



Northeast News

2021 Summer Meeting Edition

NEAAPA Newsletter

Welcome NEAAPA Members To Summer Meeting At Six Flags

Welcome to Six Flags New England for NEAAPA's 108th Summer Meeting.

It has been 560 long days since we have met as a group on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, in Orlando, Florida. I would like to thank Pete Carmichael and his entire staff for hosting this year's event. I, like all of you, are very much looking forward to a "Great Day at the Park!"

NEAAPA - The Northeast's Entertainment Association, has been working diligently with state and local officials, legislators, lobbyist groups and members to move your businesses into the forefront of their respective states reopening initiatives. Given our propensity and expertise on safety, our collective industries appeared to be last on the list for consideration on that front, however that did not discourage us on our abilities to enact change.

Many members stepped up in persuading officials to take a hard look at what we do. When hope was starting to fade for the attractions industry, we shot back with our set of Reopening Guidelines, most of which we use in our everyday business practices. After reviewing, many comments came back to us saying, "we had no idea,!" these are great, etc. That, coupled with the lobbyist efforts in Massachusetts and New York and working with both state and local officials, assisted in turning the tide and we started to see change and relief on restrictions. In fact, some used our document in their official Reopening Guidance.

To that end, I would like to thank Erik Beard, Paul Cavanaugh, Ed Hodgdon and Joe Montalto for their collective work in orchestrating the results that we have today. I would like to also thank our most recent Past President, Eric Anderson, who started the process last year and was successful in getting attractions opened in CT in 2020! Phenomenal job by all!

I would also like to thank Charlene Conway on her tenacious work at (See WELCOME, Page 2)



NEAAPA Summer Meeting At Six Flags New England.

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2021 IAAPA Expo

Welcome

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maintaining fiscal responsibility. In a time that we all needed to tighten our belts, she was there for us. Furthermore, I would like to thank all our board members for the work they have done to assist NEAAPA members as well.

I don't know about you, but history is important, and it's not lost on me that we are currently standing in one of the properties responsible for the formation of a group that would later become NEAAPA. Here's an excerpt from our history by Ron Gustafson;

Nearly a century ago, amusement property concessionaires in Massachusetts were embroiled in controversy over licenses, especially those allowing them to conduct business on Sunday.

That probably came as no surprise as during the early part of the 20th century many states had blue laws in effect to preserve Sunday as a day of worship and rest, so the notion of working – even at a resort concession stand – was simply out of the question.

The concessionaires from Riverside Park, Agawam (Now Six Flags New England); White City, Worcester; and Revere and Nantasket Beaches organized in 1913 to confront the licensing issues in what was considered the birth of the one of the first regional organizations in the nation to represent the amusement industry.

As you can see, one of the other locations that fought for the right to operate on Sundays was Nantasket Beach, Mass. Having grown up in Nantasket and working at Paragon Park some may say that I'm old enough to remember those efforts. I can insure you that I am not, although I am very pleased to be part of NEAAPA today!

When you have a chance, give Ron's story on the History of NEAAPA, posted on our website, another read.

Although one of the most difficult years in our history, NEAAPA has had 25 new members sign up in the last year. A great testimonial on behalf of NEAAPA. Please join me in welcoming; Tree-Mendous Aerial Adventures, Sharp Pencil Creative Entertainment LLC, Apex Entertainment LLC, King Richard's Faire, Watch Hill Merry-Go-Round and Beach LLC, LEGOLAND Discovery Center Boston, Seashore Trolley Museum, Roller World, Central Amusement International Inc, Adventureland, Deno's Wonder Wheel Park, Extreme Engineering, Adventures Amusement Park, Laser Bounce-Family Fun Centers, SplashDown Beach Water Park, Carello's Carousel Arcade, Splish Splash Water Park, Get it Done Marketing, Hodgdon Consulting LLC, 3DX Scenic, Stewart Amusement Co. Inc, Global Scenic Services, LJM and Associates Inc and Interskate 91 South.

I look forward to working with you all in keeping NEAAPA the powerhouse it is when it comes to Advocacy and Education, Information and Networking.

