

Press Release

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[Editor's note: Photo jpeg attached to e-mail; caption included below.]

Bubbles rise as families celebrate New Year's Eve at DuPage Children's Museum

(Naperville, IL) – Why not spend New Year's Eve with the people most important to you – your family?

Ring in New Year's Eve as a family at the 8th annual **Bubble Bash** hosted by DuPage Children's Museum on Thursday, Dec. 31, from 9 a.m. – noon. This year's event, "All About Bubbles," features musical performances by Jeanie B! and The Jelly Beans, a Bubble Wonders show by Bubble Man Geoff Akins, multiple activities on all three floors of the Museum and a countdown to noon led by Naperville Mayor, A. George Pradel.

"Jeanie B! packs shows across the Midwest and we're thrilled to have this award-winning musician with us to bring in the New Year. We're bubbling over with excitement and can hardly wait for families to gather together for arts, crafts, dancing, jumping and blowing bubbles, of course," said Susan Broad, Executive Director of DuPage Children's Museum.

Children will have the opportunity to create crowns, noisemakers and bubble wands and use them during the New Year's celebration. In addition to everyone enjoying the Museum's three floors of exhibits, family photographs will be taken and cropped in a bubble frame. Light refreshments will be available.

"Bubble Bash is more than a holiday tradition; it's a gathering of families celebrating together. This New Year's Eve celebration offers families a chance to mark the end of a challenging year and celebrate a new beginning. Families and children are the very heart of our community. I'm delighted to lead the ceremonial countdown," said Mayor Pradel. "It's such a thrill to be with so many families and young people as we begin another exciting year filled with promise."

Jeanie B! and The Jelly Beans offers more than a just a musical performance; it's a rousing wiggle-jiggle fest. Their upbeat songs are hilarious, educational and sometimes poignant with a driving beat that gets people of all ages dancing, jumping and clapping while singing silly songs that speak to the heart of what it means to be a kid.

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Geoff Akins, also known as Bubble Man, will provide a lively bubble demonstration. In his finale, he'll show what had seemed impossible moments before as he blows a square bubble while reinforcing life's three magic words: "Anything is possible."

"Certainly, this family event offers light-hearted fun, but it's more than that," says Broad. "It's a chance for families to take stock in what's important and look forward to another year filled with the wonder that a child brings into our lives. This wonder is at the heart of what gives each family its own unique beat. *That* is what Bubble Bash is all about."

Bubble Bash tickets are \$15 each for DuPage Children's Museum members and \$20 each for non-members. Prepayment is required, and due to the popularity of the annual event, no refunds will be given.

DuPage Children's Museum helps develop curiosity, creativity, thinking and problem solving in young children via interactive exhibits and programs that make learning fun for children and adults playing together.

The Museum is located at 301 N. Washington Street in Naperville, Illinois, a quick walk from the Naperville Metra train station. Parking is free and the building is wheelchair accessible.

DuPage Children's Museum is a top Chicago-area cultural attraction *where learning comes in to play*™! For information about hours, Museum admission and membership packages, visit www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org or call (630) 637-8000.

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Caption for Bubble Bash Photo: MAYOR LEADS LIVELY COUNTDOWN - Naperville's Mayor A. George Pradel will once again lead the ceremonial countdown just before the stroke of noon during this year's **Bubble Bash** celebration at DuPage Children's Museum on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009.

Caption for Bubble Bash Photo: ENJOY DUPAGE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM'S HIGH-SPIRITED NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN Families attending **Bubble Bash**, an annual New Year's Eve daytime tradition at DuPage Children's Museum, will create and use crowns and noisemakers for this year's countdown.

