

Under the Radar

Covering the
Long Island Music Scene



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Bus Duty – The Band That Does Schoolhouse Rock

May 6, 2018

A great band, a terrific cause, and an outstanding venue, all helped to produce a special evening:



The Long Island band *Bus Duty* is what can happen when a group of public-school teachers get together and form a rock band.

I met the group and it's members at a recent fundraiser for the *Cody L. Byrnes Memorial Foundation*. Cody was a student at their school who passed away of cancer. The band donated their time and helped raise money for this charity. The

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donations go towards a great cause – scholarships in Cody’s name. Scholarships are awarded each year.

Bus Duty focuses on pop and rock classics from the 60s through 90s and a lot of music from today. The band got its start when a few teachers at an elementary school (Sunquam Elementary, which is part of the Half Hollow Hills School District) started to perform for school events and fund-raisers.

The teachers had so much fun and realized they sounded quite good. To make matters even better, there was an instant and great chemistry within the band.

Make no mistake – the band was not assembled with rock – “wanna be’s” who were not qualified or ready to gig. Three of the Bus Duty members are full-time music teachers and they and the other band members have extensive experience in gigging in other bands.

Fast forward five years and **Bus Duty** has quickly become a favorite of fans in the tri-state area. Performing both original music as well as an eclectic blend of cover songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and current hits, the group always leaves their audiences screaming for more. Although members are mostly full time teachers, they still find time to gig locally a couple of times a month.

Rick Purdy, a guitarist for the band, mentioned “besides the cover music that we perform, the band also performs and is getting read to record some original music – as I have been writing and publishing music for years with different groups in several genres.”

Be sure to visit their website to see when they are playing and **GET ON THE BUS!**

The **Bus Duty** members are:

- Larry Janotta
- Meredith Szypot
- Chris Camarata
- Pamela Hyland
- Tim Eckstrum
- Rick Purdy
- Eddie Fields

Here’s a link to their website: www.busdutyband.com

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