Thank you all for coming today and I hope that our event schedule is back on track and that we will be seeing more of each other in the months and years to come!

Now let's enjoy our day at Six Flags New England, relax, Have FUN and be well!

Yours in NEAAPA.

Dave Oberlander, president

New NEAAPA Offers Installed

NEAAPA - The Northeast's Entertainment Association installed its new slate of officers during its 108th anniversary meeting – held virtually – in March.

Outgoing President Eric Anderson, Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., addressed the 57 participants with remarks regarding NEAAPA's stability and on-going work during the COVID crisis, which

brought much of the industry to a halt in 2020.

He also acknowledged the hard work done by the NEAAPA Board of Directors during his two-year tenure in not only addressing issues facing the association and its member businesses, but also for working with parks and attractions in neighboring New



Dave Oberlander

York State in efforts to get them reopened during the health crisis.

In handing the gavel over, Anderson then introduced NEAAPA's 57th President Dave Oberlander of Centerplate, Stamford, Conn.

Oberlander reflected on the difficult year throughout the parks and attractions industry and his beginnings in the business as a youngster blowing up balloons in his family's concession stand. Today he services as a consultant for the food and beverage corporation.

"I'd like to acknowledge the terrific work done by all our members during this past year and more. Incredible and certainly newsworthy," he said. "Our industry has been through the most difficult time in its history, and the prospects for 'a return to normal' operating plan this year are still tenuous at the very least."

He continued, saying: "NEAAPA itself, as your association, came through okay. Although we lost all income associated with our events, we like many had to tighten our belts to stay relevant for our association. All-in-all, given the continued support of our membership, we were able to stay afloat, and assist in several efforts to support earlier opening for

(See OFFICERS, Page 3)

"It's kind of Fun to do the Impossible." Walt Disney

Officers

(Continued From Page 2)

multiple sectors than if we had left it alone. Although we are turning the corner and may have a good start for second quarter of this year, we still have a lot of work to accomplish together for the industry. I look at NEAAPA and I'm amazed at how much of a powerhouse we have become. We are great at what we do, and necessary for being the gateway for continued collective support of our industry in the Northeast."

In closing, Oberlander noted, "We are a group of owners, operators, manufactures and suppliers, individuals, friends, and families dedicated to ensuring the continued success for all our groups, and our industry. This organization exists because of our members, and without the collaboration, dedication, and comradery between all member types we would not be who we are today. Collectively, we strengthen our goals and initiatives through, legislative and advocacy, education and information, networking, value and of course – having fun! The mission of NEAAPA is to support our members through the embodiment of the industry's core values, entertainment and fun for all levels."

The association also introduced an updated logo, which now includes New York State, and the tagline The Northeast's Entertainment Association.

Offers Installed

NEAAPA installed the remaining slate of officers during the meeting: First Vice President Chris Nicoli, Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.; Second Vice President Erik Beard, International Ride Training, LLC, Nashville, Tenn.; and Treasurer Charlene Conway, Carousel Family Fun Centers, Fairhaven, Mass.

The following were also approved to serve on the NEAAPA Board of Directors: Tom Brady, SGC's Stag Hollow Mining; Cindy Brewer-Lavoie, Southwick's Zoo; Cory Cormier, Funtown Splashtown USA; Steve Gioe, The SSA Group; Sandra Manougian, Fun World; Chris Bourgeois, Rhode Island Novelty; Joseph Montalto, High Mountain Enterprises; Matthew Naughton, Naughton Insurance; Ron Patalano, Roger Williams Park Zoo; Thomas Tesitore, National Ticket Company; Peter Carmichael, Six Flags New England; Paul Cavanaugh, Daly Cavanaugh LLP; Chris Chagros, Fiesta Shows / Dean & Flynn Enterprises; John Guertin, Guertin Graphics & Awards; and Melissa Plante, CLM Entertainment Group, LLC.

'Festival Of Illumination' Coming To Southwick's

MENDON, Mass.—

Southwick's Zoo here will present "Festival of Illumination—World of Lights" beginning in September.

