

# BLUES NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY

"...to preserve, promote and perpetuate the blues tradition."

Louisville, Kentucky

October 2017

Incorporated 1989

## Special Garvin Gate Blues Festival Issue



*Photo credit YouTube/MoeJoe Vision 2017*

Chicago blues journeymen Frank Bang and The Cook County Kings are the Friday night headliners for the 23rd Garvin Gate Blues Festival. The festival takes place Friday and Saturday, October 13th and 14th at Garvin and Oak Streets in Old Louisville. There is limited, free on-street parking and paid parking is available at the intersection of Fourth at Oak Streets. The proceeds from the paid lot benefit the Garvin Gate Neighborhood Association, a sponsor of the festival. Everything you need to know about The Garvin Gate Blues Festival is inside; be sure to check out the new festival-sponsored events for kids on page 11.

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**Blues News**  
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Kentuckiana Blues Society  
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Louisville, Kentucky

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**Debbie Wilson – vice-president**  
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**KBS MONTHLY MEETING**

If you are interested in reviewing new blues music, come on out  
to the KBS monthly board meeting (held the first Wednesday of  
each month at 7:00 PM at Check's Café in Germantown) and  
take your pick! We receive promo releases from the major blues  
labels as well as regional and local bands. If you review a CD, it's  
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# Letter From The Prez



KBS President Mark Sneed

Greetings, Blues Fans!

The Kentuckiana Blues Challenge was held on September 9<sup>th</sup>. It was originally scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> but the date was changed to the 9<sup>th</sup> after we only had two bands enter the contest. We discussed the date with the board and contacted all involved and decided the 9<sup>th</sup> was a better date. The small number of bands entering the contest was a concern and we have spent a considerable amount of time discussing possible reasons for the lack of participation. I'd like to personally thank One Shot Johnny and Dick and The Roadmasters for competing in the contest and for being willing to go to Memphis in January for the International Blues Challenge.

This year a mistake was made regarding the tally sheets and score card and we announced the wrong band as the winner. It wasn't noticed until we were compiling the contest results the next day. In an effort to correct the mistake, emails to the board were sent asking what could be done to rectify the mistake and do our best to honor both bands. Both bands were contacted and given an explanation. One Shot Johnny actually won the KBS blues challenge. Dick & the Roadmasters placed second. One Shot Johnny will receive the prize money and they will be going to Memphis for the International Blues Challenge. They will also receive recording time as part of the prize we offered. It was also decided that Dick & the

Roadmasters will also keep the prize money they were awarded the night of the contest. Our society takes the blues challenge very seriously and we follow the IBC rules for the contest. A procedure will be developed to make sure nothing like this ever happens again at our contest. The contest can be stressful and the bands and the crowd are anxious for the results. We have also posted a statement on our Facebook page letting everyone know what happened. Once again, I'd like to thank the bands for competing. I'd also like to thank all who showed up to support the two bands.

This issue of the newsletter highlights the Garvin Gate Blues Festival. I really enjoy this festival. I started coming to it in the late 80's. I came to it every year until they quit having it. It disappeared for the few years and then it was brought back to life. It has been going strong and I've been to it ever since. The bands are wonderful and the crowd is diverse and we all love blues music. This is the 23rd year for the festival. I'll be there both nights and so will a lot of other blues lovers. The Kentuckiana Blues Society will have a booth set up to the side of the stage. We'll help the bands sell their CDs and merchandise, so come on over and see what we have or just say hi.

The KBS board will nominate officers for 2018 at our October at our board meeting and we'll be voting to confirm the nominees at the November meeting. Those elected take office in January. All KBS members are welcome to come to our board meetings as they are always open to the public. That's how I started getting involved. I showed up and sat in on the meetings and started volunteering to help at functions and events. The dates for our board meeting are October 4<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> and we meet at 7:00 PM upstairs at Checks Café, 1101 E. Burnett Avenue.



## New Music Review



**Eyes Of The Sun**  
**OTIS**  
 Purple Pyramid Records

It's a bit daunting, reviewing a piece of blues/rock music that's already been touted by none other than Billy F. Gibbons, who hailed the band's "fine singing, sweet guitar tones...all around enjoyable listening!" "Eyes of the Sun" was executive-produced by Grammy winning guitar great Paul Nelson, best known for his work with the late Johnny Winter, and the band has been mentored by Kentucky blues/rock legend, Headhunter Greg Martin.

The promotional material refers to it as "southern blues rock", and that's definitely the bedrock. I've read comparisons to the jam-band styles of The Allman Brothers and Wet Willie, but this album is also drenched in vintage rock sounds that stir up essences of Robin Trower, Grand Funk Railroad, Steppenwolf...I get a whiff of something new/old/tasty every time I listen. Compelling vocals, ringing slide guitar

on a foundation of Chicago electric blues..."Eyes Of The Sun" has all of this and then some.

The first cut, "Change" highlights the essential southern rock slide guitar and features some nice backup vocals. The second cut, "Blind Hawg", which is the first single from the album, is garage rock perfection. Every good Kentuckian knows that "a blind hawg finds an acorn every now and then". If not strictly a blues *song*, that's a blues phrase if ever I've heard one.

Each song on this album is unique and the set is absolutely cohesive. Other standouts are "Shake You" and "Lovin' Man", and "Relief in C" brings some lovely things that are rather unexpected and drops them in the perfect spot in the arrangement.

The album is distributed by Cleopatra Records and is available on iTunes and Amazon.

I'm looking forward to seeing these guys perform. Mark your calendars: Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, they'll be at Stevie Ray's at 9:00 and Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, they're doing WFPK's Live Lunch at 11:30. The following weekend they will be doing three sets at the Garvin Gate Blues Festival on the Info+ Kentucky Music Stage at 6:30, 8:00 and 9:30. See y'all there!

Natalie Carter



# KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY

## PRESENTS

### 29TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FEATURING THE STACY MITCHHART BAND  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST DICK AND THE ROADMASTERS

Sat, Nov. 18, 2017

6:30 - 10:00 p.m.

## New Direction Bar and Grill

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For more information, visit the KBS website at [kbsblues.org](http://kbsblues.org)

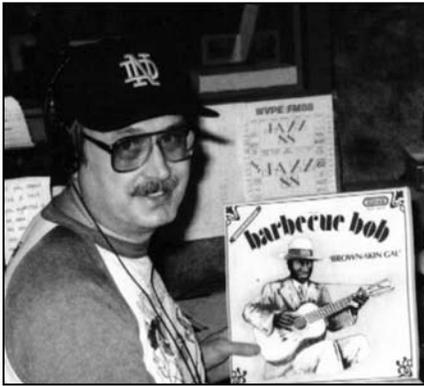
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The Courier-Journal FourRoses



# Back To The Blues



**Perry Aberli c. 1988**

By serendipitous circumstance, the Garvin Gate Blues Festival and I both arrived on the Louisville scene in 1988 after a 20 year absence. Although I had moved to Jeffersonville that year, I am a born and bred Louisvillian – technically a “Portland boy”, having attended Our Lady and Flaget. My return was unplanned and abrupt, forcing me to leave behind my Blues program and a lively Blues scene. So, after attending to the mundane details of housing and a job, I set out to find the Blues in Louisville. At the same time, a core of Blues fans were huddled together at the Ruyard Kipling planning out the inception of the Garvin Gate Blues Festival. Garvin Gate served as my introduction to Louisville’s version of a “Blues mafia,” that I quickly joined.

I can still remember the anticipation I had for the first iteration of Garvin Gate only to have them dampened by the rain and the lack of a crowd. I knew all too well how crowd size could either compromise or kill a festival. Garvin Gate, however, soldiered on, and with the emergence of the Kenuckiana Blues Society, (never mind that the name was longer than the membership roll!), it returned in a two day format that featured Eddie Clearwater, H-Bomb Ferguson, and the presentation of the first Sylvester Weaver Award to Henry Woodruff. We started the tradition of having a booth at the festival and our members soldiered on, often in inclement weather and foregoing getting close to the stage in order to proselytize the Blues with sale of memberships, buttons, t-shirts, and enthusiasm. The Blues, it seemed, had two growing legs to stand upon.

In year three, Garvin Gate continued its ambitious efforts at presenting the Blues featuring Fenton Robinson, James “Thunderbird” Davis, Roosevelt “Booba” Barnes, Phil Guy, Lefty Dizz, the Jelly Roll Kings, and others. Garvin Gate served notice that it was not just a local festival by hosting a national lineup and a crowd of 20,000 according to the Gate’s website.

1991 saw a more modest lineup of artists showcasing Louisville’s Blues talent and a program! The 1990 version of the Gate may have had huge crowds, but probably had overreached in its lineup. It was, in hindsight, probably too much, too soon. Still, the fourth year of the festival featured outstanding talent and reminded everyone attending of the quality of Louisville’s Blues scene.

