



# 2024 Year in Review

*Promote, Preserve & Support the Blues*



## **BLUES IN THE PARK – Oct. 6th**

Our annual celebration of the blues was again held in the Memorial Park Pavilion on October 6th in conjunction with the Jefferson City Parks Department’s Fall Porchfest at nearby Forest Hill Avenue. The entertainment and food were free of charge. Many thanks to our hard-working kitchen crew who served drinks and BBQ sundaes. The event featured the music of Joe Lewis, The Megan Boyer Band, and Buddha Blue. Each band did a wonderful job. It was a beautiful day, and many people came out to enjoy the music. We held a raffle for a Fender Blue Squire generously donated by longtime member and past-President Kris Webber.

## **THE FESTIVAL – May 5th**

We once again organized the **Lorie Smith Blues Festival** at McClung Park in conjunction with Jefferson City Parks Department’s Spring Porchfest on nearby Fairmont Blvd. This was the 4th year for the festival which has become a popular community event. We kicked off the afternoon with the GrajMahal, followed by the Megan Boyer Band, and, finally, the BagLunch Blues Band. Generous grants, local sponsors, and no small amount of hard labor by association members and volunteers who assembled the stage cover allowed us to bring a really nice show to Jefferson City.



Joe Lewis    Megan Boyer Band    Buddha Blue



50/50 raffle winner Debra Klick



Guitar winner Shawna Hinson



GrajMahal



Megan Boyer Band



BagLunch Blues



Festival Dancers



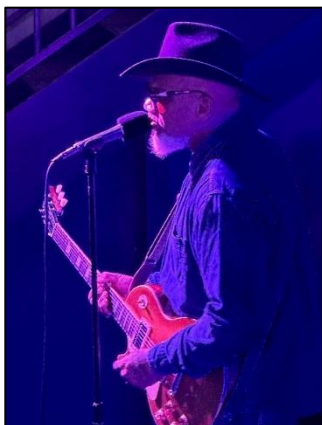
Front: Meghan Vossen, Carmen Marsch, Lisa Mueller, Back: Bernard Thompson, Gary Peneston, Mike Maloney



MO Blues Board & Volunteers

\*Visit our website at [www.moblues.org](http://www.moblues.org), our Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mobluesmissouri>, or email us at PO Box 105758, Jefferson City, MO 65110

## THE HOLIDAY BLUES BLAST – Dec. 1st



The climax of the year was our annual Holiday Blues Blast at the Capital Bluffs Events Center on December 1st. As has been the custom, it was a dinner and show featuring Toronzo Cannon and his band out of Chicago. He performed a mix of covers and some of his own numbers to an enthusiastic crowd. At one point, he

amused and delighted those assembled by playing his guitar extremely well with his teeth. Toronzo was very engaging with the crowd between songs, and they responded with happy applause and dancing. It is gratifying to be able to bring such wonderful blues musicians to mid-Missouri.

## CD PROJECT

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary CD entitled “Headin’ Out” is still being marketed. It showcases the talent of our member blues bands. They are still available for purchase at any of our events, from our website ([www.moblues.org](http://www.moblues.org)) or *Will West Music & Sound*.



**\*Blues in the Schools:** Due to some scheduling issues, we were unable to conduct the program in 2024. It is being scheduled for March 2025.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



As a long-time blues enthusiast and current DJ for Blues on Broadway at KOPN, I was one of the original members of the MO Blues Association during its inception in 1998. I am now back and serving as the current president. We have had a good year in 2024 and plan on another good year in 2025. I will close by saying that we can always use more involved members and board members, so don’t be shy. Get involved this year and you can help make things happen. It’s your group and together we can have the best year yet in 2025. Chris Puyear

## THE JAMS

MO Blues scheduled nine jam sessions throughout the year hosted by various member bands. These commenced in February with a jam at the *Outpost* with GrajMahal as the host band, Other locations hosting jams were *the Eagles*, *Prison Brews*, *the Mission*, *the Eagles in Columbia*, & *Serenity Valley Winery*. The monthly jams are a good way to encourage folks to get personally involved in living the blues.



The Outpost - host GrajMahal



Eagles - host Diddy Wah Daddies

## OUR PARTNERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Without the continued support of our members and sponsors, we could not bring these blues events and programs to our city. MO Blues would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support:

Missouri Arts Council	Central Trust Bank
Hawthorn Blank	River Region CR
Millard Fam. Chapels	Capital Plaza Hotel
Painters /Taper’s Un	Will West Music
Coleman Family	Lee’s Chicken
Eagles #2693	Mid-America Bank
Brydon, Swearngen & England	EcoWater
Blind Racoon Records	News Tribune
KJLU Radio	JC Parks & Rec

## THE MO BLUES BOARD of DIRECTORS

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