The four-month-long premier Chinese Lantern Festival, presented in partnership with the award-winning Zigong Lantern Group, will be the largest of its kind to be hosted in New England.

From September to Jan. 3, 2022, Southwick's Zoo will be illuminated by breathtaking custom-built exhibits consisting of hundreds of Chinese lanterns meticulously handcrafted from silk, steel, and environmentally friendly LED lights.

The event will run 5:30 to 10 p.m. with advance ticket purchase required.

In addition to highlighting traditional Chinese culture, this spectacular nighttime display will shine a light on a variety of continents and their traditions. Visitors will travel the globe through the incredible artistry of handcrafted Chinese Lanterns and be immersed in the magical world of imagination and illumination.



The "Festival of Illumination" will take guests on a trip through the African Savannahs, the Amazon rainforest, the Great Barrier Reef, as well as many beautiful and fascinating regions in between.

Visitors will also enjoy live entertainment, a typical Asian Night Marketplace and specialty foods.

Beginning on Nov. 26 the Southwick's Zoo's traditional Winter Wonderland holiday lights as well as additional holiday themed Chinese lanterns will be added. Santa will be visiting at his enchanted village.

The Zigong Lantern Group is the largest Chinese lantern festival group in the world with more than 20 years of experience in creating these breathtaking events. Zigong has partnered with locations worldwide including the Dublin Zoo, RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, the Nashville Zoo, UK's Longleat House, and Magnolia Plantation, South Carolina. The group's artisans will hand craft the lantern displays on-site at Southwick's Zoo.

More information visit www.festivalofillumination.com.

Northeast News

The official newsletter of NEAAPA

Submissions may be e-mailed to:

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Text files and jpeg photos preferred for editing

FESTIVAL OF ILLUMINATION
World of Lights
2021

Hodgdon Honored With Golden Ticket Award

ARLINGTON, Texas — *Amusement Today* (AT), a leading trade publication of the amusement industry, honored the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) and its Secretary Ed Hodgdon with its 2020 Golden Ticket Industry Leader: Association Award. For more than two decades, the prestigious honors have been the most sought-after awards in the world of amusements and themed entertainment.



Through the global COVID-19 crisis, the amusement industry has demonstrated its strength through its innovation and resilience. Stepping away from its traditional core categories, the Golden Ticket Awards have seized the moment to acknowledge strong decisions through a series of Industry Leader Awards.

In a press release AT said, NEAAPA immediately leapt into action on the onset of the health crisis. By weekly networking meetings, members from across numerous states communicated, advised and collaborated to make the organization — and each facility — stronger and more informed. At the helm was NEAAPA Secretary Ed Hodgdon. His diligent efforts and organization skills led the association.



Ed Hodgdon

Honorable Mention: Leadership Award

NEAAPA member Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., received an honorable mention for the Leadership Award.

AT noted that Quassy was the first park to actively engage guests during the COVID-19 shutdown. It used coloring pages, constant press teases and information about a new attraction arriving to keep its audience involved even when guests were not permitted to walk through the gates early in 2020. The park's efforts kept pushing a positive and uplifting reminder to families throughout the shutdown via its social media channels and news releases.

“Global events may have caused a reimagining of the Golden Ticket Awards, but in these times, it is still a way to acknowledge the positives that are so desperately needed. *Amusement Today* is thrilled to recognize so many achievements,” said Tim Baldwin, Golden Ticket Awards communications coordinator.

Amusement Today was founded in 1997 and covers international amusement and waterpark news and trends. In its 24-history, it is a five-time winner of various awards from the International Association of Amusement parks and Attractions (IAAPA). AT, a NEAAPA member and long-time supporter, also sponsors the association's newsletter archive.

105th Edition Of The Big E Slated Sept. 17 — Oct. 3

**THE BIG
E
IS BACK**

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Eastern States Exposition (ESE) has announced that The Big E will return Sept. 17-Oct. 3.

ESE President Gene Cassidy and West Springfield Mayor Will Reichelt made the announcement June 15.

