

# Tuesday Night Blues 2015

Owen Park, Eau Claire

All shows begin at 6:30

In case of inclement weather, Tuesday Night Blues is held at the House of Rock, 422 Water Street.

\*August 4 will be held at Phoenix Park.

- May 26 Armadillo Jump**  
ArmadilloJump.com
- June 2 Code Blue w/ Catya & Sue**  
Catya.net
- June 9 Tommy Bentz Band**  
TommyBentz.com
- June 16 Mojo**  
MojoLemon.com
- June 23 Annie Mack**  
AnnieMackBlues.com
- June 30 The Swamp Kings**  
TheSwampKings.com
- July 7 The Dave Rogers Band**  
DavesGuitar.com
- July 14 Charlie Parr**  
CharlieParr.com
- July 21 Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max**  
HowardLuedtke.com
- July 28 The Kingsnakes**  
facebook.com/KingsnakesEC
- August 4 Sparky & Friends**  
facebook.com/SparkyAndTheWipers
- August 11 Deep Water Reunion**  
Search Facebook for Deep Water Reunion
- August 18 The Whyte-Orfield Band**  
WhyteOrfieldBand.com
- August 25 Nick Foytik Band**  
facebook.com/NickFoytik
- Sept. 1 Left Wing Bourbon**  
LeftWingBourbon.com

financial ravages of the Great Depression and a change in cultural mores. In 1929 she had stopped working with Columbia altogether. However, Smith adapted her repertoire and continued to tour. In 1933, Smith was contacted by producer John Hammond to make new recordings, which hinted at the coming Swing Era. Over the next few years, Smith continued to perform. However, on September 26, 1937, Smith was en route to a show in Memphis, Tennessee with her companion of many years, Richard Morgan, when he sideswiped a truck and lost control of their car. Smith was thrown from the vehicle and badly injured. She died of her wounds in a Clarkdale, Mississippi hospital. She was 43. Smith's funeral was held in Philadelphia a week later, with thousands coming to pay their respects. She was buried in Mount Lawn Cemetery in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania.

Since her death, Bessie Smith's music continues to win over new fans, and collections of her songs have continued to sell extremely well over the years. She has been a primary influence for countless female vocalists—including Billie Holliday, Aretha Franklin and Janis Joplin—and has been immortalized in numerous works. A comprehensive, acclaimed bio on her life—Bessie, by journalist Chris Albertson—was published in 1972 and expanded in 2003. An HBO film loosely based on the book is slated to air in 2015, with Queen Latifah (who also executive produced the project) portraying Smith and Mo'Nique playing Ma Rainey.

Taken from Biography.com

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CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY

# Tuesday Night Bluesletter

August 18, 2015 at Owen Park

## Whyte-Orfield Band



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# A Little About the Blues

Bessie Smith was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on April 15, 1894. She began to sing at a young age and in 1923 signed a contract with Columbia Records. Soon she was among the highest-paid black performers of her time with hits like "Downhearted Blues." By the end of the 1920s, however, her popularity had lessened, though she continued to perform and made new recordings at the start of the Swing Era. Her comeback and life were cut short from an automobile accident outside of Clarksdale, Mississippi, with Smith dying from her injuries on September 26, 1937

Bessie was one of seven children. Her father, a Baptist minister, died soon after her birth, leaving her mother to raise her and her siblings. Around 1906, her mother and two of her brothers died and Smith and her remaining siblings were raised by their aunt. It was around this time that Smith began to perform as a street singer, accompanied on the guitar by one of her younger brothers. In 1912, Smith began performing as a dancer in the Moses Stokes minstrel show, and soon thereafter in the Rabbit Foot Minstrels, of which blues vocalist Ma Rainey was a member. Rainey took Smith under her wing, and over the next decade Smith continued to perform at various theaters and on the vaudeville circuit. By the early 1920s, Smith had settled down and was living in Philadelphia, and in 1923 she met and married a man named Jack Gee. That same year, she was discovered by a representative from Columbia Records, with whom she signed a contract and made her first song recordings. Among them was a track titled "Downhearted Blues," which was wildly popular and sold an estimated 800,000 copies, propelling Smith into the blues spotlight. With her rich, powerful voice, Smith soon became a successful recording artist and toured extensively. Going forward with an idea presented by her brother and business manager Clarence, Smith eventually bought a custom railroad car for her traveling troupe to travel and sleep in.

In her recording career, Bessie Smith worked with many important jazz performers, such as saxophonist Sidney Bechet and pianists Fletcher Henderson and James P. Johnson. With Johnson, she recorded one of her most famous songs, "Backwater Blues." Smith also collaborated with the legendary jazz artist Louis Armstrong on several tunes, including "Cold in Hand Blues" and "I Ain't Gonna Play No Second Fiddle." By the end of the 1920s, Smith was the highest-paid black performer of her day, and had earned herself the title "Empress of the Blues."

