

cont. from front page

Red Brick Roads Music and Arts Fest hits the streets

arts and products.

Similar profiles and parallel aims of boosting Clinton and bringing in community fun meshed well.

“We felt like, if we pooled our resources, money, staff and volunteers, it would be a more successful event,” McSparrin said.



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The inaugural Red Brick Roads Fest pulled in a crowd estimated at about 4,500.

“I think we’ll probably do 5,000 to 6,000 this year,” weather depending, over the two days, Lytal said.

“We were able to expand it greatly ... and just have a true festival,” Red Brick Roads Fest chairwoman Fran Nixon said. The brick streets line up their own charm. “It brings exposure to our Olde Towne and just to Clinton in general. Most people know Clinton for Mississippi College, but we have a pretty neat and character-filled small town ... and we want to highlight that.

“Events like this bring an entertainment value to the Olde Towne area I think we need. ... Vicksburg and Jackson folks come over, and you have all the college kids that will walk down,

so you have the opportunity for so many people from different walks of life to sit back, relax and be together in a real pleasant atmosphere.

“Good music and good friends — it’s not a bad combination.”

Plus, McSparrin said, “Everybody loves sponsoring an event with a bigger reach.”

Last year, beer was restricted to the beer garden, but, this year, festivalgoers can purchase and partake of a range of about twenty craft brews (along with a few domestics and imports) on the streets, within the festival site. IDs will be required to show

proof of age, 21 and older. A couple of special Red Brick Roads brews are festival-bound, too. The fest will feature two firkins over the two days — one brewed by Lucky Town Brewing Company and the other brewed by Abita Brewing Company.

With the additional night of entertainment, the Red Brick Roads Fest strikes up the music Friday, August 25, 6-10 p.m. with a songwriter showcase, round robin style, featuring Cody Cox, Patrick McClary, McKenzie Lockhart and Schaefer Llana. In the more intimate setting, hear about songwriters’ inspirations and stories. The Nashville foursome Elliott Root is the night’s headliner, taking the stage at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 26, brings a more high-energy vibe. Festival gates open at 3 p.m., and the music kicks off at

Red Brick Roads Schedule

Friday, Aug. 25

7:00 p.m. Songwriter round featuring Cody Cox, Patrick McClary, McKenzie Lockhart and Schaefer Llana

8:30 p.m. Elliott Root

Saturday, Aug. 26

4:00 p.m. Young Valley

4:45 p.m. Greater Pyrenees

5:30 p.m. Stoop Kids

6:15 p.m. Knox Hamilton

7:15 p.m. Southern Komfort Brass Band

8:30 p.m. Colony House

For more details, visit redbrickroads.com.



Most merchants will remain open to accommodate the foot traffic, and also to give festivalgoers a chance to duck in for a dose of air-conditioning, if needed. A small film festival

with Blue Magnolia during the festival, in the Municipal Room at the police department, continues the focus on Mississippi creatives.

4 p.m. with Young Valley, Stoop Kids, Greater Pyrenees, Knox Hamilton, Southern Komfort Brass Band and alt-rockers Colony House.

Two stages, named for the events that predated and merged into the Red Brick Roads Fest, will be located on Leake Street, facing each other and alternating acts throughout the evening.

“Theoretically, you could put your chair down and just turn” to catch all the action, McSparrin said. When the Firefly stage is jamming, the Moonvine stage will be setting up, and vice versa.

Arts vendors include Mississippi Mane & Co., the Rawanda ministry Let’s Do Something Now with art pieces, art by Carla Mann, jewelry by Pinson AntlerWorks and more. Festivalgoers can have their food needs met via Lurny D’s Grille, Brick Street Pops, Pig & Pint, 303 Jefferson, Meme’s Brick Street Bakery and more.



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Coolers and outside food and drink aren’t allowed on the festival site. Chairs and blankets for seating are welcome. Kids’ activities and games will entertain the young set.

Tickets are \$5 for Friday, \$10 for Saturday or \$10 for a two-day pass. Children younger than 10 don’t need a ticket.

The celebration of Mississippi and of Clinton returns an energetic atmosphere to the red brick streets at the heart of town.

“It’s absolutely important to have these kinds of events for your community and show that Clinton’s a cool place to be,” Nixon said. Even in August.

Visit redbrickroads.com for more information.

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