



Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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The Festival weekend kicks off Friday at 7 p.m. at the Bo Diddley Community Plaza with a Downtown Blues Concert presented by the North Central Florida Blues Society.

Local favorites, Root Redemption, will kick off the show and get the crowd moving with their infectious, authentic blues tunes. Little Mike and The Tornadoes will follow with a fusion of traditional blues and rock and roll. Kenny Neal will take the stage at 9 p.m. with songs that combine swamp-boogie and jazz with the rhythms of rock and R&B. He was honored with song of the year at the 2009 Blues Music Awards. Neal, who toured with blues legends B.B. King and Buddy Guy was declared "an undeniably contemporary yet authentic young bluesman just bursting with ideas" by *Blues and Rhythm* magazine, won the Critic's Poll Living Blues Award "Best Contemporary Blues Album of the Year" in 2011.