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CHANTE MOORE HEADLINES BLUE CROSS RIVERINK WINTERFEST'S HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING POWERED BY PECO

The festive season on the waterfront kicks off with a shining night of performances, activities and fireworks powered by PECO

PHILADELPHIA, PA (November 18, 2017): [Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest](#) brightens up the holiday season with the Holiday Tree Lighting Powered by PECO on December 1st, 2017 from 6-9PM. This year, multi-award winning R&B songstress Chanté Moore will headline the event, singing songs from her first-ever Christmas album, "Christmas Back To You," which consists of classic remakes and original songs alike. The event will be televised live from 7 - 7:30PM on [NBC10](#).

Festivities continue throughout the night with performances by the a cappella men's group [After the Bar](#), Victorian-style carol singing from [The Village Carolers](#), gospel artist Vanessa Howard singing [Hark the Herald Angels Sing](#), bell ringing harmonies by the [The Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble](#), and [Faith and Favor Band](#), a Caribbean gospel group. In addition local synchronized skating team [Philadelphia Symmetry](#) and 2015 U.S. Adult Figure Skating Dance Champions [Shay and Yovanny](#) will take to the ice for exciting performances. The evening culminates in the flipping of the switch on one of the city's largest holiday trees (40 feet tall!) with tens of thousands of lights, followed by a fireworks toast, thanks to PECO's sponsorship. The tree, grown at a farm in the Lehigh Valley, was graciously donated by Kiefer Landscaping out of Saucon Valley/Center Valley PA.

Off-stage, families and friends can enjoy a [very special photo-op in a new life-sized snow globe](#) complete with reindeer, glowing trees and a snowman. Other family portrait opportunities include the classic Santa photo, this time in the oversized Visit Philly red chair. In addition, the Holiday Tree Lighting Powered by PECO will include free face painting and mini wreath-making workshops, as well as giveaways of ornaments, Santa hats, reindeer headbands, and candy bags while supplies last.

The celebration of the Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest Holiday Tree Lighting Powered by PECO continues throughout the weekend with two brand new events -- the [Winterfest Marketplace](#) and [Storytime at The Lodge](#) presented in partnership with the Free Library of Philadelphia. The Winterfest Marketplace features some of Philly's talented artisans including [Soulistic](#), [Bole Lig](#), GG Afrikan Boutique, [Live Decent](#), [Mayaz Boutique](#), [The Sable Collective](#), Latin Crafts, and the Jamaican-American food truck, [Grubaholics](#), on Saturday and Sunday (December 2nd and 3rd) from 11AM - 8PM. The new Storytime at The Lodge series runs every Saturday throughout the season from 11:30AM - 12:30PM with rotating storytellers reading both holiday classics and new kids books for ages 3-7. Light snacks, hot chocolate, and the book

of the week will be provided free while supplies last. To round-out the weekend, visitors will also have an opportunity to [Skate with Santa](#) on Saturday and Sunday from 1 - 5PM, a tradition that continues through December 17th.

Both skaters and non-skaters can sit down for a feast from [Chickie's and Pete's](#) including the world famous Crabfries with cheese sauce, Boneless Wings, Philly Cheesesteaks, and a rotating selection of hot soups. [Garces](#) will be serving up burgers, including the new Impossible Burger, fried chicken sandwiches, and the summer hit – chicken fried pierogis. New this year is the Rinkside Café and Portside Pizza, featuring festival-style foods that round out the savory selections at Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest.

For those with a sweet tooth or a little bit of nostalgia, [Franklin Fountain](#) Confectionery Cabin soda jerks will have Jefferson's Drinking Chocolate, ice cream and waffle sandwiches, and the ever popular s'mores kits made with bean-to-bar chocolates from Shane Chocolate Works, and homemade marshmallows and graham crackers. New this year at the Rink Side Café are fried Oreos and funnel cakes, including the funnoli – a funnel cake topped with cannoli filling.

For those looking for a little something hot and spiked, Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest will feature two different bar locations throughout the Lodge at peak times. The craft beer program will highlight local and regional beers, with the return of the popular Lodge Cabin Lager by Sly Fox Brewery. Hot cocktails include spiked hot chocolate, apple cider from Linvilla Orchards, and coffee. The featured cocktail is the Hot Apple Pie made with hot apple cider, Jim Beam Apple, caramel, whipped cream and crushed graham crackers.

Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest's Holiday Tree Lighting Powered by PECO is one of the biggest nights of the season and great for families, friends, or a date night. The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) is proud to work with PECO again on this beloved holiday event. For more than 20 years, PECO has proudly supported DRWC's events and programs, such as the PECO Multicultural Series. This year's sponsorship of Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest expands PECO's support of DRWC's innovative programming, helping keep the season warm and bright for families in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest Holiday Tree Lighting Powered by PECO Details

- WHERE:** Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest, 101 S. Columbus Boulevard on the Delaware River, Market Street at Columbus Blvd.
- WHEN:** Friday, December 1, 6-9PM
Run of Show
 - After the Bar
 - The Village Carolers
 - Chante Moore
 - Clarimil Christian
 - Faith and Favor
 - Philadelphia Dance Academy
 - Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble
 - St. Hilary of Poitiers
 - Vanessa Howard
 - Philadelphia Symmetry

- Shay Sterlace and Yvonnay Durango

Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest Details

SEASON AND HOURS: Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest runs through March 4, 2018, 7 days a week, including holidays. For hours, please see the [Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest website](#).

PRICING: General admission to Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest is FREE and open to the public.

Skating Admission – \$3

Skate Rental – \$10

*FREE skating admission for all Independence Blue Cross cardholders and employees. Discount applies to four people including the cardholder

*FREE skating admission for first responders and military with ID

TICKETS: [Individual ice skating tickets and special event tickets](#)

WEBSITE: www.riverrink.com

PHONE: 215-925-RINK

SOCIAL MEDIA:

- Facebook - [Blue Cross RiverRink](#)
- Twitter - [@river_rink](#)
- Instagram - [@Blue_Cross_RiverRink](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information about programming, food and beverage options, and season details can be found in our [press room](#). Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest high resolution photos can be downloaded via [our website](#) (password is aidemdrwc).

BLUE CROSS RIVERRINK WINTERFEST SPONSORS

Winter Programming is made possible by [Independence Blue Cross](#), [Beneficial](#), [Visit Philadelphia](#), [NBC10](#) and [Telemundo62](#), [Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages LLC](#), [PECO](#), and [Philadelphia Magazine](#)

ABOUT PECO

PECO, founded in 1881, is Pennsylvania's largest electric and natural gas utility. Headquartered in Philadelphia, PECO delivers energy to more than 1.6 million electric customers and more than 516,000 natural gas customers in southeastern, Pennsylvania. The company's 2,500 employees are dedicated to the safe and reliable delivery of electricity and natural gas as well as enhanced energy management conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. PECO was named 2017 Best Mid-size Employer in Philadelphia by Forbes Magazine. The company also has an estimated annual economic impact of \$4.3 billion in Pennsylvania, supporting more than 8,700 local jobs and producing \$732 million in labor income. PECO is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's only Fortune 100 utility and leading competitive energy provider. For more information visit PECO.com, and connect with the company on Facebook and Twitter.

ABOUT INDEPENDENCE BLUE CROSS

Independence Blue Cross is the leading health insurance organization in southeastern Pennsylvania. With our affiliates, we serve more than 8.5 million people in 24 states and the District of Columbia, including more than 2.5 million in the region. For almost 80 years, we have been enhancing the health and well-being of the people and communities we serve by delivering innovative and competitively priced health care products and services; pioneering new ways to reward doctors, hospitals, and other health care professionals for coordinated, quality care; and supporting programs and events that promote wellness. To learn more, visit www.ibx.com. Connect with us on Facebook at ibx.com/facebook and on Twitter at @ibx. Independence Blue Cross is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

ABOUT THE DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORP

DRWC is a 501(c)(3) created in January 2009, exclusively for the benefit of the City of Philadelphia and its citizens. The fundamental purpose of DRWC is to design, develop, program and maintain public amenities such as permanent and seasonal parks, trails, and streetscape improvements to transform the waterfront into a vibrant destination for recreational, cultural, and commercial activities for the residents and visitors of Philadelphia as is consistent with the goals of the Master Plan for the Central Delaware. Daily programming throughout the entire year is changing the way Philadelphians see and converse about the waterfront, and is helping to create spaces and communities that connect residents and visitors to the waterfront.

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