

Wally's Music Fest brings '80s hits to Milton area

By Jack McLaughlin
Special to the Lakes Edition

Dust off those leg warmers, pick out your favorite neon t-shirt, and Moonwalk to Milton: The area's only '80s musical festival is in line to celebrate its third annual iteration.

From Friday, June 1, until Saturday, June 2, Wally's Music Fest will be held at Milton's Schilberg Park, transforming the Rock County venue into one of the many flashy, high-energy nightclubs that defined the decade.

The event was created when Dan Walters —

member of the band *Katie Mack and the Moan*, which will be performing on the evening of Friday, June 1 — approached Milton Chamber of Commerce President Dani Stivarivius.

After discussion, the two realized that not only could the city benefit from an annual music festival, but also that the dearth of '80s music festivals overall was depriving lovers of the synth-powered genre a place for celebration.

"It's a decade that a lot of great music came out of, and it's one of people's favorites, and there weren't really any '80s festivals we could think of," said Stivarivius about the origins of Wally's Fest.

For a \$10 fee — that will include admission for the entire weekend —

guests will be able to take in the musical stylings of five great bands, many of which perform covers of beloved '80s hits.

The festival will feature seven acts from six groups on both Friday and Saturday evening. From 4:30-7 p.m. on Friday, *Stateline DJs* will perform, followed by *Katie Mack and the Moan* from 7-9 p.m., and *Dem Horny Funkers* from 9:30-11 p.m. On Saturday, *Stateline DJs* again kick off the festivities at 3 p.m., and will play until 4 p.m.; they will also perform between sets from other bands. From 4-5:30 p.m., *33rpm* will take the stage, followed by *Barracuda* from 6-7:30 p.m. Closing the night, *Madison County* will play from 8 p.m. until the festival's conclusion.



The crowd enjoys a performance at a past Wally's Music Fest. (Photo by laPHOTO)

Additionally, this year will see a slight addition to the '80s, with the incorporation of a country music act in *Madison County*. "A lot of people were asking for some country music in the lineup, so we asked them to play," said Stivarivius. Many of the proceeds raised by Wally's Music Fest will support local nonprofits, benefiting the Milton and Rock County community.



A friendly welcome at last year's Wally's Music Fest. (Photo by laPHOTO)

Peruse 138 years of history at Main Hall museum

By Kim McDarison
Special to the Lakes Edition

If walls could talk, Main Hall, the first structure built in 1855 on what was once the 45-acre Milton College campus, would reverberate with sound made by a then-thriving gregarious, academic population.

With eight rooms teeming with artifacts and documents, curator and Milton College Preservation Society (MCPS) Executive Director Judy Scheehle, helped by volunteers, unfolds stories of former

teachers, students and affiliates, many of whom enjoyed local acclaim, while others achieved accolades more widespread.

Campus for sale

Milton Academy began in 1844 as a school for the children of early settlers and closed its doors as Milton College in May of 1982. Closure was attributed to the school's financial burdens, Scheehle said.

According to a commemorative brochure published by MCPS in 2012, in 1983, a Chicago-based commercial real estate company, Sheldon F.

Good & Co., tried unsuccessfully to sell the campus and its 17 buildings. Instead, sales of individual assets commenced, with Main Hall and its flanking halls, 1906-built Whitford and 1857-built Goodrich (both retail spaces today), deemed valueless and left with dubious prospects.

Former student Maxine Harris purchased Main Hall for \$1. Soon afterwards, local alumni formed Main Hall Preservation Society, a forerunner to what would become MCPS, and became the custodians of the building.

Today, the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and houses 138 years of archived college history. Scheehle has served as museum curator since 2003. In 1970, college enrollment peaked at 859, archival literature states.

Rooms to roam

Rooms featuring early campus history (1844-1920s), intermediate history (1930s to 1950s), and late history (1960s to 1982), along with Music and Drama, Fraternity and Sorority, Authors and Artist, Athletic Hall of Fame, and



Military memorabilia can be found in an exhibit depicting Milton College life during the 1930s, 40s and 50s. (Kim McDarison photo)

the Bernard Westlund Memorial Music Chapel are found throughout the two-story building. The chapel, as well as a third, basement level, with kitchen

and bathrooms, can be rented for meetings and events. For more information, visit miltoncollege.org.

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3rd ANNUAL

wally's music fest

★ June 1-2 2018
Milton, WI

ADMISSION

\$10

All-Weekend Pass

ALL AGES WELCOME!!

LOCATION

**Schilberg Park
High Street
Milton, WI**

Friday, June 1 ~ Gates open from 4-11:30 pm
KATIE MAC & THE MOAN • DEM HORNY FUNKERS
Saturday, June 2 ~ Gates open from 3-11:30 pm
33RPM • BARRACUDA • MADISON COUNTY