

FIRST NIGHT ® OIL CITY
25th Anniversary Celebration!

Oil City Arts Council's 25th annual New Year's Eve celebration, First Night ® Oil City, will take place on Tuesday evening, December 31, 2024. The theme for this year's 25th anniversary gala event is "**Silver Bells**".

This fun-filled, family-oriented, non-alcoholic New Year's Eve festivity will offer an abundance of wonderful live entertainment and activities at multiple venues on the north and south sides of Oil City from 5:30 p.m. until 10:45 p.m.

NORTH SIDE OF TOWN:

Outdoor Activities:

The high-energy performing group **HOLeY JEANS**, a community youth choir for grade K through 12th grade, will lead off the First Night entertainment as they perform outdoors by the Christmas Tree in Towne Square at 5:30 p.m. The popular youth choir performs at many community events and churches each year.

The Oil City Community Alliance Church will be providing a **Hot Chocolate "Warming Hut"** in Town Square from 5:30 until 7:30 while supplies last. The Warming Hut will consist of two walled canopies and will be in the lawn area on the Seneca Street side of the Square. The hot chocolate will be available free of charge.

Also located in Towne Square will be a framed 8' x 10' banner featuring a beautiful Silver Bells themed image that may be used as a backdrop for **outdoor photos**. Do not miss this opportunity to stop by, take photos and create lasting memories!

At 6:30 p.m. and prior to the startup of the lineup of indoor entertainment about town, outdoor sparkle will complement the evening's events when a **kick-off display of fireworks** will be launched from behind the Justus Park area. Be sure to make your way to the park to enjoy the fireworks display while keeping warm by the anti-freeze bonfire provide by Boy Scout Troop #17 and the Oil City Public Works Department. Another bonfire will be located at the Central Avenue Plaza on the South Side of town.

INDOOR PERFORMANCE VENUES (North Side):

Trinity United Methodist Church:

The dynamic country-western band **Moe Taters & the Gravy Train** will perform in beautiful **Trinity Hall** on the second floor of Trinity UMC at 2 Center Street. 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 keep your boots moving as you catch the Gravy Train! They were a huge hit at last year's First Night celebration!

Performing in Trinity UMC's **Sanctuary** will be virtuoso pianists **Dennis Geib and Evan Wolfgang**. They will delight audiences as they perform original compositions, well-known classical pieces, show tunes and soft-pop standards. For years, Dennis performed on tour at prestigious cultural institutions such as the Morton Myerson Symphony Hall, The Weisfeld Performing Arts Center and The Eisemann Center. After returning home, he has concentrated on giving back to his community by playing at churches, nursing homes, and dementia units. Dennis and Evan promise to delight Firsts Night audiences with a stellar program!

Mike Catanzarito will bring **Mr. Kazam Magic** to Oil City and will perform in one of Trinity UMC's classrooms. Mr. Kazam is a two-time Magician of the Year award winner. He has performed thousands of shows nationwide including Season 4 of Penn and Teller Fool Us in Las Vegas. He specializes in children's interactive magic shows that result in tons of laughter and involve volunteers! His performances also create close-up magic for adults.

In another 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 "Silver Bells" 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.

National Transit Building:

Touch of Grey will also be performing in the Great Room, located on the first floor of the National Transit Building at 206 Seneca Street. This versatile band consists of three musically talented teachers from the Meadville area who “like making music together”. They play a variety of songs they knew and loved when growing up that endeared them to music. The Grateful Dead songs are some of their favorite covers and they also play many classic rock tunes. The Touch of Grey band has been pleasing crowds at multiple venues in Oil City in recent years!

Kim Huegel and Friends will facilitate a Community Drum Circle in the ground floor conference room in the National Transit Building. Revelers are encouraged to join in the fun and actively participate in sharing rhythms and getting in tune with each other and themselves. The drums are provided and, typically, participants gather in drum "circles" with others from the community. This popular annual event at First Night provides fun for people of all ages.

Crazy **self-made hats** can be created by First Night revelers in the hallway area on the ground floor of the National Transit Building from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Stop by to make your one-of-a-kind hat to wear about town! Be sure to bring your imagination! Hat-making supplies are provided!

Wye Bridge Hobbies:

At Wye Bridge Hobbies, located at 247 Seneca Street, the **Tree Family Party Piggies** will delight and astonish people of all ages with a unique and interactive show featuring adorable and well-trained mini-pet piggies. The mini-pet piggies perform tricks, wear costumes and bring joy everywhere they perform. The piggies have performed at multiple venues in Oil City in recent years and have become extremely popular.

SOUTH SIDE OF TOWN:

Woods & River Coffee:

Bryan Phillips, of Rouseville, Pa., of Bryan Phillips Music will perform at Woods & River Coffee at 2 W. Front Street. Bryan is a very talented solo guitarist/singer acoustic performer who performs “Old School” Country and Acoustic Rock from the 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and more! He maintains a very busy schedule, regularly performing at wineries, grilles and eateries, and at community venues.

Christ Episcopal Church Social Hall:

Piano Maniacs Dueling Pianos will perform in the Christ Episcopal Social Hall located at 16 Central Avenue. 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 Pittsburgh, Columbus, Cleveland, and Youngstown areas. The audiences at last year’s First Night Celebration in Oil City raved about them.

Oil City YWCA:

The very popular Brandon Rae Band will perform at YWCA Oil City, located at 109 Central Avenue. Band members Raeman Hanna, Brandon Shick and Bobby Timko will captivate audiences as they perform classic rock standards and original songs. The Brandon Rae Band has delighted their Oil City fans in recent years with their tight vocal harmonies and amazing musicianship!

Calvary United Methodist Church.

The **Long Road Home** bluegrass band will perform at the Calvary United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall located at 115 E. First Street. This delightful bluegrass band from the Ashtabula, Ohio, area, performs americana and roots music, complemented by tight vocal harmonies. They have been one of the fan favorites at Oil City’s annual Oil Country Bluegrass Festival.

“First Bites” of food and non-alcoholic beverages can be found on First Night at Woods & River Coffee, Trinity and Calvary United Methodist Churches, and at the Community Alliance Church Warming Hut in Towne Square.

During the evening’s celebration, a cozy shuttle van generously provided by Hand in Hand, LLC 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. The locations where the van will make stops are identified in the First Night Brochures.

Admission to First Night Oil City venues requires the purchase of a specially designed First Night admission button. The cost of a button is \$10, but children aged **ten and under** will be admitted to First Night venues free of charge. When buying buttons, be sure to secure an event brochure! Most entertainers will perform multiple times throughout the evening and their show times are listed in the brochure.

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, and Venango Museum. 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.

First Night Oil City could not take place without the ongoing support of our many wonderful sponsors and the income realized from button sales. A listing of the sponsors is shown in the First Night event brochure. Oil City Arts Council's First Night Committee is most appreciative of our sponsors and supporters.

For further information check out <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 with others. Please use #firstnightoilcity2024 to help spread the word and share photos on social media posts.

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