

# Locals gearing up for First Night celebration

Jazz great Ursula Walker and Buddy Hudson, her accompanist, will highlight the list of entertainers for this area's first New Year's Eve celebration of the arts — First Night/Birmingham.

Farmington and Farmington Hills residents are invited to join in the non-alcoholic festivities.

While the committee is not releasing the location of that concert, cost of the Walker performance will be included in the \$5 charge that covers all indoor entertainment. Patrons purchase a \$5 button that allows admission to performances at a series of locations, including the Community House, St. James Church, the Baldwin Library and Le Chateau.

The committee expects a complete list of entertainers and performance locations to be available in a few weeks.

Sales begin today for "First Night" buttons, which will serve as the admission to the family-oriented evening of the arts on New Year's Eve.

BUTTONS ARE NOT required for any activities held outdoors.

Buttons can be purchased at: Crowley's, Michigan National Bank branches at 275 S. Woodward, 980 Hunter and 3550 W. Maple; The Community House; and Mark Keller, 296 W. Maple.

The Junior League Bargain Box at 123 W. Brown will be selling admission buttons on Saturdays only.

Other sale locations will be announced as they are confirmed, according to Jill Riddle, the committee member who is coordinating the button sale.

Additionally, the First Night Committee has received a \$20,000 donation from Kroger's that will be used to offset the cost of entertainment. The First Night Committee is now in

the process of assigning entertainers to certain locations.

Other sponsors are Astreins Fine Jewelry, Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Chrysler Corp. Fund, City of Birmingham, The Community House, D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles, Detroit Edison Foundation, Fidelity Bank, The Ford Motor Co. Fund, Jacobson's, The Junior League of Birmingham, Merrillwood Building/Birmingham Place, Michigan Bell Telephone Co., Michigan Chandler, Motorola, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Weir Manuel Snyder & Ranke, Inc.

Northwest Airlines is the official carrier of First Night.

PERFORMERS ALREADY lined up are:

- The Prism Quartet at the St. James Church sanctuary.
- Classical guitarist Paul Vondriano at the St. James' chapel.
- Crazy Richard the Medd Juggler at Woodward Square.
- Peter "Madcat" Roth on the harmonica at the Community House club room.
- Storyteller Jerry Jacoby at the Baldwin Library Rotary Room.
- Ray Kalamaz and his Red Hot Peppers jazz group at The Community House.
- Motorcity Samba playing Caribbean jazz at The Community House.

• Performer Russell Taylor at Le Chateau.

First Night is an evening of entertainment without alcohol designed for entire families set for late afternoon Dec. 31 through the striking in of the New Year at midnight. This will be the first year that this type of New Year's Eve celebration will be held in Birmingham. The committee hopes to draw participants from all over the metropolitan Detroit area.

First Night began in Boston. The program has grown in popularity with 50 other cities holding similar festivities this New Year's Eve.

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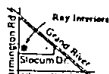
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