

# ACCOLADES *For The Arts*

Springfield Area Arts Council

December 2017

## 31st First Night® Springfield rings in the New Year

The Springfield Area Arts Council presents First Night, Springfield, the city's annual New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts on December 31.

First Night originated in Boston in 1976 when a group of artists there wanted to produce a family-friendly, alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration. The idea caught on, and during the following years, First Night events were organized across the country.

The Springfield Area Arts Council held its first celebration of First Night on December 31, 1987—the first such celebration in Illinois. We've been organizing First Night every year since then, and we're happy to be presenting our 31st annual First Night Springfield. It's the Arts Council's signature event and a tradition for us. Please come!

### FREE Children's Events

Springfield's First Night celebration will begin with FREE children's events, from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Springfield High School Commons, Auditorium, and Annex. There will be



Cowboy Randy

activities for children including making sculptures from clay with John T. Crisp, Junior; face painting with Phil Martin, Sara Ratcliffe, and Marianne Stremsterfer; and learning to play the harmonica with

Mark Russillo. The Northside Children's Community Library will have books available and will help children design and make bookmarks. A great model train setup will be on display thanks to Phil Smith. Lincoln Memorial Garden and Fun Shop also will provide fun craft projects for children, and Rhiannon Gurley will help kids prepare a giant painting.

Performances at Springfield High will include shows by the popular DePriest



DePriest Puppets

Puppets; the SHG Band; Cowboy Randy's yodeling and trick-roping cowboy show; and comedy juggler Troy Roark. Lowe's will bring their "build something from wood" tradition to First Night again, this year featuring a birdhouse project for kids. All of this is available **at no charge**.

The celebration continues at Springfield High School with a special performance in the Auditorium by Mark Gifford on the Barton Theatre Organ, from 4:15 to 5:45. Mark always puts on a great show, and it's a great chance to hear the organ that once graced the Orpheum Theater in downtown Springfield. This concert does have an admission fee of \$5 or a First Night wristband.



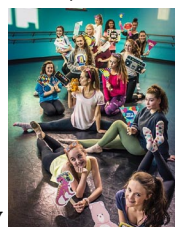
Mark Gifford

### Evening Performances

Starting at 5:00, First Night Springfield performances will be held in several locations in downtown Springfield: Lincoln Library (Springfield's public library); the Lincoln Home Visitors' Center; the Kari Bedford Photography Studio (more on that below); and of course, the Hoogland Center for the Arts, where we will have shows in three theatres, plus the Club Room and the Board Room, the H. D. Smith Art Gallery, and the Dining Room.

### Hoogland Center for the Arts

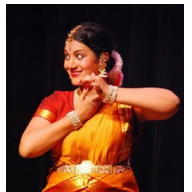
Our "big stage" is the LRS Theatre, where we will feature Springfield Youth Performance Group, Springfield Dance, Springfield Ballet Company, Springfield Muni, and Springfield Theatre Center. Theatre Three will feature comedy magician Richard Landry (and Snowball), the Central Illinois Irish Dancers, and a delightful Dual Piano performance by Mark Gifford and Damian Kaplan.



Springfield Dance

We'll have variety in the Club Room, with Classical Dances of India, Elvis Himself, and Capital City Improv taking the stage.

The Board Room will feature original and classic poetry and writings presented by the Springfield Poets and Writers group and local storytelling performers the Top Hat Tellers.



Classical Dances of India

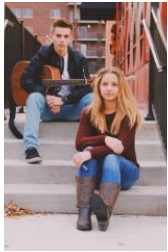
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## First Night® Sponsors



# First Night® Springfield *Continued from Page 1*

In the H. D. Smith Art Gallery, singers will cover a wide variety of genres, with Becky McKnight kicking things off at 5:00, acoustic duo Jack and Morgan following, and solo singing artist Monica Hay.



Jack and Morgan

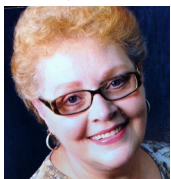
Theatre Two at the Hoogland is a space we haven't used before for First Night. We have a special event there on the second floor that the younger kids will love, especially those who like princesses and superheroes. Find out more on New Year's Eve!

## All-Inclusive Performance Space

This year we introduce a venue sponsored by the Hope Learning Academy. Our "All-Inclusive Performance Space" will present children from The Autism Clinic, Hope School, and other local K-12 students between 5:00 and 7:00. The location is the Dining Room of the Hoogland Center for the Arts. The Dining Room also will host an "All Inclusive Art Gallery," with a sampling of visual art created by students in the community. As SAAC Board President Courtney



Richard Landry



Monica Hay

Wick noted, "With our All-Inclusive space, we get to broaden access to the arts by encouraging participation and expression for every student we serve. We want First Night to incorporate a variety of artistic perspectives, and to celebrate all artists including those from under-represented communities."



