

# Montpelier Alive

Formerly the Montpelier Downtown Community Association

Winter 2009

## Montpelier Celebrates First Night

**More than 40 performances and activities in downtown venues**

What do Michael Jackson and The Starline Rhythm Boys have in common? They both know how to heat up a dance floor and both will be rockin' Montpelier's First Night celebration!



The Starline Rhythm Boys will usher in New Year's at First Night's dance party from 9pm to midnight. Photo credit: Natalie Stultz.

Delivering a gut-bucket mix of Bakersfield-styled honky-tonk and '50s rockabilly, the Starline Rhythm Boys will headline the New Year's Eve Dance Party at City Hall from 9 – Midnight. And down the street

at the Union Elementary School, a Michael Jackson Tribute will include the best dance tunes from "The King of Pop's" 40-year career plus a

live performance by local musicians and dancers.

For one admission price, First Night button holders will have their choice of more than 40 performances and activities throughout the Capital City. Named one of the Top Ten Winter Events in Vermont, First Night Montpelier includes many perennial favorites plus several exciting new ones.

Activities begin at 1 PM when but-

ton holders can take advantage of free ice skating at the Central Vermont Civic Center, x-country skiing at the Morse Farm Nordic Center or swimming at First in Fitness.

Among the new additions to this year's program is a Teddy Bear Picnic. Youngsters are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animals to St. Augustine's Church from 2-3:30 PM for a teddy bear parade, fashion show, games and picnic treats.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Volunteer and get a free First Night Button!

Montpelier Alive is seeking nearly 200 volunteers 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 on volunteer positions.

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## Capital City Cash Gets New Look

Capital City Cash, a gift certificate accepted at most downtown businesses, got a facelift this month. The new certificates come in pre-printed quantities of \$5 and \$20, are enhanced with more security features, and are small enough to fit into most wallets. Merchants will continue to accept both the older and the new Capital City Cash.

Ten years ago, the Montpelier Business Association, the downtown merchant's group, created Capital City Cash to encourage support of our local businesses. The certificates make great presents and help keep our dollars local. Merchants

see the benefit as soon as someone redeems Capital City Cash for purchases. Over the last decade, \$15,000 worth of Capital City Cash has gone unclaimed, most likely lost in people's homes. In order to encourage people to use the older certificates, merchants will be offering an additional 10% off purchases made with Capital City Cash from Friday, November 27 through Sunday, November 29.

Since 2005, Capital City Cash has had no expiration date. Both the older certificates with expiration dates and the new ones will continue to



be accepted. For a full list of businesses that accept Capital City Cash, visit [www.MontpelierAlive.org/capital\\_city\\_cash](http://www.MontpelierAlive.org/capital_city_cash).

**Board of Directors**

- **Jon Anderson**  
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- **Greg Gossens**  
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- **Greg Guyette**  
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Julio's Cantina
- **Colleen Paul**  
Vermont Trading Company
- **Brooke Pearson**  
Montpelier High School
- **Peter Ricker**  
Denis, Ricker & Brown
- **Linn Syz**  
Vermont River Conservancy

**New Holiday Lights Save Energy**

Through a City of Montpelier Mazur grant, Montpelier Alive was able to replace all of the holiday light displays downtown with energy-efficient LEDs. In total, 64 light stands on light posts and the centerpiece over the intersection of State and Main will be replaced. Not only do the lights use less energy, they are also more durable. We expect to see significantly fewer needing replacement due to damage from snow plows and vandalism.

The centerpiece of it all is a dove which will grace the intersection of State and Main. The dove was designed and created by three Montpelier High School art students: Lucy Basa, Kate Blatchford, and Sandra Markowitz.

**Become a Member today!**

**Memberships start at just \$50 for an individual or \$125 for a business. Visit our website for benefits and to join online at [www.montpelieralive.org](http://www.montpelieralive.org) . Or call us at 223-9604 to request a membership packet.**

**Did You Know...Montpelier? Historic Walking Tour**

As you have enjoyed the crisp autumn colors and the bite of cooler temperatures downtown over the past several weeks, you likely have noticed (and hopefully enjoyed) the "Did you know... Montpelier" historic walking tour.

The fourteen-stop, self-guided tour was largely built around the research and writings of the book, "Montpelier: Images of Vermont's Capital City," co-authored by Paul Carnahan and Bill Fish with historic photographs from the Vermont Historical Society. This tour uniquely focuses on some of the lesser-known and perhaps "quirkier" attributes of Montpelier's colorful past. One of the tour's more popular stops is a description of the Blanchard Opera House, where elephants once climbed a wide staircase to appear in circus performances.

