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By Charity Apple

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David Dyer returns to open City Park's Sunset Rhythms

David Glenn Dyer had a tough decision to make last summer – fill in for a band that pulled out of the Brooks & Dunn concert in Raleigh, or take his two daughters to the beach.

Some musicians would've probably said, "Hey, I can reschedule a beach trip anytime." But not Dyer.

"I love music, and it would be wonderful if something would pan out and I could support my family doing solely this," he said. "But my family is the sure thing. I figure, why not bet on the sure thing and really enjoy a good hobby."

Dyer doesn't regret the decision. Plus his Crooked Smile Band has had the opportunity to open for celebrities like David Alan Coe and Pin Monkey. And since Brooks and Dunn's publicity people called about that one gig, Dyer said, who knows?

"We could be called again," he added.

The band hopes to open for Robert Earl Keen at Cat's Cradle in Carrboro sometime this summer.

It opens the Sunset Rhythms Concert Series at 6:30 p.m. today at Burlington City Park. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. This is the band's second year at the series.

"We're pretty much slammed for the rest of the year." Dyer said.

His solo CD, "Crossroads Grocery" has been on the Country Hot List's Top 40 in Europe. Two songs off that album, "Big JES" and "Used To Could" have been numbers 25 and 13, respectively. "Big JES" is about his late grandpa John Ellis Smith, a poet who wrote a regular column for the Salisbury Post.

"We're right in there with acts like Montgomery Gentry, Dolly Parton and Travis Tritt," he said of the top 40. "The big dogs go through this. That's pretty cool."

The British magazine "Maverick" published a story on Dyer and his band in March and the BBC mentioned the possibility of doing a project with the band.

Other members of the band have gained notoriety, too. Pedal steel guitar player Allyn Love has performed with a who's who of country music including Steve Wariner, Brad Paisley, Jo Dee Messina and Reba McEntire. Love worked with Steve Wariner for 13 years and played on four of his albums.

He's one of the best pedal steel guitar players in North Carolina," Dyer said.

Love is operations manager at the North Carolina Symphony and he plays in three other bands right now: Southern lines, a bluegrass band (he plays dobro); steel guitar in the Steve Howell Band and Big Mama E and the Cool (southern rock).

"I love playing with people who write," he said of area bands who write original music. "You get to do your thing."

he's also putting together a western swing band with Jim Crew, keyboardist/vocalist for David Dyer and the Crooked Smile Band, as piano player.

Crew has composed, produced and recorded original music and/or sound effects for film and TV, including the movies "Pulp Fiction" and "When Harry Met Sally."

Other members of the band are" Ken Weigand on bass and vocals and Fran Dyer (no relation to David) on percussion.

"You know what I tell people?" Dyer asked. "Forget about me... come see my band. They're incredible."

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