By 1992, a recognizable format had emerged for Garvin Gate: a lineup showcasing the talent of local players capped by a featured regional or national act. This format continued to be a successful and effective one for the festival through 1993 and 1994, when Willie Kent and the Gents (Delmark recording artists) closed the festival. It was also in 1994 that I was presented with the Sylvester Weaver Award, a truly humbling experience and a tremendous honor.

1995 saw the appearance of Magic Slim and The Teardrops, Mississippi Heat, and Blyther Smith.

In 1996 the Gate featured Chubby Carrier and Jimmy Dawkins. Sadly, this was to be the last Garvin Gate Blues Festival for 11 years. In its brief early years, the Gate managed to create an indelible space in Louisville that would continue to be associated with the Blues even when none was there. And, with the same abruptness that the festival ended – however temporarily – it was also last festival for me, as I moved to South Carolina in August of 1997. It was also the last for Foree Wells, who passed away in January of 1998.

So, Garvin Gate, with the early years of KBS, served for me, personally, as a kind of defining era. They both, in their own ways, helped define my experience and engagement with the Blues in Louisville during my own “return engagement.” And they both, I hope, helped to bring Louisville Back To The Blues.

**Perry W. Aberli**



# Garvin Gate Blues Festival - A History

Story and pictures by John Paul (Garvin Gate Blues Festival) except as otherwise noted

**1988 – In The Beginning.** It all started in 1988 with an idea to have a blues jam in the parking lot of the Rudyard Kipling. At that time the Garvin Place Association was expanding its boundaries to become the Garvin Neighborhood Association and they wanted to initiate an annual event. Because the parking lot was so limited, it was decided to have it on Garvin Place by the gate at Oak St. The chair of the association was enthusiastic about the location and got a good response from the neighbors. Within a few weeks it all came together with the sponsorship of the County Judge Executive Harvey Sloan's Jefferson Discovery Program. The performers were all local bands. Unfortunately, it rained that Sunday in October and only five hundred people showed up.

**1989 – Expansion to 2 Days.** In 1989 the festival expanded to two days with beautiful weather and ten thousand people attending. Henry Woodruff received the first Sylvester Weaver Award from the Kentuckiana Blues Society. H-Bomb Ferguson and Eddy Clearwater were the headliners. Clearwater jammed in the Rudyard Kipling following the festival. Music coordination in the early years was handled by Scott Mullins, Rocky Adcock/Amaretto and The Kentuckiana Blues Society.

**1990 – Officially Arrived.** Because the large crowd had been hard to contain on Garvin Place, Oak Street was closed between Fourth and Sixth and the stage was set up in the intersection for 1990. Scott Mullins, host of the WFPK Saturday Night Blues Party, was the music coordinator. He pulled some strings and there were several exceptional acts that included Fenton Robinson, James 'Thunderbird' Davis, Roosevelt 'Booba' Barnes, Phil Guy, Lefty Dizz, Paul Black & the Flip Kings, plus the Jelly Roll Kings. Twenty thousand people came and the festival had officially arrived.

**1991 – The Gate and the Rud Host.** The 4th Annual Garvin Gate Festival brought Professor's Blues Review (Eddie Lusk) and Maurice John Vaughn from Chicago to be the



**The Rudyard Kipling**

headliners on Saturday. The KBS hosted a blues jam that night at the Rud with Rocky Amaretto and Winston Hardy. The Garvin Gate Association produced a slick souvenir program and the cool 'saxy' cat appeared at the gate as the new logo.

**1992 – Expansion to 3 Days.** The festival expanded to three days in 1992 with Willie Little as the music coordinator. There was a diverse



**Rocky Adcock presents the first KBS Sylvester Weaver Award to Henry Woodruff 1989**



**Original Festival T-shirt with Saxy Cat Logo**

assortment of local talent with a Gazebo Stage located at the other end of Garvin Place for acoustical acts. James "Yank" Rachel at 83 delighted the audience with his mandolin and Lamont Gillispie and the Home Wreckers featured Sam Myers.

**1993 – Party Hardy.** The lineup for the 1993 festival was mostly local bands with Kent Duchaine, the Louisiana guitarist, headlining the first two nights. Winston Hardy, Mr. Mumbo Jumbo, received the 5th Sylvester Weaver Award. This festival initiated supporting the Kentucky Harvest by encouraging people to bring canned goods.

**1994 – Mississippi Meets Chicago.** The 1994 festival featured Junior Kimbrough on Friday and Willie Kent & The Gents with Bonnie Lee on Saturday. The Walnut Street Blues Band also performed Saturday night. There was a benefit afterward for local bluesman Henry Woodruff at The Rudyard Kipling with the Dennis Ervin Band.

**1995 – Louisville's 11th Largest Event.** In 1995 the festival was in its 8th year and had become Louisville's 11th largest event drawing 30,000 to 40,000 people over three days. Three headliners were recruited from Chicago including Magic Slim & The Tear-drops, Mississippi Heat with Dietra Farr, and Byther Smith and The Nightriders.

**1996 – Stage Full of Stars.** The 1996 festival had a second Gazebo Stage near Ormsby and there was another fund raiser following the festival in the Rud for Lorene Wells, wife of Foree Wells, with music provided by the Metropolitan Blues All Stars. The main attractions were Deborah Coleman, Chubby Carrier & The Bayou Swamp Band and Jimmy Dawkins. Dawkins brought Eddie Shaw's band as his backup so there was a stage full of stars. It was a moving moment when an ailing Jim Rosen sat in to blow his harp with Dawkins. Mary Ann Fisher was honored with the Sylvester Weaver Award.

**1997 – Ran Out of Gas.** In 1997 Howard Rosenberg was transferred out of town and the Garvin Gate Neighborhood Association volunteers had run out of steam after nine years. It is significant to note that da Mudcats performed every year at the Gate and Foree Wells played at all but two festivals. The event was briefly revived as a franchise known as the Louisville Blues Festival and was relocated downtown to 4th St. at Theater Square.

**1997-1998 Theater Square.** The event continued for two years as the Louisville Blues Festival after it was moved downtown to Fourth Street at Theater Square. Though the talent was just as great, it just wasn't the same after they put a chain-link fence around it and tried to charge admission.

**2007 – Resurrection of the Gate.** With the return of Howard Rosenberg, financial support from Metro Councilman George Un-seld, and Mike Suttles booking great acts on a lean budget, the Gate was once again alive and well. Chicago guitarists Lurrie Bell and Jimmy Burns headlined Friday and Saturday night with a tribute to Jim Rosen that reunited da Mudcats with Sue O'Neil. Sonny Sitgraves, a local drummer who played with several Chicago bands, received the "Weaver." It was a déjà vu experience after an absence of eleven years.

**Garvin Gate neighbor John Paul began branding and modernizing the festival's image from the pre-internet days with an online presence and slick-willy marketing collateral.**

**2008 – Ready for Eddy.** This festival was lucky thirteen for Garvin Gate with more sponsors and larger crowds. Chicago blues ruled again with Nick Moss & The Flip Tops and Eddy 'The Chief' Clearwater headlining each night. Clearwater, now a 73 year old legend, closed his set with "West Side Strut" which hit a groove that got the whole crowd in sync. When Joe DeBow finished his set with Pure Gravel he was presented with "The Weaver" award.

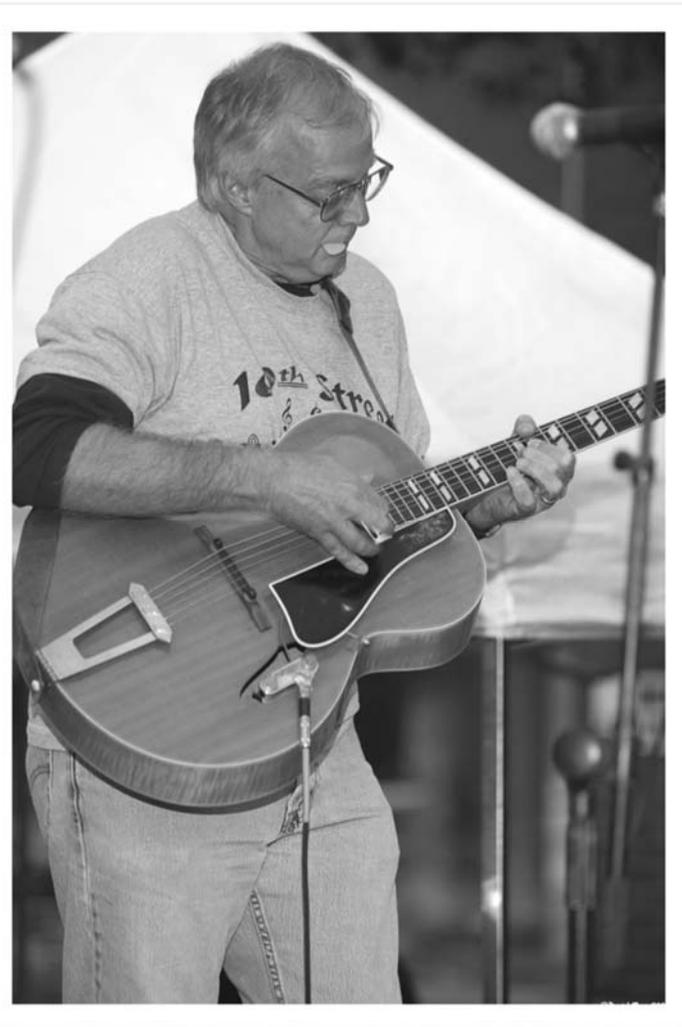


Photo by David True  
**2007 Pen Bogert of the 10th Street Blues Band**

**2009 – Harp Heaven.** The theme for 2009's festival was harmonica blues featuring Lil' Dave Thompson on Friday night, and internationally recognized Sugar Blue on Saturday night. The Friday night show ended 45 minutes early because of rain.

