

Montpelier Downtown Community Association

Supporting the unique spirit of Montpelier since 1999

Summer 2009

MDCA Hosts 10th Annual Independence Day Celebration

Free performances and activities taking place on July 3rd throughout the Capitol City

The MDCA is putting the finishing touches on the 10th Annual Independence Day Celebration and it is shaping up to be one of the biggest, most exciting events in Central Vermont this summer. The festival will take place on Friday, July 3rd throughout Montpelier.



Photo by Jim Sheridan

Perennial favorites include the Pancake Breakfast at Christ Episcopal Church and the Recreation Department's free Family Fun Day at the Montpelier Pool. Kellogg-Hubbard Library will host a lawn party with bubble pools, refreshments, games and music by D'Moja. The fourth annual Montpe-

lier Mile Road Race will start at 6 PM, just prior to the parade and along the same route.

Activities get underway on the State House lawn beginning at 3:00 PM with food and craft vendors and performances. In celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, there will be a Lincoln Look-Alike Contest. No Strings Marionettes will perform "The Treasure Hunt" at 3 PM. The Starline Rhythm Boys

performs a hearty mixture of Bakersfield-styled honky-tonk and '50s rockabilly at 4:30.

The hour-long parade begins at 6:00 PM at the Main Street roundabout, proceeding down State Street to Montpelier High School. The line-up will include a dozen bands, floats, antique vehicles, horses, fire trucks, and numerous

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Montpelier Downtown
Community Association

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Calling all saxophonists, drummers and dancers—

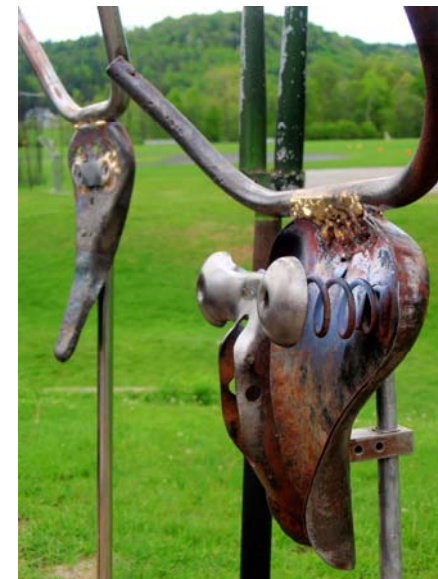
Join the parade as part of a special performing troupe. Emily Lanxner is organizing interested saxophonists, drummers and dancers for two songs—"Mas Que Nada" and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." She has created easy-to-read music plus MP3 files and a CD that will allow musicians of most skill levels to learn their part. A dance is being choreographed to go along with the songs so if you don't play an instrument, you can still join in. For more information, contact Lanxner at (802) 472-5913 or panashe@hotmail.com.

SculptCycles Return to Montpelier!

SculptCycles return to Montpelier! That's right. For a second straight year, downtown Montpelier will be featuring an outdoor exhibit of sculptures made from recycled bicycle parts. How appropriate for our capital city to feature imaginative artist creations from "recycled" wheels, gears, seats, handle bars and various non-bike components. It is all about art and biking for recreation and low impact commuting. The summer long event will feature over 20 SculptCycles placed to enchant and surprise visitors to Montpelier from June through October.

Momentum of the event is gathering as artists from Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Quebec prepare to install their inspirations. In addition, the SculptCycle Committee is fast at work lining up sponsors and planning SculptCycle placement. If you are visiting Montpelier in June, look for the new SculptCycles; they will be installed at random times as they are placed throughout the month. All of them should be installed by July 3rd, in time for an organized tour of the installations. Montpelier is such a wonderful place to visit, having a

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"American Bovine Gothic" by John Batten will be in front of the Denis, Ricker & Brown offices on State St. this summer.