However, at the height of her success, Bessie Smith's career began to flounder, due in part to the (continued on back)



Ellen Whyte and Sue Orfield met at the 1998 Kettle Full of Blues Festival in Washington. Both were fronting their own bands at the time, but the chemistry between them ignited a lifetime friendship that has been at the forefront of their musical endeavors.

Sue lived in Seattle, Washington for years, and Ellen invited Sue to perform many times with her band in Portland, Oregon. In 2000, Ellen decided to have Sue as the featured artist on her third release, "Standing At The Sunrise." Dennis Walker, multiple Grammy Award-winning producer, brought out the best in Sue and Ellen on this recording.

Eight years ago, Sue moved back to her roots in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The miles between them didn't stop these two from continuing to make music! No, sir!! Every summer since 2005, Ellen has traveled to the Midwest to perform with The Sue Orfield Band. They tour throughout the Midwest performing at festivals, concert halls and clubs. Since then, it's become an annual event having Sue and Ellen perform together throughout the Midwest. The popularity of these two incredibly talented women draws huge crowds at shows. They are amazing together! The perfect pairing of heart and heat!

Joining Ellen and Sue on stage, Mike Schlenker is a mainstay in the Chippewa Valley music scene. He's been playing music locally, and touring for 30 years, and is most noted for playing with bands such as Another Carnival, Axis, and the Jimmy Solberg Band. Mike has shared the stage with many notable musicians over the years, including Howard Ludtke, Peter Phippen, and Jo Dee Messina. He currently lives in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, playing music and running his music store, Speed of Sound.

Randy Sinz has been playing music professionally for over 44 years. Although he first learned to play guitar, first stage performance on bass was at the age of 12 with his father's band, Jerry Sinz and his Dairyland Ranch Hands. After a road tour in the 70's with the "Al Perry Country Affair," he played with a number of popular bands from the Chippewa Valley, including the Cadillac Cowboys, (continued on back)

## Whyte/Orfield Band Upcoming Schedule

- 8/21 Old Shafer Creamery Event Ctr, Shafer, MN
- 8/22 Munson Bridge Winery, Withee
- 8/23 Gelly's Pub & Eatery, Stockholm
- 8/27 Sue Orfield Show, Eau Claire
- 8/28 Park Theater, Hayward

[whyteorfieldband.com](http://whyteorfieldband.com)

## Next Week (Aug 25) The Nick Foytik Band

The Nick Foytik Band is a progressive blues band with strong traditional roots. The band's style coincides with Nick's original solo performances, and expands with a vibrant rhythm section, taking it to a new electrified level. You can hear influences from the old Delta masters, early electric blues musicians, a bit of rock n' roll, jazz, funk, and sacred steel.

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Hello fellow Blues Aficionado! We are in the midst of another amazing season of Tuesday Night Blues. The weather has been great so far and the crowds get bigger every week! Thank you all for coming down to Owen Park and supporting The Blues in the Chippewa Valley!

The CVBS depends on active members to make this a great organization! There are lots of ways that you can help promote the Blues in the Chippewa Valley!

- Receive notification and invitation to upcoming CVBS meetings. Come and make your voice heard! As a current member you will be able to vote for electing the executive officers at the annual meeting. The CVBS annual meeting will be coming up soon! Look for more info to come!
- Volunteer opportunities abound! Help out with membership drives and VIP membership program, participate in committees, volunteer to help at Tuesday Night Blues, hang posters and place literature at local businesses, recruit sponsors, be a sponsor!!



Visit us at the Chippewa Valley Blues Society tent on Tuesday night to become a member or renew your membership. It's only \$10 a year for membership... \$15 for a family. Memberships expire a year from renewal. Come be an active part of a great group of Chippewa Valley residents that love the Blues!

Your Blues Society depends on YOU! We hope to see you very soon.

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<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>VISIT <a href="http://CHIPPEWAVALLEYBLUES.COM">CHIPPEWAVALLEYBLUES.COM</a>, THE ONLINE HOME FOR BLUES IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY. CONNECT WITH OTHER BLUES ORGANIZATIONS, CHECK OUT FESTIVALS, LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION, SEE WHO'S PLAYING IN THE AREA AND MORE.</p> </div> </div>			

# August 18th, join us for Sue Orfield and Ellen Whyte at Tuesday Night Blues

## Join the Chippewa Valley Blues Society for Ladies Appreciation Night!



Visit us at the Ladies Night table!

**FREE CVBS bracelets for the first 100 ladies**

**Chances at prizes for the ladies**

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