**Thank you to Keith S. Clements, Blues Curmudgeon Emeritus, for his background on the early years of Garvin Gate.**

**2010 – Divas and Dames.** James "Super Chikan" Johnson headlined Friday night. Saturday night's theme was Blues Dames and Divas Night with Cheryl Renee and Them Bones from Cincinnati, followed by headliner Deitra Farr, former singer for Mississippi Heat from Chicago. When Robbie Bartlett finished her set on Saturday she was presented with the Weaver Award. Perfect warm, dry weather brought out a huge crowd which helped to make this the finest GGBF to date.

**2011 – Sweet Sixteen.** Perfect weather again for our sixteenth GGBF! The Walnut Street Blues Band was followed by Karen Lovely on Friday created an evening of blues that will never be forgotten for those in attendance. Tullie Brae & The Medicine Man Revue was followed by Grady Champion on Saturday and were both first class acts. Jimmy Brown received the highly coveted Sylvester Weaver Award which the Kentuckiana Blues Society has awarded annually since 1989.

**2012 – Schedule Change.** We had a first as Sugar Ray and the Bluetones canceled two weeks before the show and Toronzo Cannon came to town at the last minute for Friday's show. Cannon showed us why he is considered to be one of Chicago's finest guitarists. Local bands SMOBLUES, The Predators, and Lamont Gillispie and 100 Proof set the stage for Cannon and offered the very best blues from our area. Saturday was day two of perfect weather, and despite battling a terrible cold, Nora Jean Wallace tore the place down and had the crowd crying out for more at the end of the night. Tee Dee Young from Lexington, KY turned in one of his best sets ever as he lived up to his nickname, "King of Beale Street". G Miles and the Hitmen from northern Kentucky delighted the crowd with their horn-based blues. Local stalwarts Dog House Kitchen, Little T & A, da Mudcats, and The KingBees rounded out the bill.

**2013 – Stage Moves to Oak Street.** Perfect weather, and great luck, brought out huge crowds, the biggest since the reemergence of the fest in '07. The main stage was moved to a new location which made a big difference for audio and sight lines. The GGBF has become the major go-to festival for the blues in the region. Friday night brought us Billy Flynn's Chicago Blues Party featuring Elmo James, Jr. (Elmore James' son) and Milwaukee Slim who put on an outstanding show reminiscent of the heyday of the Chicago blues. Ray Fuller and the Bluesrockers were the biggest surprise; the Ohio-based band featured Fuller on slide guitar accompanied by his top-notch band. Saturday featured international blues favorites Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials; they showed us why they've won so many major blues awards over the years. Maurice John Vaughn with Holle Thee Maxwell opened for Lil' Ed. The multi-instrumentalist and their fiery singer gave the crowd a rousing show. Nine other local bands and musicians rounded out the weekend on the two stages, including another first, the Soul Center Church's Choir performing two rousing sets of gospel music.



**2013 New Main Stage Opens Up the View, Oak St at Garvin**

**2014 – Spring Like Weather.** The 2014 festival, in spite of the inclement weather, was a large success. Friday saw intermittent rain that kept the crowds away. Big Poppa Stampley started things off with a solo performance that captured his take on the blues. With his deep voice and excellent guitar picking, Stampley set the stage for the night. At the end of his set, the Kentuckiana Blues Society awarded the coveted Sylvester Weaver Award to Stampley. (His two sets were canceled because of the weather on the Better Days Records acoustic stage, which this year had a new location closer to Ormsby Ave. Pen Bogert and Billy Bird performed four sets on the stage on Saturday.) Up next was Indianapolis guitar wizard, Zakk Knight. Knight's trio delivered a strong performance highlighting his virtuosity with his Fender. The set was a blues rock heaven. Following Knight were local favorites, da Mudcats featuring Susan O'Neil and Doug Lamb. The band has

for the last few years gathered at the festival for their yearly show. The band soared through the set featuring O'Neil's vocals and the excellent musical offerings from the other band members. Headlining Friday was Homemade Jamz Blues Band. This young family trio from Mississippi proved that the future of the blues is in good hands. They rewarded the small crowd that braved the rain with one of the best performances in recent years. The group delivered their own brand of blues steeped in Hill Country with a touch of Chicago thrown in.

The rain moved out leaving overcast, chilly weather for Saturday's lineup. The Mississippi Adam Riggle Band started things off with an excellent set of originals and covers evoking juke joints and big city clubs. Riggle's guitar playing was at times eerie and and others smooth as honey. Laurie Jane & the 45s took the stage next and turned it up a bit. Laurie Jane's vocals and Cort Duggins' guitar work are the features of the group. She can belt out a Big Mama song or a ballad equally well. Duggins stamped himself as a force with his 50's influenced playing. Both of these local bands are in the forefront of the blues future around town. Tanita Gaines took the stage next. Absent from the fest for way too long, it was like she never left. Her booming voice and brassy personality recalled blues queens from the past. The Stella Vees gave an outstanding performance. Led by Jason Lockwood's tasty guitar work and a tight rhythm section the band roared through blues from Chicago, the West Coast and down South.

The planned Harmonica Showdown was dealt a blow when local blues harp man Lamont Gillispie was unable to play due to his battle with cancer. Rick Cain, Denny Thornbury and Andrea Tanaro took over and led the Showdown in honor of Gillispie. It was a raucous set as each of the three harpists played a couple songs and then came together for a finale that would make Gillispie proud. (Lamont was listening to the festival stream live on ARTxFM.)

The Ten Foot Polecats from Massachusetts took the stage next. The trio gave the festival crowd a different set than they were used to. Their music took delta blues, Hill Country with a taste of punk and turned it into a set that had the crowd shouting for more. Saturday's headliner was Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets. Since it was announced in March that Funderburgh would be the headliner, blues fans around town let it be known that this was a show they were looking forward to. He and his band didn't let them down. Funderburgh's understated guitar playing led the quintet through a set that let all of them showcase their skills. The crowd showered the band with such a response that Funderburgh asked if he could do an encore instead of judging the responses after his set. The Rockets brought the festival to the kind of close that had the crowd eager for more in 2015.



**2015 Down in The Alley Records Debuts "The Blues Had a Baby"**



Photo by Cheryl Jagers

***Blowin' it Out for Joey - Harmonica Showdown 2014***

**2015 – Tribute to Muddy Waters and Chicago Blues.** The 2015 Garvin Gate Blues Festival was a tribute to Muddy Waters and Chicago Blues. Friday night started the festival off with a bang! Locals Laurie Jane and the 45s showcased their unique sound with a rollicking set of originals and covers some of which are featured on their self-entitled debut CD. Up next was Steady Rollin Bob Margolin, longtime guitar player and bandleader for Muddy Waters. Margolin teamed with Tad Walters and Da Mudcat drummer Gene Wickcliffe for a blistering set of Chicago influenced blues and great stories about his time with Muddy. Finishing out the evenings music was Muddy's son Big Bill Morganfield backed by Levee Town. Morganfield showed why he is a Blues Music Award Winner with a set that had the crowd up dancing in the street.

Saturday was a glorious, sunny day, perfect for the blues. The Stray Cat Blues Band started the day off, showcasing some of the finest R & B Louisville has to offer with singer Bruce Lively recapturing the title of Louisville's finest front man. The Stella Veas were up next, featuring two of the city's best guitar players in Jason Lockwood and James Gaetano. The Blues Had A Baby was up next with shortened sets from Lamont Gillispie's 100 Proof Blues, The Ass Haulers and the 10th Street Blues Band. The set ranged from Chicago blues to hard, loud blues rock. Next was Sheryl Rouse and The Bluezz Brothers putting on a show for the ages. Rouse had the crowd eating out of her hands as she wailed the blues. Local stalwarts Da Mudcats (who have played every Gate) showered blues lovers with a set that had the front of the stage jam-packed as Blues Matriarch Susan O'Neil showed why she has earned the nickname. Chicago Blues were in full bore for the final two bands. The Billy Flynn Blues Band featuring veteran piano player Barrelhouse Chuck and Shirley Johnson followed by The Cash Box Kings (also with Barrelhouse Chuck) gave Louisville a taste of why Chicago is the home of The Blues. The festival ended with both bands on stage for a jam session that put an exclamation point on the 2015 fest.

