



PRESS CONTACT:
Quinn Logan
Delaware River Waterfront Corp.
qlogan@drwc.org
215.629.3218

PHILLY'S WINTER WONDERLAND ON THE WATERFRONT OPENS FOR THE SEASON NOVEMBER 25

PHILADELPHIA, PA (November 2, 2016): Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest, Philadelphia's largest outdoor ice skating rink and winter wonderland, returns to the waterfront on Friday, November 25, 2016. The seasonal winter park, presented by Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) and founding sponsor Independence Blue Cross, includes a beautifully lit landscape featuring a majestic holiday tree, outdoor seating area with fire pits, cozy warming cabins, the Franklin Fountain Confectionary Cabin, the Kids Lodge with arcade games, and a chalet-inspired Lodge with food and beverages from local restaurateurs.



Blue Cross RiverRink, now in its 23rd year as an outdoor ice skating rink and fourth season as Winterfest, is the centerpiece of this magical winter wonderland. The regulation-sized rink offers daily public skating sessions, skate rentals, sharpening, and free season-long events and entertainment. It is made possible by its founding and title sponsor Independence Blue Cross.

"When people come together for exercise and fellowship, it makes them healthier and happier," said Yvette Bright, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Independence Blue Cross. "That's been our goal in the region for 80 years, and we're pleased to once again support the Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest."

Surrounding the rink is an enchanting winter forest comprised of trees and shrubs adorned with colorful lights, with the magnificent holiday tree and Ben Franklin Bridge to the north. The holiday tree is decorated with ornaments and dressed in tens of thousands of twinkling LED lights (over 100,000 lumens!) linked to a Bluetooth-programmable system that will allow staff to creatively produce different colors, effects, and visualize music. On Friday, December 2nd, the holiday tree will be lit in spectacular fashion at the official Holiday Tree Lighting presented by PECO.

For those looking for respite from the cold, The Lodge Restaurant and Bar houses comfy couches, indoor fireplaces, rustic decorations, arcade games, and a wraparound porch complete with rockers and heat lamps. The clear-sided chalet-inspired venue allows visitors to watch the ice skaters and the beautiful views of the river from the comfort of a heated space.



Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest is expanding its food and beverage options in the Lodge this season to include Chickie's and Pete's alongside waterfront veterans Garces, who will be returning for the third season. Bars will also be located within the Lodge, featuring local craft beers, wine, and seasonally inspired drinks perfect for a winter day or night. Hours of operations and menu details can be found at www.riverrink.com

The winter wonderland experience would not be complete without a full calendar of events. This year's event schedule includes Holiday Tree Lighting Presented by PECO, Skate with Santa, Fireside Sessions presented by Radio 104.5, Twelve Days of Christmas Movies, New Year's Eve Parties on Ice and the SugarHouse New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Waterfront, Winterfest Brewfest, and more. With numerous entertainment options, making a trip down to the Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest becomes an affordable and fun family outing. A complete events calendar will be available online at www.riverrink.com.

With all of these elements, DRWC continues to produce innovative programming and design along the waterfront that provides new, authentically-Philadelphia seasonal traditions that activate the waterfront and set the stage for the redevelopment of the entire Penn's Landing site.

WINTER SEASON EVENTS

A MAGICAL OPENING WEEKEND ON THE WATERFRONT

Friday-Sunday, November 25-27

Do you believe in magic? This year, opening weekend will be full of amazements and wonder on and off the ice. Featuring family-friendly fun and entertainment all weekend long. More details to be announced.

BLUE CROSS RIVERRINK TREE LIGHTING PRESENTED BY PECO

Friday, December 2, 5:30pm-8:30pm

Save the date for a spectacular evening on the waterfront. Join Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest, and an entire cast of performers, singers, dancers, and ice skaters for a night of free entertainment to celebrate First Friday in December and to usher in the holiday season. Be dazzled as the rink lights up one of the city's largest holiday trees with tens of thousands of lights thanks to PECO's sponsorship. Full program for the night to be announced.

RADIO 104.5 PRESENTS FIRESIDE SESSIONS

First Thursdays: December 1, January 5, and February 2, 8pm-9pm

Enjoy free live music from popular local bands in the Lodge every first Thursday from December to February. Stay tuned for more details.