Cassidy said, “It’s a good day! We have long awaited the opportunity to make this announcement and have been working diligently on our program. Preparations are underway as we look forward to welcoming everyone back to our beloved Big E.”

Mayor Reichelt said, “The Big E is a West Springfield institution and we welcome all of New England to our town in September. We have appreciated ESE’s transparency and communication through this process as well as their assistance in providing a location for the West of the River Regional Vaccine Center. Personally I can’t wait to get back to The Big E!”

Cassidy added, “Our thanks go out to Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Mayor Reichelt and a special thank you to West Springfield’s Director of Public Health

Jeanne Galloway, who has been working closely with us as we all navigated the many phases of the Massachusetts re-opening process.”

June 15 also marked the end of the Massachusetts State of Emergency Order.

“Big is Back” is the theme of this year’s fair. Currently the fifth largest fair in North America, The Big E will debut some surprises this year including The Super Wheel, a 150 foot high Ferris wheel with 36 climate-controlled gondolas that seat up to six people. It will be located between the Better Living Center and the Gate 5 entrance.

Music fans will enjoy top-name concerts at The Big E Arena, sponsored by Truly Hard Seltzer. Guests will be able to visit the Avenue of States, Storowton Village Museum, shop, eat iconic fair foods, watch the new Big Parade, ride the rides and much more.

The ESE website and social media will have more announcements as information becomes available. Advance discount tickets to the 2021 Big E are on sale now online at www.TheBigE.com or at The Big E Box Office.

The Big E relies on thousands of employees and volunteers in a variety of positions to help present the fair each year. Visit TheBigE.com for job postings for the 2021 Big E.

16-Year-Olds Can Now Operate Rides In Connecticut

HARTFORD, Conn.— Gov. Ned Lamont signed Senate Bill 186: 'An Act Allowing Persons 16 Years Of Age Or Older To Operate Rides At Amusement Parks.' The new law went into effect July 1.

The bill was sponsored by Sen. Eric Berthel, who represents the district that Middlebury's Quassy Amusement and Waterpark is located in.

Berthel's children were employed at the park in 2020 and he started working on the legislation after a conversation with Quassy's George Frantzis II, a park owner. Up until now, Connecticut law mandated that ride operators needed to be at least 18 years old. Frantzis emphasized that 16-year-olds were capable of and could safely operate rides, which is allowed in numerous other states.

Berthel drafted the bill, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Kevin Witkos, Rep. Anthony D'Amelio, Rep. Cara Pavalock-D'Amato, Rep. David Rutigliano, and the House General Law Committee.

Upon hearing about this bill, NEAAPA and members in Connecticut, along with the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, immediately got to work providing testimony and information to the state's Joint Committee on General Law, which heard the bill in February.

NEAAPA members Quassy Amusement and Waterpark, Lake Compounce Theme Park, Sonny's Place, Ocean Beach Park, and International Ride Training all worked to get the measure passed.



New Ride For PGAM

Powers Great American Midways (PGAM), of Whiteville, N.C., took delivery of this new Sky Hawk ride earlier this year. The NEAAPA member plays locations as far north as Connecticut and New York. (Submitted photo)

Cassidy Is Elected As Chair Of IAFE

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Eugene J. Cassidy, president and CEO of Eastern States Exposition, was elected Chairman of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) during the organization's annual business meeting, conducted virtually in December.

Cassidy said, "I am excited to be leading our trade association during this crucial, unprecedented time. We have recently embarked on the first year of a new decade, and with it, we will have new approaches to our business. We will find creative new ways to conduct our business and we will struggle through the end-days of this pandemic, carrying on with our missions intact, and the public gratified for how we support the most wholesome way of life on Earth."

He added, "We are all engaged in making our industry, the events we produce, the propagation of agriculture and our missions better."

Cassidy will serve in this international leadership role for 2021, spearheading the direction of the international group of fairs forward – from our corner of the world in West Springfield, Mass., to places such as The Calgary Stampede in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, to the Sydney Royal Easter Show in Australia, fairs in Alaska, Hawaii and England, and the hundreds of fairs all across North America.



