



**THE SPIRIT** *of The Lakes*

vol. 6 no. 9

MAY/JUNE 2023

complimentary copy

*Summer fun*  
**ON THE** *Chain*

**WIZARDS  
WEEKEND DAY**

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**LIGHT UP  
YOUR HOME**

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**BANDS AND  
BARBECUE**

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# Wizards Weekend

Antioch, IL

June 24

A Magical Day

AntiochChamber.org



Kids School of Magic

Wizard's Village

Magical Moments

Magical Meetups

Scavenger Hunt

Potion Crawl (21+)

Contests ■ Games ■ Prizes & Magical Crafts



1st Annual Northern IL Mayor's Cup Golf Outing August 25 Public Welcome!



Witches Night Out with After Party - October 19



Craft Beer Walk October 14



Champagne Walk & Brunch November 4

Visit AntiochChamber.org For More Information On These Events

## Antioch's Taste of Summer

### ENTERTAINMENT

MUSICAL LIGHT SHOW

Johnny Russler & Beach Bum Band

Hi Infidelity

Neverly Brothers

Think Floyd

Tribute To Elvis - Logan Ramey

7th Heaven

ANTIOCH TASTE OF SUMMER



July 13-16

Downtown Antioch Sidewalk Sales

2023

AntiochChamber.org

### 4-DAYS OF CARNIVAL FUN

MEGABANDS \$55 online in advance or \$65 at Carnival

Daily Wristbands \$35

Individual Tickets and Online Free Tickets



# IT'S COMIN' UP

## MAY/JUNE EVENTS

*Antioch's Taste of Summer as well as Wizards Weekend Day*

**MAY 19 to 21 – Long Grove Chocolate Fest**, in Historic Downtown Long Grove, 308 Old McHenry Road.

**20 – Enchanted Forest** in Highland Park, 1 to 4 p.m., Heller Nature Center, 2821 Ridge Road, Highland Park. Step into the majestic forest of fairies and gnomes. Set out on a pony ride, dance in the fairy circle, giggle while playing gnome games, enjoy entertainment on the lawn, make a magical wand and go on a quest to find gnomes and fairies.

Don't forget to wear enchanted attire. Pony rides are limited to riders 90 lbs. and under. Tickets must be purchased prior to arrival (tickets will not be sold at the door).

Bring a valid ID to check-in. For more information, call 847.433.6901.

**JUNE 3 Wine Walk**, noon to 3 p.m., Summer Wine Walk around downtown. Tickets sell out for this popular event, so get yours soon. For info and tickets visit Antioch.IL.gov or call 847-395-2160.

**24 Wizards Weekend Day.** Day-long magical fun in downtown Antioch. Four fun magical events in one day:

- Kids School of Magic, Morning, ages 7 to 13
- Magical Moments, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., experience magical moments in downtown shops.
- Wizard Pop-Up Magical Crafters, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., downtown
- Wizard Finale – TBA

For more information, visit AntiochChamber.org. Sponsored by Raymond Chevrolet Kia.

**JULY 4 Independence Day Celebration.** Antioch's Independence Day celebration. Come to downtown Antioch for a day of fun with a parade

starting at 10:30 a.m.

Bands and activities 4 to 9 p.m. at Williams Park. Fireworks at 9:15 p.m. For info visit Antioch.IL.gov or call 847-395-2160.

**13 to 16 Taste of Summer with sidewalk sales.** Join in for four days of food, music, carnival and sidewalk sales. Musical fun for the whole family. Free admission for everyone.

Also enjoy sidewalk sales around downtown shops. Musical performances by: 7th Heaven, Think Floyd, Hi Infidelity, Heartache Tonight; plus more musical entertainment throughout each day. Visit AntiochChamber.org.

Sponsored by Raymond Chevrolet Kia.

**13 to 15 Musical Light Shows.**

Antioch's Musical Light Show at Antioch's Bandshell will be themed each evening during the Taste. Free admission for this spectacular event. Visit AntiochChamber.org. Sponsored by Raymond Chevrolet Kia.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Farmers Market**

Thursdays 4 to 7 p.m. on the corner of Main Street and Orchard. Farm fresh produce and other vendors. For info visit Antioch.il.gov or call 847-395-2160.

**It's Thursday Concerts.**

Thursday night concerts at the Antioch Bandshell, 7 p.m. Visit the Parks Department at Antioch.IL.Gov for band information.

