

The Detroit News

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Jazzin' on Jefferson concert spices district

Business group rolls out tunes, food to push the area as a vibrant entertainment hub.

By [Santiago Esparza / The Detroit News](#)

DETROIT -- The corner of Jefferson and Chalmers will close to traffic June 25 as the second annual Jazzin' on Jefferson street party takes over the area.

Organized by the Jefferson East Business Association, the outdoor concert is expected to draw crowds to the bustling corner in the heart of the association's district. Numerous local and national jazz and blues acts will perform.

The party gives neighbors and new visitors a chance to get to know the Jefferson business strip better, said Chris Garland, an association spokesman.

"That ho-hum attitude about a business association gets tossed to the wind," he said.

The association, commonly known as JEBA, is working to create an eclectic entertainment district on Jefferson between Dickerson and Alter Road.

It is not unusual for the association to hold events in vacant buildings made up to look like art galleries for the program.

So the Jazzin' on Jefferson party/concert made sense, association officials said.

Last year's event drew 8,000 to 10,000 people, and the association is expecting a similar turnout this year.

Among the performers are the Dirty Dozen Brass Band of New Orleans as well as Detroit's Eddie Burns. Burns lives within the association's boundaries.

Other local acts include Kimme Horne, Marcus Belgrave and Straight Ahead.

The Dirty Dozen Brass Band has performed with David Bowie, Elvis Costello, and the Black Crowes. Eddie Burns has played with the late John Lee Hooker.

"This is fun stuff," Garland said. "We are lucky to have someone like Eddie Burns in our neighborhood."

You can reach Santiago Esparza at (734) 462-2673 or sesparza@detnews.com.



The Dirty Dozen Brass Band will headline the June 25 Jazzin' on Jefferson street party. The Jefferson East Business Association expects 8,000 to 10,000 people to attend the outdoor concert.

Jazzin' on Jefferson

What: An outdoor jazz and blues concert and party

When: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. June 25

Where: Jefferson and Chalmers on Detroit's east side

Cost: Free, but food and beverages will be sold.

Phone: (313) 331-7939