Board of Directors

- **Jon Anderson**
Burak, Anderson & Melloni
- **James Bressor**
Norwich University
- **Shawn Bryan**
Community Member
- **Pinky Clark**
Thinkin' Pink
- **Greg Gossens**
Gossens Bachman Architects
- **Greg Guyette**
Kiosko, Inc.
- **David Hall**
Christ Church
- **Robert Hitzig**
The Lazy Pear Gallery
- **John Mayfield**
Julio's Cantina
- **Mark Molinaro**
New England Culinary Institute
- **Colleen Paull**
Vermont Trading Company
- **Brooke Pearson**
Montpelier High School
- **Peter Ricker**
Denis, Ricker & Brown
- **Linn Syz**
Vermont River Conservancy



James Irving is participating in SculptCycle for a second year. This year's piece entitled "Gear Sphere" is pictured above. Maps are available at www.sculptcycle.org and the Information Booth on State St.

Montpelier Downtown Community Association

Notes from the Director

Our 10th Anniversary is an exciting time for the Montpelier Downtown



Suzanne Hechmer
MDCA Director

Community Association. We have just welcomed four new board members: Greg Guyette, David Hall, Colleen Paull, and Greg Gossens. Lisa Miller, a graduate student in Strategic Communications from Columbia University, completed a study on MDCA as part of her final graduate work. Based on her recommendations, we realized that we needed to be a little more public about the great work we do. Our first task is to adopt a name that people can remember! In addition to a new name, we are im-

SculptCycles, continued

walkable historic downtown with many unique businesses; now, with a second year of SculptCycles, a stroll through town becomes magical.

Montpelier SculptCycle 2009 has been organized by the Montpelier Downtown Community Association and is made possible by its underwriters, The National Life Group and L. Brown and Sons Printing, as well as numerous sponsors, volunteers, and artists. Each SculptCycle will be for sale at a fixed price and can be purchased at anytime throughout the summer. Maps of SculptCycle locations will be available at City Hall, the State Tourism Center on State Street, and at various participating businesses. For more information, please visit www.sculptcycle.org.

proving our communications by transitioning our newsletter to both a print and electronic format and creating a new MDCA website. We are also expanding our weekly email update of Montpelier Happenings. Visit our website, www.mdca.org, to subscribe.

Of course, our focus on communications has not made us forget our great annual events such as Independence Day (see article on page 1). SculptCycle, which delighted residents and visitors alike last summer, is returning for an encore. The full schedule for the Brown Bag concert series is on page 3. We are looking forward to unveiling our new name at the last concert of the summer. I hope you will join us for some cake and fun then.

Here's to another 10 years of great work in downtown Montpelier!

Independence Day, cont

community groups. Montpelier Rotary Club's 2009 Distinguished Citizen of the Year, Senator Bill Doyle, will be the honorary parade marshal.

Following the parade, the Catamount Pipe Band will give a bagpipe concert on the State House Lawn. At 8 PM, the St. Johnsbury Band will perform a program of traditional Americana music on the State House steps. Fireworks begin at 9:30 with prime viewing from the State House lawn.

Two additional outdoor parties are taking place from 7:30 PM until midnight. McGillicuddy's Irish Pub's annual street dance will feature The Dave Keller Band on Langdon Street. Julio's Cantina will host a 70s-80s disco dance party with Polyester in the parking lot next to the State Street restaurant.

This community festival is underwritten by the Vermont State Employees Credit Union and the City of Montpelier.

Green Up Day Montpelier

More trash collected!

May 2, 2009, Vermont's official Green Up Day, was bright and sunny. About 100 volunteers stopped by City Hall Plaza that morning for donuts, coffee and bright green trash bags. While most volunteers picked up trash, a few helped plant trees, fought invasive plant species in the park, and prepared downtown for an infusion of new summer flowers. On the previous Friday, 42 volunteers from National Life and eight from Union Mutual got a head start on Green Up Day. By the end of the day on Saturday, volunteers had filled about 125 recycling bags and another 225 Green Up trash bags.

