Jazz On The Alley helps usher in new restaurant on Ram Cat



Last year, Jazz On The Alley became such a hit that the city of Seneca extended it into the fall. This year's "Jazz" series kicks off tonight, coinciding with the grand opening of the newest restaurant J Peters Grill & Bar.

FOR THE JOURNAL

BY ANDREW MOORE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A popular Upstate restaurant chain will kick off a new era in downtown Seneca to the swanky sounds of jazz music tonight on Ram Cat Alley.

J Peters Grill & Bar will open its doors for the first time tonight to coincide with the year's first session of Jazz On The Alley.

Jazz On The Alley, featuring Soul Fetch, begins at 6:30 p.m. The event will allow people to walk Seneca's downtown area, listen to the free music and eat at the area's restaurants.

The event, held each Thursday, became a success in 2010 with acts being extended into September last year.

Jon Angel, owner of J Peters, said he decided to open up his new restaurant on Ram Cat on the same night as the year's first Jazz On The Alley after talking to Mayor Dan Alexander.

Jazz On The Alley, featuring Soul Fetch, begins at 6:30 p.m. tonight at J Peters Grill & Bar on Ram Cat Alley.

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JAZZ: Event is held on each Thursday

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"J Peters Grill & Bar is proud to open our fourth restaurant in downtown Seneca," Angel said. "And we look forward to providing a great service to our new community."

J Peters has locations on South Main Street in the city of Anderson, near Interstate 85 in Anderson County and near Woodruff Road in Greenville. Its menu features steak, seafood and pasta dishes, along with a variety of salads, soups and sandwiches and a full bar.

J Peters quickly filled the spot that Rudy's On The Alley vacated at the end of 2010. Before that, Chophouse 113 had operated there, opening in 2005.

ALL SET FOR SENECAFEST

City officials met Wednesday afternoon at the council's events committee meeting, but there was little to talk about — having ironed out most of the details for next month's event, the meeting adjourned in 10 minutes.

"We're set to go. We're ready," Johnson said.

Headlining this year's event will be rock star Brian Howe, who was lead singer for the English rock act Bad Company from 1986 to 1994, performing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Norton-Thompson Park on May 28.

At 5 p.m., May 27, a classic car Cruise-In will be held at the parking lot of Norton-Thompson Park featuring as many as 250 vintage automobiles, and, by 5:30, official opening ceremonies are set to begin. The "No Butts About It" BBQ Cook-Off, which will feature chefs from across the region, is set to begin at 6 p.m. the opening night.

"We will have fireworks after Bad Company's performance," Johnson said. "This year's (SenecaFest) is looking like the biggest ever."

The two-day event will also feature "Arts on Main," showcasing the local arts scene on Main Street and Ram Cat Alley, beginning at 1 p.m. May 27. On the morning of May 28, a SenecaFest 5K run, beginning at the Shaver Complex, will kick off at 9 a.m.

SenecaFest, funded through Hospitality and Accommodations Tax (HAT) money, is free to the public.

"It'll be a great show," Johnson said. "You can't beat the price."

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