

JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT  
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## 'RUN INTO THE NEW YEAR'

# Event good for your health, after-school program

By Keith Roberts

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The "Run Into the New Year" is good for you and is for a good cause.

The 5K run and walk on New Year's Eve in downtown Jackson will benefit the Partnership Park Neighborhood Association's After School Program at St. John's United Church of Christ.

"You're starting the new year out healthy," said the Rev. Jay Cummings, pastor of the church and an avid runner. "It's a great way to rev yourself up for the New Year's celebration."

The run was part of the annual Eve on the Ave celebration for years but was cut for budget reasons. Cummings revived the tradition in 2007.

The first year under church leadership, the event drew about 40 people; the second year about 55. Cummings is hoping for 75 this year.

Cummings said younger runners tend to be more competitive about the race and worry about the weather, while older runners do it more for fun and look forward to sloshing through ice and snow.

The race starts at 10 p.m. Thursday

at the church's United Center at Mechanic and Biddle streets, does a loop around downtown and returns to the church.

Registration, which costs \$18, includes a long-sleeved shirt as long as supplies last, food and beverages.

Instead of trophies, the top male and female finishers get home-baked pies.

The "Run Into the New Year" is sponsored by the Community Action Agency, Dunkin' Donuts, Jackson YMCA, Rotpac Racing, Roundtree Meats and Craig Whitmore, DDS.

### Event info

"Run Into the New Year," as part of Eve on the Ave, is a 5K Run-Walk scheduled for 10 p.m. Thursday. Cost is \$18, and registration takes place 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday at St. John's United Church of Christ's United Center, 801 S. Mechanic St. Call 784-7580 or 782-2787 to register or for more information.