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## Montauk Music Festival Hits High Note This Weekend

From outdoor concert to table-side performances, festival gives businesses 'a dry run' before summer crowd.

By Elizabeth Branca | [Email the author](#) | May 9, 2011 [Print](#)

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For Lawrence Cooley and Kenny Giustino, organizing the Montauk Music Festival is like putting together the ultimate play-list for a great party, but everyone is invited.

Now in its second year, the Montauk Music Festival has expanded to include 190 shows over four days in 35 venues, featuring 90 acts, from rock bands to solo folk artists. It kicks off on Thursday night with the [opening party](#) at Gurney's Inn.

From Friday night's show at the Crossed-Eyed Clam featuring '60s retro-surf rock band the Moto-Wrays to Sunday afternoon's performance of nuevo flamenco artist Jonathan Fritz at the Montauk Yacht Club, there's something for every musical taste.

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For a great way to enjoy the sunshine while showing appreciation for some new musical talent, visit the village green on Saturday and Sunday for a myriad of musical performances starting after 11 a.m. until late-afternoon.

Lay out your blanket in the grass, pack a cooler of tasty goodies or even visit one of the downtown restaurants and enjoy the free show.

The organizers added that the music festival gives Montauk's bars and restaurant a chance for a dry run before Memorial Day weekend.

"Last year, it was like a little happy Woodstock," explained Cooley. "The business owners were really happy with the crowds."

"We have so many great bands coming from all over," said Cooley. "This is a showcase for a lot of up-and-coming talent, with many of these artists on their way to stardom."

Cooley and his band will be one of eight acts performing at the Thursday's opening night party, along with folk-solo artist Elly Winingar, NYC funksters Urban Sun, blues rockers Joe Delia & Thieves and Gene Casey, to name a few.

Admission to the kickoff party is \$35, which includes a three-hour open bar and hors d'oeuvres. It is the only one of the festival's events with an admission fee. The remainder of the weekend's musical showcase is free of charge.



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