



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

BUSHNELL PARK SKATING RINK IS POPULAR ATTRACTION

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(December 15, 2010) --- Nights and weekends are proving to be very popular at the Bushnell Park Ice Skating Rink. Residents, employees and visitors of Hartford are all encouraged to enjoy the 'off peak' hours as well--- weekdays from 11-4 p.m.

"We're seeing a fantastic turnout. People from Hartford and the surrounding region are enjoying this facility. Some youngsters are putting on skates for the first time. A couple even got engaged on the ice this weekend! There's plenty of fun and excitement and this is a great way to enjoy our friends, family and our great city," said Mayor Pedro E. Segarra.

"This is an opportunity to see the beauty of Bushnell Park and how it adds to the vibrancy of the City. It connects the Arts and business communities and showcases how Hartford is a great place to live, work, play and skate!" said Kate Bolduc, CEO of the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

"People are really excited about the opportunity to skate and the ice shows are attracting great audiences. There's something for everyone and people are making a day of it and enjoying Hartford," said Bob Crawford of Champions Skating Center who built the rink.

Thanks to generous contributions, ice time and skate rentals are free through January 6th. The 45' x 90' ice rink holds up to 75 skaters at a time. Colorful wristbands will be used as needed to accommodate the crowd. Skating rotation time is about 45-minute cycles. Here's the skating schedule: (Ice maintenance time throughout the day as needed):

- Sunday –Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Friday - Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. with Champions Amateur Skating show 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

School Vacation week:

- Monday – Thursday December 27th – 30th: 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Friday December 31st (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.

Holiday skating hours:

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

Santa returns to Hartford on Friday, December 17th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Bushnell Carousel which is open Friday and Saturday from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, face painting, balloons and more! If you are able, please donate a new, unwrapped toy to the Marines' Toys for Tots drive for a needy child. Collection boxes are at the rink, the Carousel, and the Pump House.

During your visit, you are also invited to enjoy free cocoa and cookies provided by Center Church on Gold Street on Friday, December 17th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

This year's winter festivities are presented by the City of Hartford, the Greater Hartford Arts Council, The Bushnell, The Connecticut Whale, Champions Skating Center and the generous funding from many of the region's corporations and foundations.