



## PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Seasonal Holiday Events and Programs

Bristol, CT – [November 14, 2023] The City of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services (BPRYCS) Department is proud to present a variety of events and programs for the holiday season. Superintendent of BPRYCS, Josh Medeiros commented, “Our team is hard at work coordinating a variety of special events and programs to enhance the community spirit this holiday season. From our essential gift giving program supporting families in need to our new festive Night of Lights- there is something for everyone to enjoy!”

- **Holiday Gift Giving Program (Deadline to Apply is Friday December 8, 2023)-** The Holiday Gift Giving program provides gift assistance to eligible Bristol youth and families during the holiday season. Income eligible families must apply to receive holiday assistance by Friday, December 8, 2023. Assistance applications are available online at [www.bristolrec.com](http://www.bristolrec.com). Community donations are accepted to help support this program and you may also sponsor a child or family by contacting Community Services Coordinator Aubrey Minkler at [aubreyminkler@bristolct.gov](mailto:aubreyminkler@bristolct.gov).
- **Stuff-A-Cruiser (Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 10:00am-2:00pm)-** We are partnering with the Bristol Police Department to “Stuff-A-Cruiser” full of new and unwrapped toys for Bristol youth up to 18 years of age. All donations benefit local families in need of assistance this holiday season. Staff from BPD and BPRYCS will be stationed outside of Bristol Walmart on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 2:00pm collecting toys to benefit the Holiday Gift Giving program. Participating donors and community members are invited to stop by to mail a letter to the North Pole and help spread holiday cheer!
- **Holiday Lights at Page Pool (nightly starting November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023)-** Once again Bristol resident Kristopher Salls has donated his time and displays to spread holiday cheer at Page Park Pool. Displays are anticipated to begin following Thanksgiving and run through the holiday season. Drive by the pool to check them out!
- **Scuba Santa- Underwater Photos with Santa (Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3, 2023 from 5:00-8:00pm)-** Book your family for a 15-minute session underwater photo with Scuba Santa. Time slots can be reserved at [www.bristolrec.com](http://www.bristolrec.com). The event is free with the donation of one, unwrapped gift per family to benefit the Holiday Gift Giving program. Please contact the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center for any questions 860-584-3837.
- **Kids’ Night Out (December 15, 2023 from 6:00-9:00pm)-** Register now to get some holiday shopping done while your kids are participating in fun activities supervised by our recreation staff. Activities include pizza dinner, arts and crafts, sports, board games and more. Fee is \$20 (residents) and \$25 (non-residents).
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Night of Lights (Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 5:00-6:30pm Rain Date: Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>)-** This season the Board of Park Commissioners voted to enhance a new premier holiday event replacing Santa Land Village; The Night of Lights! This year’s event will be held on the Open Field on Veterans Memorial Boulevard outside BAIMS (70 Memorial Boulevard). The event features a community tree lighting (taking place at 6:00pm), interfaith carols, meet and



greet with Santa Claus, luminary display, and hot chocolate for sale to benefit the BPRYCS Holiday Gift Giving program.

- **Christmas with the Nashville King, Starring John Beardsley at Downtown Live at Rockwell Theater (Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 6:00pm and Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 2:00pm-** Join Bristol's own, John Beardsley, as he returns home to celebrate Elvis' Christmas music at Downtown Live at the Rockwell Theater, the first stage John ever performed on! Tickets are available for Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and a matinee show on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Tickets are available at [www.bristolrec.com](http://www.bristolrec.com) while supplies last.

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### **Photos and Graphic Attached:**

#### ***About the City of Bristol Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services***

It is the mission of the City of Bristol Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services (BPRYCS) to deliver high-quality services and facilities that enhance the community's quality of life, meet the diverse needs of all citizens, and build a sustainable future.

#### **Media Inquiries:**

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