



## STAR ISLAND CORPORATION

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**July 18, 2007**

### **Star Island to reopen extraordinary Oceanic Hotel and grounds to guests, visitors Work to enhance life safety will continue**

**ISLES OF SHOALS, NH** — Star Island Corporation will reopen its historic and tranquil destination to planned guests and visitors. Fire officials gave Star Island the go-ahead to open its doors to conferees and other guests during its latest safety inspection on Tuesday.

“We are so pleased to announce today we will reopen the doors of our historic buildings and grounds once again to planned guests and visitors,” said Amy L. Lockwood, executive director of Star Island Corporation (SIC). “We are so thankful for the support of the safety officials who guided our people through this process, to the licensed professionals who completed the safety upgrades expeditiously, and to our people and the generous community for its uncompromising support as we worked diligently to make the essential life safety upgrades.”

Star Island has worked closely with the Rye Fire Department and New Hampshire fire officials to outline a thorough process to enhance the level of safety at Star Island since it announced a delayed opening in June.

Star Island will reopen its doors to planned guests Sunday, July 22, 2007.

“Our focus now turns to our customer service operations so we may ensure our facilities are ready for the arrival of our conferees and other visitors,” Lockwood said. “We are now contacting conference leaders directly to inform them of the opening as we coordinate the new transportation schedules and other details. We ask for the continued patience of our conferees as we make these arrangements.”

During the next several days, Star Island will be contacting its vendors, ordering food, and making the beds in anticipation of its guests. “We apologize again to our conferees and business partners for this disruption and we look forward to serving everyone again in the days and months ahead,” Lockwood said.

Star Island will begin taking reservations from planned guests on Wednesday, July 18, 2007 at 5 p.m. Reservations may be made by contacting the front desk of Star Island’s Oceanic Hotel by calling (603) 601-0832.

Star Island Corporation experienced a delayed conference opening due to crucial life safety upgrades. This temporary closure has affected conference groups from throughout the Northeast region. Work at Star Island to enhance life safety has been ongoing since June under the direction of safety engineers who are on island regularly to execute a plan outlined by fire officials and Star Island jointly. Meanwhile, its seasonal Pelican staff took the opportunity to develop a community of active learning in the spirit of the original Gosport, a fishing village founded in the 1600’s, as well as work on maintenance projects. The outpouring of support from community members also continues.

The SIC Board of Directors established a committee to review the elements which lead to the delayed opening. It is expected the committee’s progress report will be given to the board at its August meeting,



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Lockwood said. “The safety of our employees, conferees and visitors has been and will remain paramount,” Lockwood said. “We will continue to work closely with state and local fire officials to ensure life safety improvements continue at Star Island and history is preserved under a joint plan.”

The nonprofit Star Island Corporation has owned and operated Star Island for religious, educational, and kindred purposes since 1916, providing affordable individual and family retreat. While Star Island is founded on the liberal spiritual ideals of Unitarian-Universalism and the United Church of Christ, people of many denominations and faiths (including none) attend conferences regularly. Each of the Star Island conferences is self-administered by a dedicated group of volunteers and the island is staffed in the summer season by over one hundred young people, affectionately known as Pelicans.

Anyone interested in supporting Star Island’s fundraising efforts may log onto its website [starisland.org](http://starisland.org). Contact the development team about fundraising efforts by calling Karen Muldoon directly via email at [kmuldoon@starisland.org](mailto:kmuldoon@starisland.org) or by calling the Star Island office at 603-430-6272.

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