

# CITY BEAT

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[www.cityofhuntington.com](http://www.cityofhuntington.com)

## New music festival coming to Huntington in June

A new music festival showcasing more than two dozen local and national acts is coming to downtown Huntington next summer.

The Jewel City JAMboree will run Friday through Sunday, June 5-7, 2015, at Harris Riverfront Park and will kick off the summer music festival season in the region.

It will feature an eclectic mix of nationally-traveling bluegrass and old-time acts such as The Rambling Rooks; Larry Cordle and Lonesome Standard Time; and Kenny and Amanda Smith. Local favorite The Bing Brothers Band has been designated as the host band for the festival and will be joined by other local acts such as Mystic Mountain Blueberry and Big Rock and the Candyass Mountain Boys.

In an effort to highlight the region's rich Appalachian heritage, all of the acts that will perform at the JAMboree have ties to West Virginia, Kentucky or Ohio.

The festival continues a string of events and activities that have been added or returned to Harris Riverfront Park in recent years. They include the Huntington Classic Regatta, powerboat races, the Huntington Symphony Orchestra's Picnic With the Pops concert series, visits by the American Queen, St. Mary's Triathlon and the Dawg Dazzle Fourth of July Celebration.

"Our riverfront has been extremely busy the past two summers with numerous activities, and it's exciting to see an event like the Jewel City JAMboree added to our lineup," Huntington Mayor Steve Williams said. "This festival will be an economic boon for our city and will help fill our local shops, restaurants and hotels.

"With the improvements we will be making to Harris Riverfront Park in the near future, we expect the caliber of entertainment that the JAMboree will deliver to become the standard in Huntington."

The JAMboree was inspired by the Appalachian Uprising, a similar-themed festival in Scottown, Ohio, that had a successful run from 2002-2014.

David Ball, a Huntington city councilman and lifelong musician, assembled a team of local musicians and business people as well as representatives from city government, the



Huntington City Councilman and lifelong musician David Ball speaks during a press conference to announce details of the Jewel City JAMboree, which will take place June 5-7, 2015, at Harris Riverfront Park.

Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District and Cabell-Huntington Convention and Visitors Bureau upon learning that the Appalachian Uprising had come to an end.

"In the same tradition as the Appalachian Uprising, we want to expose music fans to the immense pool of talent right here in this region," Ball said. "Many of the performers that will play at the JAMboree have made it to the national spotlight, while others are on the rise and still making a name for themselves. Our goal is for the JAMboree to become the first stop on the summer festival circuit for both groups."

The JAMboree will feature a wide selection of food and beverage vendors as well as festival-style tent and RV camping for those who purchase weekend passes or early-ticket packages known as "JAM Packs." Camping spots are limited and will be distributed with weekend passes and JAM Packs on a first come, first-served basis.

JAM Packs are now on sale on the festival's website, [www.jewelcityjamboree.com](http://www.jewelcityjamboree.com). They are offered in three sizes — \$150 for one person, \$250 for two people and \$400 for four people — and include commemorative tickets, festival T-shirts, commemorative posters, VIP access, camping sites and VIP parking.

Weekend passes will go on sale Feb. 1. The early price will be \$55 until May 1 and \$65 thereafter. Single-day tickets, meanwhile, will go on sale at a later date. Children 12 and younger will be allowed to attend the JAMboree for free with paid adult admission.

A portion of the proceeds from the JAMboree will go toward the Huntington chapter of the Honor Flight Network, a nonprofit organization that transports veterans to their war memorials in Washington, D.C., for free. Visit [www.honorflighthuntington.org](http://www.honorflighthuntington.org) for more information about the Honor Flight Network.

Visit the JAMboree website, like the Facebook page and follow @jcjamboree on Twitter for more information and future announcements.

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# CITY BEAT

## Police partner with Habitat for Humanity to repair community



The Huntington WV Area Habitat for Humanity's "A Brush with Kindness" program focuses on helping low-income homeowners with exterior-only home repairs. The program recently teamed up with the Huntington Police Department's Code Enforcement Unit to identify potential applicants.

The Huntington WV Area Habitat for Humanity and Huntington Police Department's Code Enforcement Unit entered into a partnership recently to identify homeowners who could potentially qualify for an innovative home repair program.

Habitat's "A Brush with Kindness" program focuses on helping low-income homeowners with exterior-only home repairs such as sidewalk repairs, porch repairs, fence installation and handicap-accessible ramps.

Labor is offered at no cost to the homeowner, and materials are paid for by the homeowner through a no-interest, no-profit loan of up to \$5,000.

In their daily inspections, the Police Department's code enforcement officers will identify homeowners that may qualify for the program and will steer them toward Huntington WV Area Habitat for Humanity as an alternative to citations or fines.

The partnership is another example of the Police Department's Community Force initiative, which provides innovative and forward-thinking concepts that exceed the conventional philosophies of a law enforcement agency.

For more information about "A Brush with Kindness," call the Huntington WV Area Habitat for Humanity office at 304-523-4822 or visit [www.cityofhuntington.com](http://www.cityofhuntington.com).

## Dogwood Arts Festival returns this spring

Local and regional artisans will have an opportunity to showcase their talents in Huntington next spring once the Dogwood Arts and Crafts Festival returns with a new improved format after a one-year hiatus.

The Big Sandy Superstore Arena will host the arts and crafts festival April 23-25.



"The Dogwood Arts and Crafts Festival has provided a forum for artisans on a local and regional stage to show off their passions for more than 40 years," Mayor Steve Williams said. "Considering that Huntington was recently des-

ignated as a Certified Arts Community, there's no better time to reintroduce the festival."

To maintain an outstanding quality of exhibitors, all West Virginia artisans participating in the festival previously will have been juried into Tamarack. All out-of-state artisans also will have gone through a strict jurying process.

Spearheading the jury process will be Huntington resident and ceramic artist Carter Taylor Seaton. Seaton directed an Appalachian craft cooperative for 15 years, has served as a juror for Tamarack and the Mountain State Art & Crafts Festival and directed the Dogwood Arts and Crafts Festival in 1985.

To symbolize the festival's rebirth, a team of graphic design students at Marshall University redesigned a new logo.

The festival will kick off on the evening of Thursday, April 23, with a preview party hosted by Mayor Williams and First Lady Mary Poindexter Williams. It will be open to the public from noon to 9 p.m. Friday, April 24, and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 25. A variety of local Appalachian musicians will perform both days.

Prospective exhibitors may download an application at [www.bigsandyarena.com](http://www.bigsandyarena.com) by clicking on the Dogwood Festival page.

## Locations for free Christmas tree disposal

The City of Huntington's Sanitation and Trash Division has secured six locations where city residents can drop off their Christmas trees for free disposal. Those locations are as follows:

- St. Cloud Commons (upper parking lot)
- Harris Riverfront Park (upper parking lot on the 12th Street end)
- West end of the old Olympic Pool property on Memorial Boulevard

- Altizer Community Park
- Parking lot of old League 6 ball field parking lot on Ferguson Road.
- Deitz Hollow drop-off site. The times for this specific location are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Saturday of the month.

The city also is securing agreements with nearby state parks to ensure the trees will be used for fish habitats.