*The calendar of events is compiled from a variety of sources including the Antioch Chambers of Commerce and the Lake County Visitor's Bureau, and contains events available as of press time.*

*Events, dates and times may change or events may be canceled. We suggest you visit verify event times, dates and locations prior to making travel plans.*

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# Be part of the **Magic**



## Wizard's Weekend Day returns June 24

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Visitors to downtown Antioch on Saturday, June 24, will be surprised to see that it has a very different look than normally found on a weekend day. It is not the Antioch of old, rather the town has been magically transformed into a special world, the world of wizards, witches, and even muggles.

Even the local stores, which may have been so familiar to you, now have a different look and many have a different name, more in tune with the wonderful world of wizardry.

For the fifth year, magical folk, and those who wish to become them, will

gather in downtown Antioch, for a Harry Potter themed event – Wizards Weekend Day. This most magical of all events will once again be the home of many new experiences to be enjoyed by wizards, witches and muggles.

### ***New this year***

This year, new magical experiences include a magical meetup with favorite professors and wizards, a game of Quidditch, and a climb on the Azkaban Prison Tower along with other new and exciting activities. Each day new activities are being added to Wizards Weekend Day so keep up to date by checking the Facebook page or the Antioch Chamber of Commerce website.

To start the day, adults and children will gather in downtown Antioch dressed as their favorite character. Armed with their wand (or perhaps their smart wand also known as a cell phone) they will be ready to participate in special wizards' fun activities throughout the day.

The day will begin with a visit to downtown Antioch, where a search will be made for the Ministry of Magic Information Booth. It is here that the Marauders Map can be obtained with the purchase of the magical band that will allow visitors to enjoy the many magical moments fun activities. The map will identify the magical village shops with their Wizards Weekend Day special identifying names. It will also contain the hours that the various events will take place.

Enjoy the magical craft pop-ups where visitors are certain to find all their wizardly desires. The craft pop-ups are located in the heart of Wizard Village, adjacent to the Ministry of Magic booth. Take the time to shop the magical craft pop-ups for uniquely crafted wizard items to add to your collection.

### ***For the Kids***

The highlight of Wizards Weekend Day, for children age 7 to 13, who are in love

One of the young wizards poses on the flying broom during a past Wizards Weekend Day. Broom flying is one of the skills young wizards must master at the Kids Hogwarts School of Magic.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of the Lakes*

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with the idea of becoming a wizard or witch, will be attendance in the Kids Hogwarts School of Magic. This will not only be the start of their day but most likely the most interesting event of their day, as they participate a variety of classes to hone their wizarding skills.

The students will be sorted into four magical groups, just as they are in Harry Potter's world. In these groups, they will work with others to learn new wizarding or witching skills or to improve the ones they already have.

While each student may have chosen to dress for a different House than the one they are magically sorted into, it is not a problem. They will find their niche in the house that they have been assigned to by the magic sorter. For the magic sorter knows which house they are best suited to enjoy.

The classes include, but are not limited to, Defense Against the Dark Arts, Care of Magical Creatures, and everyone's favorite Broom Flying. Other magical classes are still being developed and will be eagerly added to the schedule.

The classes will begin at 9 a.m. and finish at 11:30 a.m. Check in begins at 8:30 a.m. so that classes will be able to promptly begin at 9 a.m. There is so much to learn and so little time to do so.

It is recommended that students bring their own, or their parents' smart wand (also known as a cell phone) to be used for photos. The regular wand is not needed as they will be provided to the students in class.

The classes are held indoors and students will be picked up by parents at the end of the Kids Hogwarts's School of Magic when they are dismissed after completing their classes.

Tickets for classes are limited and must be purchased ahead of time to secure a spot in the class. They may be purchased either online at [www.wizardsweekend.com](http://www.wizardsweekend.com) or at [www.antiochchamber.org](http://www.antiochchamber.org) prior to Wizards Weekend Day.

Register young wizards or witches soon so they are not disappointed by the class filling up before their applications are received. Just like any school, an acceptance letter will be sent to those who are accepted. These letters will be sent by snail mail so get your application in early so there is ample time for it to be sent to you.

## ***Grown up fun***

So, what is there for Mom and Dad to do while their children are in class? What else, but shop or if they have purchased their arm band begin to enjoy all the Magical Moments which are available for wizards, witches and muggles of all ages.

Remember it is only the Kids Hogwarts School of Magic that is limited to those from 7 to 13 years of age.

Begin with a visit to the magical pop-up crafts and enjoy the Wizard Shops in downtown Antioch to make the 2-1/2 hours the children are in classes pass quickly.