**2016 – A Mix of The Old and The New.** 2016 was a mix of the old and the new. Old friend Karen Lovely graced us with her second appearance at the festival, and just like the last time she was here in 2011 put on a show that will have folk talking for years. An old Louisville resident, Curtis Marlatt played Saturday afternoon and brought back so many memories of his time playing the blues in his hometown. Sheryl Rouse and the Bluez Brothers played for the second year in a row, and just like the previous year, stamped herself as a force to be reckoned with. The KingBees returned to the stage for the first time in a few years with a set of originals that had the early crowd up dancing. Robbie Bartlett once again graced the festival with her beautiful voice on the Info+ stage, as did festival veterans Laurie Jane & the 45s.

The Tyrone Cotton Band got Saturday off to a great start with some tasty blues. The finale of the Old was the yearly appearance of da Mudcats, who released a new record to coincide with the event. 41 years and still playing the blues! The new was as good as it gets. The Mark Telesca Band made a whole lot of new fans at the Gate. As a surprise, he brought along Frank Bang to play guitar. Saturday brought three new young acts to close out the fest. Southern Avenue, with its feisty take on the blues, earned raves from the crowd. The Hector Anchondo Band showed that the midwest is indeed a hot place for blues, and the band killed it with their set. Closing out Saturday night was Mr. Sipp, the Mississippi Blues Child. If Sipp is the future of the blues, then the future is bright. The last new act was local band The Tarnations, with their heavy lean to R & B as well as the blues. In November 2016, lead singer Phillip Phillips passed away. Garvin Gate is saddened by yet another death in our blues community, but happy that Phillip was able to perform at his first Garvin Gate festival.

**Editor's Note: The 2015 Sylvester Weaver Award was presented to KBS Board Member and Blues News Editor, Natalie Carter, and the 2016 Weaver was fittingly bestowed upon none other than the Festival's own Mike Suttles. Lots more pictures and memories can be found at [www.garvingatebluesfestival.com](http://www.garvingatebluesfestival.com)**

FourRoses



BOURBON

Garvin Gate Neighborhood • Councilman David James  
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Present the 23rd, 2017

# Garvin Gate Blues Festival

## OCTOBER 13 & 14 OAK ST @ GARVIN PL

Friday, October 13  
Four Roses Stage on Oak St.

6:30-7:30 Tullie Brae  
8:15-9:15 Andrew Alli & The Mainline  
10:00-11:15 Frank Bang and The Cook County Kings

Info+ Kentucky Blues Stage

7:30-8:10 Da Mudcats  
9:15-9:55 Walnut Street Rhythm & Blues Band

Saturday, October 14  
Four Roses Stage on Oak St.

2:00-2:45 The Saints  
3:15-4:00 Carly Johnson  
4:30-5:15 Leroy Ellington Band  
5:45-6:30 Screamin' John & TD Lind  
7:00-8:00 Ray Fuller & The Bluesrockers  
8:30-9:30 Tweed Funk  
10:00-11:15 Tony O with Zora Young

Info+ Kentucky Blues Stage

4:00-4:25, 5:15-5:40 Nick Stump Band  
6:30-6:55 8:00-8:25, 9:30-9:55 Otis

### FREE ADMISSION

[garvingatebluesfestival.com](http://garvingatebluesfestival.com)



Tullie Brae



Andrew Alli



Frank Bang



Ray Fuller



Tweed Funk



Tony O



Zora Young

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The Garvin Gate Blues Festival  
PRESENTS

# The Blues School & Blues for Youth

**Louisville Blues In The Schools** will be presented by Big Poppa Stampley in four JCPS elementary schools and will take a look back at performers and blues music that has Louisville roots or influences.

## The Blues School

**Bloom Elementary**  
Tuesday, September 26 - 10:40 am

**McFerran Elementary**  
Wednesday, October 4 - 9:15 am

**Engelhard Elementary**  
Thursday, October 5 - 9:30 am

**Hite Elementary**  
Wednesday, October 11 - TBA



Big Poppa Stampley

**Blues For Youth** is a outdoor multimedia program that will introduce students to the music that has played a monumental part in the development of rock & roll, pop, rap, hip hop and other genres of music.



## Blues For Youth

**Saturday, October 14th**  
11 am - 2 pm

before the start of day two of the  
**Garvin Gate Blues Festival**

### Saturday, October 14, Garvin Gate Blues Festival

- 11:00-11:25 U of L School of Music Band
- 11:30-11:45 Alley Theater Caravan B.B. King Play
- 11:45-12:05 Mom's School of Rock Band
- 12:05-12:15 Alley theater Caravan B.B. King Play
- 12:15-12:45 Louisville Leopards Percussionists
- 12:45-1:00 Alley Theater Caravan B. B. King Play
- 1:00-1:30 Group Harmonica Lesson
- 2:00 Garvin Gate Blues Festival begins

Kids will learn to play harmonica and keep them,  
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The winner will be announced at the  
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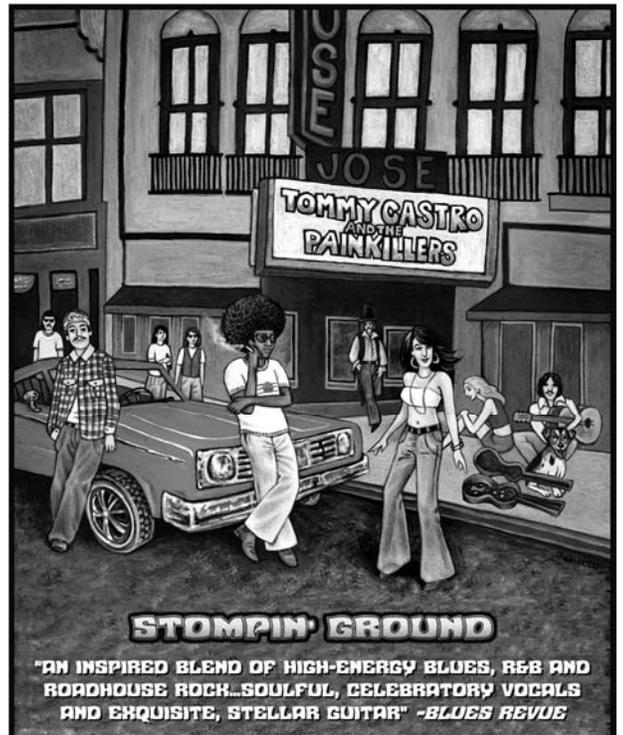
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# Interview With Tony O

The Tony O Blues Band with Zora Young are the Saturday night headliners at Garvin Gate

Natalie Carter: On September 14, 2017, Keith Clements and I made a call to Tony O of the Tony O Blues Band, who, along with Zora Young, will be the Saturday night headliner at Garvin Gate. As usual, Keith came well equipped with plenty of firsthand knowledge and background information; as usual, I provided mostly wisecracks and distractions. Those, plus Tony's charm, awesome New York accent and personable good nature, resulted in the following interview.

Keith Clements: Hi Tony, thanks so much for agreeing to talk to us.

Tony O: Oh, thank **you** guys. It's my pleasure.

KC: I'll jump right in. I am holding the album "Top Of The Blues" from 1995, and the liner notes say that you were fifteen when you discovered Chicago blues. Would you please expand on that?

Tony O: You HAVE that? Where did you even GET that?

NC: Oh, this guy. He's got stuff!

KC: (Laughs). I'll sell you one when you get to the festival!

Tony O: OK. Prior to age 15, around 12, 13...maybe 11, I was listening to the same things as everybody else. Chuck Berry...you know...all the good stuff. When I got to BB King, that's what turned me around. That's what got me the blues drive right away. In 1973, I met "Queen" Victoria Spivey. Legendary Chicago...actually she was from Dallas, Texas. She moved to Chicago...played in Al Capone's nightclubs there. She moved to Brooklyn and established her own label. She put Bob Dylan's first record out.

KC: Was that the Spivey Label? I have some of those LPs and I love the cover art...it's so primitive and slapped together but it has some really great New York, West Coast Blues.

Tony O: So...you're familiar?

KC: Oh yes, I've got a bunch of those.

Tony O: Oh she had everybody...come from Chicago...Willie Dixon, Sunnyland Slim, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf...she had everybody. Everybody loved and respected her...they'd come and record in her little apartment.

