



Montpelier Alive

● ENRICHING A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN ●

Montpelier Alive Plans 11th Annual Independence Day Celebration

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



Photo by Jim Sheridan

With day-long activities throughout downtown and on the State House lawn, Montpelier's annual July 3rd celebration is shaping up to be bigger and more exciting than ever before! It's on Saturday this year, so the festival runs from 11 am to 11 pm! A full schedule of events is on our website, www.MontpelierAlive.org.

BBQ. Kellogg-Hubbard Library will host its lawn party with bubble pools, refreshments, games and music by Resnik & Morrissey. The Vermont Historical Society Museum is free all day, with a star-spangled wand-making workshop for kids from 1 to 4 pm.

From 11 am to 1 pm, downtown will showcase a variety of street performers and activities on Main and Langdon Streets: Rob Mermin, Marko the Magician, The Junkman,

blues by Dave Keller, chalk art, balloon animals, face painting and much more!

Lost Nation Theater has scheduled a special matinee performance of the wacky comedy "Love Letters Made Easy."

DON'T MISS THE CIRCUS! Activities get underway on the State House lawn beginning at 1:00pm, with The Nimble Arts Circus – aerials, jugglers and more, plus vaudeville shows by

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Summer 2010 issue

Montpelier Alive
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Perennial favorites include the pancake breakfast at Christ Episcopal Church and the Recreation Department's free Family Fun Day at the Montpelier Pool. Trinity Methodist Church has an auction and chicken

Memorial Planters Available in Montpelier

Montpelier Alive is embarking on a new project to replace the downtown's aging oak-barrel planters with attractive new planters with an urban aesthetic.

Constructed of a durable polyethylene material with a subtle aggregate look, the new planters will be purchased in three different sizes. They will be grouped around streetscape features such as light poles or sidewalk "bulb-outs" and will feature a mix of flowering and ornamental annuals appropriate to our climate. Opportunities are available

for people who are interested in supporting this project by creating a memorial with a plaque on the planters for a contribution of \$525 or more. Montpelier Alive welcomes contributions in any amount toward the project.

In this first year, our goal is to replace the oak planters on State Street between Main and Elm Streets. In subsequent years, we hope to be able to replace the planters throughout the rest of the downtown. Memorials have been a

(Continued on page 2)

Calling all would-be-drummers —join the parade!

The Independence Day parade will feature a special percussion troupe and everyone is invited to join. Donald Knaack THE JUNKMAN is organizing interested citizens of all ages to join in a JUNK JAM in the parade and afterward. At noon there will be a short training session, with gathering at 5 pm for the parade. For more information, contact Jimmy Swift at 223-9604.



Montpelier Alive is in the process of purchasing new planters similar to these above found in Des Moines, Iowa. The new planters will be grouped to form mini-gardens and each planter will have a memorial plaque. If you are interested in sponsoring a planter, please turn to page 2 or call Montpelier Alive at 223-9604.

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
Monarch Industries
- Robert Hitzig
The Lazy Pear Gallery
- John Mayfield
Julio's Cantina
- Colleen Paull
Community Member
- Peter Ricker
Denis, Ricker & Brown
- Linn Syz
Vermont River Conservancy

Montpelier Alive (formerly Montpelier Downtown Community Association)

Notes from the Director

Change is in the air again. After successfully changing our name last year from Montpelier Downtown Community Association to Montpelier Alive, this year we are changing our Executive Director. That's right. After three-plus great years, I am moving on in September to my new role as full-time Mom.



Suzanne Eikenberry, Montpelier Alive Director

I feel good about where the organization is. We have a solid base of volunteers who are the movers and shakers of our projects. They are the ones who make Art Walk, Brown Bag concerts, downtown flowers, street recycling, banners, and so much more pos-

sible. They also carry the torch on a number of behind-the-scenes projects, such as a pilot project we worked on this past year with Smart Growth Vermont to create indicators of downtown health.

In addition to our volunteers, Montpelier Alive welcomed Jimmy Swift as our new Festival Coordinator. Jimmy has helped us revise our membership and sponsorship systems and is bringing new energy to First Night and Independence Day celebrations. Finally, changing our name has increased our visibility in the community. While we have always done great work, many people did not attribute the projects they loved to us.

While I do not know yet who my successor will be, I hope you all come out to give him or her a warm welcome when s/he starts in late August.

Memorial Planters, con't

popular method of funding civic improvements and were used for the wooden benches downtown and City Hall Plaza renovations a decade ago.

Gregg Gossens, Montpelier Alive board member and partner in Gossens Bachman Architects, devised the plan of grouping the new planters around sidewalk features. "By having a few planters nestled together, the downtown planters should really make a big visual impact." The new "Rosa" planters are produced by Landscape Forms in 24", 30" and 36" diameters.