While parents may believe they know the downtown shops well, on this day they will have a new look as they develop their magic wizardry looks. The Wizard Village shops will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plenty of time for shopping and for enjoying the many magical events to be found here.

The afternoon is a busy time on Wizards Weekend Day. The stores in Wizard Village will be open for shopping and to participate in a variety of magical events inside the shops for those who have purchased and are wearing their wristbands.

The Magical Scavenger Hunt which can be completed anytime between 10 am to 3 pm begins by using your magical map as you meander through the downtown magical shops following the spiders to find all seven of the Horcruxes.

At each of the Horcrux items don't forget to use your Collins Camera, perhaps you know it as your cell phone camera, to take a selfie or two of yourself at each Horcrux to prove that you actually found them.

Once you have located each of the Horcrux and taken your selfie there, it is time to take them all over to the Minister of Magic Booth by 3:30 p.m. and share your selfies to be entered into the chance to win a handmade Nimbus 2000 Broom which will be



**top:** With a large snake wrapped around her neck this Witch is a very formidable creature, one that will scare some while others will be excited to pet her snake. **at right:** Two of the professors from the School of Magic pose after the completion of classes.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of the Lakes



given to one lucky winner.

New this year is an event specifically for the adults. The Tri Wizard Potion Crawl will begin at 4 p.m. and continue until whenever the party ends. It will start with a kick-off party to meet your favorite Professors or Wizards. There is a separate ticket that must be purchased (by adults only), to participate in the Tri Wizard Potion Crawl. Deadline for purchase of these tickets is June 5.

You will receive the magic band along with the Potion Crawl ticket to enjoy magic moments in the Wizard Village from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then be ready to join the kick-off party at 4 pm and begin the Wizard Potion Crawl.

All adults on the Potion Crawl will receive their own magical swag and will include potent samples of magical beverages and magical bites. The party will move along to various participating locations where the adults will receive 20% off all food and drink at participating magical venues.

Throughout the day there are a variety of exciting magical events to enjoy and actively participate in. Tickets for these magical moments, the Kids Hogwarts School of Magic, magical meet-ups and the new magical Tri Wizard Potion Crawl and additional information about the events is available at [www.wizardsweekend.com](http://www.wizardsweekend.com) or at [www.antiochchamber.org](http://www.antiochchamber.org)

*Wizards Weekend Day is a community event hosted by the Antioch Chamber and sponsored by Raymond Chevrolet Kia and is not associated in any way with J. K. Rowling or Warner Bros Entertainment.*



**above:** A variety of professors will meet with the visitors to Wizards Weekend Day in the afternoon in downtown Antioch. **top:** Many of the professors from the Kids Hogwarts School of Magic can be found wandering through the downtown area as they meet and greet visitors.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of the Lakes*



# HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Wizards, witches and Muggles alike will gather in downtown Antioch, for the fifth annual Wizards Weekend Day on Saturday, June 24.

Join the Antioch Chamber of Commerce to celebrate all things of a magical nature... bring your owl, your wand (or smart wand), and dress as the character you most closely relate to.

## Magical moments

Get a Magical Band and prepare to experience magical moments throughout our Wizard Village. Cast a spell on a trunk and see if a bogart emerges; turn invisible with our invisibility cloak; throw the quaffle at quidditch; climb the Azkaban Prison Tower to free Sirius; stir a potion in our witches kitchen; write an invisible message; use your smart wand (cell phone) to take magical photos; follow the spiders to search out the horcrux for a chance to win a prize; visit the professors at the Magical Meetup; and so many more magical moments to experience. Purchase a Magical Band in advance at [WizardsWeekend.com](http://WizardsWeekend.com).

## Kids School of Magic

The Kids School of Magic is for children ages 7 to 13. Advance registration is necessary so owls can deliver Acceptance Letters. While at school (June 24, 9 to 11:30 a.m.) students may dress for their House of choice but will mingle with other houses.

Register at [WizardsWeekend.com](http://WizardsWeekend.com) quickly; limited spots available.

Magical classes include Care of Magical Creatures, Broom flying, Defense Against the Dark Arts, Divination and more. All students receive keepsake items and are encouraged to bring their smart wands (cell for photos). Parents can plan to enjoy the Magical Craft Pop Up Fair in the Wizard Village while waiting for their students.