Eugene Cassidy

Cantelmo Named Director Of Development At Roger Williams Park Zoo

PROVIDENCE, R.I.— Roger Williams Park Zoo has named Gina Cantelmo as director of development.

This important role will develop, lead, and implement fundraising campaigns and community initiatives to raise vital funds to support the zoo's mission to save wildlife and wild places.



Gina Cantelmo

“Her tremendous breadth of knowledge will be an invaluable asset in helping to move the zoo forward with our vision for the future.”

“It is an honor and a privilege to serve the Roger Williams Park Zoo and Rhode Island Zoological Society as Director of Development,” Cantelmo said “I am amazed by the talented and dedicated staff whose efforts create memorable experiences and showcase the tremendous scope and profound impact of the work we do here, everyday – both within and outside our park.

“The Roger Williams Park Zoo remains a vital resource to the Rhode Island and greater regional communities,” she added, “and I look forward to building on the incredible work being done to ensure the zoo's preservation for generations to come.”

Cantelmo comes to the zoo with more than 15 years' experience serving nonprofits in the greater New York region. Prior to joining the Roger Williams Park Zoo, she served in various frontline and philanthropic roles in healthcare, secondary and higher education, animal welfare, and humanitarian organizations.

Roger Williams Park Zoo is Rhode Island's number one outdoor family and tourist attraction.

“The zoo is so excited to welcome Gina to our family. I'm sure New Englanders will be very excited to meet her,” said Executive Director Jeremy Goodman,



New Ride At Six Flags

Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass., has a new thrill ride for 2021: Supergirl Sky Flyer. The attraction was built by NEAAPA member supplier Zamperla. (submitted photo)



Blessing Of The Rides

The annual Blessing of the Rides was held in April at Deno's Wonder Wheel, Coney Island, Brooklyn, N.Y. Taking part in the ceremony (from the left) were: Deno's owner Dennis Vourderis, State Sen. Diane Savino, Steve Vourderis and Alessandro Zamperla. (submitted photo)

E-mail your association news and photos to secretary@neaapa.com and ron@quassy.com



Manufacturers & Suppliers News

Hodgdon Starts Consulting Firm

SCARBOROUGH, Maine—Ed Hodgdon has opened a new business Hodgdon Consulting, focusing on marketing, advertising, and public relations for businesses in any industry.



Ed Hodgdon

different roles in company, most recently as the marketing and IT manager.

This won't mean that Ed is out of the attractions industry, as he will continue to work for NEAAPA, with an increased focus on state-level advocacy.

For more information visit edhodgdon.com.

"I had a great experience working at Funtown Splashtown USA over the last 20 years, but it was time to branch out on my own," said Hodgdon. "I want to take the knowledge I acquired from working at the park to other businesses."

Ed started working at Funtown Splashtown USA in 1998 in the Points of Sale Department. In 2001, he moved to year-around employment with the park, working in group sales and marketing. Over the last 20 years, he has taken on



Doug Smith



Francean Gonzales



David Bogdonov

WhiteWater West Promotions

RICHMOND, British Columbia, Canada—WhiteWater West Industries, maker of waterslides and interactive attractions, here has announced the following promotions:

Paul Chutter is succeeding his father, Geoff, as company president, while Geoff will remain as CEO.

Doug Smith, who has overseen incredible growth within WhiteWater's Asia Pacific region as the regional vice president for the last six years, now steps into the role of global head of sales. In his role Doug will support the increasingly significant regional offices as they further deepen their capabilities and expand their reach.

He will be immersing himself back into the Americas alongside his global responsibilities allowing for Francean Gonzales to take on a new role as chief experience officer.

The Asia Pacific leadership role that Doug vacates is passed on to David Bogdonov, who knows the region better than most, having spent eight years as vice president of business development for China.

Gateway Releases Software

GILBERSTVILLE, Pa. Gateway Ticketing Systems, the world leader in ticketing and guest experience solutions for the attractions industry, has released the latest version of its flagship Galaxy suite of software – continuing their commitment to leading the attractions industry by providing a world class feature set and supporting their customers through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When we were developing Galaxy 7.8, we kept a tight focus on two goals: to innovate and push the boundaries of what is possible for a ticketing and guest experience solution, and to deliver features we know attractions need now and in a post-COVID world," says Michael Andre, president and CEO of Gateway Ticketing Systems.

