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3rd annual Highlands Festival coming Sept.



Highlands Festival at Waterloo

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Tickets are on sale for the third annual Highlands Festival at Waterloo which will be held Saturday, Sept. 19 and Sunday, Sept. 20 at Waterloo Village and Concert Field in Byram and Allamuchy.

For the past two years, the festival, which features crafts, music and food, has only used the historic Waterloo Village area, this year it has expanded to also include the Waterloo Concert Field.

This environmental festival, sponsored by the Highlands Coalition, is a "Celebration of all Things Local" and promotes local music, food, art, history, cultural and natural resources.

"We continue to grow in size and scope as we host our third annual Highlands Festival at Waterloo," said Julia Somers, executive director of the Coalition.

“This festival aims to raise awareness in a fun and interactive way about how important our natural resources are and in particular, to showcase that our precious water source here in the Highlands benefits much of the region.”

This rain-or-shine event is open to people of all ages and features a range of activities, including musical performances, a children’s corner, a local food court, beer garden, crafts and fair trade marketplace, historical tours, animal demonstrations, various workshops, kayaking, and guided nature hikes.

New also this year is the ability to camp at Waterloo during the festival. Festival goers who wish to camp are encouraged to reserve in advance online, due to the limited amount of spaces available.

The Highlands Festival celebrates Waterloo Village’s past glory as a renowned musical performance venue, enriched by its historic nature and the wealth of musical talent in New Jersey and surrounding areas. In keeping with the locally driven mission, the festival aims to highlight musicians with ties to New Jersey and the local tri-state area.

The following artists are slated to perform with further performer announcements coming in the future:

- Brown Rice Family's music is guided by a strong belief in the natural flow of things and provides a distinctively organic World Roots Music, which encompasses jazz stylings, afrobeat, reggae, rock, Latin rhythms, hip-hop and funk.
- Craig Thatcher Band features a mix exciting brand of blues/rock music since 1993 and is based out of Pennsylvania’s northeastern Lehigh Valley.
- Garland Jeffreys is from Brooklyn and is of African American and Puerto Rican descent.
- Hub Hollow members are from Peapack who have been playing together for 20 years. Their blended vocals and intricate melodies reflect a life of creating music together. Hub Hollow was officially created eight years ago, creating a loyal fan-base on the strength of their unique versions of traditional bluegrass tunes and warm and inviting original material. The band consists of Jill Turpin on vocals, Jason Frigerio on mandolin and vocals, John Turpin on guitar and vocals, Tim Ryan on bass and vocals, and Daniella Fishetti on fiddle.
- Nadine LaFond returns to the stage at Waterloo, having performed at the festival last year. LaFond was raised in New Jersey and her Haitian roots influence her music
- Occidental Gypsy plays a blend of gypsy swing, jazz and world music that captures the listener with a lightning fast, complex acoustic sound, rounded by sultry smooth vocals reminiscent of the first era of swing.

“Music truly brings people together,” said Mark Clifford, musician coordinator for the Highlands Festival. “We believe we have curated a fantastic weekend of performers that will offer a terrific blend of an eclectic array of musical genres that will please people of all ages.”

Tickets are now available online for the Highlands Festival at Waterloo. Tickets purchased in advance are \$15 for one day; \$25 for both days; and \$25 for a campsite reservation. At the gate, tickets will be \$25 for one day; \$40 for both days; and \$45 for a campsite if spots remain. The festival is open from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday. To purchase tickets online and for more information about the festival, please visit the festival website at: HighlandsFestivalAtWaterloo.org