## Horcrux Hunt

The Horcrux Hunt begins when you follow the spiders from the Ministry of Magic Booth or follow the clues on your Marauder Map (must have Magical Band to participate). Take selfies from 10 am and 3 pm when you locate each Horcrux. Return to the Ministry of Magic booth (at the Magical Crafter Fair) with your horcrux selfies and drop off your form for a chance to win magical prizes. Marauder Maps are available with the purchase of a Magical Band. Winners will be announced by owl and posted at the Wizards Weekend Facebook page.

## Pop Up Fair

Magical Craft Pop Up Fair will be held in Downtown Antioch in the mini park on



Hagrid, the fictional character, is said to be half giant and half man and is known as the gamekeeper and keeper of the keys and grounds at Hogwarts, along with the care of magical creatures. He is always a favorite of students.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of the Lakes

Main Street. Bring your gold and green to enjoy out of this world creativity from our crafters. The Ministry of Magic Booth is also found there to begin your magical fun. Visit [WizardsWeekend.com](http://WizardsWeekend.com) to find Magical Crafter applications.

## Tri-Wizard Potion Crawl

The Tri-Wizard Potion Crawl is for older wizards and witches (21+). Check-in at our Wizard Meet Up to meet the professors and death eaters before beginning your journey observing potion making at each of our three magical bars. Be brave and try a potion sample plus a bite at each. Then relish a 20% savings off all food and beverages throughout the remainder of your

evening, starting at 4 p.m.

Your registration includes a Magical Band for Magical Moment Experiences from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in our Wizard Village along with a keepsake gift. Must be registered by June 5 to attend.

Many more magical moments will be enjoyed by wizards and muggles alike. Visit the chamber's Facebook page at Wizards of the Chamber or visit [WizardsWeekend.com](http://WizardsWeekend.com) for more information and to register for magical fun.

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# Lighting up

YOUR LIFE  
AND HOME

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

**A**s spring arrives, we look at our homes with new eyes, viewing what once seemed so bright and fashionable, now appears somewhat dated and in need of replacement.

While we may add a new coat of paint to the walls, or perhaps update the curtains, that is usually the extent of the changes we add in the spring, a time when we become more focused on the outdoors.

But there is another way to add beauty and update the look of the home without turning to major renovations. Visit

Caravelle Lighting in Richmond, Illinois, and consider upgrading the light fixtures in your home to make them more in line with the way you live today.

Light fixtures are often thought of as a permanent part of the home as they are usually chosen when the house is built or changed when the home is purchased. But light fixtures, like carpet, cabinets, and paint colors do become outdated. The fixtures picked years ago reflect the styles of those days, which are much different from the looks and needs popular today.

“Today a popular look in light fixtures is focused on an organic, textured look and includes materials such as jute, rattan, wicker, and even wood accents,” said

Joe Kroupa, second generation owner of Caravelle Lighting. “The look is light and airy and warm.”

While this may be the current trendy look, Kroupa said choosing the look for your home may be far different from what your neighbor may choose. Therefore, it is important that before one makes a choice that they look at a variety of styles to find the best one for their lifestyle and the style of their home.

“We recommend coming into the store not only to see what is available but also to spend some time with us so that we get to know the customer and their style,” Kroupa advised. “Once we know them and understand the look they are trying to achieve, finding the correct fixture becomes

Joe Kroupa, owner of Caravelle Lighting, stands in front of a group of popular organic fixtures on display in the shop.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*

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Saturday, June 17 | 7:30 p.m.  
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Sunday, June 25 | 4 p.m.  
**Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players**  
Roberts is one of the founders of the modern family music scene.



Saturday, July 8 | 7:30 p.m.  
**Martina McBride**  
McBride has sold over 20 million albums, including 14 gold records, 20 Top 10 singles, and six #1 hits.



Sunday, July 16 | 4 p.m.  
**Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra**

Travel with the LGSO and visit places across the country through music!



Saturday, July 22 | 7:30 p.m.  
**The Guess Who**

The legendary band behind hits "American Woman," "No Time," "These Eyes," and many more.



Saturday, July 29 | 7:30 p.m.  
**BritBeat**

Take a trip back in time with a fantastic voyage through the days of Beatlemania.

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much easier.”

Prior to coming into the store, Kroupa recommends going to the Caravelle website, [www.caravellelight.com](http://www.caravellelight.com), and viewing the many types of fixtures available.

Caravelle Lighting has been family-owned and operated for more than 40 years. First opened in the Chicago area, the family moved the business to Richmond in 1990. Since that time, they have continued to provide a variety of lighting needs and decorative accessories from this location for northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

The 5,000-square-foot showroom holds a complete line of lighting and related products from more than 50 manufacturers. Additional items can also be special ordered as needed.