Montpelier Alive is a 501(c)(3), so contributions to the planter fund may be tax-deductible as a charitable contribution. For more information on the project, contact Montpelier Alive executive director Suzanne Eikenberry at director@montpelieralive.org or at 802-223-9604.

Make a Donation Today!

I want to support the work of Montpelier Alive—The Brown Bag concerts, public art projects, First Night, Independence Day, street recycling, benches, flowers, business assistance and more!

Here is my tax-deductible membership contribution of:

- \$25 \$50 \$85
 \$125 \$250
 other \$ _____

Please help us replace our aging flower planters by sponsoring a memorial planter with a plaque or making a contribution of any amount. See page 1 for details.

I am interested in adopting a planter! Here is my tax-deductible contribution of:

- 24" planter: \$525
 30" planter: \$675
 36" planter: \$825
 Other amount \$ _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

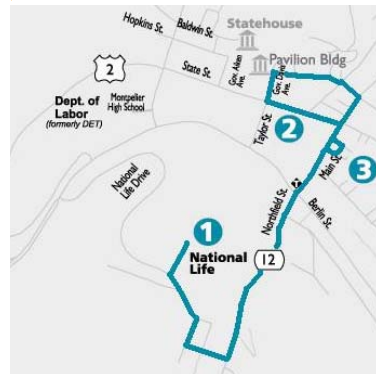
If sponsoring a memorial planter for \$525 or more, please print the exact wording you would like on your plaque.

Montpelier Alive is a 501 (c)(3), and your contribution may be tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

Please make check payable to Montpelier Alive and mail to: Montpelier Alive, 39 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. Contributions can also be made online at www.MontpelierAlive.org/Donate.



New this year! Take the bus from satellite lots to Independence Day!
For full details of schedules and lot locations, visit our website, www.MontpelierAlive.org.



SHUTTLE SCHEDULE: 4-11 pm

Two shuttles operating approximately every 15 minutes from:

1. National Life
2. State St./Governor Davis Ave.
3. City Hall (From 5-8 pm pick-up location while State St closed)

This is a FREE service of Green Mountain Transit Agency (GMTA)

All GMTA buses offer ADA Service and are equipped with wheelchair lifts and wheelchair tie-down spaces. GMTA and event organizers encourage individuals with special needs to take advantage of this free service for safe and easy access to the July 3rd celebration.

In addition to the two shuttles, the Montpelier Hospital Hill route will be automatically scheduled to deviate to National Life inbound to Montpelier at approximately 10min past the hour until the free shuttle service begins at 4:00PM. The MHH will go to National Life outbound by on-board request at 32min past the hour. Anyone at National Life at 32min past the hour may pay the fare and ride the MHH to the Mobile station at the corner of Northfield Street and Berlin Street. Please note that the bus will not return to the downtown area before going to the hospital hill area. The new 50% reduced fares will apply when riding the MHH.

July 3rd Festivities Start Early This Year!



11 am-1 pm	Downtown Fun
1 pm	State House Lawn Circus
6 pm	Parade
9:30 pm	Fireworks

See the full schedule at www.MontpelierAlive.org

Art Walk, con't

Montpelier is a bustling center of creative energies, and Art Walk intends to spotlight the great work that is produced in the region. By combining artist receptions with participatory events and informative talks, Art Walk presents a full and varied slate of opportunities for both the artists and their audiences.

Independence Day, con't

FOOLZ and Stephen Gratto. More than forty food and craft vendors will fill the street. Music, fun and games plus lots of activities for kids fill the lawn.

The fifth annual Montpelier Mile Road Race will start at 6:00pm, just prior to the parade and along the same route.

The hour-long parade begins at 6:00pm at the Main Street roundabout, proceeding down State Street to Montpelier High School. The line-up will include veterans, a dozen bands, floats, antique vehicles, clowns, puppets and numerous community groups. Carolyn Silsby, Montpelier Rotary Club's 2010 Distinguished Citizen of the Year, will be the honorary parade marshal. New this year will be judging for best groups and floats.

Following the parade, numerous artists will perform on the State House lawn. From 8 to 9 pm, the Green Mountain Youth Symphony will perform a program of classical pops on the State House steps. Fireworks by Northstar begin at 9:30 pm, with prime viewing from the State House lawn.

Outdoor parties are taking place from 7:30pm until midnight. McGillicuddy's Irish Pub hosts its annual street dance on Langdon Street, and Julio's Cantina throws a '60s dance party with the band Mellow Yellow in the parking lot next to the State Street restaurant. Admission to both events is free.

VSECU is the underwriter of our community festival and sponsor of the fireworks. Major support from the City of Montpelier, along with sponsorship from dozens of other local businesses, makes the free activities, performances and parade possible.

For more information on Montpelier's Independence Day schedule of events, visit the Montpelier Alive website at www.montpelieralive.org.