KC: You go by the name of Tony O and I know your last name is Melio...I read somewhere that Howlin' Wolf and Hubert Sumlin gave you the Tony O nickname. What were the circumstances when they did that?

Tony O: I started hanging out at nightclubs where Wolf was playing...and also T-Bone Walker...and I helped them with their equipment...like a little roadie...wannabe blues guy, 'cause I was young, you know? I got to know Wolf pretty well, got to hang around behind the scenes with them, sit in sometimes on some shows. Hubert Sumlin...we got really thick, really tight, you know? So I don't remember which one, but it was the two of them together that gave me the name and it stuck.

NC: I think if I ever met the Wolf, he could call me anything he wanted and I would just go by that forever! That's one that hurts. He's one of my favorites and I never got to see him live.

Tony O: I hear you, I get that. He was a character and a great guy. I would be in the first row at all the shows. In fact, I was on the guest list at Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music. One time at Carnegie Hall, I was trying to explain to the guy that I'm on the guest list and he was like "yeah, you and a thousand other kids". So I was trying to get him to just



Photo courtesy of Tony O

send word or tell them...but the guy was just brushing me off and all of a sudden the Wolf comes down. He says, in that big voice "He's my guest...let him in." And I got in then.

KC: I bet you felt like a million bucks.

Tony O: Oh yeah. And I helped T-Bone Walker with his equipment. It was at a place called Max's Kansas City. Everybody played there. I helped with the equipment and...I don't know if I should say this...they got me drunk. T-Bone put me on the guest list and told the guy at the club "he's not drinking", although I was.

KC: We're delighted that you're going to team up with Zora Young. But you're from New York...she's from Chicago...I've got this recent CD that came out a couple years ago, Friday Night, by Zora Young & Little Mike and The Tornadoes, and you're playing with Little Mike in that band. So I was wondering if that was the impetus for you and Zora to team up.

Tony O: I've known Zora since 1990 when I moved to Chicago and joined The Legendary Blues Band. I was just out of the Little Mike and The Tornadoes band about six months and I did a gig with the whole Legendary Blues Band...Calvin Jones and everybody...they were like "great, you're in, you made it". So I then moved to Chicago. I was there for about eight months and I met Zora. Later on, in 1995, I recorded on Deluge Records. She had already been recording on Deluge Records so they put us together on tour. Pinetop Perkins, Hubert, Willie Smith, Zora, Calvin (Fuzz) Jones, Bob Stroger...it was really great. And I've worked with Zora a lot since then, too.

KC: In the early 90's, you were with The Legendary Blues Band. Of course, after Muddy died, they got together to kind of carry on his tradition and spirit. Over the years, as you know, the personnel in that band changed extensively. You were with them from about 90-92, and I have the album "You Be Da Judge" with a picture of a young guy in a blue shirt on one side. (Tony laughs). What were the experiences with some of those guys in the band...with Fuzz and with Willie...traveling around in the early 90s?

Tony O: Oh, it was phenomenal. Willie (Smith) turned out to be my very, very close and best friend. The best friend that I ever had...ever will have. I became family. I'm probably on more records with Willie...maybe...than any other guitar player. I locked in really well with Willie. Willie was just a beautiful person

and a great artist, and he had a great outlook on life and such great wisdom. It was just phenomenal to work with Willie.

KC: Later in life he got away from the drum set and started playing harmonica because his son started playing drums. Willie was a greatly accomplished harmonica player in his later years.

Tony O: Yeah, and his son is a well-known, respected musician now...Grammy winner...just right there following in his dad's footsteps.

KC: Are you going to be doing other shows or festivals with Zora...is this arrangement something you are going to be doing more often?

Tony O: Well, there are two things that we have on that spectrum. Because we are in the middle of a new recording and she is going to be singing on it...it's in memory of BB King and Brook Benton. It's a big project and we really want to concentrate on that.

KC: Is this the one called "So Excited?"

Tony O: Yes, that's it. And also, on the other side of the token, we are really trying to get with a reputable agency so we could really branch out a little bit and go to different countries. We've each been to Japan...to many countries...and we'd like to do that again together.

KC: Do you have a booking agent right now?

Tony O: No, we are between agents right now. The agent we were using, on the West Coast...San Diego...a really nice lady, she's retiring, so we are on the lookout again.

KC: Can you give us a rundown of the band members that you will be bringing to Garvin Gate?

Tony O: Sure. We'll have the musicians that are playing on the new record. That would be Mike Severino on drums, and playing bass, Angelo Olivieri...

KC: Do you have any horns or harp?

Tony O: No, no horns, but I have a special guest on harmonica, an old friend of mine named Denny Thornberry. He goes by the name of Louisville Fats...

KC and NC: Oh, we know Denny! Denny's one of ours! That's exciting.

Tony O: Oh, Denny's great. He's a good player. He's a great guy, too. Maybe about five or six times I've played at Stevie Ray's and Denny sat in with me a bunch of times and that's how we got to know each other.

KC: So you and Mike and Angelo and Denny. Anybody else in your band?

Tony O: Not for this show. Sometimes I run with piano...I really prefer to because I have a style of guitar playing that really requires piano. But, on the other hand, I am very good with a three piece as well. I have a very busy guitar playing...what I mean by busy is I can control the mid-range, the bottom and the high end, and sing, all at the same time. I'm like a magician.

KC: You mention playing at Stevie Ray's a number of times. Is that the only place in Louisville that you've played?

Tony O: I think I played once at a place...Rudyard Kipling, maybe, but I think about a half dozen times at Stevie Ray's. A few of those times were with Bob Stroger on bass and Willie Smith on drums.

KC: Oh my!

NC: How did we miss that?

KC: I don't know. Unfortunately, the Rudyard Kipling is closed. That was a great venue for music and blues.

Tony O: Oh, on that record, Top Of The Blues, that I mentioned, we also have John Lennon's sax player, Stan Bronstein. Years



later, after John died, I hooked up with Stan and he recorded on that record. We toured together for about five years and it was great. He was originally in a band called "Elephant's Memory" and went on to record with Patsy Cline and Brenda Lee...Johnny Mathis...so many big time...he was also on an Aerosmith record. Then he hooked up with me and I was honored to have him with me for a good number of years.

KC: I don't know if you have met Mike Suttles, but he's the main man who books the music for Garvin Gate, and he's pretty particular about who he picks. He's a pretty hardcore blues kind of guy.

Tony O: (Laughs) I could sense that. And that's a good way to be.

KC: He's very strict about who he signs for the festival and I was just curious to know how he got onto you. Did he hear you somewhere, or how was that contact made?

Tony O: I don't know if he has seen me live, but the agent I told you we have...she booked the show. She's also a musician...a bass player. She retired and became an agent and now she's retiring from that. I guess after a while, people have to retire (laughs). The word is nice to hear.

KC: What can you tell us about Zora Young that would make people want to come out and see her singing with you?

Tony O: She is the most powerhouse, straight-up blues singer. The thing I love about her so much...of course I love her, she's like my sister, but I love the way she sings because she is so straight-up Chicago blues, right in the pocket. She's gung-ho Howlin' Wolf, you know, Muddy Waters...she's right there in the thick of it. There's no pop about her. I mean she has some songs with some switch...and hooks, and that's cool, but she's a straight up blues artist with a very powerful voice and a great performer.

KC: I was listening to the CD before the interview, the one, **Friday Night**, when you all were with Little Mike, and one song that you had a hand in..."I Love Chicago"...

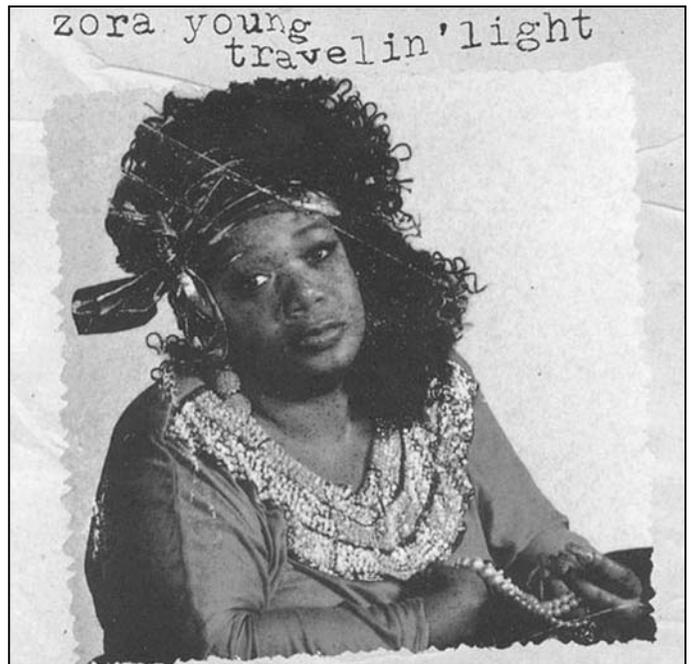
Tony O: I wrote that. I wrote it for her.

