

December 14, 2023
Press Release: RE – **First Night® Oil City 2023**
For Immediate Release

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FIRST NIGHT ® OIL CITY GOES BACK TO THE FUTURE

Oil City Arts Council's annual New Year's Eve celebration, First Night ® Oil City, will take place on Sunday, December 31, 2023 with entertainment or activities taking place from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m., followed by the second of two fireworks displays lighting up the skies at midnight. The theme for this year's gala event is "**Back to the Future**".

This fun-filled, family-oriented, non-alcoholic New Year's Eve festivity will again offer an array of wonderful live entertainment at multiple venues on the north and south sides of Oil City.

NORTH SIDE OF TOWN:

Piano Maniacs Dueling Pianos will perform in Trinity United Methodist Church's Trinity Room located on the second floor of the church. Founded by Tod Cutshaw, Piano Maniac Dueling Pianos consists of a two highly energetic piano players who have entertained with each other for many years and know how to "Bring the FUN!" to thrilled audiences. Their interactive show will feature a whirlwind of musical comedy, sing-along, song requests and more! They play a variety of songs from classic rock, country, hip-hop, and standards. They have performed in the Pittsburgh, Columbus, Cleveland, Youngstown areas and beyond!

Performing in Trinity UMC's Sanctuary will be the ever-popular **Echo Valley Bluegrass Band**. This high energy farm-raised Western PA band is comprised of six award-winning musician siblings dressed in handmade bright retro apparel provide a highly animated performance featuring a variety of Bluegrass, Gospel, Retro and Grassicana styles of toe-tapping music.

Magic Steve Bennett will appear in the Trinity UMC Nursery. He will lead off his evening performance with a ½ hour magic act, followed by entertaining the audiences the remainder of the evening with his fascinating balloon art.

In a Trinity UMC classroom, the ever-popular **Butler Clowns** will dazzle people with their balloon characters, face-painting and more. With the classroom space, kids will also have an opportunity to get their faces painted or to make crafts to take with them, with all materials being provided.

Also at Trinity UMC, **Community Playhouse, Inc.** will set-up a themed booth for photo ops in the second-floor library of the church. Props will be provided. Stop by, enjoy the fun, and have friends or a volunteer take your photo.

Singer songwriter **Samantha Sears** will perform in Great Room of the National Transit Building. Samantha consistently thrills and captivates audiences at parties, festivals,

community events and other venues with her unique and ever-special acoustic rock and Indie music.

Just next door, at the National Transit Building Annex, revelers can express themselves percussively and with enthusiasm as they actively participate in a **Drum Circle** with Kim Huegel and friends.

First Night Oil City revelers may also enjoy creating crazy **self-made hats** in the hallway area on the first floor of the National Transit Building from 6:00 p.m. and continuing until 8:00 p.m. Stop by to make your one-of-a-kind hat and bring your imagination!

The amazing performing group **HOLeY JEANS**, a community youth choir for grade K through 12th grade, will perform outdoors by the Christmas Tree in Towne Square at about 5:45 p.m. on the North Side just prior to the Peoples Procession Parade. The youth choir performs for many community events and at church each year.

First Night goers are encouraged to participate in a festive and noisy Peoples Procession ... a parade that starts at 6:00 p.m. just behind 100 Seneca Street (formerly Cornplanter Square) and leads parade participants on a route that leads to Justus Park near the bonfire and at a perfect venue for watching the fireworks.

SOUTH SIDE OF TOWN:

The **Pine Valley Boys** will perform at the Calvary United Methodist Church. They are a very popular local 5-piece local bluegrass band that has performed for many years at local festivals, community events, concerts at the Main Street Market in Polk; and, at numerous local venues such as museums and private functions. They always bring the fun and great 'down home' music wherever they perform.

A local favorite, **The Route 8 Band**, will be entertaining in the Oil City YWCA gymnasium. The band consists of talented eclectic mix of seasoned musicians from the Oil City/Franklin area who truly enjoy playing and performing. The band has been playing venues all across northwestern PA for years including outdoor festivals, campgrounds, community events, social clubs, bars, casinos, and even a rodeo or two. The set list is a fun mix of country, rock, and blues that will appeal to a variety of audiences.

Christ Episcopal Church will host the dynamic band **Moe Taters & the Gravy Train**. The band will perform in the church's social hall. This multi-talented band features five musicians, led by Charlie Barath on lead vocals. The band includes just the right amount of harmonica playing to bring audiences some of the best Western Swing and Vintage Country around, especially when coupled with some fun and catchy originals of their own. They promise to your boots moving! Be sure to catch the Gravy Train!

Another popular local band, **Touch of Grey**, will also be performing at the Christ Episcopal Church in the church's sanctuary. This versatile band consists three musically talented teachers from the Meadville area who "like making music together". They play a variety of songs that they knew when growing up that made them like music. The Grateful Dead are some of their favorite covers and they also play many classic rock tunes.

The gala First Night ® Oil City event will feature two grand fireworks displays this year ... one at 6:30 p.m. and the other at midnight. “First Bites’ of food indoors at Trinity and Calvary United Methodist Churches or some local restaurants. Revelers can have outdoor fun, get warmed up, or view the fireworks at outdoor bonfires located on each side of town, one in Justus Park and the other at the Central Avenue Plaza.

During the evening’s celebration, a cozy shuttle bus will be available to transport people to and from the north and south sides of town from 5:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.

Admission to First Night Oil City venues requires the purchase of a specially designed First Night admission button. The button cost this year is \$10. Children of **ages 10 and under** will be admitted free of charge. Be sure to you get an event brochure when you purchase your button!

The buttons and accompanying event brochure that provides times and locations of events are available for purchase at the Oil City Public Library, Gates and Burns Realty, Inc., Transit Arts Gallery & Gifts, Venango Museum and the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce (weekdays until December 22nd). In the evening during the First Night Celebration, admission buttons will only be available for purchase at Trinity UMC the north side of town and at the Christ Episcopal Church on the south side.

For further information check out [Facebook.com/FirstNightOilCity](https://www.facebook.com/FirstNightOilCity); or, visit oilcityartscouncil.org. A special FirstNight SnapChat filter sponsored by HOLeY JEANS will be available during the event to share photos of your First Night experience to others. Please use #firstnightoilcity2023 to help spread the word and share photos on social media posts.

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