Each of the fourteen site markers is numbered to indicate its place in the full tour; however, the tour and signs were designed so that any one of the signs can be the starting place and in-

**Montpelier Alive thanks its members!**

- Leaders**  
City of Montpelier  
National Life Group
- Partners**  
Vermont Mutual Insurance
- Project Leaders**  
Capitol Plaza  
Chittenden Bank  
New England Culinary Institute  
Onion River Sports/Shoe Horn/ Onion River Kids  
Rotary Club of Montpelier  
Union Mutual of Vermont
- Affiliates**  
Black River Design  
Community National Bank  
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First in Fitness  
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Noyle W. Johnson Insurance  
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- Small Business Members**  
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Alan L. Zaur, MD  
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Betsy's Bed and Breakfast  
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Gossens Bachman Architects
- Hunger Mountain Coop  
Inn at Montpelier  
James Lynch, DC  
Julio's Cantina  
Karena Shippee, OD  
Lamberton Electric, Inc.  
Lazy Pear Gallery  
Minuteman Press  
Montpelier Pharmacy  
Morse Farm  
Phyllis E Rubenstein, Attorney at Law  
Rivendell Books  
Riverside Chiropractic  
Riverwalk Records  
Sarducci's  
Savoy Theater  
Snell Infrared  
Stevens & Company & No. 9 Boutique  
Subway  
Tarrant Marks & Gillies  
The Drawing Board  
The Knitting Studio  
The Peach Tree  
The Skinny Pancake  
The Uncommon Market  
Uncle Mike's  
Vermont Medical Society  
Vermont Trading Company  
Waterbury Record/ Stowe Reporter  
Woodbury Mountain Toys  
Zutano, Inc.
- Friends**  
Green Mountain Film Festival  
Stephanie Lahar and Associates  
Stone Environmental  
Sullivan, Powers & Co.
- Individual Members**  
Alan & Joanne Blakeman  
Julie and James Bressor  
Tom and Charlotte MacLeay  
Brooke Pearson  
Bill and Joanie Pinchbeck  
Anne Sarcka  
Bram and Janet Starr  
Stephan and Linn Syz

structional text describes where the next site marker can be found. The full tour takes between 30 and 45 minutes to complete, walking at a comfortable pace.

The Did you know.... Montpelier? tour was in-place until mid-November, and was designed as a lead in to Art of Action: Shaping Vermont's Future Through Art exhibit, running from November 1<sup>st</sup> through

the 15<sup>th</sup> in Montpelier. The art explores Vermont future.

This project, a collaboration among community members, Paul Carnahan, Claire Gilbertson and Guy Tapper and members of Montpelier Alive, was sponsored by Coldwell Banker Classic Properties. Sign layout and design was provided by Gossens Bachman Architects.

14 signs similar to this were placed around downtown Montpelier from mid-September through mid-November. The signs lead people through downtown on a self-guided historic walking tour.

## And event sponsors and donors throughout the year!

### Street Recycling

City of Montpelier  
Ben & Jerry's Foundation  
The Harris and Frances Block Foundation

### Way to Go!

VSECU

### SculptCycle

National Life  
L Brown and Sons Printing  
Artisan's Hand  
Clar Construction  
Concept 2 Rowing  
Fothergill, Segale & Valley  
Hunger Mountain Coop  
Inn at Montpelier  
Julio's Cantina  
Linn & Stephan Syz  
Montpelier Gourmands  
Montpelier Pharmacy  
Onion River Sports  
Paul Carnahan  
Shoe Horn  
Steve Everett  
The Cheshire Cat  
The Drawing Board  
Vermont College of Fine Arts  
Waterbury Record/ Stowe Reporter

### Flowers

Athena's  
Fothergill Segale & Valley  
Julio's Cantina  
Katie's Jewels  
Northfield Savings Bank  
Pinky's on State  
Splash Naturals  
The Manghis' Bread  
Village Pizza

### Independence Day Sponsors:

Vermont State Employees Credit Union  
National Life Group  
Chittenden Bank  
Montpelier Pharmacy  
Northfield Savings Bank  
Vermont Mutual Insurance Company  
Cody Chevrolet - Cadillac  
Community National Bank  
Denis, Ricker & Brown Insurance  
Hunger Mountain Coop  
Onion River Sports /The Shoe Horn  
The Drawing Board  
Rotary Club of Montpelier  
Betsy's Bed & Breakfast  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont  
Cabot Creamery  
Capital Deli  
Capitol Grounds  
Capitol Plaza and Conference Center  
Casella Waste Management  
Connor Contracting  
Diamond & Robinson  
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC  
First in Fitness  
Julio's Cantina  
Kurrle Fuels

McGillicuddy's Irish Pub  
Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks  
Noyle W. Johnson Insurance  
Tertl Studios LLC  
Union Mutual of Vermont  
Utton's Automotive

