

The Weekly

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Bangor to again host state's largest New Year's Eve gathering

BY EMILY BURNHAM
OF THE WEEKLY STAFF

For more than ten years, Bangor has grown in popularity as a New Year's Eve destination in Maine — in fact, at this point, the Queen City is likely the top locale in the state for those who wish to say goodbye to the old year and ring in the new in style. Events in Belfast, Eastport, Portland and Old Orchard Beach are also popular, but Bangor's New Year's festivities attracted last year more than 5,000 people to West Market Square to watch the "ball drop" — a light-covered beach ball — from the roof of Paddy Murphy's.

The Downtown Countdown, which since New Year's Eve 2005 has been co-sponsored by the Downtown Bangor Partnership and by local businesses, as well as this year by presenting sponsor Cross Insurance and by Waterfront Concerts, is now an integral element of the Downtown community and the tens of thousands that shop, eat and play there each year. Launchpad, the downtown Bangor-based arts organization, is this year organizing it.

"[Launchpad is] very much born out of the energy that has been re-shaping Bangor for the past few years. In Downtown Countdown we saw an opportu-

nity to work with an event that has grown and changed as Downtown Bangor has developed, and our hope is to continue to see the event evolve over the next few years to draw more people in from surrounding communities," said Meg Shorette, Launchpad's executive director.

Launchpad, which also runs the Central Gallery on Central Street, a popular arts, music and film venue, is this year planning a few new things, in addition to the slate of regular performances planned year in year out.

See NYE on Page 2

Reported by Emily Burnham

THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Reported in Downtown Bangor

"What is your New Year's resolution?"



"To stay here in the Bangor area and do what I love, in the place that I love."
MICHAEL SOUTHARD, BREWER



"Become healthier, and help educate others on becoming healthier through a plant-based diet."
LAUREN MILLER, SARASOTA, FLA



"Eat more greens."
TONY SOHNS, BANGOR



"Be more mindful and listen more."
CHERIE HARRIS, HAMPDEN



"Try to budget better."
MEGAN DOW, BAR HARBOR



"I plan to exercise more."
JIM DOW, BAR HARBOR



BDN FILE PHOTO

The moment that 2014 turned into 2015 and the "ball dropped" off the roof of Paddy Murphy's, last year during Downtown Bangor's annual Downtown Countdown festivities.

New England Home Health Care is the leading home health care provider in Maine

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Dear Kathy, I am writing to express my gratitude for the positive experience my family has enjoyed with your company New England Home Health Care. From the first interview session, to the implementation of the care plan, you and your staff have been nothing but helpful.

When I arrived at your office for our meet and greet, the office was neat and clean and everyone was so kind and courteous. At the end of our interview, Kathy, I felt that you really listened to what my family wanted, and then you gave it to us. New England Home Health Care has been unbelievably accommodating to us, especially now, as we try to adjust to my mother's actual needs, working towards maintaining her highest level of independence while still keeping her safe. Your scheduler is a saint as are the care givers who work so hard.

The head of your Human Resource Department should be providing seminars on how to spot quality people, she is a genius. Your care givers are spot on. Their attitudes are great, and they are clean and not bossy. We like that Mom is in control and we plan to keep her that way. My mom told me that the workers are very courteous. Often she feels nervous with outside people around, but she said that the folks that she has met so far make her feel comfortable and at ease. Mom is so lucky to function so independently, but sometimes she may need help buttoning a blouse or reaching a plate on a shelf. Companionship is important too as it helps her keep her focus. She has a lifeline alert but having someone with her during some of the

daytime hours is a little extra security, and always good for some conversation.

As I just mentioned, security is very important to us and I enjoy the feeling of knowing NEHHC is State Licensed. I believe this brings a certain level of scrutiny from independent sources, and a higher level of status to the company. I interviewed a lot of companies before we chose NEHHC and not all meet the standards of being licensed. My mother is in remarkably good health for a 100 year old woman, but I like the idea that someone with medical knowledge is going to come to the home and check on Mom once a month, as part of the service. Since my sisters and I do not live in town, it is comforting to know that someone is watching over her health needs and can notify us of possible issues before they become a problem. This allows us to make changes in her Plan of Care.

Last, I would like to say that the accessibility to you Kathy is phenomenal. You have paid immediate attention to all my calls. I called the office when you were on vacation to make a schedule change and you called me back and reassured me that my request would be taken care of, and it was. My mother and the rest of my family, and my mother's friends look forward to a long partnership with NEHHC.

Regards,



6/23/2015

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