QUIZZO IN THE LODGE

Every Wednesday from December 7 – March 1, 6pm

Quizzo is back for the winter season in the Lodge every Wednesday night. Bring the squad down to the waterfront for trivia fun, drink specials, and cool prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

DJ NIGHTS

Friday and Saturday Nights all season, 9pm-Midnight

Local DJs create the skating soundtrack every Friday and Saturday night, spinning a mix of the latest and greatest tunes.

SKATE WITH SANTA

Saturdays and Sundays, December 3-18, 1pm-5pm

Getting your picture taken with Santa at the mall is so ten years ago. Lace up those skates and get that family portrait on ice with Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest's Skating Santa. For a special photo on stable ground, sit atop the giant #visitphilly chair for a photo that can feature the entire family.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHTS

December 14 – December 25, Movies start at 7pm and continue until the rink closes

Bring the family out to Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest for movie nights for the 12 days of Christmas. Enjoy holiday favorites such as Elf, Miracle on 34th Street, The Holiday, It's a Wonderful Life, Charlie Brown Christmas, and more. All movies will be shown in the Lodge, with plenty of comfy seating and great food and drinks for the whole family.

EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS

December 17 – January 2, 11am – 1am EVERY DAY

Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest is open seven days a week, even holidays, which are some of the best times to visit. With extended hours for ice skating and concessions, every day is the perfect day to bring friends and family to the rink to skate, enjoy FREE activities and entertainment, cozy up by the fire pits and fireplaces, lounge in the fully furnished warming cabins, grab a rocking chair on the wraparound porch, and eat seasonal food served up by Chickie's and Pete's, Garces, and Franklin Fountain.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTIES ON ICE

Saturday, December 31, 2 Parties for the 6pm and Midnight fireworks

Secure your spot for the best view of the SugarHouse New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Waterfront. Each party features food, drinks, music, entertainment, ice skating (of course), and a show-stopping fireworks show. Tickets are limited and sold in advance. More details to be announced.

SUGARHOUSE NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS ON THE WATERFRONT

Saturday, December 31, Two Fireworks Shows at 6pm and Midnight

As the grand finale of Philadelphia's Holiday Festival, celebrate the biggest night of the year with fireworks! SugarHouse Casino is once again making the City's NYE celebration possible by sponsoring the SugarHouse New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Waterfront.

WINTERFEST BREWFEST

Saturday and Sunday, January 21-22, 1pm-8pm

Winterfest Brewfest returns for the 3rd year, making it a new Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest tradition. Sample fantastic regional beers in the Lodge, meet the brewers, win contests, and listen to great music. All sampled beers will be for sale on-site, so grab a full pint, and head out to the fire pits for a perfect winter weekend (complete with s'mores).

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS "50TH FEST"

The Philadelphia Flyers are celebrating their 50th Anniversary season, and will host a special event with NBC 10 on the afternoon of Sunday, February 12. Stay tuned for a schedule of events, guest appearances, and more to come from the Flyers and NBC10.

SWEETHEART SKATE

Tuesday, February 14, Two Sessions: 7pm-8:30pm and 9pm-10:30pm

Blue Cross RiverRink has all of the romantic winter activities in one place. From ice skating with your sweetie to cuddling by the cozy fire, there is plenty to make your night extra special. Sweetheart Skate features romantic lighting, flowers, chocolates, ice skating, and a DJ playing requested love songs. Want to surprise your sweetie with an engagement proposal? Let us know!

Full schedule of events can be found on the website: www.riverrink.com

BLUE CROSS RIVERRINK WINTERFEST DETAILS

ICE SKATING

Blue Cross RiverRink returns for its 23rd year, and its fourth season as Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest, making it an established holiday tradition for Philadelphians and those around the region and a must-do during the winter

season. Independence Blue Cross continues as the founding and title sponsor, making the rink possible each year, so all Independence Blue Cross cardholders receive FREE skating admission. Blue Cross RiverRink is the only outdoor regulation-sized rink in Philadelphia, and with the Delaware River to the east and the Ben Franklin Bridge to the north, it makes for a spectacular winter scene!