Shaw's, Dunkin Donuts and Capitol Grounds donated donuts and coffee for volunteers on Saturday. Hunger Mountain Coop provided the clear recycling bags which allowed us to expand our trash pick up and responsibly sort recyclables from trash.

Members of the MDCA Promotions Committee greeted volunteers, assigned areas to clean, and kept the donuts and coffee flowing. MDCA's Design Committee members used the work day to hang SculptCycle banners in City Hall plaza. The banners are local photographer Linda Hogan's intimate look at last year's public art project.

Green Up Day in Montpelier is coordinated by the MDCA. If you are interested in helping in next year's coordination, please contact MDCA Director Suzanne Hechmer at 223-9604.



Stay in touch with downtown by subscribing to weekly email updates of Montpelier events.

More at www.mdca.org

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Free concerts every Thursday at Noon

*Pocket Park at Christ Church
64 State Street*

**RAIN LOCATION:
Inside Christ Church**

Brought to you by MDCA

- July 9 Rusty Romance
Roots n' Roll sponsored by Montpelier Pharmacy
- July 16 The Concrete Rivals
Surf Rock Instrumentals sponsored by Guitar Sam
- July 23 Evan Crandall & the Too Hot to Handle
Funk/Soul/Jazz sponsored by Central Vermont New Directions Coalition
- July 30 Patti Casey with Steve Light
Elegantly funky acoustic music sponsored by Capitol Copy
- August 6 Starline Rhythm Boys
Honky-tonk, Rockabilly & Vintage Country sponsored by Sullivan, Powers & Co.
- August 13 Green Mountain Swing
Big Band Favorites sponsored by Hot Diggity Dogs
- August 20 The Dave Keller Band
Blues & Soul sponsored by Vermont Trading Company

Enjoy birthday cake to celebrate MDCA's 10th Anniversary at the August 20th Brown Bag Concert!

MDCA Unveils new Recycling Bins on Earth Day!

Eight sidewalk recycling bins were unveiled in City Hall Plaza on Earth Day, Wednesday April 22, 2009 at 5pm. The bins purchased by the MDCA provide easy opportunities to recycle throughout the downtown. This will not only keep our streets and sidewalks cleaner; it will also affirm Vermont's capital city's commitment to protect the environment to residents and visitors alike.

The bins will be maintained and emptied by the City of Montpelier. Working with the City, the MDCA Design Committee devised a simple method for emptying the recycling bins. The recycling bins will use clear liner bags. When the

City contractor who empties the trash cans empties the recycling bins, he will be able to easily separate the trash from the recycling,



Eight new recycling bins feature clear labels and a bright green color.

assuring the integrity of the project.

Before deciding to purchase recycling bins on downtown streets this fall. Design Committee Chair Paul Carnahan reports: "We were happy to see that very little trash went into the recycling bins. A few years ago when a similar test was done, the recycling was cluttered with trash." Central Vermont Solid Waste District's move to single stream recycling a few years ago made street recycling in Montpelier possible, since all recyclables can now be mixed together.

Independence Celebration Street Closings and Parking Restrictions:

A number of streets will be closed during portions of Thursday, July 3rd for Montpelier's Independence Day celebration. Travelers should expect delays or seek alternate routes, especially during the evening hours. Street closures and parking restrictions include:

State Street—between Governor Davis and Bailey Avenue: Closed from 2:30 PM until 10 PM for vendors and parade. Note: Access to Department of Motor Vehicles will be re-routed through state parking lots.

Main Street between the Roundabout and State Street: Closed from 6 PM until approximately 7:45 for the Montpelier Mile Road Race followed by the parade. Note: No parking on State Street between 5 -8 PM. Vehicles remaining on street will be towed.

Langdon Street: Closed from 3 PM to 1 AM for McGillicuddy's and Langdon Street Café street parties.

