

# Concerts add sweet sounds to summer

By Jason Francis  
Special to the Lakes Edition

Concerts in the Park continue in 2017 in Edgerton's Central Park at the Menhall Band Pavilion (310 N. Main St.), with a lineup that will provide an eclectic, enjoyable soundtrack for summer.

This year's Concerts in the Park dates are June 7 (Conway Family Band and Backporch Twilight), June 21 (The Dirty Groove), July 12 (The Lower 5th), July 26 (Michele Thomas and SoulMeme) and Aug. 23 (The Stingrays). Find details on the performers under the accompanying photos.

The free, family-friendly Wednesday concerts start at 7 p.m. The series is sponsored by contributions from local organizations and individuals, including the Arts Council of Edgerton (ACE).

Refreshments are provided by the local band boosters club, but attendees will need to bring their own lawn chairs. Parking is plentiful.

For more details, visit [www.artscouncilledgerton.com](http://www.artscouncilledgerton.com).



The Stingrays will conclude the Concert in the Park series for 2017 on Aug. 23. The Chicago "oldies" band play top 1950s-1970s rock and roll tunes "authentically and passionately," state's the band's website, [www.thestingrays.com](http://www.thestingrays.com). Performances include "twist" and trivia contests and costumes from the era. Expect to hear the likes of Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Jerry Lee Lewis and other favorites. Left to right: John Quinn (keyboards and guitar), John Didier (lead guitar), Frank Rowley (bass) and Al Wagner (drums). (Photo from website)



Michele Thomas and SoulMeme will perform in Central Park on July 26 at 7 p.m. Thomas is a jazz musician, vocalist and songwriter from Chicago, Ill. "By combining her gospel background with her deep love of jazz and appreciation for contemporary soul and R&B, Michele has crafted a sound that does not conform to one genre, but instead evokes the elements that make these genres so dynamic," states her bio on her website. Thomas has received high praise from Asha Brodie of JazzReview.com: "Indeed, if larks could record CDs, they'd sound like Michele. She has a style that is joyful and soulful..." SoulMeme, meanwhile, is a contemporary jazz-, R&B- and pop-influenced ensemble featuring Thomas, drummer Darren Scorza, guitarist Neal Alger, keyboardist Matt Nelson and bassist Bob Lovechio. For more information, visit Thomas' website, [www.michelethomasmusic.com](http://www.michelethomasmusic.com). (Photo from website)



Alan Lemke of Backporch Twilight, a light rock, pop, folk-rock, gospel cover band. The band will perform June 7 with Conway Family Band in Edgerton's Central Park as part of the 2017 Concerts in the Park series. For more information on Backporch Twilight, visit [www.bandmix.com/backporch-twilight](http://www.bandmix.com/backporch-twilight). According to the webpage, Backporch Twilight members include George Veliella (vocals and trombone) Jean Elliot (vocals), Howie Stiff (electric guitar) and Lemke (vocals, banjo and acoustic guitar). To view performances of several classic rock tunes by Conway Family Band, search the band name on YouTube. (Photo from Backporch Twilight webpage)



The Dirty Groove will perform in Central Park on June 21. The four-piece band, formed in 2015, covers "a variety of current hits and classic rock, all done with a funky twist," according to the band's Facebook page. Band members include Chris Kaebisch (vocals and trombone), Chris Maedke (vocals and bass guitar), Kevin Schmitz (guitar) and Joe Brennan (drums). For more information, visit the band's website, [www.dirtygrooveband.com](http://www.dirtygrooveband.com), or Facebook page. (Facebook photo)



The Lower 5th will perform as part of the Concerts in the Park series on July 12. The Madison-based band incorporates folk, rock, R&B, reggae, country and bluegrass to produce a unique blend of midwestern soul that swings, sways, rocks, and wails. Band members include Luke Jorgensen, Cory Swadley, Paul Metz, Jayme Cash, Jeremy Henning and Audrey Pescatelli. The Lower 5th is a "band of powerhouse musicians that play high energy music from the heart and leave it all on stage with every performance," according to the band's Facebook page. Visit [www.reverbnation.com/thelower5th](http://www.reverbnation.com/thelower5th) for more information and to stream some of the band's tunes. (Facebook photo)

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