



Montpelier Alive

• ENRICHING A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN •

PRESS RELEASE

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

PARADE OF LIGHTS AND DISCO PARTY IS THE NEW FINALE AT FIRST NIGHT MONTPELIER

Bring Your Light to First Night!

**New Year's Eve festival celebrates with lanterns, disco,
and puppets at 9 pm in City Hall Plaza on December 31st**

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 and Disco Party. Puppets, lanterns, drummers, torches, and fire spinners will join The Lantern Choir, our celebrity DJ Don P, The Fire Organ, and a crowd of dancing revelers in the spinning lights of the disco ball from 9:00 to 10:00 pm. Bring YOUR Light to First Night! Come dance!

NINE-YEAR-OLD PAOLO ROVETTO AKA DJ DON P brings his dubbing sounds to City Hall Plaza, under the spinning Disco Ball. Paolo has been honing his DJ skills from the very young age of one! Climbing on the table where his father's turntables were, he quickly learned how to turn the whole system on and load the records. Before long he knew his favorite records, and would jump up and down on to make the records skip. At the age of two he DJ'ed his first gig in front of 650 people, opening for world famous reggae sensation *Midnite* from St. Croix. He completed a twenty-minute set flawlessly. As you can imagine people were astonished. Since then he has had numerous trainings and has DJ'ed many events including outdoor music festivals and clubs. DJ Don P is currently 9 years old and has been invited to DJ our outdoor dance party at First Night Montpelier. Please come out, bring your kids and show support for this young entertainer. Paolo is excited to perform for his community, and is honored to be invited to DJ at First Night's Disco Party & Lantern Launch.

THE AMAZING FIRE ORGAN BY SCULPTOR ANTOINETTE JACOBSON

The Fire Organ is a made up name and a made up musical instrument! Working on the principle first described in 1875 by French physicist George Kastner, this "pyrophone" is a set of steel tubes that produce sound when the flame of a propane torch is applied to them. As in a traditional flue pipe organ the diameter and the length of the pipe control the pitch of the vibration but varying factors like the weather affect the tone of it. Each organ has a specific relationship of sounds, tuned to specific circumstances. Antoinette holds an Advanced Degree in Sculpture from St. Martin's School of Art in London. She performs in special events all over the world with other musicians, fire artists, puppets, inflatables and sculptures.

JANICE WALRAFEN'S PUPPETS AND DRUMMERS LEAD THE PARADE OF LIGHTS

Join Father Time, The Dragon and Geese Puppets, drummers from The Green Mountain Druid Order, torch bearers, lantern carriers, dancers, revelers and fire spinners in the First Night Parade of Lights. As shows get out at 8:45 pm, the Parade will start at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library and dance down Main Street to City Hall Plaza, where the puppets will party and dance under the Disco Ball! Janice Walrafen brings her creative spirit and community energy to the gathering, along with her puppets and a Lantern Choir of beautiful voices, singing "This Little Light of Mine" – join the song, bring your light!

KERRY KAYE FIRE & LIGHT

Kerry Kaye performs heart-stopping displays of fire and light using poi, hoop, staff, double staves, fire eating/contact fire, and fire breathing. Something inside each of us makes it hard to look away when watching a fire burn. Fire allowed our ancestors to cook food, create tools, keep warm during long winters, and to feel comfortable and safe from the dangers of the wild. Fire connects us in a way that little else can. In modern society we rarely make use of fire to fulfill our basic needs. We are lacking an integral part of what makes us human! Kerry's fire shows bring back that missing element that connects us all. www.kerrykayefire.com

LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP LED BY ELLEN BLOOM & EMILY DWYER

Bring your light to First Night and be part of The Parade of Lights – OR make a lantern and bring it! Mother and daughter team Ellen & Emily will supply all the fun materials you need to light up the night at First Night. Come to City Center from 4:00 to 7:00 pm and have fun making stuff. Take a break and have a hot chocolate!

THE LANTERN LAUNCH

Hot air lanterns will be launched en masse during the disco festival of lights create a stunning effect in the sky for all to enjoy. Made from biodegradable tissue paper and bamboo, they take to the sky in the hundreds, lighting up the sky and stealing away with the year's bad luck. Floating Lanterns are a fantastic alternative to fireworks. They drift gently into the night sky, and can fly for many miles, before burning out and floating softly back to earth.

ONE BUTTON GETS YOU EVERYTHING!

For one admission price, First Night button holders have their choice of more than 89 hours of programming throughout the Capital City, including free swimming, skating, skiing and Zumba!. Named one of the Top Ten Winter Events in Vermont, First Night Montpelier includes perennial favorites plus many exciting new artists and activities.

BUTTON LOCATIONS - First Night buttons are on sale at locations throughout Central Vermont. In Montpelier: Shaw's, City Hall, Hunger Mountain Coop, Capitol Stationers,

Minuteman Press, and Slope Style Ski & Ride. In Barre: Hannaford Supermarket and Barre Books. On the Barre-Montpelier Road: Kinney Drugs. In East Montpelier: Bragg Farm. Plus Northfield Pharmacy and Merchant's Bank in Waterbury.

BUTTON PRICES - 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.

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 Volunteer Coordinator 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.