



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

CAPITAL CITY GLIDES INTO NEW YEAR WITH ICE SKATING FIRST NIGHT IS A HARTFORD 375 EVENT

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE FOR DECEMBER 31ST---

First Night Hartford 2010 is extra special this year as the Capital City continues to celebrate its 375th Anniversary. What a terrific showcase of our arts, heritage, sports, and entertainment venues! There are more than 20 places to go and 40 performances to see for kids of all ages! For a complete listing, go to www.firstnighthartford.org or to www.hartford.gov. Another feature this year is the restaurant/business trolley, collaboration between Wethersfield and Hartford

Mayor Pedro Segarra will make his Hartford Stage Company debut at the 2:00 p.m. performance of "A Christmas Carol." His schedule after that includes stops at Bushnell Park to meet and greet families prior to the 6pm Fireworks.

Here's a sampling of the events sponsored by the City of Hartford or happening at City Hall, 550 Main Street:



Ice Skating Rink in Bushnell Park

Bushnell Park - East Side: 11:00 am - 1:00 am!

Sponsored by: City of Hartford, Greater Hartford Arts Council

Bushnell Park will be a hub of activity on New Year's Eve including the ice rink that will be open for extended skating hours for First Night. Ice time and skate rentals are free to the public. There will be a special skating performance after the 6PM family fireworks. The 45' x 90' rink holds up to 75 skaters at a time.



Kid's Fest

Old State House: 2:00 - 5:30

Presenting Sponsor: City of Hartford, Arts Sponsor: Greater Hartford Arts Council, Sponsor: The Travelers Companies, Inc

Crafts in the Courtroom : Make New Year's Noisemakers, Cornucopias & New Year Doves

A Special First Night Scavenger Hunt. Any child who completes the Hunt gets a free prize!

An opportunity to tour the historic rooms. Costumed interpreters will be stationed in the rooms. Visitors may enjoy two self-guided exhibits; History is All Around Us and Want Change? The story of 12 Connecticut citizens who made a difference.

3 & 5 PM History Bingo in the House of Reps Chamber

4 PM Meet Rev Joseph Steward and discover his Hartford Museum of Curiosities! In 1797, the Rev. Steward opened a cabinet of curiosities, filled with natural and cultural items, on the third floor of the Old State House. View his amazing collection and discover how museums have changed since Steward's time.

Face Painting and Balloon Sculpting, 4:30 – 5:30 PM Jonathan, Husky mascot



One City, One Plan, One Earth

Hartford Public Library: 2:00 - 4:30 Build musical instruments from recycled materials, 2:30 - "Recycling is Magic" - Bryan Lizotte, Magical Moments, 4:30 - Musical Performance - Bash the Trash at completion of performance - Musical march to City Hall to assemble for procession to fireworks, 5:00 - Library closes

Sponsored by: The City of Hartford, Sponsor: One City, One Plan, One Earth

The City of Hartford has adopted a plan of conservation and development to guide its efforts to build a healthy and prosperous future. Come see the magic of recycling or how to turn trash into music. Fun activities for kids of all ages combined with educational displays. Make a New Year's resolution to save energy, green your household, clean up your neighborhood or to help implement any of the items on the One City, One Plan action agenda.

Help make a cleaner and healthier Hartford.



Cora Marshall Art Exhibit - "TO BE SOLD"

Pump House Gallery: 3:00 - 10:00

Sponsor: Hartford Office of Cultural Affairs

The 'To Be Sold' series is based on advertisements from the 1700s and early 1800s. While the Runaway ads describe enslaved people of African descents in sometimes minute details, the To Be Sold advertisements were brief ads tucked in between larger ads. No names. No visual description. Just: "To be Sold".



Damon Scott and the 96.5 FM WTIC Street Team

Trinity Street in Bushnell Park: 4:30 - 6:30, 10:00 - midnight

Sponsor: City of Hartford

Music, fun, and prize giveaways!



Grand Procession – Public Invited

Starts at Hartford City Hall and proceeds to Bushnell Park: 5:20 - 5:50

Venue Sponsor: City of Hartford, Arts Sponsor: Greater Hartford Arts Council

Drum Ride with Bob Bloom leads the procession with a simple, steady beat that entices everyone to join in and to make some noise on an inviting array of hand percussion instruments that are manageable when wearing gloves and mittens. Bring your holiday hats and masks too! Everyone that participates will be given percussion instruments to play and then keep them.



Fireworks

Bushnell Park (Trinity Street): 6:00 and Midnight

Presenting Sponsor: City of Hartford

View 2 fire displays in Bushnell Park near Trinity Street courtesy of the City of Hartford. Bring everyone for the 6 PM display and then the big countdown at Midnight.



Sea Tea Improv

Hartford City Hall Atrium: 6:45 - 7:15, 7:30 - 8:00

This group of 7 talented young performers is trained by respected theater programs. The act consists of Who's Line...? games and scenes based on audience participation.



Laser Effects CT Lasers

Hartford City Hall: 5:00 - 9:00

Presenting Sponsor: City of Hartford, Entertainment Sponsor: CBT

A fun aerial laser effect show along Main Street. ...You'll see!

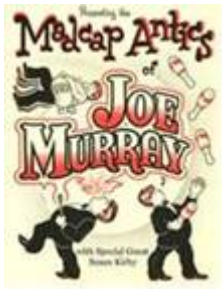


Tarot Card Readings for 2011*

Hartford City Hall: 7:00 - 10:00

Step outside your usual perspective and consult the Tarot cards! A 2011 Tarot reading provides clarity and advice for the New Year. Get insightful answers. Tarot doesn't have the power to change future events, but it can help you anticipate them.

*additional fee \$10 /10 minutes



Madcap Antics of Joe Murray

Hartford City Hall: 9:15 - 10:00

Sponsored by: Hartford City Hall and Greater Hartford Arts Council

Joe Murray's high energy comedy show has been delighting audiences for almost 20 years. There's quirky magic, audience participation, and juggling as part of this cruise ship style show.



Don Sinetti & Steve Roys

Pump House Tent in Bushnell Park: Evening time, TBD

Arts Sponsor: Greater Hartford Arts Council, Sponsor: Slocum & Sons, Sponsor: Hartford Office of Cultural Affairs

Don has performed in concert and festivals from Hawaii to Alaska and Canada to Germany.

Steve Roys plays a number of instruments including the accordion, harmonica, and various percussion instruments.



"Dreams Become Real"

Hartford City Hall: 6:45 - 7:15, 7:30 - 8:00

Middle eastern (Egyptian/Arabic) modern Belly Dance with the use of "Isis wings". **Shandra Anaid** has been a dancer since childhood. Recently featured in "Cocinando Con Suso".