



Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival is Fun For all

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WESTFIELD –Judging from the fun-spirited crowd of parents, toddlers, grandparents, teens and playful pups, it's clear that Westfield's Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival is a favorite.

The live music, warm weather and friendly milieu are extremely captivating, and the after-party cocktails, dinners and light fare sold at Westfield's array of restaurants are a satisfying way to end the jazz night festivities.

Sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation, the Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival was created 10 years ago and features various jazz and blues bands performing for free every week during the summer.

Last week's jazz celebration featured Full Count Big Band, the Chuck Lambert Band, Eric Mintel Quartet, the Sonny Clark Project and the Jeanne Lozier Band. This season's final jazz night will be held Tuesday, September 5.

"Jazz Night is always a lovely evening," said resident Elaine Meredith, who enjoys moving from corner to corner and listening to great live music. "It's another plus to living in Westfield," she said.

Allison Siko, 18, with her canine friends Cory and Riley in tow, appreciates Westfield's jazz celebration and commented on the town's dog friendliness.

Attendees are not the only ones who relish Westfield's mini-jazz fest. The event enables performing musicians to attract new fans. Resident Rich Carlson plays trombone for the Full Count Big Band and enjoys performing at Sweet Sounds because he loves its neighborly ambiance.

"My favorite thing about the night is the community feeling it brings," he said. "We're a local group and lots of friends and neighbors come out, go to dinner and see the band."

"I feel it really brings out a lot of good town spirit. The DWC has done a great job bringing many diverse styles of jazz to Westfield and we are proud to be a part of jazz night as we feel it is kind of like a homecoming and our favorite gig of the year."

This is the second year Jeanne Lozier and her blues band played at the event, and the soulful singer seems poised for a third year at the the Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival.

"It's a great thing. I'm having a lot of fun," Ms. Lozier said.