

James W. Dutton

From: Cavanna, John P. <CAVAJ001@hartford.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:04 PM
To: James W. Dutton
Subject: answers to questions

- Handicap patrons drive down the hill to the ticket booth where handicap parking is clearly marked with appropriate signage at parking spots, and top of hill indicating to drive down hill.
- There is multiple handicap signs. The signs indicate where to go, and where to park.
- The "GRAY GRANITE RAILROAD PARKING" signs are located on both outer perimeters of the parking areas.
- The "CHRISTMAS TREES LEFT TRAINS RIGHT" sign is located at the "y" in the parking area in close proximity to the business dumpster area.
- The "HANDICAPPED PARKING DRIVE DOWN HILL" is located near the entrance to the parking area off of Woodland Street.
- The portable light plants are placed at the "y" in the entry road where folks walk down to the ticket booth as well as in the area of the main entrance way. These are only used when operating "Tracks of torment" on Friday and Saturday night during the month of October (5pm-10pm) I will be looking to put permanent lights in in the future.
- The parking area is rolled millings, under a 1% grade with preexisting, established gravel sub-base.

HOW THE FARM WORKS

The farm is a four season farm, my father and I work the farm year round. During the spring we are planting. The railroad offers rides to meet the Easter bunny on Saturdays and Sundays during the first half of April until Easter (April 17th) 10am-4pm

The next event for the farm is strawberry season. This is extremely weather dependent, we open based on ripeness, usually around June 12th and if able try to stretch the season to July first. We are open for pick your own strawberries from 8am-5pm. The train does not run for pre scheduled events during the summer.

Going into the fall when the pumpkins are ready I open Saturdays and Sundays for train rides to the pumpkin patch. Hours are normally 10am-4pm, once we enter October weekends we will open back up an hour later for tracks of torment 5pm-10pm.

The weekend after thanksgiving is when we open for Christmas Trees. We are open for trees from 9am-4pm Saturdays and Sundays and if we have bad weather on the weekends it forces us to open during the week. Usually 12-4, again extremely weather dependent this time of year. We try to sell trees until the weekend before Christmas. Christmas train rides are open 12pm to 5pm. This is my current hours of operation during winter operation. I plan on opening earlier and staying open later in years to come if passenger ridership supports it.

Birthday parties to the farm are sporadic and I have no idea how to anticipate the number I will do in a year. I would like to do at least ten if I can get them in the 2022 year. As far as other events I'm always open to helping charity groups out and for more than a decade have held events for the kids in Hartford through the Police Athletic League.

As far as staff the farm is a family affair. Occasionally I have friends that are certified in the operations of locomotive engineering as well as train conducting. During the simple selling of grown products only a single person is required, the movement of the train requires two individuals on the train at all times.

I'm confused in regards to Mrs. Purtill expressing concerns about the farm equipment near the ticket booth. Every farm in town keeps old tractors at their farms for kids to climb on and take photos with their families around. Currently I keep a 1953 Ford jubilee tractor and a 1930 Ford model AA truck for kids to sit on and pose with. The batteries are removed and they are safe. I am insured and will continue to do this. Any farm equipment on other areas of the farm is kept locked.

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