"Venues will find many value-added features and enhancements that provide for more guest convenience and safety, an improved sales interface, increased ease of use, and increased data and fraud security."

For more information visit www.gatewayticketing.com.

Personnel Changes At Zamperla

ALTAVILLA VICENTINA, Italy - Amusement ride manufacturer Zamperla has announced the following personnel changes:

Antonio Zamperla, Jr., grandson of founder Antonio Zamperla senior and son of President Alberto Zamperla, has been named CEO.

In addition, Valerio Ferrari is the new chief sales officer, and Adam Sandy has been named sales and marketing director of the strategic roller coaster division.

Antonio Zamperla has been working side-by-side with his father for the last 20 years, a time marked by considerable economic growth and the introduction of artificial intelligence and robotics in the design and manufacturing processes of attractions.

Ferrari returns to Zamperla from the position of CO-CEO for the Swiss competitor Intamin, which creates attractions for amusement parks and equipment for urban transport.

He previously contributed to the growth of the Zamperla company from 1991 to 2018 and scored important successes including the realization of the first Zamperla amusement park in New York's Central Park and the reopening of Coney Island in Brooklyn, N.Y.

(Continued On Page 8)



Valerio Ferrari



Adam Sandy

Manufacturers & Suppliers News

(Continued From Page 7)

Sandy spent 20 years with Ride Entertainment of Stevensville, Md., and today he is considered one of the most qualified voices in the roller coaster market.

Dunn Goes Into Hall Of Fame

COHOES, N.Y.— Jim Dunn, president of Aquatic Development Group (ADG) here, has been inducted into the World Waterpark Association's Hall Of Fame.



Jim Dunn

Dunn joined ADG in 1988, beginning his career in the design department. He started working in the industry focused on designing wave generation equipment and filtration systems and quickly moved into park engineering and waterpark design.

A registered architect with than 30 years of experience specializing in aquatics, his portfolio today includes many of the most prestigious indoor and outdoor waterparks and resorts in the country.

S&S Announces New Projects

LOGAN, Utah — S&S – Sansei Technologies has announced that it is scheduled to open seven new ride projects this year.

They are:

* 4D Free Spin coaster at Ocean Flower Island in Danzhou, China — the first 4D Free Spin coaster in all of China.



S&S WORLDWIDE
Engineering Excitement

* 4D Free Spin coaster at Motiongate in Dubai, UAE – the first ride of its kind in the UAE and themed to the epic action series, John Wick.

* Air Launch coaster at Changsha Window of the World, located in Changsha, Hunan, China.

* 4D Free Spin coaster at Adventureland Park in Altoona, Iowa.

* Combo Tower at Ocean Flower Island in Danzhou, China.

* Combo Tower at Hainan Ocean Paradise in Lingshui, China.

* Space Shot Tower at Chongqing Sunac Land in Chongqing, China

Seasonal Products From RWS

NEW YORK,— RWS Entertainment Group (RWS), a New York-based full-service production company that

creates award-winning entertainment, live events and branded entertainment, has launched a Seasonal Product Catalogue to further its offer-



RWS
Entertainment
Group

ings to clients across the world.

The company, which launched its European headquarters in London last spring, will now offer products that will serve a wide range of industries including municipalities, retail centers, hotels, resorts, casinos, theme parks, cruise ships, zoos, aquariums, museums and botanical gardens.

The seasonal product catalogue features more than 100 light sculptures, 50 crystallized mirror sculptures and thousands of foliage options for all seasons and more. The company also notes that all products are made-to-order, therefore any sizes and colors can be created.

To view the catalogue visit experiencerws.com/catalogue2021

Additions At Ride Entertainment

STEVENSVILLE, Md. – Ride Entertainment, the Gold Standard in the attractions industry for safety, sales and support, has announced two key additions to their award-



Kris Rowberry

winning team: Communications Manager Kris Rowberry and Marketing Manager Ed Hodgdon.

