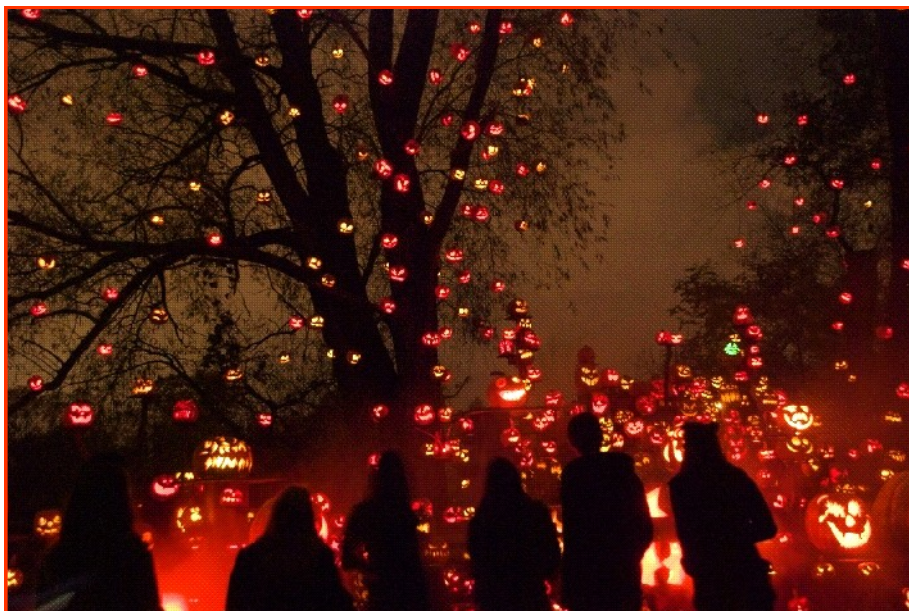
Also new was "Final Freak Out," taking place each evening as Mayor Slayer unleashed the wrath of dozens of scareactors as a final scream of the night.

Entertainment included the extreme stunt show Creep Show FreakShow, with crazier circus stunts than ever before.

**The Haunted Graveyard** — Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn., presented its 19th installment of The Haunted Graveyard weekends Sept. 29—Oct. 29.

New this year was Voodoo Swamp, a trek through untamed, weed-choked wetlands with shining alligators and other slithering things.

(See HALLOWEEN, Page 13)



**Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular. (Submitted photo)**



**Edaville's Not-So-Spooky family event. (Submitted photo)**



# Edaville Featured On Good Morning America

## *Sensory-Friendly Accommodations Are Incorporated At The Property*



Quiet-time train set at Edaville. (Submitted photo)

CARVER, Mass.—Edaville Family Theme Park was recently featured on ABC's Good Morning America for its sensory-friendly accommodations

The program's producers shadowed Desmond, a 7-year-old boy diagnosed with autism, and his family who were experiencing the park for the first time. The segment highlighted the many inclusive features Edaville has created over the recent years to welcome all families at the park.

"Edaville's management team understands that families who have children with autism or other types of special needs, struggle with everyday family outings. Edaville Family Theme Park strives to create a place where those families can enjoy their time and feel comfortable," the

park said in a statement.

Every feature addressing those concerns was strategically thought out in accordance with what these families may look for. They include:

- Upon arrival, visitors can choose out of a selection of fidget toys at Guest Services to have while waiting in lines.
- Edaville offers various sets of train tables throughout the park in relatively quiet areas.
- There is a sensory friendly bathroom in the Sodor Play Zone located in Thomas Land. This specialized bathroom offers a manual operation of flush, faucets

and paper towels for those who are sensitive to sound. In addition, there is an oversized changing table.

- Edaville's quiet room, located in a refurbished antique train car, features soft toys and weighted blankets for children that need a place to sit, decompress and get back to balance. The room has dim lighting, velvet walls, air-conditioning, and a sound proof infrastructure.



## Halloween

(Continued From Page 12)

The Haunted Graveyard is a 45-minute walk-through attraction filled with different haunted house scenes including, a slaughter house, dungeon, witches lair, and more.

**Tales From Haunted New England** — Storowton Village Museum at the Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass., presented its annual Halloween happening, Tales From Haunted New England, Oct. 27.

Jessica Fontaine, director of Storowton Village Museum, and museum staff members Sarah Platanitis and Jay Blaine, joined forces to present interactive storytelling in the candlelit Meetinghouse.

## NEAAPA Annual Meeting

**The New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) will hold its 2018 Annual Meeting on March 12-14 in Connecticut.**

**Details will be announced in upcoming electronic newsletters.**



# Six Flags Event Music To The Ears Of Local School



AGAWAM, Mass.— Six Flags New England hosted an event Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 to promote donations of musical instruments for the Community Music School of Springfield in nearby Springfield, Mass.

More than two dozen instruments were collected in exchange for free admission to the theme park that weekend.

Items sought during the Play If Forward event included saxophones, trombones, trumpet, flutes, guitars, violins and other new or used handheld instruments.

Community Music School of Springfield was founded in 1983. Its mission is to inspire people of all ages to begin or renew a lifelong journey into the joy of music and the arts, and to make this experience accessible and affordable to all people in the community.

“We are thrilled to partner with Six Flags New England for this initiative to provide instruments for children in Springfield who would not otherwise have a chance to play music. It’s a wonderful way for the community to help others, and at the same time Play it Forward”, said Community Music School Executive Director Eileen McCaffery.

Students from the school were onsite at Six Flags, where they performed a variety of musical selections for guests.



## Helping Hand From Park Employees

A number of Quassy Amusement & Waterpark employees (above) volunteered for the United Way of Greater Waterbury’s Day of Action by spending time reading and working on art projects with preschoolers. Mitch Myers (right), who works in the rides department at the Middlebury, Conn., park, spent some time reading to youngsters. (Quassy photos)

