



## You'll be dancing cheek to cheek

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A Valentine's Dance, featuring the band Casper, will be held at Augusta Expoland in Fishersville on Feb. 10 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

"If you don't like to dance, a lot of people have come to past Valentine's dances and just watched the show," said Augusta Expoland manager Judy Armstrong. "Casper is known as a show band as well as a dance band. We will have red and white lights as a backdrop and we will put hearts up [as decorations]."

Admission to the event will be \$40 a couple in advance and \$45 at the door; singles will be \$22.50. Identification is required.

Casper, based in Richmond, has a musical repertoire that covers great dance music from many decades and genres, including Motown, rock, funk, swing and country. Casper's lineup features bandleader and drummer Oscar Bowman, James "Petey" Taylor on lead vocals and trombone, Levie Faison on lead vocals and percussion, Donnie Arterbery on keyboards and vocals, Shaun Lyda on lead guitar and vocals, Jason Taylor on bass and vocals, Barry Taylor on trumpet and keyboards, Howard Smith on sax and Jim Brooks, Casper's sound and light engineer.

The band is excited about playing at Augusta Expoland at the Valentine's Dance, according to its members.

"We always look forward to playing at Expoland," Bowman declared. "Judy and the staff there are old friends that we look forward to seeing and catching up with all the news over the past few months. Whether we play at Expoland, near by at the Rockbridge Effinger Volunteer Fire Department or in Buena Vista, we have a special friendship with the people of the community."

The band has a special lineup of music prepared for the Valentine's Dance, the bandleader added.

"We have added a lot of new dance tunes, and with the passing of James Brown, we are doing 'I Feel Good' and 'Living in America' so everyone needs to look out for Levie and his famous James Brown split," Bowman said.

Casper has shared the stage with national artists such as Tower of Power, Average White Band, Allison Krauss, Jeff Foxworthy, Steve Harvey and more.

"What makes the band exciting is that we always have a good time and it transcends to the audience especially when there are a lot of friends who have seen the band on many occasions like at Expoland," Bowman added.

Individuals 18 and up are invited to attend, but there are restrictions for those under 21. Those who are not of the legal drinking age or older must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

"This dance is BYOB, or bring your own alcohol and snacks or whatever it is that you need to eat or

drink," said Armstrong. "I encourage everyone to come and see this band. I have talked to a lot of people that are just coming to watch the big show that this band provides."

For tickets or more information, call Augusta Expoland at 943-3976 or 337-2552, or come by the Augusta Expoland office Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The ticket office is located at 279 Expo Rd., Fishersville.

[Go Back](#)