60 State Street Parking Lot: Closed from 3 PM to 1 AM for Julio's Cantina street party.

The Meadow Area: Closed from 4:30 to 6 PM for parade staging area. All resident vehicles must be removed from the street.

School Street—between St. Paul and Main Streets: Closed from 4:30 to 7:45 PM for parade staging area. All resident vehicles must be removed from the street.

Entry Form

Your Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

New Name for MDCA:

Please submit entries to MDCA via:

- Email at director@mdca.org;
- Drop off at Capitol Grounds; or
- Phone 223-9604

Entries due by August 14, 2009

The Montpelier Downtown Community Association is sponsoring a contest to identify a new name that better describes what we do and is easy to use and remember. Prizes include: \$100 in Capital Cash, a framed poster of artist banners from downtown Montpelier, free admission to First Night, free wagon rides at Christmas, and an honorary position in the 2010 July 3rd parade. The winning entry will be awarded on August 20, 2009.

A recent study for MDCA found that people are familiar with the many good things we do for Montpelier. For example, they appreciate the events we hold and coordinate including the First Night and Independence Day celebrations,

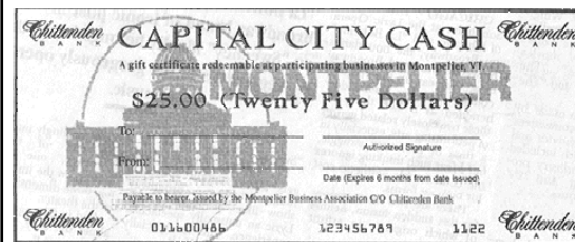
the Brown Bag lunchtime concert series, Sculptcycle, Art Walks, and Christmas activities. The public likes the visitors guide brochure that we publish and distribute throughout Vermont. They like the projects for which we have helped secure funding including the City Hall park. They use the benches, trash barrels, and recycling bins that we placed downtown. Unfortunately, most people do not know

that we do all of those projects. To address this problem, the study proposes renaming MDCA and developing a logo.

MDCA decided to ask for your help by sponsoring the Name that Org contest. Brochures describing the contest and entry blanks are available throughout downtown or they are available on the web at www.mdca.org.

Name that Organization and Win!

Stuck for the perfect present for your graduate? Capital City Cash to the rescue!



Capital City Cash has no expiration date & can be used at most downtown stores . Purchase it at the Chittenden Bank or Capitol Stationers.

Your support of local businesses helps keep our economy strong!

- * * **Celebrate MDCA's 10th Birthday!**
- * Thursday, August 8 from noon-1:30;
- * Christ Church pocket park
- * Dave Keller Band, free birthday cake, and our new



After the crab apple tree fell down last summer, the MDCA Design Committee stepped in leveling the ground and planting two new trees and flowers. This spring, miniature daffodils brightened the plaza. In summer, the golden spirea and astilbe that were planted around the little leaf linden trees should also add bright blooms to the plaza.

MDCA Enters Electronic Age with New Website, e-Newsletter

The MDCA is launching its new and improved website this month and adding an electronic version of our quarterly newsletter. The new website will feature interactive maps, tourist information, business listings, and up-to-date information about events such as the Brown Bag Concert Series, Independence Day, and First Night. Because the new website is a content-management system, it will allow MDCA to regularly post answers for common questions such

as “when do the fireworks start?” or “how do I participate in the Independence Day parade?”

As part of the move to bring MDCA into the information age, we are also using a more sophisticated system to send out our weekly Montpelier Updates, a listing of activities in the upcoming week, general news, and tips about buying local.

In its efforts to remain fiscally conservative, MDCA is taking advan-

tage of free content. Events calendars will link back to weekly MDCA Montpelier Updates and existing online calendars. A photo page for Montpelier will link to content on flickr, a photo-sharing site. The business listings are a joint effort of the MDCA and the City of Montpelier, hosted on the City’s website.

So check out the new look at www.mdca.org!