

# Retirees celebrate a little early

BY ANNIE TASKER

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With music, bubbly and a ball drop, the residents of Wesley Enhanced Living at Maple Village rang in 2010 in traditional style.

It was just a little early.

This New Year's Eve came at noon for dozens of Upper Moreland seniors, whose retirement community, in deference to some residents' early bedtimes, opted to throw its party in the afternoon instead of at night.

"That's because there's no way you're making it to 12 midnight," cracked singer and entertainer Bruce Copp.

Sipping sparkling juice from plastic champagne flutes, party hat-clad seniors tapped their feet on the floor and paper horns on their knees to Copp's renditions of World War II era classics.

"Wait a minute — you," Copp barked at a woman in a motorized wheelchair. "No drinking and driving!"

As the crowd counted down to noon, the lights were switched off and a disco ball, spot-lit with a flashlight and rigged to the ceiling with a string, was lowered.

Ken Booz, 80, joked that he'd stay up until midnight and aim to live up to his name.

The longtime Upper Moreland resident said he'd probably "make a little noise, wake some of my neighbors up," adding that, despite his last name, he was usually the designated driver.

Mae Gardner, 87, had plans for where she wanted to be when the clock struck midnight: "In bed!"

Friends Dolores Moyer and Vivian Downing, however, were primed for a more adventurous start to 2010.

"I stay up anyways," said Moyer, 85. "I might as well blow my horn."

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Betty Bearinger raises a glass to toast in the new year on Thursday afternoon while Betty Held makes a little noise at the Maple Village Retirement Community in Upper Moreland.