### Size and scale

A first visit to Caravelle can be mind boggling as one peruses the many ceiling fixtures hanging on display. The problem is often not in finding the fixture of your dreams but in finding several that meet those dreams and having to determine which is the very best one for the space.

With the help of a professional, one who has had years of experience working with homeowners, customers can find what they need to fit the correct size and style fixtures in their space.

Kroupa said it isn't only the style and material of the light that is important but the correct scale for the room that must be considered.

A solid fixture may appear to be larger than an open one while in reality the solid one may be inches smaller. To create the perfect lighting size for your room, the staff member working with you, will use a formula to determine the correct size fixture for your space.

“There is no charge to work with you to make these decisions,” Kroupa said. “Our goal is to help you make the best decision possible so that you are pleased with your purchases for many years. If you find a picture of a light that you really like, bring it in. They probably have the same picture or one very similar.”

### Chandeliers

While crystal chandeliers may be your

dream, many of today's are very different from the drop crystal chandeliers of the past. No longer a need to detach the crystals and wash each one and replace it on the chandelier. No need to replace the many light bulbs that may be included in the fixture.

Today the crystal chandelier is often lit by an integrated LED system. An LED is a light-emitting diode which produces light up to 90% more efficiently than the incandescent bulbs that have traditionally been used. There are no individual bulbs to change.

### Ceiling fans

Ceiling fans made their appearance in homes in the 1920s, before home air conditioning, as a way to keep the home cooler during the hot days of summer.

While they declined in use with the appearance of air conditioning in homes, it was not long before homeowners realized that the use of the ceiling fan, along with the air conditioning, allowed them to raise the temperature in the home and still be comfortable as the air is moved around.

**Left:** Whether customers are looking for a standing lamp, ceiling fixture or a table with the integrative light, Caravelle Lighting can help find the perfect piece for your home that fits with the style and décor. **right:** Ceiling fans have a new look such as this integrative LED light combined with clear blades.

Today's fans have a very different look than those original fans. Most of the early fans had five blades, usually large to move the air. Today the ceiling fans have again gained popularity but they are very different from these early fans.

Most of the fans are three- or four-blade fans and although they may be much smaller in size, move more air. Some of the newer fans are surrounded by a light fixture and have clear blades, making them almost invisible.

These new style fans are known as fanoliens, because they combine the ceiling fan and the light fixture. They provide an attractive light fixture and still allow for the ceiling fan to move the air. The fans with DC motors are quieter, less wobbly, and move air better.

## Lamps and more

As customers meander through the store, they will be attracted to a variety of table lamps, floor lamps, side tables, and other decorative accessories to add to the beauty of your home. Some tables have lamps integrated in them. The store also has tables that light up with an integrated LED light along the edges.

"We carry a lot of stained glass fixtures and lamps. We will probably always carry them as they do remain popular with customers," Kroupa said.

The stained glass features, whether hanging fixtures, lamps, or decorative pieces to place on a side table, add color to the room.

## Outdoor spaces

Outdoor lights have also been upgraded. No longer the lamp-shaped light next to the door but an assortment of LED fixture, sleek with clear or frosted glass and black edging that will a new look to outside spaces.

## Priced right

People often believe that they will save money by purchasing at a big box store or through e-commerce, but Kroupa said that is not usually the case. Caravelle Lighting carries a variety of fixtures at all price points to suit everyone's budget. They can order whatever fixture a customer is interested in purchasing.

Often fixtures purchased that may seem to be less expensive are only so because they do not contain all the items needed to install them, Kroupa said. These may need to be purchased separately, bringing the cost up. Such things as the wiring or drop posts if you have a very high ceiling, may not be included. So, in the end the price may be even higher than if you start with a lighting store such as Caravelle.

## Repair services

Caravelle Lighting is not just the place to go to purchase new fixtures. They are also the place to come for repairs. They offer full repairs on fixtures and lamps and rewiring as needed. They also carry a large supply of replacement bulbs and replacement lamp shades.

So, if you have shopped around for new lighting and haven't found what you are looking for or if you are just beginning to look at new fixtures and are learning about the new types of lighting available, it is time for a trip to Caravelle Lighting where one of their knowledgeable employees can answer your questions and help you find what you need.

"Our purpose is not to try to sell any one style over the other. We are here to point out differences and get to know your preferences. As we learn more about your likes and dislikes, we can help you in your choices. But in the end, it is the customer who makes the final choice," Kroupa said.