Portuguese Rodeo Clown Company

Following the fireworks, the Dining Room will host acoustic duo Justin Angel and Andrew Shackelford, followed by jazz and blues from Ocean State.

## Lincoln Library

Lincoln Library will feature improvisational comedy by the Portuguese Rodeo Clown Company, the Debbie Ross Band playing what Debbie calls "good music," and blues with Black Magic Johnson.



Black Magic Johnson

## Lincoln Home Visitors' Center



Lowder and Manning

At the Lincoln Home Visitors' Center, we'll feature folk and Americana music. Performers include Mike Anderson on mountain dulcimer, Lowder and Manning's dynamic original acoustic sounds, the father-daughter Americana duo Last Acre, and an acoustic set of originals and covers by Ian Wick.

## Black Sheep Stage

The Black Sheep Café has established itself as a popular spot for young people in Springfield, presenting innovative music by local bands. The Café will bring some of its bands to First Night Springfield this year, sponsoring a stage at the Kari Bedford Photography Studio, 314 East Monroe Street (across from Custom Cup Coffee). Admission to this venue only will be available for just \$5 or a First Night wristband.

## Fireworks

First Night Springfield wouldn't be complete without fireworks. This year's display will be another great show, made possible by a generous donation from Horace Mann Insurance Company. Again this year, the show is produced by Carl Steinmacher and Nostalgia Pyrotechnics. Carl has been helping us with fireworks through the entire run of First Night Springfield.

We will pause the performances at 7:45 so everyone can join us for the fireworks. The spectacular display is best viewed from the corner of Fourth Street and Capitol Avenue, and it is offered to the community at no charge. Mayor Jim Langfelder will be there to introduce the fireworks. [Note that Capitol Avenue will be closed from Second Street to Fourth Street, and Second and Fourth Streets will be closed near Capitol Avenue during the fireworks display.]



Springfield Youth Performance Group

Afterwards, head back to our performance sites to continue the celebration!

The entertainment will continue until 11:15, then everyone can find their favorite spot to ring in the New Year.

## Admission

Admission wristbands for First Night Springfield are now available at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, the HCFTA.



Springfield Muni

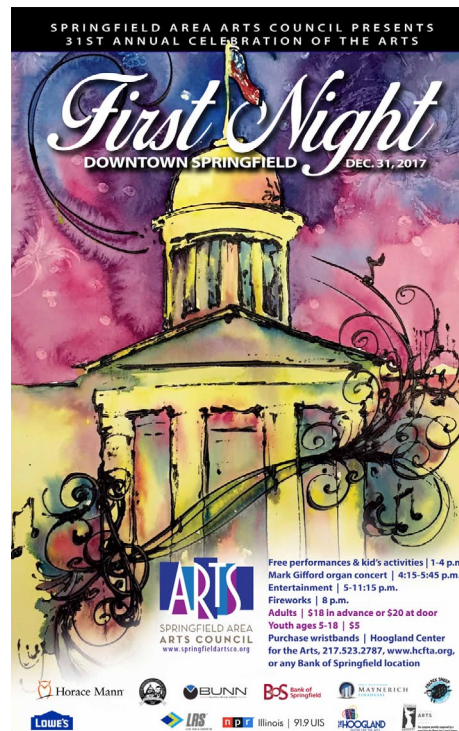
org website, and all Bank of Springfield locations. The price is \$18 for adults, \$5 for youth ages 5–18. On December 31, wristbands can be purchased from the Hoogland Center for the Arts, the [HCFTA.org](http://HCFTA.org) website, Springfield High School (during events there), and (starting at 5:00) at Lincoln Library; prices the day of the event will be \$20 for adults, \$5 for youth ages 5–18 and for the Kari Bedford Studio.

## First Night® Venues

- Hoogland Center for the Arts  
420 South Sixth Street
- Lincoln Library  
326 South Seventh Street
- Lincoln Home Visitors' Center  
426 South Seventh Street
- Kari Bedford Photography  
314 East Monroe Street
- Springfield High School  
101 South Lewis Street

## Donations

A donation of only \$8.33 per month means a \$100 annual contribution to the SAAC. Help us enrich the community through the arts! Visit [www.springfieldartsco.org](http://www.springfieldartsco.org) or [www.833ToTheSAAC.org](http://www.833ToTheSAAC.org) to donate today.





