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## Middletown's 'Midnight On Main' To Feature 100 Performances

By SHAWN R. BEALS, [sbeals@courant.com](mailto:sbeals@courant.com)

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MIDDLETOWN —

The first-ever city-wide New Year's Eve celebration – Midnight on Main – will include more than 100 performances in 12 venues, fireworks, a film festival, speed dating, food trucks and many family activities.

The Community Health Center and several other organizations created the event this year to give city residents a place to celebrate.

Midnight on Main will run from 3 p.m. until midnight, and will include a fireworks display at 6 p.m. from the roof of a building at the corner of Main and Washington streets.

Community Health Center CEO Mark Masselli said the New Year's Eve celebration will begin a recognition of the company's 40th anniversary in 2012. He said the CHC is committed to Middletown, and wanted to include the city in its celebration.

"This comes from two things: No. 1, a deep love of the city of Middletown. It's a great community always on the rise," Masselli said. "And No. 2, our Main Street is really great. It's a Main Street that is accessible and has lots of great places to eat. For the people who get here, they're always surprised."

PBS Kids singer SteveSongs, Mystic-based band Barefoot Truth and Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams will play music during the night. Other performances, stories, workshops, dances, crafts, cooking, film and children's entertainment will be offered along Main Street throughout the event.

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The common council contributed \$10,000 to help fund the event in August, and became one of the sponsors. Other sponsors include the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, Wesleyan University, the Downtown Business District, the North End Action Team, the Middletown Eye, Oddfellows Playhouse, the Green Street Arts Center, Kidcity Children's Museum, Triple Frog, the Buttonwood Tree, Pratt & Whitney and the Centerplan Companies.

A free iPhone and Android application called "Midnight on Main" was available Friday, and includes a countdown, a list of events by category and the locations of each activity. Anyone who uses the application can plan an itinerary and get directions to each activity.

Anyone attending the event can buy a Midnight on Main button, which allows entry into all events and venues for one price. Buttons cost \$16 for adults until Dec. 25, and \$20 after Dec. 25. Buttons for children cost \$10.

Buttons are available online or at It's Only Natural Market, New England Emporium, Kidcity and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. For more information and a full schedule of events go to <http://www.midnight.org>.

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