KC: That really hits the nail on the head for Chicago blues. And then there was "A Fool's Lament" that Mike wrote that I thought was a beautiful slow ballad kind of blues...

Tony O: Yes, I like that as well.



Photo courtesy of Freeport NY Blues Festival 2015



NC: We will arrange with Zora to do an interview with her after the festival. We just have a deadline for print materials and we don't have enough time to do it beforehand. Please thank her for the offer and tell her we are really looking forward to it.

Tony O: Oh, yeah. You know, she's Howlin' Wolf's first cousin. She started singing in the church; she's a great gospel singer.

KC: I have a bunch of her CDs. You know, she recorded at least three on Delmark and I do have that one on Deluge. I love that picture of her on Deluge; she looks like a classic blues singer.

Tony O: That's a cool shot. Like I said, she's really a great performer, she's got the theatrics goin'...she just brings it in the pocket. No fluff with her. I dig working with her. Maybe because it was my roots, but I play my best when I have a great woman singer singing.

KC: You probably inspire each other onstage.

Tony O: I think so.

KC: Yeah and I have, I think, her very first one on LP called "Stumbling Blocks and Stepping Stones"...

Tony O: Yeah, that's a good one.

KC: Look at the people on there. Maurice John Vaughn, Carey Bell, AC Reed...such great people that were backing her then.

Tony O: Oh yeah, she's worked with so many great legends as well. They call her now the "First Lady of the Blues".

KC: Well, Koko Taylor was known as the "Queen of the Blues", and I know that mantle got passed to Shemekia Copeland.

Tony O: Yeah, she knew Koko, Koko was great. They used to call Zora the Princess but she likes to run with "The First Lady" now.

KC: We really appreciate the interview, and we'll be looking for you on Saturday night. I may have a couple of things for you and Zora to sign...I'm kinda nuts about that.

Tony O: No problem, that'll be fine.

KC: Guess we'll see you in about a month.

Tony O: Absolutely. I'm looking forward to meeting you!

KC: That was really nice. I tell you, if your show is anything like this CD, it's gonna be dynamite.

Tony O: Oh, we'll do "I Love Chicago"; she's already let me know. We'll do that, and she has this one song called "Girlfriend". We'll be doing that, and she also has a bunch of other originals, real nice, jumpy, Chuck Berry kinds of tunes. We'll mix it up for sure.

KC: Well, you're going to find a lot of people dancing in front of your stage, so get ready for that kind of response. Because you know, you can't keep still when you listen to uptempo blues.

Tony O: Great!

KC: I have one last question. When I was looking at pictures of you playing, on the body of your Gibson guitar, you had the name "Linda" on it, and I just wondered...who does that represent?

Tony O: Linda was my sister. She passed away with lung cancer. She bought me my first guitar; she got me to be a guitar player. She brought home an electric guitar. I found some old acoustic guitar in a garbage can and I tried to fix it up. I was messing around with it and she was like "I'm gonna get you a guitar". She brought over a little amplifier and a guitar. And...it wasn't the guitar I'm using...soon after that I just got very honed as a guitar player and I went out and bought a Gibson and had a great, a legendary tattoo artist painted that on there. It'll be there forever.

KC: We're a little misty here. This is a great story. Do you mind if we include this in the interview?

Tony O: No, of course not. Please do!

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**Garvin Gate Blues Festival Friday Lineup  
Four Roses Stage – Oak Street at Garvin Place**

**6:30 PM Tullie Brae (Back from 2011)** The soulful blues singer and multi-instrumentalist credits her gift to her roots in gospel music, like so many great soul singers before her. Her musical journey started when she began singing in church, where her Dad was a preacher. She played piano, drums, bass and guitar and early on assumed the role of choir director. Her artistic reputation grew within the gospel community, which led to touring professionally with gospel groups. Tullie's influences are steeped in gospel music, blues, soul, country and rock 'n roll. A few of her favorite artists include Elvis Presley, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton, Etta James, Tina Turner, Janis Joplin, Joe Bonamassa, Melissa Etheridge, India Arie and Paul Thorn.



Photo credit @AndrewAlli&TheMainline

**Andrew Alli & The Mainline**

**8:15 PM Andrew Alli & The Mainline** Andrew Alli is a 29 year old Richmond, Virginia native. Always passionate about music, he stumbled upon the blues while taking up his first instrument, the harmonica. He instantly fell in love with the blues and all of the history that comes with the harp. Andrew developed his style of playing by studying the harmonica greats, including: Little Walter, Big Walter Horton, Sonny Boy Williamson II, and Junior Wells. Co-founding "Andrew Alli and Last Night's Blues Band" with drummer Charles Hibbler in 2012, the band had a particular interest in the Chicago and Delta styles of blues. With drummer Charles Hibbler, bassist Ken Kellner and guitarist Mike Burgess, "Andrew Alli and Last Night's Blues Band" won 2013 River City Blues Society Blues Challenge and they represented Richmond in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Andrew also has had the privilege to tour with folk musicians Tim Barry and Josh Small during a US, European, and Australian music tour. The Richmond Folk Festival has featured Andrew for 3 years teaching harmonica lessons and performing. Andrew currently plays with his band "The Mainline" with Charles Hibbler on drums, Ken Kellner on Bass and Ivan Applethorpe on guitar. He's also in a duo with legendary Richmond folk musician Josh Small.

**10:00 PM Frank Bang & The Cook County Kings** Frank Bang (Frank Blinkal) served as Buddy Guy's second guitarist for five years, playing many dates. This internship, along with his band mates playing with such luminaries as Magic Slim among many others, has nurtured this band to a point where the blues just seem to pour out of them effortlessly. They have parlayed their experience into creating blues music that is at once new and invigorated, whilst keeping one foot in the traditional precepts of the blues of the past. Frank's guitar playing cuts through the air when needed or delivers poignant runs, whatever the situation dictates. His voice has the necessary rough edges that are well suited to this music. The Cook County Kings are as sturdy as steel as the backbone for their vision of the blues. Russ Green's well versed harmonica playing weaves in and out of this heady mix. Brian "BJ" Jones thumps the ever loving daylight out of his drums, while Andre Howard anchors it all with his on-the-money bass playing. Donnie Nichilo's piano talents are in the best traditions of the Chicago purveyors of the eighty-eights. The blues tradition of interactive ensemble playing is well represented here. These guys are able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

**Garvin Gate Blues Festival Friday Lineup  
Info+ Kentucky Blues Stage – Oak Street at Fourth**

**7:30 PM da Mudcats (they never left)** In 1985 harmonica player Jim Rosen and vocalist Susan O'Neil set out to gather the best musicians they could get to form their dream blues band. The original line-up of musicians consisted of Jim Rosen harmonica and vocals, Susan O'Neil vocals, Andy Brauner guitar, Gene Wickliffe drums, and B.G. Johnson bass. Subsequently, Brauner and B. G. left the band and current guitarist Rob Pickett joined the group and remains the lead guitarist to this day. Early on, the band went through a series of bass players but finally settled in with Larry Holt, adding Doug Lamb, keyboardist to the group. This line-up of musicians made up the premier band that enjoyed a large and loyal following for many years.



Photo by Cheryl Jagers

**Da Mudcats**

O'Neil left the group in 1992 and Larry Holt followed shortly after. At this juncture, the musical line-up was Jim Rosen harmonica and vocals, Gene Wickliffe drums, Rob Pickett guitar, Doug Lamb keyboard & vocals, and Brendan Lewis bass. Doug Lamb left the group in the mid '90's and the band carried on through that decade building a loyal following and remaining very popular. Bassist Wayne Carver joined after Brendan Lewis left the band. During this time da Mudcats secured a sponsorship from Budweiser and performed under their sponsorship in the Bud tent at the Kentucky State Fair and regionally.

In 1998, da Mudcats suffered the devastating loss of bandleader, lead vocalist and harmonica player Jim Rosen, to cancer. Shortly after that Wayne left the band and moved to Las Vegas.

**9:15 PM Walnut Street Blues Band (back from 1991, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 & 2013)** The Walnut Street Blues Band was formed in the early 1990's with Foree Wells recruiting his three sons, Michael, Greg and Foree Jr., plus Donnie Bridges, to become one of Louisville's premiere blues bands. Their CD, "It's A New Day Brother!", was released by Jim O'Neal's Stackhouse Records as a testimony to Foree's talent.

When Foree died in 1997 the band continued performing, replacing Foree Jr. with Jerry Harshaw on drums and featuring Artie Wells as vocalist. Michael, lead guitarist, occasionally plays the southern circuit backing Clarence Carter, and Greg's animated keyboard playing energizes every Walnut Street Blues Band show. The experienced, rhythmic beat of Donnie and Jerry keep the band in a tight pocket. Artie, who is Michael's wife, is now one of Louisville's top blues divas with her pleading and melodic voice.

