

# 'Let's Dance' Big Band Weekend set to open Friday

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(Photo provided)

Caption

DeKalb father and son Dave and Brett Balika will play with the Shanigans at the Let's Dance Ball at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 16.



John Smith and the Shanigans Big Band return to host the 11th "Let's Dance" Big Band Weekend July 15 through 17 in the Duke Ellington Ballroom at Holmes Student Center at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

The schedule of activities includes:

Friday

8 p.m. – Welcome Dance, Alicia Hamilton Orchestra will perform the danceable Johnnie Kaye Orchestra sound.

Saturday

2 p.m. – Tips Only Cabaret Dance, the Shanigans Dance Combo will play

8 p.m. – Let's Dance Ball, John Smith and the Shanigans will perform tunes from their latest recording "It's Saturday Night! Let's Dance Vol. 4."

Sunday

10 a.m. – Sunday Dance, the Dick Elliott Orchestra, a Chicago ballroom dance favorite, will perform.

Saturday's morning and afternoon schedule includes opportunities for ballroom dance lessons, a shoe vendor and the relaxed Tips Only Cabaret Dance.

Beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of waltz, swing, latin and foxtrot lessons will be offered by Just Make It Happen instructors John Puskar of Naperville, Pat Rey of Aurora, Wayne and Jennifer Wright of Normal and Linda Burton of Rockford. The shoe vendor is Travelin Dance Shoes from Milwaukee.

Dancers should wear leather soled shoes. All levels of dancers are welcome. Practice areas are located at the east end of the ballroom. Food registration is closed.

Doors open 30 min prior to any dance for cash or check customers at the west entrance of the ballroom. Free parking is available in nearby lots.

DeKalb County residents can reduce dance costs by \$10 once per person through the Dancing for Health Scholarship program provided by KishHealth System. Balcony seats are available at a reduced price for listen-only fans.

For information, visit [www.justmakeithappen-dekalb.com](http://www.justmakeithappen-dekalb.com).