NEW BRITAIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Holiday Light Fantasia continues its annual tradition

NEW BRITAIN

By CATHERINE SHEN @CSHENNBH

Giving the community something to look forward to during the winter season, the annual Holiday Light Fantasia is ready to light up thou-



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sands of sparkly bulbs for its holiday tradition at Goodwin Park.

"With many of our events squashed or postponed due to the pandemic, we need this now more than ever to bring something special to families during the holidays." said Catherine Poulin, community relations manager for Channel 3 Kids Camp.

The annual tradition transforms Goodwin Park into a two-mile drive-through wonderland of holiday spirit with a collection of over one million lights. Presented by Johnson Brunetti, Goodwin Park is located at 1130 Maple Avenue on the Hartford-Wethersfield line, and the event starts from Thanksgiving Day though Jan. 3. Hours are Thursdays through Sundays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. At \$15 per car, this holiday tradition is affordable family fun. In addition to the light show, children can also enter to win a week away to camp.

The show will include whimsical holiday scenes, familiar characters and local tributes through 200 individual displays. According to event organizers, the lighted animations will not only cel-



ebrate Christmas, but Hanukkah. News Years and Three Kings Day.

This is one of the biggest fundraisers that will benefit the Channel 3 Kids Camp, which provides year-round opportunities to children of all abilities, families, and communities through educational and recreational programs that promote diversity, acceptance and environmental appreciation.

Because of the pandemic. many programs had to be shut down and Poulin said there is a huge need to get the children back to camp, especially those who are typically underserved.

"I can't emphasize the importance enough. We have to be honest about the situation and we really hope that the fundraiser will help keep the camp's lights on," Poulin

said.

The camp is also celebrating its 110th birthday this year and it is also the first year where there are no children active at camp. "It's really important in this day and age to let the kids have the chance to experience camp and to feel that they can have a little normalcy in their life," Poulin said. "There's nothing better than a camp setting to give kids opportunities to partake in different activities and experience something that can be life changing. It's really become a necessity."

Denise Hornbecker, CEO of the Channel 3 Kids Camp, said they are so excited to bring some holiday cheer to the community.

"During these unprecedented times, we are so grateful to the city of Hartford for letting us come back to put on this amazing event," she said. "Every dollar raised will go to ensuring that next summer is possible for children throughout Connecticut who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend camp."

For more information about the show, to purchase tickets, volunteering and

further details, visit www. channel3kidscamp.org or call the Channel 3 Kids Camp at 860-742-CAMP(2267). For more information about camp opportunities, contact Catherine Poulin at 860-916-2804 or c.poulin@channel-3kidscamp.org.



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