

Music on Main, Crouse Park concerts set for 2026

Is there a town that closes down its Main Street for a music festival?

Yes. It is Sparta, North Carolina, in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Dubbed Music on Main, the first Saturday of the month sees Main Street as it runs through the Historic Downtown closed to traffic from 5 to 9 p.m. so that music lovers and people who just enjoy a party can gather and sway and dance.

The music starts at 5 p.m. as area bands kick off the evening. They are followed by the headliner playing from 7 to 9 p.m. Local restaurants and food trucks ensure there is a choice of tasty treats to enjoy. Local stores remain open and some offer music of their own. Free parking is available at several locations surrounding the event.

Organized by the Alleghany Arts Council, these are not the only summer activities the council offers. Activities in Crouse Park round out the summer events. Best of all, both Music on Main and the Crouse Park events are free.

On June 6, Music on Main will take you back to the 1970s with pop, rock and disco hits from 8 Track Minds. Local opening bands will be Wild Hares, Luke Mears & Rob H, Red River Dawn, Above the Dam and The Water Peppers.

On July 4, Music on Main coincides with the town's Independence Day celebration, which starts with a parade from 2-4 p.m., followed by a headlining performance by beach and R&B band The Entertainers and capped off by fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Local opening bands will be Bullhead Mountain Boys, Toe Possum, Maggie Mae and the Earth Turtles, Martha



Spencer & The Wonderland Band and Bledsoe Creek Ramblers.

On Aug. 1, the 10-piece brass-funk-rock band Empire Strikes Brass will perform. Local opening bands will include None of the Above, Terry & Brandy, Fly, Two Tunnels and Alleghany Ridge Runners.

On Sept. 5, Grammy-nominated all-female string band Della Mae will perform at the season's final Music on Main, with local opening bands The Justins, Jack Hinshelwood Trio, Vocal Tribute Band, Resonate and Mark Briggs.

Two other music events are planned in Crouse Park for the

"Saturdays in the Park" series. Crouse Park is located one block off Main Street, on N.C. Hwy. 18. On July 18, high-energy act XcentriX will play classic rock and modern favorites from 5-7 p.m. On Aug. 15, local bands Gearshot and Biggins will perform at the "Rock Band Showcase" from 6-9 p.m.

As with Music on Main, food vendors will be on hand to fill your belly.

In addition to the music events, the Arts Council hosts and sponsors a wide variety of events year-round. For more information or updates, visit alleghanyartscouncil.org or visit the Alleghany Arts Council's official Facebook page.

Events... Continued from page 31

St. in Sparta. For information, call 336-372-4005 or visit laconiaaleworks.com.

• **Sept. 11:** The Justins will perform at 6 p.m. at Laconia Ale Works, 433 N. Main St. in Sparta. For information, call 336-372-4005 or visit laconiaaleworks.com.

• **Sept. 12:** The Grayson County Ag & Art Adventure — a free, self-guided farm and gallery tour — will be held from 10 a.m. on Sept. 12 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 13. The tour starts at the Historic 1908 Courthouse, 107 E. Main St. in Independence, Va. More information can be found online at graysoncountyva.com/ag-art-adventure/.

• **Sept. 12:** Ag & Art Quilt Show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Matthews Living History Farm Museum, 476 White Pine Road in Galax, Va. 276-773-3080, matthewsfarmmuseum.org.

• **Sept. 13:** Gap Civil will perform at the Blue Ridge Music Center's Milepost Music series at Doughton Park and The Bluffs restaurant, at milepost 241, from 2-4 p.m. BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org or 866-308-2773, ext. 212.

• **Sept. 17-20:** The Alleghany County

Agricultural Fair will be held at the Alleghany Fairgrounds, featuring nightly livestock shows, rides and carnival games, bounce houses, Friday night truck and tractor pull, Saturday night live music, America 250 activities and the PBS Rootle tent with children's educational activities. Admission is \$15 per day and includes all rides. 1375 U.S. Hwy. 21 N. in Sparta. For more information, call Alleghany County Extension at 336-372-5597.

• **Sept. 18:** The Bullhead Mountain Boys will perform at 6 p.m. at Laconia Ale Works, 433 N. Main St. in Sparta. For more information, call 336-372-4005 or visit laconiaaleworks.com.

• **Sept. 19:** The 31st Annual Blue Ridge Mountain Heritage Festival will be held from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Main Street in downtown Sparta, featuring vendors selling food and unique crafts, from intricate woodworking and pottery to handmade jewelry and textiles, along with mountain music and dance performers. Admission is free. Sponsored by the Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 336-

372-5473.

• **Sept. 19:** Dear MariBella & The Pig-kickers will perform at 8 p.m. at Muddy Creek Music Hall, 60 S. Main St. in Sparta. For more information, visit muddycreekcafeandmusichall.com.

• **Sept. 19:** Horse Show at the Jamie Hyatt Arena at Old Providence School, 58 Bainbridge Road, Fries, Va.

• **Sept. 25:** The Wild Hares will perform at 6 p.m. at Laconia Ale Works, 433 N. Main St. in Sparta. For more information, call 336-372-4005 or visit laconiaaleworks.com.

OCTOBER

• **Oct. 16-18 & Oct. 23-25:** The 17th Annual NC Mountain Arts Adventure Studio Tour will be held in Alleghany County on two weekends, Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Information on this self-guided tour of art studios can be found at the Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce, 58 S. Main St. in Sparta, by calling 336-372-5473 or visiting ncmountainartsadventure.com.

Feeling left out?

Would you like your event listed in the upcoming Fall Activity Guide or the Winter Visitors Guide?

Contact us at 336-372-8999 or email news@alleghanynews.com by Aug. 10. You can also include your events in the Winter Visitors Guide (deadline Oct. 1) and next summer's activities guide (deadline April 30, 2027).

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