



**Pedro E. Segarra**  
Mayor

## **HARTFORD FESTIVAL OF LIGHT® LIGHTS, SKATING, SANTA!**

### **---NEWS AND COMMUNITY UPDATED REMINDER/ADVISORY---**

The Hartford Festival of Light® expands with the addition of an ice rink at Bushnell Park. It opens on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. after a brief ribbon cutting ceremony.

**Here's the rundown for Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> for "Lights, Skating Santa" Winter Festivities:**

**4:00 p.m.:** Mayor Pedro E. Segarra will host the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 45'x 90' ice rink that holds up to 75 skaters at a time. The Hartford Public High School Show Choir will perform and there will be special appearances from Santa and Pucky the Whale.

**Immediately afterwards:** Skating opens to the public until 6:00 p.m. (Colorful wristbands will be used as needed on demand to accommodate the crowd. Skating rotation time will come in about 45-minute cycles. Thanks to generous sponsorship, ice time and skate rentals are free to the public through January 6<sup>th</sup>.)

**6:00-7:00 p.m.:** International skaters will perform

**7:00- 9:00 p.m.:** Public skating resumes

As part of the expansion programming, on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, special additional artistic theatrical lighting projections by Herring Media Group can be seen. Please note that the rink and the park will continue to be lit until January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Beginning December 11<sup>th</sup> and continuing until January 6<sup>th</sup>, public skating hours begin at 11:00 a.m. every day. Here is the detailed schedule (In order to keep the ice resurfaced, there will be ice maintenance time throughout the day as needed. Closure would be up to 15 minutes):

- **Monday –Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Friday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (PLEASE NOTE REVISION) with Champions Amateur Skating show 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. with Champions Amateur Skating show 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday: 11:00 a.m. -. 8:00 p.m.**

**School Vacation week:**

- **Monday – Thursday December 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Friday December 31<sup>st</sup> (First Night): 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. with Champions Amateur Skating show 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

(More)

**Holiday skating hours:**

- **Christmas Eve (December 24<sup>th</sup>) and Christmas Day (December 25<sup>th</sup>) 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
- **New Years Eve – First Night (December 31<sup>st</sup>) until 1:00 a.m.**
- **New Years Day (January 1<sup>st</sup>) 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Just to be clear:**

**Lights:** Marc Herring’s artistic lighting show will be held December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. This is showcase lighting on the ice rink with light projections on the buildings and trees surrounding the park and a lighted Christmas tree in the center of the park. Included in the show will be a projection of historic Hartford scenes on the outside of the Pump House Gallery. After December 11<sup>th</sup>, the rink and park will still continue to be lit (minus the additional projections).

**Skating:** Every Friday and Saturday between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. there will be skating shows. Other skating times are open for the public.

**Santa:** Children may visit Santa in the Pump House on December 10<sup>th</sup> following the opening ceremony until 7:00 p.m. and on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Santa will return with Mrs. Claus on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Carousel.

**Family Fun:** The Bushnell Park Carousel will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, face painting, balloons and more!

**Give the Gift of Holiday Cheer:** If you are able, please donate a new, unwrapped toy to the Marines’ Toys for Tots drive for a needy child. Collection boxes are available at the rink, the Carousel, and the Pump House.

**Find Warmth and Fellowship:** You are cordially invited to take a break from the cold to enjoy free cocoa and cookies provided by Center Church. These will be served in the ground level dining room of the Center Church House, 60 Gold Street, on Fridays December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**First Night:** Bushnell Park will also be a hub of activity on First Night (December 31<sup>st</sup>) for extended skating hours, and free public skating will continue to be available during the holiday weekends (see above schedule).

This year’s Hartford Festival of Light® “Lights, Skating, Santa” is a city-wide collaborative event, presented by the City of Hartford, the Greater Hartford Arts Council, The Bushnell, The Connecticut Whale, and Champions Skating Center. Thanks to funding from many of the region’s corporations and foundations, the Hartford Festival of Light® will offer a full season of enjoyment for everyone, not just one night. **Best of all, it’s free.**

For more information, please go to [www.letsgoarts.org](http://www.letsgoarts.org). For more information on the Mayor’s role, please contact Sarah Barr, Director of Communications, (860) 550-3174 (cell).