

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGONIK

## It's time to make your New Year's Eve plans

**B**e sure to let us know about your favorite places to spend New Year's Eve. Check out the listings in this week's Entertainment section, and make plans for the biggest night of the year.

For something different, spend the evening in Birmingham at First Night (see related story) or downtown with the Detroit Symphony at Orchestra Hall.

The symphony's New Year's Eve Gala, "Night In Old Vienna," offers guests an evening of celebration that concludes with dancing on the stage. Neeme Jarvi returns to conduct this spectacular event 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31.

Accompanying the program of waltzes and other Viennese favorites will be several ballroom dancers demonstrating their professional steps, plus an outstanding vocal soloist. The Matt Pitt Orchestra will play for dancing revelers as they welcome in 1994.

Tickets range from \$20 to \$75. Call 833-3700 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666. The symphony is also presenting the "Nutcracker" ballet at Fox Theatre in 1994.

See MARQUEE, B3

## LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

■ Meet Charles Busch, star of the musical "Little Me" now playing at the Birmingham Theatre.

■ Find out what's new at the movies

# Count down to new year at 'First Night'

■ Put on your dancing shoes, sharpen your skates, gather family, friends for a fun-filled, affordable New Year's Eve at First Night in Birmingham.

BY KEELY WYGONIK  
STAFF WRITER



In ancient times, and even now, New Year's Eve is a time of reflection of the year gone by, and resolve to make the new year better. Old traditions like sitting around a bonfire telling stories and writing down New Year's resolutions, and new traditions like spending an evening with family and friends enjoying top-name local entertainment in an alcohol-free setting are what makes First Night in Birmingham a New Year's Eve to remember. This year's headline acts at the fourth annual celebration of the arts, include Carvin and Michael of the Grammy Award-winning Winans.

"You have to come experience it," said First Night producer Jill Riddle. "The weather can be cold, but you forget it, and get caught up in all the wonderful performances. The downtown setting is beautiful, all the trees are lit up, it's a wonderful reprieve."

During the First Night celebration, which begins 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, and concludes at midnight in Shain Park with a countdown to 1994, downtown Birmingham churches, community centers and schools host a variety of entertainment.

"People will start gathering in Shain Park around 11 p.m. At 11:45 p.m. Pat Roan Judd will say the farewell benediction for 1993. We'll herald the new year with the Trinidad Steel Band, dancing in the park, special effects, and a surprise."

Admission is \$7 per person, the price of a First Night button, which allows patrons access to all events. Children under 5 are free, and children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

## PREVIEW

Buttons can be purchased until 3 p.m. New Year's Eve at participating Birmingham/Bloomfield locations including Crowleys, Jacobson's Women's Apparel Store, Birmingham Ice Arena and City Hall.

After 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve, First Night buttons can be purchased at the Celebration Center on the corner of Pierce and Merrill, Seaholm High School, 2435 Lincoln, First Presbyterian, 1559 West Maple and First United Methodist Church, 1589 West Maple.

Helping defray the cost of the celebration are over 30 corporate sponsors. "It's so affordable," said Riddle. "Whether you go to one show, or stay all night, if we didn't have corporate sponsors, the cost would be about \$45 or \$50 per person."

Volunteers are also a critical part of the event's success. Last year, over 300 people volunteered to help with First Night. For more information about becoming a sponsor or volunteer for First Night, or about button sale locations, call 540-6688.

Free parking will be available for First Night goers in city-owned parking garages from 3:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Depending on where you park, you can walk to events, or ride the free shuttle buses which will start at 3 p.m. and run until 2 a.m.

New this year are three outdoor events — the Celtic Stone Circle, The Oracle, and Resolution Wall.

At the Celtic Stone Circle, nationally-known mime and story-teller Pat Roan Judd of Birmingham, and Terry Wooten will be telling stories and legends around a bonfire.

The Oracle is a pyramid shape in which an actor is sitting. "People can go up to the oracle and ask questions about the new year," said Riddle.

"It's all for entertainment. You can write your resolutions for the new year in charcoal on the Resolution Cave Wall."

This year's First Night theme is



Headline act: Brothers Carvin and Michael of the Grammy Award-winning gospel singers, The Winans, will perform at First Night in Birmingham.

"Hot Arts for A Cold Winter's Night." There's plenty of entertainment to choose from — theater, classical music, jazz, bluegrass, and dancing.