HOURS

Open seven days a week including all holidays from November 25, 2016 to March 5, 2017.

Opening Weekend Hours

November 25: 11AM - 1AM
November 26: 11AM - 1AM
November 27: 11AM - 11PM

Regular Operating Hours

Monday - Thursday: 1PM - 11PM
Friday: 1PM - 1AM
Saturday: 11AM - 1AM
Sunday: 11AM - 11PM

*Skating session times vary from operating hours.

Extended Hours, December 17 – January 2

Monday - Sunday: 11AM-1AM

Extended Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Valentine's Day.

PRICING

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

Skating Admission – \$3

(FREE skating admission for all Independence Blue Cross cardholders and employees)

Skate Rental – \$10

Sizes available – Kids 8 – Adult 15. Double blades available for the youngsters. Skate sharpening is also offered on-site for those bringing their own ice skates.

Skating admission can be purchased online at <http://riverrink.ticketfly.com/>

PARTIES & RENTALS

Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest can be rented for birthday and holiday parties, private events, and group outings. Visitors can reserve the warming cabins, kids lodge, special areas within the Lodge, or the entire facility. More information about rentals can be found on the [Blue Cross RiverRink Website](#).

AMENITIES

Surrounding Blue Cross RiverRink is an enchanting winter landscape made up of seasonal trees and shrubs, rustic furniture, market lights, wood-burning fire pits and warming cabins. Over 100,000 lights illuminate the

entire space from the moment visitors enter, and continue to delight with a beautifully lit holiday tree and color-washed rink.

Adjacent to the fire pits and the Franklin Fountain Confectionary Cabin, the popular warming cabins are fully-furnished and will be available to reserve on a first-come first-serve basis. Each of the 5 cabins is outfitted with its own unique seasonal décor, complete with electric fireplaces, infrared heating, warm armchairs, and loveseats. The cabins are a great place to hang with family and friends. Cabins can be reserved at <http://waterfrontrentals.ticketfly.com/>.



The Lodge Restaurant and Bar features a cozy ski-chalet inspired atmosphere with a clear view of the ice skating rink. A wraparound porch built from the original boardwalk at Spruce Street Harbor Park is lined with rocking chairs, cozy blankets and heat lamps for the ultimate in Waterfront luxury on a cold winter night. Inside, The Lodge is furnished with comfortable couches, tons of gathering tables, bistro seating, mantles with electric fireplaces, and decorative touches that transform the Lodge into a warm and inviting space.

A quaint Kids Lodge is located directly across from The Lodge, and features a variety of interactive arcade games. The flooring is made of rubber mats, allowing kids to walk directly from the rink to the play area without having to take off their skates. The Kids Lodge is playfully decorated, and features a variety of games, including small rides, pinball, Skee-Ball, air hockey and more. It's the perfect place to host a birthday party!

FUN FACTS:

- The Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest landscape will be lit by over 100,000 LED lights
- Blue Cross RiverRink is the only outdoor regulation-size rink in Philadelphia
- The unique lighting design, created by DRWC's in-house team, will use LED lights to create a dazzling tree and entrance way, a market light canopy over the firepits, and programmed lights that will wash the rink surface in ever-changing colors.

- The holiday tree will once again be one of the largest live trees in the city. This beautiful Douglas fir is being brought to the rink via flatbed trailer from a farm in New York and craned into place on Tuesday, November 8.
- The holiday tree will be decorated in tens of thousands of LED lights (over 100,000 lumens!) linked to a Bluetooth-programmable system that will allow DRWC staff to creatively produce different colors, effects, and visualize music.
- A 4-zoned sound system in the fire pit area, skate rental, ice skating rink, and the Lodge is specially created for special live music and DJ nights, rentals, announcements, and mood setting atmospheric music. It's also perfect for all of the wedding proposals that happen throughout the season!
- Inside the Lodge, electric fireplaces have been placed inside mantles salvaged from the Divine Lorraine Hotel – a nod to Philadelphia's regal architectural history.
- The huge #visitphilly red chair is one of the best photo spots in the city, with a clear view of Blue Cross RiverRink and the Ben Franklin Bridge in the background.

