

# Catch Jefferson jazz fest

## Performances, art market, children's area on Saturday

BY ANTIONETTE D. GRIFFITH • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • June 22, 2008

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Jazzing in Detroit!

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Jefferson East Business Association is celebrating community unity with a free jazz festival to bring families and local businesses together.

The fifth annual Jazzin' on Jefferson summer jazz party will be held 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday on East Jefferson between Chalmers and Alter.

It will feature jazz performances on two stages, a juried artist market, children's area, and food and product vendors.

The tentative performance lineups are:

- Alter Stage: Noon-1:10 p.m., Scott Gwinnell Jazz Orchestra; 2:30-3:30 p.m., Detroit Tenors; 4:45-6 p.m., Rayse Biggs Band; 7:30-8:40 p.m., Jesse Palter Quartet, and 9:10-10:30 p.m., Kevin Mahogany Show.
- Chalmers Stage: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Detroit Children's Choir; 1:15-2:25 p.m., Deblon Jackson; 3:30-4:45 p.m. and 6:15-7:25 p.m., YPL All-Stars, and 9-10:10 p.m., Priscilla Price Band.

New this year is the juried artist market, a showcase of mixed media work from more than 20 area artists. Dominic Pangborn and Gilda Snowden will unveil pieces reflecting the spirit of Jazzin' on

Jefferson.

The expanded children's area will feature family-friendly performances and arts and crafts. The area will include a family health and wellness space with free health screenings.

And there also will be a 9-hole mini-golf course in the middle of East Jefferson.

Food and product vendors will have merchandise for sale.

"The main goal of Jazzin' on Jefferson is to raise the profile of the East Jefferson Historic District as a place to live, work and invest," said Joshua R. Elling, 32, executive director of Jefferson East Business Association.

"Jazzin' on Jefferson is but one component in the comprehensive revitalization strategy that includes façade improvement, small-business counseling, anti-crime initiatives and physical improvements such as a new Jefferson East Streetscape plan that is currently being finalized with community residents and business owners.

"The first phase of this streetscape will run along East Jefferson from Alter to Chalmers, the heart of the Historic District. Enhancements will include new sidewalks, historic lighting, street trees and several traffic-calming devices, including parking bump-outs.

"Placement of two landscaped pedestrian safety islands is also being considered. We will be conducting numerous public meetings over the summer to make sure everyone is on board before any dirt is moved."

For more information, visit the Web site [www.jazzinonjefferson.com](http://www.jazzinonjefferson.com) or call the Jefferson East Business Association at 313-331-7939.

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