



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **An Evening of Jazz and Blues In Downtown Lafayette**

The Lafayette – West Lafayette Development Corporation is proud to host the third annual Uptown Jazz and Blues Festival presented by Lafayette Bank and Trust on Saturday, August 25th from 5 to midnight in beautiful downtown Lafayette in the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Farmers' Market area between Main and Columbia Streets.

Plans for this year's event were announced today during a press conference in the Tuesday morning Farmers' Market. On hand were Brent Laidler and Danny Weiss of Fremont Jackson's Eclectic Band. They will be performing at 9:15 pm on the Promenade Stage at this year's Uptown Jazz and Blues Festival.

This year's entertainment is jam packed with great regional talent and a band with strong Purdue ties celebrating a milestone this year.

On the Back Alley Stage, sponsored by Electricom, performing at 7:45 pm is The Original Salty Dogs. Founded in 1947 by a group of Purdue students, The Original Salty Dogs is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Uptown Jazz and Blues Festival planning committee is excited to have The Original Salty Dogs perform this year with band member Lew Green, who is traveling from Connecticut for the event.

Joining The Original Salty Dogs on the Back Alley Stage are The Big Swing Band at 5:00 pm and Craig Brenner and the Crawdads at 10:30 pm. The Big Swing Band kicks off the night's entertainment with a return to days of yesteryear when big bands ruled. Craig Brenner, described by *Living Blues* magazine as "a fine and funky pianist" will cap off the night's outdoor entertainment.

Featured on the Promenade Stage, sponsored by Fairfield Manufacturing, is last year's crowd favorite from the Time Out Lounge, Blind Boy and CNI Dawg. Blind Boy and CNI Dawg will take the stage at 6:30 pm. Fremont Jackson's Eclectic Band will take the stage at 9:15 pm.

The Hot Club of Colfax and Shades of Azul will keep the Time Out Lounge, sponsored by Lilly Tippecanoe Laboratories, happening all night.

This year's Uptown Jazz and Blues Festival will feature favorite local vendors for hungry and thirsty jazz and blues enthusiasts. Tom Gall, chairman of the Uptown Jazz and Blues committee, announced today this year's vendors.

"We are proud to again feature downtown restaurants and a local institution at this year's Uptown Jazz and Blues Festival," said Tom Gall. "Our vendors this year are: Arni's, Spurlock's, Bea One, Dick's Bodacious Bar-B-Q, Long House Farm Kettle Corn, Skylight Coffeehouse, Kathy's Homemade Kandies, and Cold Stone Creamery. Sgt. Preston's will again be our beer and wine vendor."

Being a vendor at a downtown festival can have an immediate impact on business, said Spurlock's owner Jeff Spurlock.

"This is my first summer of being a vendor at downtown's festivals. The exposure of being a vendor at Dancing in the Streets in July was incredible. We noticed a significant bump in our number of customers in the weeks after the festival," said Jeff Spurlock. "Events like Dancing in the Streets and Uptown Jazz and Blues Festival are important to independently-owned downtown restaurants like mine because of the thousands of people we are introduced to. For the Uptown Jazz and Blues festival, we will again be serving our food on Frisbees. It was a hit at Dancing in the Streets and we are looking forward to bringing it back."

Advance tickets are now on sale for \$6 at all Lafayette Bank and Trust locations, Wells Yeager Best, McGuire Music & Sound, Klaverenga Guitar & Piano Studio, Lafayette Brewing Company, Knickerbocker Saloon, Von's Records, Skylight Coffeehouse and Java Roaster. Advance tickets are also available online at [www.browseandsave.com](http://www.browseandsave.com).

The Lafayette – West Lafayette Development Corporation's Downtown Development Council is grateful for the generous corporate support for this year's Uptown Jazz and Blues Festival. This year's presenting sponsor is again Lafayette Bank and Trust.

"This year we are proud to have gained some new sponsors with our returning sponsors. Electricom and Fairfield Manufacturing are both stage sponsors; Lilly Tippecanoe Laboratories is again sponsoring the Time Out Lounge. Lauth is sponsoring an admissions gate and St. Elizabeth Regional Health is sponsoring the food court. Neovision, Bank of Indiana, Chase, Indiana Fiber Works, and Caterpillar are all ticket booth sponsors," said Tom Gall.

Sponsoring this year's entertainment are band sponsors. For The Big Swing Band, we are proud to have Cook Medical as its band sponsor. Alcoa is sponsoring the Salty Dogs. Passageways is sponsoring Craig Brenner and the Crawdads. Fremont Jackson's Eclectic Band is sponsored by AC Holdings and SSCI Aptuit is sponsoring Blind Boy and CNI Dawg.

"Thank you to all of our very generous sponsors. We also have numerous in-kind sponsors who have done so much for us," said Tom Gall. "Homewood Suites, the Shook Agency, who graciously allow us in their building until 3 am, and Sign Experts are a few of the many local businesses that lend us much appreciated support."

For more information about this year's Uptown Jazz and Blues Festival, please visit [www.uptownjazzandblues.com](http://www.uptownjazzandblues.com) or contact the Lafayette – West Lafayette Development Corp. at 765.742.4044.

