

New Year's Eve 2001

From a simple **night** at home
with friends, to parties that
continue into the **next** morning,
organizations and business
around the state are offering
plenty to do while *Ringin*
in the New Year.



By CELINA VAN GORDER
and KRISTEN A. TURICK
Staff Writers

Activities around the state offer revelers plenty to do to welcome in the new year, whether a person prefers fireworks, a night of dancing to a live band or sharing a bottle of champagne with a loved one.

The usual New Year's Eve celebrations will take place at hotels, banquet halls and homes this year, but will they attract as many partygoers as last year's Millennium celebration?

Several establishments with annual New Year's Eve bashes said sales are down slightly from last year, but there is still plenty of time to make plans.

"We feel they [sales] are down from last year," said John Marinelli, part owner of Marinelli's Supper Club in Burlington. "There's a difference when New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday as opposed to a Friday or a Saturday."

Marinelli said sales are more in line with past years than last year's attendance, which increased due to the hype about the Millennium. Marinelli's Supper Club still has tickets left for those who wish to partake in the New Year's Eve festivities with a gourmet buffet and entertainment by The Chapawals, a rock blend band.

Although the party will be cut short this year, with bars closing around 2 a.m. since the holidays fall on Sundays, local liquor stores will not suffer a loss over the holiday.

Revelers accustomed to having a bottle of wine with Christmas dinner or a glass of champagne to ring in the New Year need not worry about the Connecticut law banning state Liquor stores from: operating on Sundays.

Earlier this year, the State Legislature passed an act for the first time suspending the law for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve,

both of which fall on a Sunday this year.

Although the exemption may make last minute customers happy, liquor storeowners in the area are displeased with working a seven-day workweek.

Joseph Olender, owner of Joe's Broad Street Package Store in Forestville, said he will open for Christmas and New Year's eves to keep up with the competition, but would rather spend the time with his family.

"The only people who will benefit from it are the guys who are already going to be open and have the manpower," Olender said. "The competition is so tough in Bristol, if you are closed, there's a chance of losing customers, every customer counts."

Christina Kapros, owner of High Spirits Package Store in Plainville, said she would be open, but was not happy about the prospect.

When asked why she would open her business, Kapros said, "Everyone else in the neighborhood is going to be open, the competition."

David Angers, manager of Pine Street Package Store in Bristol said his father, the store's owner, decided to keep the store closed on the eve of the holidays.

"My father is a devout Christian and doesn't believe we should work on the Sabbath," Angers said. "I would say Christmas Eve is our biggest day of the year, but most of our customers agree with us, they say, 'good for you.'"

Bristol's Party City, a party supply store, will not be open for the holiday, but is ready to prepare people for their celebrations.

Store Manager Melaney Case said the business has not sold many party kits or decorations for New Year's, but that it's too early to tell how financially successful the season will be. Case said that past sales indicate most people begin thinking about their New Year's Eve party after Christmas. Store employees just moved their display to the front of the store in preparation for the after-Christmas rush.

NEW YEARS continues on D5

What to do for New Years:

Marinelli's Supper Club Burlington

Gourmet buffet and entertainment by The Chapawals, a rock blend band.

The Pavilion on Crystal Lake Middletown

Gourmet buffet and entertainment.

Sports Rock USA Bristol

Galaxy Bowling night. Reservations are \$20 to bowl that night, which includes a disc jockey for entertainment and a buffet style dinner.

First Night Hartford

Performances by several rock & roll, country, pop, jazz and folk bands and dance troupes. The comedy club will be held at the Hartford Civic Center once again. The celebration begins at 2 p.m. with a variety of family activities and will culminate with a fireworks display over Bushnell Park at midnight.

The Radisson Inn Bristol

Open bar, appetizers, full dinner, a disc jockey, party favors, a champagne toast and a continental breakfast with the option to purchase an overnight stay.

Nuchie's Restaurant Forestville

Gourmet buffet and entertainment.

The Aquaturf Southington

Gourmet buffet and entertainment



Jeffrey Arduini of Bristol shows off some of the many celebratory items that can be found to accompany a New Year's party.