*Caravelle Lighting is at 9307 Highway 12, Richmond, Illinois. They can be reached by phone at 815-678-4558. Or visit them at [www.caravellelight.com](http://www.caravellelight.com).*

*The store is open for your visit Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

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# Blues, Brews & BBQ is no Bands, Brews & BBQ

More diverse lineup still boasts top local blues artists

By **Cynthia Wolf**

CONTRIBUTOR

The McHenry Area Rotary's chief annual fundraiser has a new name, new top sponsor and a special Sunday feature in the works that club members hope will draw record crowds for the three-day music, food and craft brew fest along the shore of McCullom Lake.

The decision was made going into this year to rename the fest from Blues, Brews & BBQ to Bands, Brews & BBQ. This year's fest will be Aug. 18-20 at Petersen Park.

"The change reflects our desire to appeal to a more diverse, inclusive audience," said Diana Mark, lineup chairwoman for the event. "But those who've been longtime fans should not fear that we're ditching the blues. We're not. With John Todd, Jimmy Nick, Ivy Ford and Kevin Purcell among those in the lineup, we aren't straying far from our roots."

Headlining opening night, on Friday, Aug. 18, after Todd and Nick will be Cadillac Groove, which performs a high-energy variety of southern rock, blues, funk, R&B, soul and more. The fest gates will open at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 18, with musical performances starting at 5 and concluding at 11 p.m.

Saturday's lineup starts with the indomitable, globe-trotting blues kitten Ivy Ford at 4 p.m., followed by The Simple Remedy, billed as "classic Nashville sound mixed with Motown soul." Taking the stage for the evening's final performance on Aug. 19 will be Too Fighters Chicago, a Foo Fighters tribute band.

Sunday's performers will be Wall of Denial, Kevin Purcell & the Nightburners and Two Beer Tommy. Wall of Denial is Chicago's premier Stevie Ray Vaughan tribute band, while Purcell's swamp boogie blues licks are well-loved by the fest's diehard fans, and Two Beer Tommy will bring a country rock conclusion to the musical weekend.

"As the lineup shows, we've also returned to three bands each day, so at \$10 for presale tickets and \$15 at the gate, it's a great value," Mark said.

The entire fest is presented this year by the McHenry Outdoor Theater – Golden



Age Cinemas, whose owner, Scott Dehn, has been a longtime supporter.

"The McHenry Area Rotary does a great job coordinating this festival for the community to enjoy — and to raise money for worthwhile causes," Dehn said. "It's something I've been impressed with for years, and I'm thrilled to take a lead role."

Additionally, this summer's fest features a first-time Sunday all-performance sponsorship by Ray Auto Group and Jeeps on the Run, coupled with a Jeep show.

"We're excited to partner with our longtime friends at Jeeps on the Run to present all of the great music that fest-goers will enjoy at Bands, Brews & BBQ on Sunday," said Ray Scarpelli Jr., owner of Ray Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and Ray Chevrolet, both in Fox Lake. "It's going to be a great time."

Don Tonyan and Denis Buch, McHenry Area Rotarians and festival co-chairmen, said sponsorships are a huge factor in the event's success, dictating how much money

the club can allocate to charitable grants in the coming year.

"We're grateful to Scott Dehn, Ray Scarpelli, Mike Missak of Jeeps on the Run and others who've stepped forward, like Adams Auto Body and Volo Museum, to help us get a running start this year," Tonyan said. "We could not pull this off without them."

Buch said due to the past support of sponsors and fest-goers, the club has provided nearly \$300,000 in grants dating back to the fest's start in 2012. Recent recipients have included Feed My Starving Children, the McHenry FISH Food Pantry, Kids in Need of McHenry County, Youth and Family Services of McHenry County and Rotary Secret Santa.

For other information about the fest, visit [www.mrbbb.com](http://www.mrbbb.com), find Bands, Brews & BBQ on Facebook or send an email to [mchenryarearotary@gmail.com](mailto:mchenryarearotary@gmail.com). Sponsorship details are available at [mrbbb.com/sponsor](http://mrbbb.com/sponsor).

The crowd takes in a musical performance in 2022 during the McHenry Area Rotary's three-day music, food and craft brew fest that this year has been renamed from Blues, Brews & BBQ to Bands, Brews & BBQ. This year's fest will be Aug. 18 to 20 at Petersen Park.

KELSEY ADAMS PHOTO *Spirit of the Lakes*

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