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Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Parks & Recreation Department

William A. DeMaio, CPRP
Superintendent of Parks
and Recreation

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For Immediate Release:

Newington Parks and Recreation is Hosting Holiday Events This Weekend

Newington Parks and Recreation is excited to announce three holiday events that are sure to add some fun to your weekend! Santa has agreed to take a break from the North Pole and swing into Newington to hear your child's biggest wishes for Christmas gifts this year! Bring your own cameras and take as many free pictures with Santa as you wish! Visits with Santa are held in the Mortensen Community Center Romano Room on Friday, December 2nd at 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 3rd at 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fun for the whole family at our Winter Wonderland event on Saturday, December 3rd. This event takes place at 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Mortensen Community Center Gymnasium. Children and adults will have the opportunity to take a ride on awesome 8-foot long animatronic animals, like Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer! There will be games for children to play, as well as entertainment by Amazing Andy. Come see Amazing Andy walk on stilts as he juggles and does magic tricks for your enjoyment. There will be a special visit from Jingles the Clown, who will tie balloon animals for the children to take home. In addition, children will be able to get their faces professionally painted. What a fun way to spend your Saturday afternoon!

The holiday excitement continues on Saturday, December 3rd at 5:00 p.m. for Newington's Night of Lights. This annual holiday event, presented by the Newington Parks and Recreation Department and the Newington Chamber of Commerce, takes place in the parking lot in front of The Rooster Company. The event includes a fire truck parade with fire trucks decorated by all four Newington fire companies, refreshments of cookies and cider, and entertainment. Come sing carols with your community and watch the tree lighting ceremony. Students from Newington High, Martin Kellogg, and John Wallace schools will be leading the Christmas Carol sing. In addition, the Newington High School girls' basketball team, coached by Rick Bangs, will be handing out instruments for children in 1st grade and younger, to play up on

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the risers in front of everyone. CMI Sound and Mike Bane will provide the sound system and mix the music for the event, free of charge.

Watch for Santa as he is escorted by the Newington Fire Department on a decorated fire truck! "This is an opportunity of a lifetime", said William DeMaio, Superintendent of Newington Parks and Recreation. "All families should bring their members, including grandchildren and grandparents, to this night of total community spirit." He goes on to say, "Everything is free and there is something for every age group. Everyone will get in the holiday spirit and go home with a giant smile on their faces."

The Newington Parks and Recreation Department will be selling their own Christmas ornaments at each of these special events. For only \$5.00, you could add a piece of the Newington community to your Christmas tree this year. The money raised from the sale of ornaments will be used for the Life. Be In It. Extravaganza fireworks fund.

Since all of these wonderful activities are free of charge, please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the Newington Food Bank. For more information, please call the Newington Parks and Recreation Department at (860)665-8666 or check us out on Facebook and/or website www.newingtonct.gov/parksandrec. Remember with Newington Parks and Recreation, we are building a strong community!

In case of inclement weather, the date for Newington's Night of Lights is Sunday, December 4th at 5:00 p.m. Please call the Newington Parks and Recreation Program Hotline at (860)665-8686.



