



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2015

Cardboard Boat Race Rescheduled to August 23 Following Peconic River Bunker Fish Kill

Riverhead, NY – Following the amassing of thousands of dead bunker fish on the shores of the Peconic River, the 6th Annual Great Riverhead Cardboard Boat Race has been rescheduled for August 23rd in order to benefit the safety and comfort of participants and spectators. The event had been scheduled for June 28.

Councilman George Gabrielsen, who serves as the town board liaison for the event, said the decision to postpone the popular event was made quickly by the town once the Suffolk County Department of Health issued a health advisory warning about swimming, bathing, boating, kayaking and canoeing in the Peconic River. "I am quite proud of how the boat race has grown over the last several years and the large crowds of spectators and participants that it draws," he said. "Therefore, the experience and overall enjoyment of entrants and the hundreds who come to downtown to cheer them on was first and foremost on our minds when we made the decision to move the event to late August."

Supervisor Sean Walter said, "The Peconic River, Long Island's largest river, has proven to be an excellent location for the Great Riverhead Cardboard Boat Race," which is offered to spectators and participants at no cost. Walter said, "The bunker fish kill could not have been planned for and we are doing our best along with the Town of Southampton to quickly remedy the situation. We are very confident that the situation will greatly improve well in advance of the August 23rd rescheduled race and hope to attract an even larger and more enthusiastic crowd than we welcomed in the last few years."

Riverhead BID President Ray Pickersgill said he agreed with the event being postponed. "This event is so popular and attracts a significant number of people to downtown and we look forward to welcoming everyone to the event in August."

The Riverhead Cardboard Boat Race features four races, including a Youth Regatta and the crowd favorite, Grand National Regatta, where anything goes. Awards are given for the top three in each division. Among other awards are: Prettiest Boat, Most Creative, Best Costumed Crew, Spirit, Best Themed and Best Captain awards.

For more information on the event, please call 727-3200 ext. 223 or visit <http://riverheadbid.com/cardboard-boat-show/>.

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