FOOD AND DRINKS

This year Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest will feature food by Chickie's and Pete's, Garces, and Franklin Fountain, creating a complete winter menu for full meals, snacks, desserts, hot and cool treats, food for meat-lovers and vegetarians, and gluten-free and nut-free menu items.

CHICKIE'S AND PETE'S

Chickie's and Pete's returns to the waterfront for the Winterfest season after operating the Chickie's and Pete's Waterfront Crabshack at Blue Cross RiverRink Summerfest. Featuring the popular Land Lovers menu from the summer, offerings include world famous Crabbies with cheese sauce, Boneless Wings, and a Philly Cheesesteak. For more information about Chickie's and Pete's, check out their [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

GARCES

Garces is returning to Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest for the third season with multiple locations on site. Last year's favorite item, the Village Burger, will be back at The Lodge, with rotating burger specials alongside a house-made veggie burger, and short rib topped fries. Gluten-free items and buns will be available at all locations. [Click here for the full menu](#). For more information about Garces, check out their [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)

FRANKLIN FOUNTAIN

The wonderful smell of toasted nuts will fill the air at Blue Cross RiverRink with Franklin Fountain's exciting new addition of a custom made Italian chestnut roasting cart. They will be roasting chestnuts and sugar-coated mixed nuts on the weekends, similar to those you'd find in New York City. The Franklin Fountain Confectionery Cabin menu includes hot fudge sundaes with seasonal ice cream flavors, ice cream waffle sandwiches, and s'mores kits featuring graham crackers, chocolate, and marshmallows all made on-site at the Franklin Fountain and Shane Confectionery. And, of course, all the usual treats one would expect on a chilly day, with warm drinks like hot cocoa and hot apple cider, coffee, and a variety of tea. Seasonal ice cream flavors include peppermint stick (also available dairy free), cinnamon, eggnog, hot chocolate, vanilla, and chocolate. Don't miss out on this delicious winter wonderland. [Click here for the full menu](#). For more information about Franklin Fountain, check out their [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

BAR SERVICE

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 will feature [Pinnacle Whipped and Vanilla Vodkas](#) to mix with hot chocolate, [Jim Beam Maple and Jim Beam Apple Bourbons](#) for spiked apple cider, and specialty drinks made with [2 Gingers Irish Whisky](#) and [Saint Brendan's Irish Cream](#).

HOURS OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE OPERATIONS:

The Lodge Bar and Restaurant will be open seven days a week

Rink Side Café open Friday – Sunday

Franklin Fountain's Confectionery Cabin open Thursday – Sunday

Times are subject to change. Please check the website for more information.

MORE BLUE CROSS RIVERRINK WINTERFEST DETAILS

SEASON

Friday, November 25, 2016 – Sunday, March 5, 2017

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 215-925-RINK

Email: riverrink@drwc.org

Website: www.riverrink.com

Social Media:

- Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#))
- Penn's Landing ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#))

ADDRESS

Columbus Boulevard at Market Street (101 S. Columbus Blvd)

TRANSPORTATION

- Public Transportation:
 - Bus Routes 25, 21, 42, 17, 33, 48 and 12 all stop within walking distance of Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest.
 - SEPTA Market-Frankford Line stops at Second and Market, which is a five minute walk from Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest.
- Bike parking on-site. [Ride Indego](#) stations located at Columbus Boulevard and Race Street, Columbus Boulevard at Spruce Street, and at 2nd Street at Market Street.
- Parking: Parking lots located at Market Street and Walnut Street at Columbus Boulevard

PHOTOS

All photos can be found in our [press room](#). Please contact for password to download.

Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest Sponsors

Winter Programming sponsored by [Independence Blue Cross](#), [Visit Philadelphia](#), [Coca Cola Refreshments-Philadelphia](#), [NBC10](#) and [Telemundo62](#), [PNC](#), [Dunkin' Donuts](#), [PECO](#), and [Philadelphia Magazine](#).

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 32 states and the District of Columbia, including more than 2.5 million in the region. For nearly 80 years, we have been enhancing the health and wellness 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](https://www.facebook.com/ibx.com/facebook) and on Twitter at [@ibx](https://twitter.com/ibx). Independence Blue Cross is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

About the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation

[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.

###