

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

Woodstock-era music of the 1960s to rock Mount Clemens fireworks

Friday night event features free live music and fireworks along Clinton River

By Mitch Hotts, The Macomb Daily

Monday, June 22, 2015



Break out those bell-bottom jeans and tie-dye shirts -- the Mount Clemens Independence Day Celebration on Friday evening will feature music from the Woodstock era.

Prior to the fireworks display at dusk, there will be a free live concert by two classic rock bands -- hometown favorites Eastside Westside and Oakland County-based Magic Bus, which specializes in the “free love” era of music from the 1960s and 70s.

“In our view, there are two groups of people -- those who lived through the ‘60s and those who wish they had lived through the ‘60s,” said Mark Harrington of Waterford.

Harrington, a self-described pop historian and founder of the seven-piece Magic Bus band, said the band does a tribute to various artists of that time frame, ranging from Bob Dylan to Steppenwolf, The Birds to the Beatles.

“We basically take you on chronological tour of the 1960s because so much happened during that decade that changed the country,” he said. “We focus on the last three years, the Summer of Love, Woodstock and all that.”

Magic Bus will perform on the Clinton River Park stage along the river near Mount Clemens City Hall about 8 p.m. The night will begin with a 6 p.m. concert by Eastside Westside,

Like Magic Bus, Eastside Westside’s set list focuses on classic rock tunes from the 1960s/70s, said band spokesman Steve Ferdig.

“We play that 1960s/70s feel good music and the people love it,” said Ferdig, who runs Heads Up Boutique in Mount Clemens.

Also on Friday, rock radio station WRIF-FM (101.1) will be out along the waterfront handing out swag and partying with the people, according to Michelle Weiss of the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority.

Weiss said the annual fireworks display -- a tradition in Mount Clemens since the 1970s -- will take place at dusk, about 10 p.m.

“Once again, we are fortunate enough to have the Webber Foundation presenting the fireworks,” Weiss said. “Wayne and Joan Webber have always said they want to be sure the children of the community have a fireworks show to enjoy for the Fourth of July.”

Event-goers are invited to place blankets and tarps on the Clinton River Park, the grassy knoll across the river near Macomb County Circuit Court, to reserve their spaces. Those are allowed after 8 a.m. Friday. Families are also allowed to bring coolers and outside food and beverages.

Also, Northbound Gratiot Avenue will be closed to traffic from Church Street to Dickinson Street between 6 p.m. and midnight.

Other closures Friday evening include Crocker Boulevard between Northbound Gratiot and First Street; First Street between Crocker and Dickinson; and Cass Avenue between Northbound and Southbound Gratiot. The fireworks show will be complemented by the inaugural Summer Magic Festival, a four-day event June 25-28 in downtown Mount Clemens featuring live music from Stephen Percy of Ratt, Jack Russell’s Great White, The Babys and more. There is no admission for entry on Thursday, but \$3 for the remaining three days.

For more information on the Mount Clemens Independence Day Celebration, visit downtownmountclemens.com.

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