



For Immediate Release

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Investors Bank and Its Foundation Supported Staten Island Zoo's Annual Groundhog Day

Zoo Unveiled "Chuck's Burrow," Innovative Display That Lets Fans Watch as the Groundhog Made His Long-Range Weather Forecast

Staten Island, N.Y. (February 3, 2015) – Recent snowstorms, frigid temperatures, blustery winds, and freezing winter days may end sooner than expected, following “Charles G. Hogg’s” prediction of an early arrival of spring this year.

The Staten Island Zoo hosted its annual Groundhog Day event of February 2, and N.Y.C. Mayor Bill de Blasio, S.I. Deputy Borough President Edward Burke, and Investors Bank CEO Kevin Cummings were on hand to greet hundreds of people who attended on a rainy winter morning. This year, New York City’s favorite groundhog, which is better known as Staten Island Chuck, made his prognostication in the safe confines of an innovative viewing unit called “Chuck’s Burrow.”

The Staten Island Zoo as well as [Investors Bank](#) and the Foundation, which sponsored the event, provided guests with hot chocolate, knit caps, and giveaways at the 2015 Groundhog Day celebration. Students from Staten Island’s PS 29 school arrived at 6:30 a.m. with posters and signs that praised S.I. Chuck and his forecasting skills. Half an hour later, the official ceremony began as Mayor de Blasio, N.Y.C. Public Advocate Letitia James, the Staten Island Zoo’s Executive Director Kenneth Mitchell, CEO K. Cummings and everyone else watched as the groundhog keeper began to coax Chuck out of hibernation.

Staten Island has added a high-tech innovation to its Groundhog Day event. Chuck’s new display area is equipped with a special “elevator” that whisked Chuck in to his burrow with the touch of a button. Safely behind plexiglass plastic walls, Chuck acknowledged his fans and the VIPs and then made his much anticipated prediction.

According to long-established tradition, if the groundhog emerges from his burrow and sees his shadow, he will return to hibernation and winter will continue for six weeks. But, if Chuck looks around and does not spy his shadow, he will emerge to find a mate . . . signaling an early arrival of spring.

Staten Island Chuck has been predicting the coming of spring in the greater New York City region since 1981. During his 34 years of forecasting, Chuck has racked up a better-than-80-percent accuracy rate.

The Staten Island Zoo and Chuck have started the second year of their alliance with Investors Bank and the Foundation, which is the charitable arm of the Bank. By supporting such non-profit organizations as the S.I. Zoo, the Foundation helps enrich the quality of life in communities the Bank serves. The Foundation’s two-year, \$40,000 grant will also help maintain the Zoo’s Groundhog Habitat, where Chuck usually greets his adoring

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public. The habitat is equipped with a solar-powered, technologically advanced weather station. Also, the Bank assists with a year-long outreach program to the PS 29 School, which includes classroom visits by S.I. Chuck and a series of educational programs about meteorology, climate, and the environment.

In discussing the alliance with Investors Bank and its Foundation, Mr. Mitchell, who is the director of the Staten Island Zoological Society, said, “We formed a valued relationship with the Bank and its growing group of highly supportive employees, who work and live on the Island. Thanks to the friendship of such corporate colleagues as the Bank and its Foundation, we can continue to present educational and fun exhibits as well as programs like our Groundhog Day celebration to children, families, and our neighbors.”

During the last year, Investors has expanded its presence on Staten Island by opening new branches in Tottenville and Grasmere. These facilities join the Bank’s first consumer and small business banking center on the Island that is near the S.I. Zoo in the West Brighton neighborhood. Together, they provide a full range of banking services.

When describing the many community service projects and programs supported by the Bank, Investors’ Mr. Cummings said, “Our employees enjoy rolling up their sleeves, taking on projects, and serving Staten Islanders at community functions, fundraisers, or celebrations. That is one of the reasons we get up before dawn, go to the Zoo, and hand out warm cups of hot chocolate before Chuck appears.”

Known as New York City’s “Biggest and Best Little Zoo,” the Staten Island Zoo attracts more than 188,000 visitors annually to its outstanding exhibits, educational programs, and attractions.

About Investors Bank

Headquartered in Short Hills, N.J., Investors Bank, with over \$18.7 billion in assets is the largest regional bank based in the State. The Bank was founded in 1926 and has a network of over 130 retail branches located in New York City, New Jersey, and Long Island, Investors delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors’ consumer banking services include deposit products, online and mobile banking, home equity loans and lines of credit and a full array of mortgage loans.

Serving the business community, Investors provides deposit accounts, cash management services, business loans, and commercial financing solutions to small and middle market companies. Business lending includes mortgages for CRE and multifamily properties, Asset-Based Lending, loans to healthcare facilities, commercial and industrial financing, cash value whole life financing, and other borrowing options.

Investors is a member of the FDIC and an Equal Housing Lender. Investors Bank’s website is www.myinvestorsbank.com, and the Bank can be followed on Facebook and Twitter.

About Investors Foundation

Established in 2005, the Investors Foundation enriches the lives of people by supporting initiatives in the arts, education, youth development, affordable housing, and health and human services. To date, the Foundation has pledged more than \$12.5 million in support of communities the Bank serves.

About the Staten Island Zoological Society

The Staten Island Zoological Society was founded in 1933 to create and administer the Staten Island Zoo, which opened in 1936 at the eight-acre Barrett Park in the West Brighton community. Today, its collection exceeds

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1,400 animals, representing more than 350 species. Its most recent addition is the dynamic Amur Leopard Habitat, a 4,500-square-foot outdoor exhibit displaying the world's rarest, big cats. The Staten Island Zoo, recently ranked New York City's Best Small Zoo, is located at 614 Broadway.