Independence Celebration Street Closings and Parking Restrictions:

On Saturday, July 3, travelers should expect delays or seek alternate routes, especially during the evening hours, due to street closures and parking restrictions; including:

State Street-between Governor Davis and Bailey Avenue: Closed from 12:30 pm until 10 pm for vendors and parade. Note: Access to Department of Motor Vehicles will be re-routed through state parking lots.

State Street: No parking on State Street between 5 -8 pm. Towing enforced.

Taylor Street Bridge: Closed.

Main Street between the Roundabout and State Street: Closed from 6 pm to approximately 7:45 for the Montpelier Mile Road Race followed by the parade.

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

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

Capitol Plaza Designated Parking Lot: closed to all but wedding guests.

The Meadow Area: Closed from 4:30 to 6:30 pm for parade staging area. 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.

More at www.MontpelierAlive.org

The Brown Bag Series

Free concerts every Thursday at Noon
 Christ Church Courtyard, 64 State Street
 RAIN INFO: www.montpelieralive.org or 223-9604

- July 1 Rachael Rice & The Cosmic Americans**
 Sweetheart of the Alt-Country Rodeo
 sponsored by Sullivan, Powers & Co.
- July 8 House Carpenters**
 Old Time Fiddle Tunes & Folk Songs sponsored by Guitar Sam
- July 15 Evan Crandell & the Too Hot to Handle**
 Funk/Soul/Jazz sponsored by Capitol Grounds
- July 22 Gregory Douglass**
 Evocative Piano Music
 sponsored by Central VT New Directions Coalition
- July 29 Dana & Susan Robinson**
 Old Time Music, Original Songs from North Carolina
 sponsored by Capitol Copy
- Aug 5 Patrick Fitzsimmons Trio**
 Folk-Rock Anthems and Love Ballads
 sponsored by Montpelier Pharmacy
- Aug 12 Green Mountain Swing**
 Big Band Favorites sponsored by Onion River Kids
- Aug 19 Stone, Coane & Sacher**
 Bluegrass sponsored by Coldwell Banker Classic Properties

Green Up Day

Green Up Day was another huge success this year with many projects completed, from trash pick-up to invasive species work to weeding park areas and planting trees. Montpelier Alive would like to thank the 40-plus National Life employees who volunteered on Friday, April 30 and the many community members who pitched in on Saturday, May 1. Special thanks also go to Public Works for collecting bags, 1-800-GOT-JUNK for cleaning up larger dumped items (chairs, etc), and Central Vermont Solid Waste District for covering the cost of disposal. The Tree Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Parks Department led projects. Finally, thanks to the downtown merchants for making volunteers feel special.



Montpelier Art Walk Re-Born

The Promotions Committee, led by volunteer Phayvanh Luekhamhan, has reinvigorated the quarterly Art Walks with a redesign of the guide booklet, a broader range of artistic disciplines, and new promotions strategies, all for a slightly increased participation fee.

The first Art Walk this year focused on local poets took place on April 23, during National Poetry Month. This allowed us to highlight the POETRY Alive! exhibit that the Kellogg Hubbard Library produced jointly with Montpelier Alive. The theme inspired other venues to focus on poetry as well. Both the Vermont College of Fine Arts and The Shoe Horn hosted poetry readings that night. Bear Pond Books created a participatory event called Post Poem. Montpelier was host to visitors from all over the state on this night.

The June 4 Art Walk, themed “The Future of Vermont” complemented the Art of Action Curator’s Choice exhibit currently at the Vermont Supreme Court. Again, participants were inspired and a couple of talks were scheduled—one at the Times Argus office, the other at The Knitting Studio. Bear Pond Books again hosted a participatory event called *Dear Mr. President*. The Vermont Historical Society Museum decided to open their doors to the public for FREE during Art Walk only. Fun

events for the family included the Main Street Middle School Glee Club’s first concert and a free-form Hula Hoop Jam.

The improved promotions strategy includes active use of a Facebook page, which includes invitations and daily previews; public service announcements and guest spots on local radio stations; and web videos on sites like YouTube. We’ve received mentions in *Seven Days*, *The Times Argus* and *Vermont Art Zine Blog*. The



Elissa Campbell demonstrates book making to visitors at Artisans Hand during the April Art Walk.

guidebook is downloadable on the Montpelier Alive website, which is updated to include current information.

The last two Art Walks for the rest of 2010 will be on October 15 and December 10. Though these are not themed Art Walks, they are shaping up to have common ideas. October will be heavily focused on comics and cartooning while December remains the annual holiday event.

As Art Walk continually reshapes itself, it will grow to encompass many different artistic disciplines including the culinary arts, music, literature, and theater, as well as the traditional framed fine art pieces that our region is known for. The downtown business community has embraced this revamp, as evidenced by the creative participation from non-traditional venues like the Times Argus.

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