



## **As New Year's Eve Nears, Here Are Our "Top Drops" Our Client Destinations Usher in the New Year with Symbolic Drops**

(December 6, 2019) – The team at Mindy Bianca Public Relations takes great delight in rounding up the weird and wacky elements in our client destinations. We acknowledge that when it comes to New Year's Eve, New York City always gets the spotlight by dropping that big crystal ball. But in smaller towns around the country – the places MBPR loves to represent – citizens and visitors gather to watch as lighted symbols of what makes these places extra-special drop at midnight and usher in the new year.

Behold! We offer you crabs and ducks, marlins and mushrooms! Take a peek below to learn what helps set December 31 apart in some of our client destinations.

Oh ... of course we have photos! Here's a link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5qxmngbzpio7md/AACQKwPgAO3xMEu1pojCLvSma?dl=0>

### **Crab Drop at First Night Talbot**

*Easton, Maryland*

When they say, "Maryland is for crabs," they're not talking about the attitude of the tiny state's citizens. That's a reference to Maryland's official crustacean, whose Latin name translates to "Beautiful Swimmer." Yes, you can find blue crabs elsewhere around the country and the world, but you'll be hard-pressed to find a place that loves the 10-legged critters quite as much as Maryland does. In the town of Easton, located at about the halfway point along the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, a giant crab sends out the old year and ushers in a new one. The family-friendly, alcohol-free First Night Talbot event has been going on here for more than 25 years. It's a celebration of the arts, with special performances taking place at venues around downtown throughout the night. The crab drop takes place twice on New Year's Eve, once at 9 p.m., during what's dubbed "Midnight in the Mid-Atlantic," and again at the more traditional countdown at midnight. A bagpiper leads crowds through the streets at both drops, and those partygoers are typically decked out in fish hats and surrounded by sea creature puppets, all a reminder of how important the Bay is to the culture of Maryland. Though the crab drop is free, there's an admission charge that gives access to all the performances.

### **Duck Drop at the New Year's Eve Duck Drop & Fireworks**

*Havre de Grace, Maryland*

If you're not familiar with duck decoys, you haven't been to Havre de Grace, the self-proclaimed "Decoy Capital of the Word." Situated on the end of the Susquehanna River, which is a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay, the little town of Havre de Grace has long been a haven for carvers who specialize in crafting wooden ducks, geese and other birds. This art form began as hunters' tools and over the past century has been elevated in such a way that collectors pay thousands of dollars for the lifelike carvings. In the history of this fascinating folk art, some of the world's most celebrated decoy carvers have come from Havre de Grace. Even today, visitors can check out their handiwork at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum or stop by some of the shops downtown. Given all that love for ducks, it should come as no surprise that this town rings in the new year by dropping a lighted duck instead of a crystal ball. The festivities begin at 10 p.m. on the grounds of the historic Concord Point Lighthouse, with a DJ and dancing leading up to the drop and then plenty of fireworks at midnight.

### **Marlin Drop at [Reelin' in the New Year](#)**

*The Wharf, Orange Beach, Alabama*

If the beach is calling you this holiday season, you might enjoy New Year's Eve along Alabama's Gulf Coast. Orange Beach is home to The Wharf, a shopping and entertainment district that keeps visitors occupied once the sun goes down over the sugar-white sands of the area's 32 miles of beach. There are plenty of restaurants at The Wharf – a great place to stuff your face or have a few adult beverages before the New Year's resolutions kick in – and there will be live music throughout the night. This street party is family-friendly and starts early in the day; though the event itself is free, there are some kids' activities that cost \$5 to \$10 each. Kids get their own "confetti drop" at noon, just in case they can't stay awake until midnight, and since it's still daylight at that time it makes for some memorable photos. But the real star of this New Year's Eve show is a giant replica marlin, modeled after one of the many sport fish that attract anglers to this town all year round. A spear-snouted specimen is dropped at the stroke of midnight, followed by colorful fireworks ... which will likely wake up any kids who nodded off.

### **Mushroom Drop at [Midnight in the Square](#)**

*Kennett Square, Pennsylvania*

In the Brandywine Valley, which occupies the border of Delaware and Pennsylvania, things just seem to grow especially well. Case in point: This is home to Longwood Gardens, one of the most celebrated public gardens in the world. But it's not just flowers and shrubs here. The town of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, is dubbed the "Mushroom Capital of the World" because more than 60% of all the mushrooms in the United States are grown here. In addition to hosting an annual Mushroom Festival each September, the townsfolk turn out every December 31 to honor their favorite food at Midnight in the Square, a celebration featuring music, food (including non-mushroom offerings), shopping and all sorts of fun. Revelers anticipate the drop of an eight-foot, 700-pound, lighted stainless-steel mushroom that descends 80 feet at midnight. This event welcomes spectators of all ages. Kids and seniors – or anyone else who isn't likely to be up at midnight – can attend a special party that starts at 7:30 and culminates at 8:45 p.m. with the "raising" of the mushroom. It should be noted that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania loves dropping things at midnight, from a Lebanon bologna in the town of Lebanon to a strawberry in the state capital of Harrisburg to a pickle in Dillsburg. In our opinion, though, nothing is more fun than this fungus.

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