



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

HARTFORD FESTIVAL OF LIGHT ®: COUNTDOWN IS ON!

---NEWS RELEASE---

(November 18, 2010) --- The Hartford Festival of Light ®: Hartford 375 Edition is just days away and the route for the Holiday Procession to the show at Bushnell Park is now official!

At 5PM on Friday, November 26th, the day after Thanksgiving, from a glistening Constitution Plaza, Mayor Pedro Segarra, the Wolf Pack Mascot Sonar, and Tiny Tim and the children of the cast of "A Christmas Carol" at The Hartford Stage Company will process from Constitution Plaza across State House Square, straight down Asylum Street to the XL Center where Santa and Pucky the Whale of the Connecticut Whale will join in. Santa will be riding an "ice sleigh" down Trumbull Street to his own reserved parking spot at Bushnell Park. The public is invited to walk with the group and/or cheer them on along the route as they arrive at historic Bushnell Park for the new, more centralized location to ring in the Holiday Season.

The Hartford Festival of Light ® program is scheduled to begin at 5:45PM at the park and will include the ceremonial lighting, an announcement by Tiny Tim regarding the Toys for Tots collection, holiday music and audience sing-a-long with CONCORA-to-Go, and a professional skating demonstration on synthetic ice to invite folks back for public skating in Bushnell Park which runs from December 10, 2010 to January 6, 2011 (Three Kings Day). Community skating is supported by a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. (More details on the kick-off and a lighting extravaganza as we get closer to that event.)

The Bushnell Park Carousel will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 11AM to 5PM from November 26th to December 18th. Santa will return to Hartford the weekend of December 10-12 at the Pump House Gallery in Bushnell Park.

Mayor Pedro Segarra says, "There's a new twist to a Hartford Holiday Tradition and we invite folks to discover and rediscover our Capital City, where the roots of our Constitution were born. This long-standing holiday event is a great way to see what's happening in our shops, cultural centers and restaurants and serves as a connector not only of the city but of the region as well."

The City of Hartford thanks a growing list of partners: The Greater Hartford Arts Council, The Connecticut Whale, The Bushnell, Northeast Utilities, Mohegan Sun, UTC, Travelers, Aetna, The Hartford Financial Services Group, the Bushnell Park Foundation, Capital Properties, CBS Radio, Leadership Greater Hartford, People's United Bank, Bank of America, XL Insurance, Hartford Business Improvement District, Lincoln Financial, Charter Oak Utility Company, and the Hartford Stage Company.

Reminder: The Hartford Parking Authority's first "Freebie Night" is 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.