Carvin and Michael of the Winans will be performing songs from their newest release "All Out," 8 p.m., 9 p.m., and 10 p.m. in the Seaholm High School Auditorium. Born and raised in Detroit, the Winans began their recording career in 1981 with the album "Introducing The Winans." Their major label debut "Let My People Go," was their second of four gospel Grammy winners.

Here's a sampling of the groups that will be performing:

■ For children — Sally Rogers and Howie Bursen's, "Big Laughs" version of "Jack and the Beanstalk," which involves lots of audience participation. "The Brainstormers!" a

combination comedy club and classroom where kids learn a lot. The Pippin Puppets, "Cinderella," presented by Birmingham's own Village Players Ensemble, the Dinosaur man.

■ For the first time, there will be participatory events for adults too. Tell your family legends at the Celtic Stone Circle.

■ Don't forget to bring your dancing shoes. There will be country line dancing lessons at the First Presbyterian Church-Knox Auditorium. Dance to contemporary and Top 40s sounds of The Big Picture, Michigan's own premier dance band in a cabaret setting at First United Methodist Church-Fellowship Hall.

A dance 7-11 p.m. at Seaholm High School Gymnasium will feature the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band and Francisco Mora's Nuevo Mundo Jazz Band.

## Corsi's

Banquet Center  
New Year's Day  
Buffet

\$7.25 Adult \$6.75 Senior  
Under 10 Years \$3.75

2 Soups - Salad Bar  
Pizzas - 3 Pastas  
2 Meats - Vegetable - Potato  
Sweet Table  
and much, much more...!  
Served 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Reservations encouraged  
but not necessary  
Cocktails Available  
Seating for 400 People

Gift Certificates Available in Any Amount

531-4960

27910 W. 7 Mile • Livonia  
between Inkster & Middlebelt

Authentic  
Traditional



## THAI CUISINE

Try a new taste sensation. It's a little bit of everything sweet, sour, hot and spicy. From lemon shrimp soup to peanut chicken. Your senses will be delighted.

Daily Lunch Buffet \$6.95 "Best of Detroit"

11:30 - 2:30 1993 Detroit Monthly

Dinner \$9.95

**BANGKOK CLUB**

Southfield Road between 12 and 13 Mile Roads

Southfield Commons 569-1400

PHASE RMC

## Rentals R Us

Southwest Florida

1-2-3 BR Condos • Beach & Bay • Weekly, Monthly

SANIBEL, FORT MYERS

FORT MYERS BEACH

800-634-2216

NAPLES, BONITA

MARCO ISLAND

800-331-4941

E. A. Rizzo, Lic. Real Estate Broker

## Buddy's

PIZZA

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

WE WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY

SEE YOU SOON!

LIVONIA

33605 Plymouth Rd.

(West of Farmington Rd.)

261-3550

Other Buddy's Locations

FARMINGTON

11844 Farmington Hwy

(Corner of Livonia)

855-4600

ROYAL OAK

4241 N. Woodward

(East of Livonia)

549-8000

(Carry Out Only)

Bring this ad in for...

\$2 off

Any Large Pizza

or Large Antipasto or

Large Greek Salad

ONE

Macrus

Sly Fox

## Ring In The NEW YEAR

With Us!

Featuring a special Holiday Menu and Piano Entertainment.

Join in our  
Midnight Sing-A-Long  
with favors, noisemakers, and  
hats for everyone!

Call now for reservations:

642-6900

725 S. Hunter Blvd. Birmingham

# THERE'S SOMEONE FOR EVERYONE.



## ROUND

Frosty gentleman loves the outdoors (skiing, sledding, etc.) Melts while cuddling in front of a warm fire, seeking Ice Princess for cool times. Call after 5p.m.

Don't spend the holiday season alone.  
Use Observer & Eccentric Personal Scene ads to find that special someone. To browse through a variety of

voice introductions call

1-900-454-8088

\$1.49 per minute

To place a Personal Scene Ad, call 591-0900

Observer & Eccentric

You must be at least 18 years of age to place or respond to a Personal Scene ad. The Observer & Eccentric assumes no liability for the content, response or any relationship resulting from an ad in this column. Participants agree to indemnify and hold this publication responsible for any cost, expense (including attorney fees), liability and damage resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to such advertisement. The advertiser agrees not to leave blather telephone number, last name or address in his/her greeting message.