



Montpelier Alive

• ENRICHING A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN •

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: November 29, 2010

For more information: Jimmy Swift, Festival Coordinator at 802-238-6888 or Jimmy@MontpelierAlive.org; or Carolyn Grodinsky, Marketing Coordinator at 802-223-2958 or cgrodinsky@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shawn Bryan, President
Community Member

Linn Syz, Past President
Vermont River Conservancy

Rob Hitzig, Vice-President
The Lazy Pear Gallery

Claire Benedict, Secretary
Bear Pond Books

Peter Ricker, Treasurer
*Denis, Ricker &
Brown Insurance*

Jon Anderson
Burak, Anderson & Melloni

Justin Bourgeois
Community National Bank

Pinky Clark
Delish and Thinkin' Pink

Gregg Gossens
Gossens Bachman Architects

Greg Guyette
Monarch Industries

John Mayfield
Julio's Cantina

Suzanne Rexford-Winston
Union Institute & University

39 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
director@montpelieralive.org
(802) 223-9604
www.MontpelierAlive.org

Montpelier Alive's Vision:
Montpelier is a vibrant
community center with a
thriving downtown and unique
sense of place.

BRING YOUR LIGHT TO FIRST NIGHT MONTPELIER

**New Year's Eve festival celebrates with lanterns, disco,
and puppets plus 89 hours of artists and activities in 14
downtown locations, noon to 10 pm on December 31st**

First Night Buttons on Sale December 1st

MONTPELIER – PARADE OF LIGHTS IS FIRST NIGHT FINALE

The famous disco ball will dazzle from atop City Hall as Montpelier joins in celebrating the New Year with a fantastic Parade of Lights, Disco Party and Lantern Launch. Puppets, lanterns, drummers, dancers, torches, and fire spinners will join The Lantern Choir, our celebrity D.J. Don P, The Fire Organ, and a crowd of revelers in the spinning lights of the disco ball from 9:00 to 10:00 pm. Bring YOUR Light to First Night!

WHAT'S NEW AT FIRST NIGHT MONTPELIER? Activities begin at 1:00 pm with a Grand Opening in City Hall's Arts Center featuring our most popular artist – Marko the Magician. Following Marko is Wells & Woodhead's Vaudeville Revue with 90 minutes of comedy, juggling and music.

Among other new additions to the program are an "underground café" with The Hungry Rat Revue and Kris Gruen, plus a Poetry Slam and writing workshop led by Geof Hewitt.

Marshfield's Re-Bop Records celebrates 21 years of bringing together outstanding Vermont musicians with an ever-revolving group of talented kids. Montpelier High School will host a Re-Bop Family Concert, Alumni Showcase, plus concerts by Re-Bop friends Anais Mitchell and Tammy Fletcher.

City Center will be transformed into First Night Central - a convenient stop for buttons, information, volunteer check-in, glow necklaces, face painting, hat and lantern making, hot chocolate and our International Food Court. Folks can make fun stuff and dress up for the Parade of Lights and Disco! Or just take a break to relax and refresh.

ONE BUTTON GETS YOU EVERYTHING! For one admission price, First Night button holders will have their choice of more than 89 hours of programming throughout the Capital City. Named one of the Top Ten Winter Events in Vermont, First Night Montpelier includes perennial favorites plus many exciting new artists and activities.

A First Night button provides entry to The Vermont History Museum including a Noisemaker Workshop. Also to a Family Contra Dance with Old Sam Peabody, a dance with Nisht Geferlach Klezmer Band, and a Community Crostic Puzzle.

As in the past, button holders can take advantage of free ice-skating at the Central Vermont Civic Center, cross-country skiing at the Morse Farm Nordic Center, swimming at First in Fitness Berlin, and now Zumba at First in Fitness Montpelier.

First Night buttons are on sale at locations throughout Central Vermont. Buttons purchased before December 31 are \$12 for a single button and \$40 for a family pass (4 buttons). Buttons purchased the day of the festival will be \$15 for a single button and \$13 per button for groups of four or more. Children 3 and under are admitted free of charge.

PERFORMERS OLD AND NEW include **favorites** such as Willem Lange, Burr Morse, No Strings Marionettes and Rob Mermin's Soap Bubbles Circus plus the Green Mountain Youth Symphony, the Vermont Philharmonic, The Wood's Tea Co. and a Lost Nation Theater Cabaret. **Newcomers** include Elisabeth von Trapp & The Blue Train, Paul Asbell, Myra Flynn & Justin Levinson, Bread & Bones, After the Rodeo, Lisa Piccirillo, and the hilarious Aardvark Malarkey.

MORE THAN 200 VOLUNTEERS are needed for button sales, set-up, clean-up and office help. There are positions for individuals, couples and families. In exchange for working a two-hour shift, volunteers receive a button for admission to all events plus a meal ticket for the First Night Cantina. Contact Charlene McCarney at 229-3228 or 485-8072 for information.

NATIONAL LIFE UNDERWRITES! The New Year's Eve celebration is presented by Montpelier Alive and underwritten by the National Life Group, with support from the City of Montpelier, and contributions from nearly 100 local businesses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on First Night Montpelier including a list of button locations and a complete schedule of events, visit www.MontpelierAlive.org.