

Olde Towne spring entertainment events abound

By Sherry Lucas

A fresh new Spring Series sprouts on the Clinton landscape in April, wrapping in such perennials as the Caterpillar Parade and the Dinner & a Movie series, along with concerts that make the town a go-to for April weekend events.

With a Visit Mississippi grant, the city’s outreach expands to the whole metro area — on billboards, in print and on the radio — to invite more folks to take full advantage of Clinton’s charm, arts, music, recreation, food and hospitality.

“Just put it on the calendar and see what all is going on in Clinton,” says Olde Towne Depot Director Anna Boyd Hawks. “There’s a lot happening here!”

First off, Scott Albert Johnson was the draw for First Friday Jazz at the Depot, Friday, April 2, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 3, came alive early with Art in the Park at 9 a.m.

Main Street Clinton’s Dinner & a Movie flickers back into action on Friday nights, with a series of movies on the brick streets, and with a Dinner & Jazz night worked into the rotation.

Like other Olde Towne events,

this one is edging back onto the calendar as vaccinations increase, the weather entices outdoor activities and pandemic-related requirements ease. Still, attendees are encouraged to stay with their groups and safely distance from other family units or households.

“We love to bring people to our downtown, and establish that as the heart of the community,” says Main Street Clinton Director Tara Lytal.

The movie series kicks off with a homer — the 1993 sports comedy *The Sandlot* on Friday, April 9.

After the Saturday, April 10, hoopla of the Caterpillar Parade and Spring into Green Market, Clintonians can settle in at the Atmos Energy Amphitheater in Lions Club Park for a concert by Blind Dog Otis, the band led by Clinton native Chris Derrick. The spring concerts are free, and, since Lions Club Park falls within the city’s entertainment district, alcoholic beverages in “to go” cups, from 303 Jefferson or The Bank by Pizza Shack, for instance, are allowed.

The weekend of April 16 and 17 features Friday night music from the band Slightly Tarnished at Milepost 89 REVISITED on April 16, and, on April 17, live music at Lions Club Park.

On April 23, the Friday evening swings in a musical direction with Dinner & Jazz, with tunes from the Mississippi College Jazz Band to enliven the brick streets and entice listeners to their feet to dance. Music starts at about 6:30 p.m., and the usually diverse crowd grooves to the music on a fun night downtown.

On April 24, the Mississippi College ensembles will entertain at 3 p.m., followed by Clinton High School ensembles at 7 p.m. at Lions Club Park.

Dinner & a Movie picks back up on May 7 with the 2019 animated Disney musical *Frozen 2* on May 7, and the 2020 Disney/Pixar elf adventure *Onward* will be shown on May 21.

Movies will be shown on a screen set up at the intersection of Leake

and Jefferson streets at dusk (about 7:30 p.m.), and viewers are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and blankets and get comfy for the show.

Olde Towne eateries offer a variety of choices to make an evening of it, such as pizza from The Bank by Pizza Shack, dinner and drinks from 303 Jefferson, coffee and more from Cups or a cool and tasty treat from Brick Street Pops. Grumpy Dave’s Kettle Korn will also be on hand.

Families can pick up something scrumptious and settle in for quality screen or music time, with added bonuses of community spirit and support.

“Especially if the weather is good, people enjoy being outside in that super-safe environment, and get to just visit with people,” Lytal says, with attendance averaging about two hundred fifty to three hundred for these spring events.

Folks are savvy to their popularity, too, sometimes securing a good spot with their chairs as early as 5:30 p.m., while organizers are still setting up, so those interested are encouraged to mark their calendars and get a good seat downtown for the fun.



“FROZEN” DANCE CAMP - June 7-11
Age 2 5:00
AGES 3-4 5:30
AGES 5-6 6:30
AGES 7-10 7:30



DANCE TECHNIQUE CAMP - June 21-25
AGES 7-10 5:00
AGES 11-12 6:00
AGES 13-15 7:00
AGES 16-18 8:00



BACK HANDSPRING CAMP - July 12-16
AGES 5-7 5:30
AGES 8-10 6:30
AGES 11 and up 7:30

“FLIP IT” CHEER & TUMBLE CAMP - June 14-18
AGE 2 5:00
AGES 3-4 5:30
AGES 5-6 6:30
AGES 7-10 7:30

ALL ABOUT THAT JAZZ - June 28-July 2
AGES 11-13 5:00
AGES 13-15 6:00
AGES 16-18 7:00

“WELCOME TO THE CIRCUS” DANCE CAMP - July 19-23
Age 2 5:00
AGES 3-4 5:30
AGES 5-6 6:30
AGES 7-10 7:30

BOYS ONLY NINJA OBSTACLE COURSE & TUMBLE WORKSHOP - July 31st
AGES 5-15 10:00AM-2:00PM
(Will split into age groups and lunch provided.)

ADULT DANCE WORKSHOP - July 10th
AGES 18 and up 3:00-5:00PM
(Jazz + Hip Hop)

“Register now! Don’t miss the fun!

941 US-80, Clinton, MS 39056 601-850-3621 www.exaltdanceandcheer.com