“Passion for what we do is a major part of our success,” said Ed Hiller, CEO of Ride Entertainment. “We cannot wait for our partners around the world to experience the incredible talents these two bring to our business each and every day.”

“It is an honor and privilege to work for a company as innovative and influential as Ride Entertainment,” said Rowberry.

“Working in this role is an absolute dream come true.”

“I am thrilled to be working with the entire Ride Entertainment team,” said Hodgdon. “I cannot wait to be able to bring Ride’s ‘Gold Standard’ to all our clients around the world.”

Rowberry comes to the Ride Entertainment team with more than 10 years of attractions industry experience and is an International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Brass Ring Award winner for social media. He volunteers his time for both American Coaster Enthusiasts and the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives.

Hodgdon brings more than 20 years of marketing experience to Ride Entertainment. He is the current Secretary of NEAAPA and sits on the board of directors for the Maine Beaches Association.

For more information visit RideEntertainment.com.

**NEAAPA Welcomes News From
Member Manufacturers, Suppliers**

**E-mail your news of interest (text files) and
jpeg photos to secretary@neaapa.com
ron@quassy.com**

Member Parks Pitch In To Help Communities



Six Flags Donates Food To Mission

AGAWAM, Mass. — Six Flags New England donated more than \$20,000 in food earlier this year to the Springfield Rescue Mission in Springfield, Mass.

Six Flags supported its local community during these unprecedented times and will continue to do so through its Six Flags Friends initiative. New England's largest theme park has been partnering with the Springfield Rescue Mission for more than a decade.

Included in the donation was thousands of pounds of french fries, chicken patties, chicken fingers and prime rib.

"Thank you Six Flags New England for your partnership with the Springfield Rescue Mission. Your food donation will help out our homeless and neighbors in need. How thankful we are for your part in serving the men, women and children of the Greater Springfield area – we are your hands extended to those that are hurting." Said Kevin Ramsdell, executive director, CEO of the mission.

At the left is food being delivered to the mission. (submitted photo)

Community Responds At Quassy

MIDDLEBURY, Conn.— Quassy Amusement & Waterpark kicked off its 2021 season with two consecutive weekends for "Neighbors In Need."

Thousands of pounds of food, dog food and toys, and personal care items were donated by guests to benefit local not-for-profits. In return, the park offered those making a donation all-day ride wristbands for \$10.

Quassy officials said the response from the community was overwhelming as collection bins filled within minutes after opening. Some of the donated items are shown at the right in a park warehouse.

The season's kickoff was part of the Quassy Cares initiative sponsored by the family-owned park.

See Page 10 for another food drive event coming to Quassy later this summer. (submitted photo)





Drive-In Laser Light Show

Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., will present “Totally Rock’n Drive-In Laser Light Show” in the property’s parking lot two consecutive weekends after Labor Day. The September production will incorporate nine laser units to project graphics on a huge screen and engulf the audience in countless aerial beams of light. The 30-minute show will be choreographed to popular family-friendly music with admission by pre-sale ticket only. In addition, guests may donate nonperishable food items when attending as part of the Quassy Cares community outreach initiative. (submitted photo)



Machine Gun Kelly At The Big E

WEST SPRINGFIELD Mass. – Machine Gun Kelly’s “Tickets To My Downfall Tour” is coming to The Big E Arena at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17.

Tickets, which include general admission to The Big E, are available at MachineGunKelly.com, TheBigE.com or The Big E Box Office.

The recording artist, award-winning global performer and most recognized rock star of his generation, will be hitting live concert venues this fall for the first time since the release of his No. 1 album “Tickets to My Downfall.” Fans can expect rocking performances of Platinum hits “bloody valentine,” “my ex’s best friend” and more.

Praise for the artist’s fifth studio album “Tickets to My Downfall” came from both fans and music critics, with Billboard lauding its “dazzlingly effective songs,” Vulture calling it “punk rock excellence,” and NME praising it as “brilliant.” (submitted photo)