# First Night Springfield schedule—New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts

	HOOGLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS							LINCOLN LIBRARY-CARNEGIE ROOM NPR ILLINOIS 91.9 WUIS STAGE	LINCOLN HOME VISITORS CENTER BUNN CORPORATION STAGE	KARI BEDFORD PHOTOGRAPHY BLACK SHEEP CAFÉ STAGE
	LRS THEATRE BANK OF SPRINGFIELD STAGE	THEATRE 3 (3RD FLOOR) MAYNERICH FINANCIAL STAGE	CLUB ROOM (3RD FLOOR)	DINING ROOM (BASEMENT)	BOARD ROOM (3RD FLOOR)	ART GALLERY (1ST FLOOR)	THEATRE 2 (2ND FLOOR)			
5 P.M.	Springfield Youth Performance Group Children of all ages perform	Richard Landry and Snowball Comedy magician	Classical Indian Dancers Traditional Irish dances	Hope Learning Academy All-Inclusive Performance Space and Student Art Gallery Children from Hope School and other local K-12 students will perform Also, a sampling of visual arts created by students in the community	Springfield Poets and Writers Spoken word: poetry/prose, original/classic	Becky McNight Singer-songwriter	Princesses and Superheroes Batman, Belle, Captain America, Cinderella, Green Arrow, Tinkerbell, and Wonder Woman	Portuguese Rodeo Clown Company Improv comedy show	Mike Anderson Combination of music storytelling and humor <i>(Dickens, Jewellry, and more)</i>	Innovative music by teen musicians Admission \$5 for this venue only or First Night wristband
6 P.M.	Springfield Dance Theatre Modern dance	Central Illinois Irish Dancers Traditional Irish dances			Top Hat Tellers Storytellers, entertaining and educational	Jack & Morgan Acoustic duo		Debbie Ross Band Old school top 40		
7 P.M.	Springfield Ballet Company Classical Ballet with excerpts from Nutcracker and Rockballet	Dual Pianos Mark Gifford and Damien Kaplan perform piano hits				Monica Hay Solo vocal artist				
8 P.M.	FREE FIREWORKS Presented by Horace Mann – 4th Street and Capitol Avenue									
8:30 P.M.	The MUNI Show tunes from popular musicals and the upcoming performance season	Dual Pianos Mark Gifford and Damien Kaplan perform again	Elvis Himself/s Presents his Elvis Presley tribute	Justin Angel and Andrew Shackelford Acoustic Duo	Top Hat Tellers Storytellers, entertaining and educational			Black Magic Johnson Fun collection of southern delta and Chicago new age blues	Last Acre Folk, Bluegrass, Americana	PJ Baby Indie rock artist from Bloomington, IN
9:30 P.M.	Springfield Theatre Centre Broadway revue of musical performances	Capitol City Improv Improvisational and sketch comedy		Ocean State Jazz, Brazilian, Blues					Ian Wick Acoustic originals and covers	Hannah Songner Local singer songwriter
10:30 P.M.	The MUNI Show tunes from popular musicals and the upcoming performance season									Jess Knight and Brandon Carnes Singer and drummer of Springfield-based Looming, dance party electro synth set

## SAAC Executive Director resigns

The board of the Springfield Area Arts Council has accepted the resignation of Executive Director Jon Austin. Sheila Walk, program administrator, assumed interim executive director duties on November 15, 2017, to advance the Arts Council's mission of enriching the region through the arts.

Board president Courtney Wick commented, "We appreciate Jon's contribution and Sheila's assuming interim responsibility. This transition is a great time for the board to revisit the strategic plan to ensure the best support for the arts moving forward."

Austin joined the Arts Council in 2015 following an interim term by former board president Mark Pence necessitated by the retirement of long-time executive director Penny Wollan-Kriel. Austin will be working with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to assist museum restoration after disasters like the recent hurricanes and wildfires.

## Accolades for the Arts

*Accolades for the Arts* is published by the Springfield Area Arts Council. It was written by Misty Hagstrom, Mark Pence, Sheila Walk, and Courtney Wick; layout by Mark Pence. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Call the Arts Council office at (217) 753-3519.

