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## Planning For City's First New Year's Eve Event Underway

### Organizers Hope 'Midnight On Main' Draws A Crowd

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The Hartford Courant

8:05 AM EDT, August 3, 2011

MIDDLETOWN —

Fourteen venues on Main Street will provide live entertainment for the city's first-ever New Year's Eve celebration, according to the organizers of Midnight on Main.

Music, dancing, films, cooking and sword-swallowing will be part of the event, created by Community Health Center CEO Mark Masselli.

He said Midnight on Main could draw up to 5,000 people — a boon for restaurants and businesses and a way to showcase the city's attractions.

The common council has pledged \$10,000 this week to co-sponsor the event.

"Some of us might have gone to other communities [for similar events]," Masselli said. "Every time we go to these other communities we think 'Boy, Middletown would be a great place to have a New Year's Eve celebration.'"

He said the celebration would include fireworks set off from the roof of a Main Street building and a midnight bell-ringing.

Jennifer Alexander, founder of Kidcity Children's Museum, said performances will include Steve Songs of PBS Kids, jugglers, sword swallows, classical music, Brazilian music, West African drummers, Indonesian dancers, films, cooking demonstrations and author talks.

"It's going to bring out people from all walks of life," Alexander said.

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Mayor Sebastian Giuliano said the city's costs would mostly include overtime for city employees for cleanup after the event, and some police overtime.

"It's my hope that we can do this without much more [police staffing] than we put on the street on New Year's Eve in any event," Giuliano said. "By 6 o'clock on New Year's Eve everybody is pretty much where they're going to be already."

He said the first event will be a trial run, and an annual celebration would be much easier to plan and budget for after the first time.

About 20 businesses, organizations and churches will host at least one related activity during the event, said Lucy McMillan, one of the organizers.

She said the group still needs volunteers, and all volunteers will get free entry.

Admission will be \$16 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for children.

"We expect to fill up every bit of parking downtown and we hope that's going to benefit the restaurants," Masselli said. "I hope everyone welcomes in the new year in Middletown."

For more information about the celebration go to <http://www.midnight.org>.

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