



**Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor**

A NEW ERA: HARTFORD FESTIVAL OF LIGHT ®: HARTFORD 375 EDITION

---NEWS RELEASE---

(November 10, 2010) --- The Hartford Festival of Light ® has a new look this year. The 47-year-old tradition will be held in a new, more centrally located venue--- Bushnell Park--- but certain traditions will continue and new memories will begin.

A procession will kick-off at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 26th (the day after Thanksgiving) and will include the XL Center where Santa will be riding an ice maintenance machine down Trumbull Street. Santa will then park this vehicle in his reserved parking space at Bushnell Park, where the formal entertainment and lighting ceremony will begin at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Details of the November 26th show and the exact procession route will be announced as the festivities get closer. One thing to look forward to on that date at the park is a demonstration by professional skaters on synthetic ice to help create the image and paint the picture of what we can expect to see at Bushnell Park starting December 10th when a real--- and much larger--- ice skating rink will be open to the public until January 6, 2011, which is Three Kings Day.

Mayor Pedro Segarra says, “The Hartford 375th Anniversary edition of this beloved event incorporates the past, present, and future of Hartford. By moving the lighting ceremony to Bushnell Park, we better connect all the festivities to all the wonderful things that are happening in our Downtown this holiday season at our shops, theatres and restaurants.”

The City of Hartford thanks its long list of partners in this project: The Greater Hartford Arts Council, The Connecticut Whale, The Bushnell, Northeast Utilities, Mohegan Sun, UTC, the Bushnell Park Foundation, Leadership Greater Hartford, People’s United Bank, and the list is growing.

Please keep in mind that U.S. Marines will continue the Toys for Tots toy drive, hot chocolate will be served at the park courtesy of Mohegan Sun , and the Pump House Gallery will be open that evening.

Mayor Segarra says, “We want families to keep coming to ‘holiday central’ again and again. With the skating rink opening on December 10th and a special weekend light extravaganza planned for December 10th-12th, we want to create positive family activities.”

Special note: the Hartford Parking Authority kicks off its first Freebie Night on November 26th after 5PM as part of its Park n’ Dine special in conjunction with the Morgan Street, MAT, and Church Street garages. Please log on to www.hartfordparking.com for more details. Also, the Star Shuttle will be running that evening and there is parking at the state lot near the Bushnell. Additional handicapped street parking spaces will be reserved around Bushnell Park.