



## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **Construction of New England's Largest Gingerbread Lighthouse is Underway at Newport Visitor Information Center to Celebrate "Christmas in Newport!"**

#### **STORY OPPORTUNITY:**

Discover Newport, in partnership with the Newport Marriott, is delighted to be a part of Christmas in Newport as the Newport Marriott's kitchen team completes construction on New England's largest working gingerbread lighthouse. The artfully decorated culinary creation is located in the lobby of the Newport Visitor Information Center and will be completed Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Christmas in Newport is a month-long celebration that embraces the non-commercial traditions of the holiday season. Marking its 46<sup>th</sup> year, white lights illuminate homes, shops, restaurants, city streets and the bustling wharves in a ritual representing candlelight from days gone by, when families would wait for their loved ones to return home from their seafaring adventures. Holiday events are tailored to entertain every age, including tree lightings, lantern-led walking tours, shopping strolls, concerts, visits with Santa, Victorian-era Christmas festivities, culinary fêtes, arts and cultural celebrations and more.

At the Visitor Center, the 16-foot, gluten-free lighthouse will welcome guests from near and far. The hotel team devotes 100 hours to baking, building and decorating the lighthouse. The sugar-and-spice creation includes 350 pounds of organic gingerbread to comprise the more than 1600 bricks, 2400 pieces of candy and giant lollipops for décor and 20 gallons of royal icing!

#### **PHOTO AND INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY:**

The lighthouse, with all its delectable trimmings, will be completed and ready for photos on Dec. 6.

Discover Newport's Marketing Communications Manager, Andrea McHugh, will be available for comment throughout the season about the gingerbread lighthouse and festivities taking place throughout Newport in December. If you wish to interview Andrea, please contact her directly (information below).

#### **DETAILS:**

The Newport Visitor Center is located at 23 America's Cup Avenue in Newport, Rhode Island. Complimentary parking is available in the garage at the Visitor Information Center, courtesy of the City of Newport. The completed lighthouse will be on view to the public daily until January 1 (excluding Christmas Day).

**HOURS:**

Sunday-Thursday from 9am-4pm, and Fridays and Saturdays from 9am-5pm. Santa Claus is scheduled to visit the gingerbread lighthouse on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 12pm-3pm. Throughout the season, visitors are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to fill our sleigh for local food pantries.

**CONTACTS:**

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