**Garvin Gate Blues Festival Saturday Lineup  
Four Roses Stage – Oak Street at Garvin Place**

**2:00 PM The Saints** The Saints are an infused mix of rhythm & blues, soul, funk, and rock & roll music. They have been a favorite on the local music scene in Louisville for 30+ years. The band started in 1981 with Bruce Lively on lead vocals, Rick Mason on guitar, Steve Buford Walls on bass, Bill Dean on keyboards, Bill Jordan on saxophone (later to be replaced by Jerome Howlett) and Dicky Durlauf on drums. Over the years, The Saints have opened for the likes of John Lee Hooker, Mitch Ryder, Delbert McClinton, and James Brown. The current day Saints consist of frontman Bruce Lively, Nick Reifsteck on guitar, Robert Gittli on bass, Bill Dean on keys, Rick Cain on harmonica and vocals, Gary Falk on sax and Ken Peters on drums.

**3:15 PM Carly Johnson** is locally known for her successful partnership with critically acclaimed guitarist Craig Wagner, who perform as a jazz vocal and guitar duo. Carly & Craig released an album "It's Pretty Standard", which received the 2014 Louisville Music Award for Jazz Artist of the Year. More recently, Carly has been exploring Louisville's rock and soul music scene. Carly also leads a Heart tribute band she calls *I Heart Heart*, whose mission is to raise funds for charities and organizations that give back to the Louisville community and immediate region. Recipients have been the Kosair Children's Hospital Brave Hearts and the Addario Lung Cancer Foundation. In 2016, Carly won Louisville's *Sing for the City Award*. More recently she has been in San Diego, recording her first soul-pop album, "The Believer", which was co-written with her friend Charlotte Littlehailes, and is expecting release later this year.

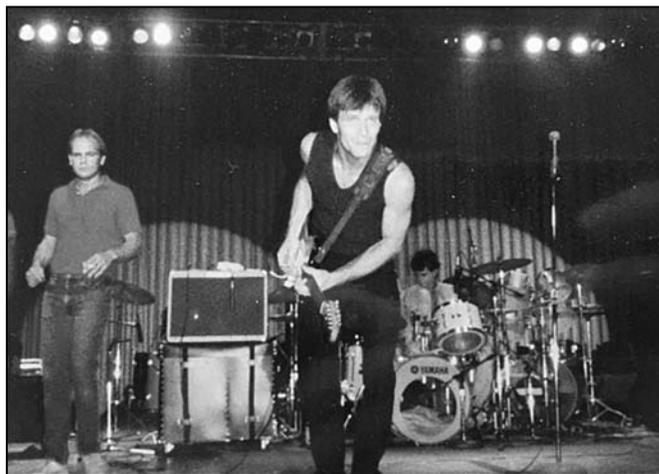


Photo courtesy of The Saints  
**Early '80's Saints, opening for James Brown at Louisville Gardens (Bruce Lively, Ricky Mason & Paul Tkac)**

**4:30 PM Leroy Ellington Band** Leroy Ellington has established himself as one of the region's most soulful vocalists and performers. Leroy has received five nominations from the Cammy Awards (the Cincinnati Music Awards). His nominations include Best R&B Instrumentalist in 1999 for his saxophone prowess, and again in 2000 and 2001 for the Best R&B Funk/Vocalist and for Best R&B/Funk Band. In 2013 he was nominated again as Best Musician. In May 2015, Leroy was the guest vocalist with *The Kentucky Symphony Orchestra* for a tribute to the music of *Blood, Sweat and Tears*. Leroy recreated to near perfection the singing style of that band's lead vocalist, David Clayton Thomas. The Leroy Ellington Band is filled out with William Brian Hogg on sax, Mark Grey on drums, Mike Grosser on bass, Pablo Benovides on keyboards and Max Gise and Sean Dawkins on guitar.



Photo by John Paul  
**Screamin' John & TD Lind (L-R Jeff Crane, John Hawkins, TD Lind, Paul Culligan, Joel Pinkerton)**

**5:45 PM Screamin' John and TD Lind** are rekindling a musical friendship that's over twenty years old. Guitarist Screamin' John Hawkins and vocalist TD Lind recreate the energy and passion that propelled them to the national stage as members of the legendary Louisville band, *Edenstreet*, which had an album released on A&M records. TD Lind is from England and lived in Louisville for 5 or 6 years while he and John were bandmates. TD has since moved to California, but is rejoining John for the new band lineup. Screamin' John was the guitarist for The Predators; also, his acoustic blues duo, (Jimi V and Screamin' John), won the 2010 KBS Blues Challenge, Solo/Duo division. They went on to become the first act from Louisville to advance out of the first round at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. The present band also features former members of the Predators and Hellfish. The duo brings their unique blend of American blues with English sensibilities to the Garvin Gate Blues Festival in support of their new release "Give Me More Time" on Down in the Alley records.

**7:00 PM Ray Fuller & The Bluesrockers. (Back from 2013)** Ray Fuller, from New Albany, Ohio, received his first guitar at age 8, and with the inspiration of the British invasion bands such as *The Rolling Stones*, *The Yard-*

birds, and *The Animals*, he started exploring the rock blues sound. He says that his first blues album was *John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers featuring Eric Clapton*. Ray started exploring all of the blues greats with a particular fondness for John Lee Hooker. With his first band, formed in 1974, Ray's prowess led to opening act performances for many iconic blues greats such as Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Stevie Ray Vaughn and others. Upon hearing Ray's playing, Muddy Waters is famously quoted as saying "That was some hot slide, boy! I could smell the smoke backstage." John Lee Hooker took the band to dinner after his show with Ray and invited Ray to be his special guest for his next show 100 miles away. Ray tours and plays at festivals nationally and internationally. Guitar Player Magazine said that Ray "sounds like Elmore James and Hound Dog Taylor tempered with the rowdiness of George Thorogood". Ray Fuller is bringing his unique "Rockin' Slide Guitar Blues" to the Garvin Gate Festival, backed by his band The Bluesrockers, which includes Myke Rock on bass, Darrell Jumper on drums and Doc Malone on harmonica.



**Tweed Funk**

Photo courtesy of Tweed Funk

**8:30 PM Tweed Funk** is led by soul blues vocalist Joseph "Smokey" Holman. Church was his first brush with music. With his brothers and the church pastor's son and daughter, he started exploring and found that he could feel the emotions in the music. His musical loves include Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, The Four Tops and Smokey Robinson, among others. His early band, *The Domestic 4*, recorded songs for Rufus Thomas at Hi Records and auditioned for Motown, where they recorded four songs. Curtis Mayfield attended one of their shows and loved their sound. Curtis changed the band's name to *Love's Children* and signed them to his label Custom Records. Curtis penned four songs for them and released an album. The group toured extensively for over 3 years. In 1994, he started performing again with *Marvelous Mack and the Pressure Release Band*. In 2013, he won the Wisconsin Area Music Industry Award for Male Vocalist of the year, an award he was also nominated for in 2012, 2014 and 2015. In 2016, he was nominated for a Living Blues Award for Most Outstanding Blues Singer. Smokey's smooth vocals capture the magic of the classic "soul era" and his life experiences provide the emotion he belts out in his blues shuffles. Smokey is always working it on the stage, providing energy and entertainment to his audiences.

**10:00 PM Tony O Blues Band with Zora Young** (See interview with Tony O on pages 12-14 of this issue.)

**Garvin Gate Blues Festival Saturday Lineup  
Info+ Kentucky Blues Stage – Oak Street at Fourth**

**4:00 and 5:15 PM (2 sets) Nick Stump Band (Back from 2011)**

The blues comes in all shapes and forms: West Coast, East Coast, Country, Deep South, Mississippi and the King Daddy of them all, Chicago. Occasionally you'll find the rare treasure of a band that can dabble in quite a few different styles and pull it off as if they were a genre of their own. Kentucky's own Metropolitan Blues All Stars was just that kind of band. One of the driving forces behind the All Stars was guitarist Nick Stump. Nick remembers being in a very early iteration of Louisville's "The Saints", with Ricky Mason, Dickie Durlauf and Tom Green. "I was probably in with those guys for less than a year. That's where I really learned to sing." Once Nick had left The Saints, he and Frank Schapp formed a duo, playing in clubs around town. One night they were playing in a club called Down the Hatch. Harmonica player Rodney Hatfield sat in with them and that was the first inkling of The Metropolitan Blues All Stars. Soon thereafter, they added a rhythm section and Metro was born. This was around 1981. Metro Blues All Stars had a storied touring history from Lake Tahoe to New York. They played together through around 1995, then sporadically up to 2002.



