

December 14, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Park Board Continues Holiday Celebrations

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board continues celebrating the holidays throughout December with a variety of events and opportunities, including:

Christmas Tree Sale — Now open at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. Choose from a selection of fresh Frasier Firs, 6 to 9 feet in height. Available as supplies last Tuesdays – Fridays and Sundays, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. \$40 to \$70. 417-837-5949.

Candy Cane Lane – Enjoy a free drive-through light display at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146. Open every Saturday, dusk to 7 p.m., through Dec. 22. 417-837-5949.

Free Ice Skating — In conjunction with downtown Springfield's Festival of Lights, Mediacom Ice Park offers free ice skating at 635 E. Trafficway. Skate rental is \$2.50. Sat. Dec. 15, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 25, 5-6 p.m. Free ice skating is also included in First Night Springfield activities, see below. 417-866-7444.

Holiday Train Garden Display — The magic of miniature landscapes and moving model trains transforms the Botanical Center atrium into a holiday wonderland. Presented by the Ozarks Garden Railway Society at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Open through Dec. 31, Mondays – Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free. Donation accepted. 417-891-1515.

"The Dickensian Christmas" Tablescapes with Peter Longley — Entertain with high style and fashion as you learn to dress your table for all occasions. "The Goose Hangs High," with demonstrations, fun themes and decorating ideas, stories and refreshments presented by Parks Horticultural Interpreter, Peter Longley. Fri., Dec. 14, 6 p.m. \$8. Pre-registration required. 417-891-1515.

Little Critters Holiday Natures Crafts & Games — Make a holiday nature craft and play games at the Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill Park, 2300 E. Valley Water Mill Road. Participants take home a packet. For kids ages 3-6 with an adult. Pre-registration required. Sat., Dec. 15, 10-11:30 a.m. \$5/child, \$3 per child for three kids or more. 417-833-8647.

Santa and Friends — Far from the malls, enjoy the subtle winter landscape and holiday exhibits at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave. Visit with Santa, see the holiday train garden display and enjoy other kids activities. Sun., Dec. 16, noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free, some activities have a fee. 417-891-1515.

First Night Springfield — Ring in the New Year at First Night Springfield 2013, a family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration in downtown Springfield. This year features more than 20 performances and activities at 10 venues, including figures skating and ice hockey demonstrations Mediacom Ice Park, and a midnight fireworks finale in Jordan Valley Park. Presented by the Springfield Regional Arts Council. Mon. Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m – midnight. Tickets \$8/each or \$30/family 4-pack in advance, \$10/each or \$35/family 4-pack at the event. Children 3 and under free. Details at firstnightspringfield.org. 417-862-2787

For more information on these events, call the number listed. For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 471-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.