## First Night Afternoon Activities

FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • 1-4 p.m. • Springfield High School				
	LRS CREATIVITY ZONE		SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX LOWE'S PRESENTS	SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
	SPRINGFIELD HS COMMONS ACTIVITIES	SPRINGFIELD HS COMMONS EVENTS		
1 P.M.	Face Painting FREE Phil Martin, Sara Rachtke, Mariane Stromerster	Model Railroad FREE Paul Smith	Lowe's Wood Craft Center FREE Build stuff out of wood!	Sacred Heart-Griffin Band   1:30-2 p.m. FREE
2 P.M.	Clay Sculpture FREE John T. Crisp, Jr., Jeff Hoffman	Giant Painting FREE Rhianon Gurley	DePriest Puppets   1:45 p.m. FREE Performances are done with hand puppets, rod puppets, and marionettes - a complete theatrical experience	Troy Roark   2:15-2:45 p.m. FREE Juggling, magic, and a huge dose of humor
3 P.M.	Activities and Arts & Crafts Tables FREE Northside Children's Community Library Lincoln Memorial Garden Fun Shop	Mark Russillo - Harmonicas   3 p.m. FREE Harmonics workshop and demonstration, learn to play		Cowboy Randy   3:30 p.m. FREE Cowboy yodeling and trick roping
4 - 6 P.M.				Mark Gifford plays the historic Barton Organ 4:15-5:45 p.m. Admission \$5 or First Night wristband

## Thanks!

**Doug Antonacci**, manager, The Music Shoppe:  
Donating a microphone stand carrying bag

**Théa Chesley** and **Emily Page**: Continuing their invaluable weekly service to the Arts Council

**Design Ideas**: Inviting SAAC to be part of their Holiday giving program

**Kate Hawkes**: Advising us on the use of QuickBooks

**Jeff Hoffman**: Delivering excess craft supplies to Springfield Boys and Girls Clubs, Scope program, and Senior Services Center of Central Illinois

**Mark Pence**: Managing the arrangements for First Night Springfield

**Melissa** and **Brett Schwoerer**, owners, Engrained Brewing Company: Allowing us to sell 50-50 raffle tickets during its weekly trivia night during December

**Penny Wollan-Kriel**: Leading a fund-raising campaign

## Lasting Gratitude



Ms. Lynn Shanklin was in her fourth year on the Arts Council's board of directors when she passed away in September. She not only served on the board but also she volunteered as our book-

keeper, no small task, and willingly helped with First Night Springfield, Uptown Friday Night, and other SAAC programs.

We miss her careful record-keeping, her constant encouragement, her warmth, and her eager sharing of jazz music. We also appreciate her generous bequest to the Springfield Area Arts Council.

## SAAC Mission Statement

The Springfield Area Arts Council enriches the community by promoting and supporting all art forms and providing creative opportunities to participate in and enjoy the arts.



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This program is  
partially supported  
by a grant from the  
Illinois Arts Council Agency

# First Night® Springfield December 31, 2017

## PASSING NOTES: A CONCERT AND CONVERSATION

*BENEFITING SPRINGFIELD AREA ARTS COUNCIL*

FEATURING



SALLY BARRIS IS A GRAMMY-NOMINATED SONGWRITER LIVING IN NASHVILLE. HER SONGS HAVE BEEN RECORDED BY KEITH URBAN, TRISHA YEARWOOD, MARTINA MCBRIDE, AND LEE ANN WOMACK. SHE IS CURRENTLY TOURING TO PROMOTE HER ALBUM, "THE ROAD IN ME."



TOM IRWIN IS SPRINGFIELD'S OWN LEGEND AND LIAISON BETWEEN MUSICIANS AND MUSIC. HIS WORDS CAN BE FOUND IN THE ILLINOIS TIMES, ON HIS NEW RECORDING, "ALL THAT LOVE," AND ON HIS ENDURING COLLECTION "SANGAMON SONGS." HIS MUSIC IS ALSO FEATURED IN AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN.



AMY BENTON'S MUSIC HAS TAKEN HER FROM COAST TO COAST. HER SONGS HAVE BEEN HEARD ON THE LEGENDARY WSM RADIO STATION, PLAYED ON THE BLUEBIRD STAGE, AND FEATURED ON TLC TELEVISION. SHE IS ENDORSED BY FRED KELLY PICKS. HER EP, "THE SUNDAY SESSIONS," IS NOW AVAILABLE.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH  
\$20 HCFTA.ORG 7 PM

CLUB ROOM, HOOGLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
SPRINGFIELD, IL

## Springfield Area Arts Council

In collaboration with

Ben Bedford

Presents



## SIX STRINGS \ SIX WEEKS

A program for adults who always  
have wanted to play guitar

Tuesdays, January 9 - February 13 6:00-7:00 P.M.

Hoogland Center for the Arts \$60.00

To reserve your spot, call 217-753-3519

or e-mail [programs@springfieldartsco.org](mailto:programs@springfieldartsco.org).



Join us for First Night® Springfield  
New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts  
Details inside!