

Turkey Pt. Light will shine again

This winter, the sky will once again be shining brightly above historic Turkey Point Lighthouse.

After being decommissioned in April 2000, the U.S. Coast Guard and Turkey Point Light Station, Inc. have struck a deal that will restore the light that has been guiding passing ships since 1832.

Two years ago, advances in navigation aids rendered the lighthouse obsolete. The lighthouse became the property of the Coast Guard and has remained dark ever since. Only the lighthouse tower and oil-house structure remain.

Even though it was dark, the lighthouse was not forgotten. Turkey Point Light Station (TPLS) is a non-profit organization of individuals dedicated to restoring Turkey Point Lighthouse and the keeper's house which was torn down in 1971. Now, thanks to the efforts of TPLS founder and president Dean Rice, the lighthouse is scheduled to be re-lighted Saturday, Nov. 30 at 5 p.m.

A significant factor in re-lighting the lighthouse is the rich history that accompanies it, Rice said. An active lighthouse since 1833, Turkey Point was used by the U.S. Lighthouse Service to guide ships sailing through the nearby Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. In addition to directing ships through fog and other harsh weather, the lighthouse was also used to inform the public of upcoming weather, Rice said.

Turkey Point Lighthouse is located at the southern end of Route 272. Plans are currently underway to reconstruct the interior steps, and all are welcome to attend the re-lighting.

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