### Brown Bag Sponsors

Capitol Copy  
Central Vermont New Directions Coalition  
Guitar Sam  
Hot Diggity Dogs  
Montpelier Pharmacy  
Sullivan Powers & Company  
Vermont Trading Company

### Did You Know ...Montpelier?

Coldwell Banker Classic Properties

### USAF Liberty Big Band Concert

L. Brown & Sons Printing  
Norwich University

### Wagon Rides

Bear Pond Books  
The Drawing Board  
Guy's Farm & Yard  
Zutano  
Capital Kitchen  
Hunger Mountain Coop

### Other Holiday Events

New England Culinary Institute  
Savoy Theater  
Morse Farm

### First Night

AAA Northern New England  
City of Montpelier  
National Life  
Alan S. Rome, Esquire  
Alteris Renewables  
Artisans Hand  
Barre Granite Association  
Bear Pond Books  
Betsy's Bed & Breakfast  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont  
Bragg Farm Sugar House  
Cabot Creamery  
Capitol City Auto Mart  
Capitol Grounds  
Capitol Stationers  
Chittenden Bank  
Comfort Inn & Suites  
Community National Bank  
Denis, Ricker & Brown  
Diamond & Robinson  
Downs Rachlin & Martin PLLC  
The Drawing Board  
Dunkin Donuts  
Everett Insurance  
First in Fitness  
Fothergill, Segale & Valley  
Gossens Bachman Architects  
Guy's Farm & Yard  
Hollow Inn & Motel  
Hunger Mountain Coop  
Julio's Cantina  
Karena Shippee O.D.  
Kiwanis Club of Montpelier  
Kurrle Fuels  
Minuteman Press

Montpelier Pharmacy  
Morse Farm Sugarworks  
Northfield Savings Bank  
Noyle W. Johnson  
Onion River Sports/The Shoe Horn/Onion River Kids  
Phyllis Rubenstein, Atty. At Law  
Poulos Insurance Co.  
Rock of Ages Corporation  
The Skinny Pancake  
State Farm Insurance / Dana Polakowski, Agent  
Sarducci's  
Sears  
Tertl Studios  
The Times Argus  
True Colors  
Union Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
Vermont Audiology  
Vermont Mutual Insurance Co.  
Washington Electric Coop  
Wayside Restaurant  
William Shouldice & Associates  
Zalinger Cameron & Lambek  
Zutano

### Other Donations

Jon Anderson  
Eunice Brooks  
Mary Bronson  
William Bruzese  
Geoffrey Fitzgerald  
George Johnson  
Jessica Kobb  
Donald Lyons  
Kenneth McGuckin  
Andrew Minkin  
Charles Mindel  
Donald Rae  
William Ricker  
Susan Russell  
Eric Seidel  
Camilla Strauss  
Georgia Valentine  
Carol Vassar  
Douglas Zorzi

## First Night, con't

Performances get underway in eleven downtown venues at 4 PM. Marko the Magician, Lost Nation Theater, Willem Lange, and the Vermont Philharmonic are among the performers returning to Montpelier this year while several other acts will be making first-time appearances. Folk singer/songwriter Anaïs Mitchell has performed on stages across the country and she'll bring her award-winning talent to the Unitarian Church for one show at 6 PM. Eric McDermott and the Dixie Red Delights recently returned from concerts in Ireland and Nashville. They will perform their unique blend of fire-grass, Americana and alt-country rock in two shows at the Trinity Church.

Kids of all ages will enjoy No Strings Marionettes performance of "Jack & the Beanstalk," as well as Rob Mermin's Bubble Circus. The ReStore will provide their popular hatmaking workshop. Revelers can also make noisemakers for the community procession to the State House lawn and the fireworks at 8:30 PM.

The New Year's Eve celebration is presented by Montpelier Alive and the City of Montpelier with generous underwriting from the National Life Group and many local businesses.

For more information on First Night Montpelier, including a complete schedule of events and road race application, visit [www.MontpelierAlive.org](http://www.MontpelierAlive.org).

### Get First Night Buttons now for less!

First Night buttons will go on sale at locations throughout Central Vermont beginning November 27. Buttons purchased before December 31 are \$12 for a single button or \$10 per button for purchases of 4 or more buttons. Buttons purchased the day of the festival will be \$15 for a single button and \$13 per button for purchase of 4 or more buttons. Children 3 and under are admitted free of charge. Entrance to a single event without a button is just \$5. Buttons can be purchased at: Montpelier City Clerk, Times Argus, Minuteman Press, Montpelier Visitor's Center, Capitol Stationers, Hunger Mountain Coop, Shaw's Montpelier, Barre Books, Peter Glenn, The World, Barre-Montpelier Rd. Kinney Drugs, Bragg Farm, Maple Corner Store, Northfield Pharmacy, Merchants Bank Waterbury.



# CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS IN DOWNTOWN MONTPELIER



## Horse-drawn wagon rides

Fri 11/27; Sat. 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19 from noon-4pm  
Enjoy a free tour around downtown Montpelier on a horse-drawn wagon. The wagon rides are free thanks to the sponsorship of Zutano, Guy's Farm and Yard, Bear Pond Books, The Drawing Board, Hunger Mountain Coop and Capital Kitchen. Organized by Montpelier Alive.



Photo by Linda Hogan, 2008

## Capital City Cash Sale

**Fri 11/27-Sun 11/29**  
Capital City Cash has a new look. To celebrate, participating retailers are offering an additional 10% off when you purchase items with Capital City Cash from November 27-29. For more information, visit [www.montpelieralive.org](http://www.montpelieralive.org).

## Local Author & Radio Personality Willem Lange Reads His Holiday Tale, Favor Johnson

Fri 11/27, at 11 am  
Favor Johnson, A Christmas Story has been a favorite radio story for 25 years and is published now for the first time. This is a free event at Bear Pond Books.

## Illumination Night

Fri 12/4 from 5:30-7pm

Vermont College continues a 24 year tradition of tree lighting and caroling. Enjoy luminarias and refreshments as well.

## Art Walk

Fri 12/4 from 4-8pm  
Over 20 venues will be displaying art. Many will also feature artist talks or receptions. Information available at The Lazy Pear Gallery and online at [montpelieralive.org](http://montpelieralive.org).

## The Messiah Concerts

Fri 12/4 at 7:30 pm  
St. Augustine Catholic Church  
Let Handel's masterpiece lift your holiday spirit. This not-to-be-missed annual Central Vermont tradition features local soloists, singers from several local choirs and the talented members

of the Vermont Philharmonic. More information at [www.vermontphilharmonic.org](http://www.vermontphilharmonic.org).

## Santa Comes to Town in a Fire Engine for Tree Lighting and Cookie Decorating

Sat 12/5 at 4:30pm  
Come to City Center to hear carolers, watch the lighting of the holiday tree, and meet Santa. Inside La Brioche, New England Culinary Institute has made dozens of cookies for youngsters to decorate. Tree donated by Morse Farm. Event organized by NECI and Montpelier Alive.

## State House Tree Lighting

Tue 12/8 at 4:30pm  
Caroling, hot cider and cookies for all! See the outside tree being lit

and enjoy the Victorian tree inside the State House. SD Ireland will also be present with the Christmas and Cancer Truck lit up with thousands of holiday lights.

## "It's a Wonderful Life"

Tue-Thurs 12/8-12/10 at 7pm  
Lost Nation Theater presents a radio play adaptation of the classic movie. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Each child 6-11 years old will be admitted for free with one paying adult. For more information call 229-0492. or visit [www.lostnationtheater.org](http://www.lostnationtheater.org)

## Free Parking

Thanksgiving Day and 12/11-25  
Two hours of free parking in downtown Montpelier! (Only in metered spaces. Does not include long-term parking lots; two-hour limits enforced on weekdays). On weekends enjoy unlimited free parking.



## Live Mannequins in Stores and Holiday Cement Mixer

Fri 12/11 from 5-7 pm  
To kick off the beginning of late store hours, downtown retailers are creating scenes with live man-

nequins in their windows in conjunction with Masque, MHS drama students. From Dec 11-23, most stores are open until 8pm on weekdays and Saturdays. As an added perk, SD Ireland will be bringing their Christmas and Cancer truck decorated with 1000s of lights!

## Touch of Vermont Holiday Gift Market

Sat 12/12 from 9 am - 4 pm  
Buy your holiday gifts from over 40 Vermont vendors at City Hall, while supporting OUR House of Central Vermont. OUR House fundraising raffle grand prize winner will receive a \$500 shopping spree good for any store in Montpelier. Sponsored by Northfield Savings Bank. ([www.TouchofVT.org](http://www.TouchofVT.org)).

## Free showing of "The Wizard of Oz" at the Savoy Theater

Sun 12/13 and Sat 12/19 at 10:30am  
Come join us for this classic coming home story that has been entertaining audiences for 70 years! Donations are greatly appreciated. Sponsored by the Savoy Theater and Montpelier Alive.

## First Night Montpelier

Thurs 12/31 from 1pm-midnight  
Ring in the New Year at First Night with over 40 performances and activities including music, children's programs, a food court, 5 K road race, parade and fireworks! Brought to you by Montpelier Alive and the City of Montpelier. More information, at [www.montpelieralive.org](http://www.montpelieralive.org).