

## **RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR**

**by Marie Coady**

**New Year's Eve conjures up images of hats, horns and gay party goers, kissing and toasting each other with champagne. Above the din of clinking glasses and blaring horns are the familiar, sweet sounds of Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians trumpeting Auld Lang Syne. All these pictures flash before you as the brightly lit ball in Times Square plummets to its destiny with 1997.**

**These are the visions that TV and movies have etched in our memory. The participants in these glittering rituals seemed glamorous and mysterious. Chances are, as a young teen, you sulked your way through many a New Year's Eve, feeling left out as you watched adults gather as if at a Hollywood premier, then quick-step to their waiting chariots and disappear into the mysterious ritual of New Year's Eve celebrations. As a result, you promised yourself that when your turn came you would be gayer and more sophisticated on New Year's Eve than any party goer before you.**

**Well, you're in luck. Woburn offers a variety of opportunities for you to kick up your heels on New Year's Eve or settle down, if you prefer, in front of the TV and let others do the hooting and hollering as you sip last year's vintage.**

**It's certain the area liquor stores will assist you with your choice of bubbly. According to Busa Wine and Spirits on Main Street, this is their biggest selling time of the year for the more upscale and high end champagnes like Dom Perignon and Perrier Jouet. John Saia of Busa's says, "The displays are perkier and every Friday night there are in-store wine tasting. As a matter of fact, if you're in the area on Saturday you might want to drop by and meet the Goldkin Girl." According to John, the Goldkin girl is a six foot woman wearing a gold lamme suit and promoting----what else---Goldkin, a chocolate liqueur. This sounds like a good take.**

**Further down Main Street at Gavin's Market, Bill Gavin is, "emphasizing specialty beers, with imports and micro brews". Bill says that New Year's is one of those times of the year when champagne is in demand. That's why he always makes sure he has at least ten different kinds to choose from to toast in 1997.**

**Over on the west side at the America Legion Hall, Fred White is putting together a New Year's Dance. The big attraction is Jim Gambino and his three piece band plus a five course sit down dinner catered by Gina Marie. Although Fred is providing hats and horns so his crowd of members and friends can whoop it up at midnight, he promises no one will get rowdy and out of hand. We'll hold you to that, Fred.**

**There'll be no whooping and hollering down at the Towanda Club this New Year's. Rich Rudnick claims the oldest private club in Woburn will be members only that night in the clubhouse. That means: Men Only. When pressed, Rich said, "The adjacent hall may show some signs of life. One of the members rented it for a private party for friends and family." Other than that, the all male members will be doing a lot of male bonding and maybe croon a verse or two of Auld Lang Syne.**

**The Towanda isn't the only place in Woburn where things will be quiet and reserved. Larry Cusolito of the Ninety-Nine restaurant at Four Corners says. "There'll be no hats and no horns, but I urge you all to come by before you party and load up on the specials." He can't promise a wild and crazy time, but he can promise you won't leave the place hungry.**

**Primo's restaurant on Washington street has its own function room upstairs and it plans on using that facility for anyone who wants to greet the New Year in style. In fact, Jenny Primo, matriarch of the Primo family is excited about the evening's events. "We just finished our new renovations. The rug just went down and now we're getting ready to decorate for New Year's Eve. Everything looks great. We'll have a disc jockey, hats, horns and champagne. No special reservations are necessary. Just drop by and help us ring in the New Year."**

**The Sons of Italy Hall should be hopping with activity this New Years' Eve, because their business manager says, "We've booked the Spectra's for New Years Eve. They are the opening band for all the singers who appear at Hampton Beach. They really appeal to our members and their guests. We'll also serve a sit down roast beef dinner."**

**But the place where all the action is at Parties of Woburn. Bernadette and Don Barrucci have seen a marked increase in the volume of decorations for New Years this year. "We do mostly balloons. Actually that's our specialty. This year we'll be decorating the Ramada in for their New Years' Eve party. It will be all balloons, even balloons in the pool." Bernadette says it's fun watching her creations take shape. She has a precision crew who can magically transform an empty hall to a colorful, buoyant wonderland in a matter of minutes. At midnight balloons will float down from the ceiling at the Ramada to bounce happily off New Year's revelers. Bernadette adds, "Sometimes we have to go and strike the job---which means we have to do clean up. But usually that's not a big job, because people take most of the balloons home with them."**

**Over at Party Works in Cumming's Park, there is a lot of evidence that corporate America will be ringing in the New Year with gusto. The evidence lies in the big volume in hats, horn and balloons that Party Works has sold. "We only sell the decorations. We don't actually do the decorating. But this year we've has a lot of call for New Year's decorating kits that can be used for**

from 10 to 100 people. Hewlett-Packard is one of our customers," says Kerry of Party Works.

So if you want peace and quiet on New Year's Eve, close your windows tight to block out the din. It looks like Woburn will be ringing in the New Year in a big way.

**New Year 1996**

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