Jazz event extended due to popularity

BY ANDREW MOORE
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SENECA — August's "Jazz On The Alley" has become such a hot ticket that the city is extending it through September.

The event was held on historic Ram Cat Alley every Thursday night last month, allowing restaurants to offer al fresco dining to customers while live jazz was played on the Ram Cat Alley stage.

"We're extending it because of popularity," said Seneca Events Coordinator Riley Johnson. "By the end of this month, it wouldn't surprise me to have 500 people down there on Thursday nights."

A change in local ordinances allows restaurants not only to pull tables out onto the sidewalk and street, but to serve alcoholic beverages if the business buys the proper permits.

Evelyn Owen, owner of Circa 1930, said that while the event may have started out slow, it has become well worth it to pay staff the extra hours to work during the event.

"We started pulling our tables onto the street two weeks ago, and it's been great. It's been a lot of fun," Owen said. "It's bringing people down here after hours who wouldn't be here otherwise."

Johnson said there have been as many as 250 people on Ram Cat during the event, prompting the city not only to extend it through September but to schedule a longer event period for 2011.

Next year, Jazz On The Alley will be held every Thursday from April to September.

"We've had some people walking up at eight o 'clock with a chair and we close it up at eight," Johnson said.

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Ram Cat Alley in Seneca has been flooded every Thursday night with newcomers and the sounds of jazz music. The fun will continue through September.

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