**Nick Stump & Marilyn Robie**

Photo by Jon Prenata

Fast forward...the current Nick Stump Band offers "original blues based hillbilly rock and roll" and features Nick on guitar and vocals, with Steve Lyon on keyboard, Tom Green on guitar, and Marilyn Robie on vocals.

**6:30, 8:00, and 9:30 PM (3 sets) OTIS** Deep in South Central Kentucky, authentic music is alive and well through native musicians who are still testifying to brothers and sisters all around the world. OTIS has taken in a steady diet of Roots, Blues, and Classic Rock and Roll, and created their own unique sound. OTIS draws from the raw electric sounds of Muddy Waters and stirs in a heavy influence of Southern sounds, courtesy of The Allman Brothers Band, Wet Willie, and more. This sums up what the sound of OTIS is musically and gives a glimpse into the sound and soul of the four-piece band. The members of OTIS consist of Boone Froggett vocals/guitar, Steve Jewell guitar, John Seeley bass, and Andrew Gilpin drums. The members of OTIS share the same vision of writing and creating organic music while taking their audience to church by hitting on all emotions. If a stage filled with vintage music gear and Blues flavored Rock and Roll music is something you enjoy, then it's time to drink from the healing waters of OTIS!

Kentuckiana Blues Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Oct-1</b> Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Huber's Orchard & Winery (Borden IN) - Blues & Greys with Tanita Gaines 1:00 Kingfish (River Rd) - Boogie Men 4:00 Pizza Place - Open Jam 7:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam Willie's Locally Known (Lexington) - Mayeux & Broussard 8:30	<b>2</b> Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	<b>3</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	<b>4</b> Check's Cafe - KBS Beard Meeting 7:00 Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Sidebar Grill (Lexington) - Willie Eames 6:00 Stevie Ray's - Rock Bottom Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	<b>5</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam featuring OTIS 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	<b>6</b> Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Mr. G's Lounge - D Man & Alley Hounds Blind Squirrel - Soul Circus 9:00 El Barrio Tequila and Whiskey Bar - Blues and Greys 8:30 Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Norton Center for the Arts (Danville) - Edgar Winter Band 8:00 Southern Indiana Bacon & Blues Festival (Elizabeth, IN) Stevie Ray's - Kirby 9:30	<b>7</b> Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder and Friends 7:30 Blind Squirrel - Soul Circus 9:00 El Barrio Tequila and Whiskey Bar - Blues and Greys 8:30 Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Norton Center for the Arts (Danville) - Edgar Winter Band 8:00 Southern Indiana Bacon & Blues Festival (Elizabeth, IN) Stevie Ray's - Kirby 9:30
<b>8</b> Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Big Rock Jazz and Blues Festival Pizza Place - Open Jam 7:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam Southern Indiana Bacon & Blues Festival (Elizabeth, IN)	<b>9</b> Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	<b>10</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - The Sextones 7:30	<b>11</b> Kroger (Euclid Ave - Lexington) Open Jam 4:00 Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Sidebar Grill (Lexington) - Willie Eames 6:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00 Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	<b>12</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	<b>13</b> Garvin Gate Blues Festival Gerstie's Place - John Ford 9:00 Shakespeare and Co. (Lexington) - Keith Hubbard & Friends 7:00 Stevie Ray's - TBA / Shane Dawson	<b>14</b> Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder and Friends 7:30 Garvin Gate Blues Festival Lynagh's Irish Pub (Lexington) - Johnny Roy & the RubTones 7:00 Off Broadway Tap Room (Madison IN) - Mississippi Adam Riggle Proud Mary BBQ (Lexington) - Five Below Band 7:00 Stevie Ray's - Rock Bottom / Soul Circus Waterfront Grille & Gathering (Winchester) - Kelly Richey 8:00
<b>15</b> Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Expo 5 - American Cancer Society Benefit with Soul Circus Pizza Place - Open Jam 7:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam Slippery Noodle (Indianapolis IN) - 2017 Indiana Blues Challenge	<b>16</b> Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	<b>17</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	<b>18</b> Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Sidebar Grill (Lexington) - Willie Eames 6:00 Stevie Ray's - Reverend Raven & Chain Smokin' Alter Boys Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	<b>19</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	<b>20</b> Champions Bar & Grill (Richmond) - Five Below Band 9:00 Old Talbot Tavern (Bardstown) - Big Black Cadillac 9:00 Seasons Lodge (Nashville, IN) - Blues Ambassadors 9:00 Stevie Ray's - TBA / The Rumors	<b>21</b> Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder and Friends 7:30 Champions Bar & Grill (Richmond) - Five Below Band 9:00 Levee at River House - Soul Circus MOM's Music (Melwood Ave) - Open Jam Old Talbot Tavern (Bardstown) - Big Black Cadillac 9:00 Stevie Ray's - TBA / Toad Strangler
<b>22</b> Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Pizza Place - Open Jam 7:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam	<b>23</b> Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	<b>24</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	<b>25</b> Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Sidebar Grill (Lexington) - Willie Eames 6:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues and Greys Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	<b>26</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 9:00 Twisted Cork (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder 7:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	<b>27</b> Diamond Pub & Billiards (St Matthews) Soul Circus 10:00 Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Stevie Ray's - Higgs Bozon / Duck & Cover	<b>28</b> Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder and Friends 7:30 Blind Squirrel - Soul Circus 9:00 Broadrun Winery (J'Town) - Blues Union Jeff Ruby's - Robbie Bartlett 9:00 Kingfish (Jeffersonville IN) - Boogie Men Stevie Ray's - Laurie Jane and the 45's / V-Groove Wight-Meyer Winery (Shepherdsville) - da Mudcats 7:00
<b>29</b> Bearno's by the Bridge - Open Jam Lettersong - KGS Solo/Duo Contest Pizza Place - Open Jam 7:00 Rubbies Southside G&B - Open Jam Shamrock B&G (Lexington) - Open Jam	<b>30</b> Tee Dee's Blues & Jazz Club (Lexington) Tee Dee Young Band & Friends	<b>31</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Northside Sheiks 8:00 Off Broadway (Madison IN) Jam 8:00 Stevie Ray's - Blues Jam 9:00	<b>Nov-1</b> Linda's Log Cabin (Vernon IN) Open Jam 7:00 Sidebar Grill (Lexington) - Willie Eames 6:00 Stevie Ray's - Brody Buester and The Amanda Fish Band Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo	<b>2</b> Henry Clay's House (Lexington) - Nick Stump Band 8:00 Mick's Lounge (Jeffersonville IN) Open Mic 8:00 Stevie Ray's - TNT Open Jam 9:00 VFW Post (Madison IN) - Open Jam Volare - Robbie Bartlett Duo 7:00	<b>3</b> Desperado's (Richmond) - Five Below Band 8:00 Gerstie's Place - Soul Circus 9:00 Levee at River House - Robbie Bartlett Stevie Ray's - The Blues Drifters / Miller and the Other Sinners	<b>4</b> Backstretch B&G (Lexington) - Ronn Crowder and Friends 7:30 Chateau Thomas Winery (Nashville IN) Gary Applegate 7:00 Diamond Pub & Billiards (St Matthews) Soul Circus 10:00 Elk Creek Vineyards (Owenton) - John Ford 5:00 Gerstie's Place - V-Groove 9:00 Stevie Ray's - One Shot Johnny / The Beat Daddys

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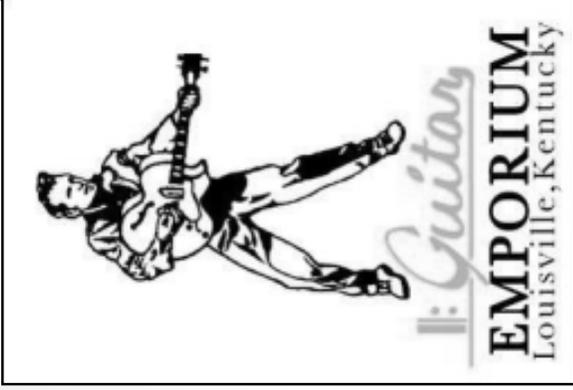
*A list of venues featuring local and regional blues acts can be found at [www.kbsblues.org](http://www.kbsblues.org). Show dates/times are always subject to change. It's a good idea to check in with the club before hitting the road!*



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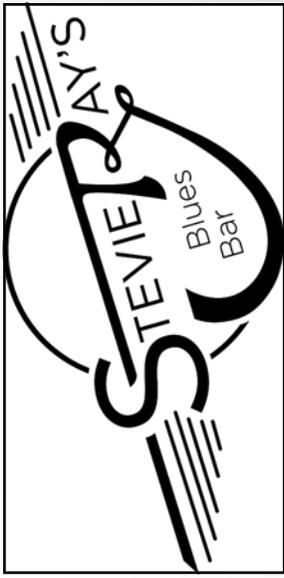
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