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Dad Band Debut at the Art & Wine Festival

By Cathy Tyson



It's time once again for Lamorinda's biggest block party. Over 50,000 people are expected at this year's Art and Wine Festival featuring 250 fine arts and crafts booths, wineries and microbreweries and continuous music on multiple stages. From 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 18th and 10:00-6:00 on Sunday the 19th, downtown Lafayette is the place to be.

Presented by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce to benefit the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation and other non-profits, residents can feel good about supporting local schools with their purchases.

This year Festival organizers wanted to try something new: From 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Art Stage - 50 Lafayette Circle - look for the winner of the Battle of the Dad Bands to perform. "The winner will receive the coveted Covers Cup 2010, bragging rights and a check for \$1,000," said Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

It was down to the final four dad bands last Thursday night at Red House Studios: The Ramblers, Brik, ML (Mid-Life) Crisis, and Pladdohg. Musicians had to be over thirty and amateurs. Each band had a very unique style from the Celtic sound of Pladdohg to the metal-inspired Brik.

With lots of support and excitement from friends at neighbors, the final round came down to the wire. Judges said it was extremely close, but "The Ramblers" won. Drummer Bob Gross said, "It was a lot of fun, we do it because we love music." They started off as a blues band, but became a little more R & B, Motown oriented since that's what bar owners want - music patrons will enjoy and dance to. "Can't You See" by the Marshall Tucker Band was a crowd favorite. Gross reports that playing at the Art & Wine Festival will be "very cool."

Once again Lamorinda Weekly reporters and staff will be volunteering their time pouring wine. Feel free to drop by with exciting story ideas and to share your thoughts. Other merchants will have booths up and down the Boulevard with their employees ready to fill your glass with a variety of wine and beer.

Wear comfortable shoes and come hungry. Plenty of free parking is available at the BART parking lot. A complimentary shuttle will give rides back and forth to the lot throughout the weekend, but it's a fairly short walk for those interested in burning off a few calories.

Drivers should be aware that from Friday evening around 6:00 until Sunday night at 10:00 Mt. Diablo Boulevard will be closed in both directions. Detours will be clearly marked.

Dad Band to Play at Benefit

ML Crisis plays classic rock songs like, "Taking Care of Business" and "Brown Sugar." When not at his day job as an attorney in Lafayette, Bob Mehaffey is a vocalist in the band. He was very pleased with how they played in the Battle of the Dad Bands. For those that missed the Red House finale, you can catch the band on October 2nd at a benefit at the Lafayette Library.

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