

# Red Brick Roads plans gearing up for 2021

By Sherry Lucas

The 2021 return of the Red Brick Roads Music and Arts Festival promises a celebratory gathering worth the wait.

Last year's pandemic restrictions put the popular fest on hold, but, this year, August 27-28 will come alive in Olde Towne Clinton with song, music, cool crafts, cool beers, cool craft beers and shopping at the kind of event that earns Mississippi its "Hospitality State" nickname.

"We are hearing from many in our community how thrilled that they are to be attending events again," says Main Street Clinton Director Tara Lytal. "They are really looking forward to the festival." The festival is jointly organized by Main Street Clinton, the Clinton Chamber of Commerce and the City of Clinton.

There's still time for folks to put their own and their best creativity forward, whether it's applying to be a vendor in the

Red Brick Roads Craft Market, entering their very own hand-crafted beers in the Red Brick Brew Home Brew Competition or registering for the Talent Competition that's open to both youths and adults.

A singer-songwriter round the evening of Friday, August 27, ushers in the weekend on a bright and breezy note and a more intimate atmosphere, with Sam and Holly Mooney hosting the round robin of musicians, followed by headliner Elliot Root. Gates open at 6 p.m.

The next day, Saturday, August 28, the afternoon and evening turn the red bricks into a Olde Towne thoroughfare of fun, creativity and community camaraderie, starting at noon. Talented amateur competitors will entertain the public until 3 p.m., when the festival's lineup of great bands kicks in, with Strung Like a Horse, J & The Causeways, Sweet Crude and

headliner The New Respects.

The Red Brick Roads Craft Market tends to have a more artistic vibe than Olde Towne's seasonal markets, thanks to the juried process that targets original artwork, specialty hand-crafted objects and collections of specialty curated items. Vendors who've already applied promise an intriguing collection of ceramics, home decor, jewelry, accessories, clothing, stickers, block prints, stained glass, soaps and lotions and more.

"We want a specific feel for the market," says

The Depot Director Anna Boyd Hawks. With about fifteen arts-focused vendors already on board, "We're on track. We anticipate getting several more before the festival, but right now we have a good group." Downtown businesses are also encouraged to keep their doors open for late-day, early evening shoppers.



The outreach is hot and heavy on social media and to different groups to entice the talented to enter the festival's Talent Competition, a recent addition that organizers hope to grow. With the registration deadline set at August 17, there's still time to enter, as a vocal solo, vocal group or instrumental.

At least twenty-three home brewers had entered the Red Brick Brew Home Brewers Competition by late July, adding their own unique flavors to the fest. The competition is expected to have seven categories, including IPA and Specialty.

Application forms for the Red Brick Roads Craft Market and the Talent Competition are available through the festival website, [redbrickroads.com](http://redbrickroads.com). For Red Brick Brew registration, visit [redbrickbrew.brew-comp.com](http://redbrickbrew.brew-comp.com).

Tickets, on sale now at [redbrickroads.com](http://redbrickroads.com), are \$20 for a weekend pass, or \$10 Friday, August 27, and \$15 for Saturday, August 28.

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