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Raising a cigar might be a little weird to some living in New York City for welcoming the New Year, but for people who live in the small town of Red Lion Pennsylvania it is anything but weird.

Every year, Red Lion hosts hundreds to celebrate together in their square for food, drinks, and games for all ages. The annual highlight is always the raising of the Red Lion Cigar. The Lion holding the Red Lion Cigar is raised every year in the square in front of hundreds.

“I try to make the trip to the New Year’s celebration every year simply because I know I’ll have a great time” Explained Will Kottcamp, “It’s wonderful that Red Lion can show everyone that such a small town has such huge spirit.” People come from all around Pennsylvania to watch this amazing event and get in on all the fun.

Red Lion was the cigar making capitol of the world, making millions of cigars a month. This is the exact reason why they came up with the notion to raise a cigar to ring in the New Year. Just like Times Square in New York City, Red Lion has always brought in the New Year with a bang, even though it’s a small town. Red Lion was founded in 1852, and was named after the red lion pictured on the sign at the local Inn.

Even though Red Lion is a small town, they throw this celebration every year to remind everyone that small towns can still have fun for the New Year.

Red Lion hopes to bring in new ages of people for their celebration, as always they will have crafts and different games and fun activities at Grace Lutheran Church and Kaltreider Library. Families everywhere can attend the New Year’s celebration to enjoy different foods from the surrounding restaurants and venues, listen to great music and make crafts with their kids. Everywhere you look you can see people having fun and it makes you want to join in on it.

Amber Romano, a Red Lion resident, has gone to the New Year’s celebration for many years. She’s gone with friends in the past, “Just to do something to do for New Year’s, and it was fun! It’s no Times Square or anything, but it is still fun!”

The model train station set is always a big go to event that the old Red Lion train station sets up every year. The model train station is approximately 40 feet by 30 feet and has over 200 feet of track with 4 main lines, and a trolley line, for trains to run on. The model train station has many different color trains and hundreds of hours of work on trees, bushes and mountains for the trains to run though. The model train station will be open during the Red Lion New Year’s Eve celebration from 7:00 P.M. to 11:30 P.M.

The Red Lion New Year’s Eve committee is working hard to tie up loose ends on every plan for the events in the square. Tina Frutiger is a member of the Red Lion Borough Council and “she and her husband Bob are very involved with the New Year’s Eve Celebration” Said

Debe Sowers, from the Red Lion Borough. The committee works very hard to get everything perfect for the celebration and they are excited for how this year's is going to turn out.