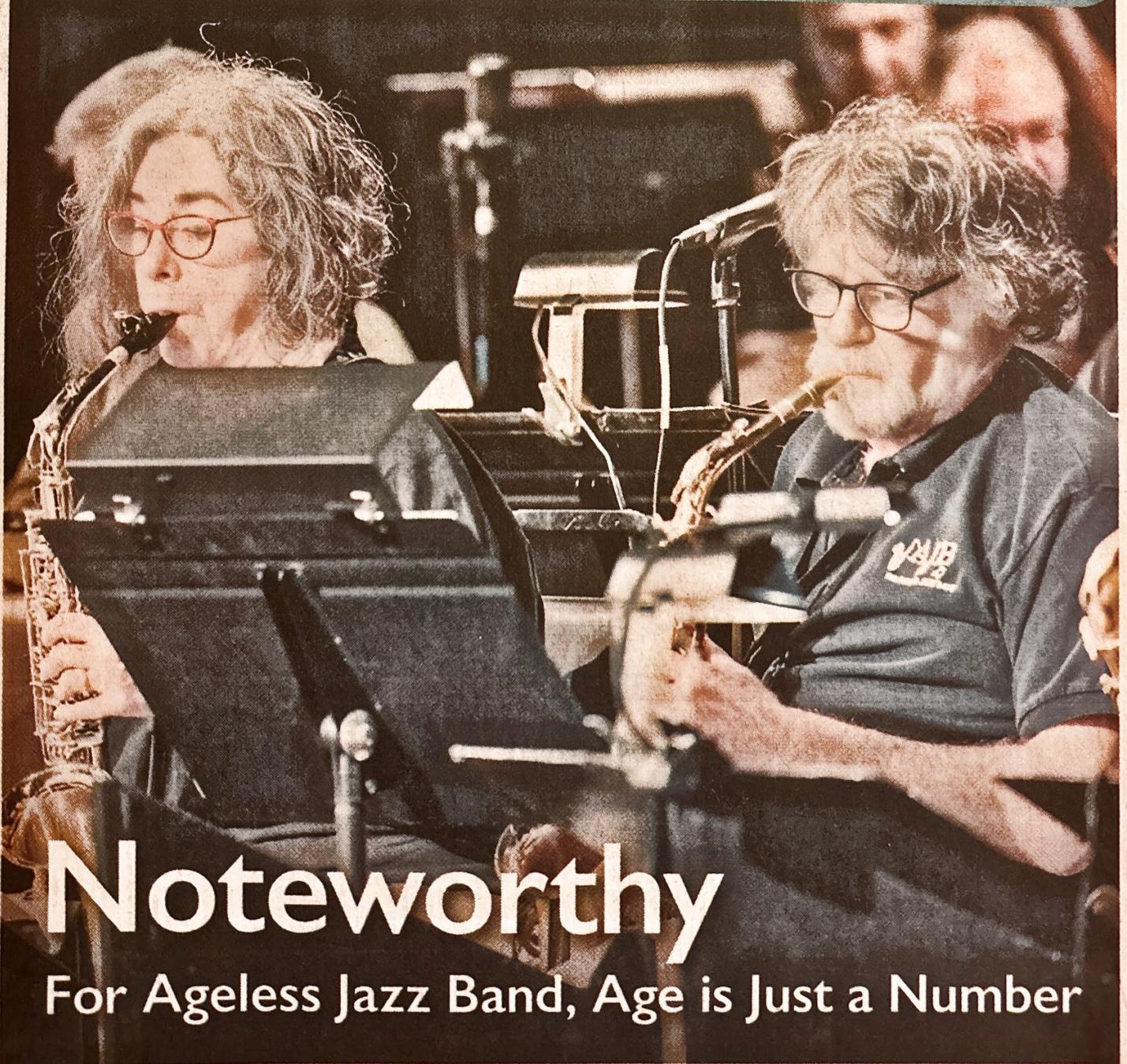


# PRIME TIMES

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OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE



## Noteworthy

For Ageless Jazz Band, Age is Just a Number

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*Cover Photo:*

*Kristina Shanton alto sax, Peter Rothbart, director, alto sax are part of the Ageless Jazz Band which has been making music from and for our area for more than 30 years.*

*(Photo: Provided)*

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# Noteworthy

## Ageless Jazz Band Proves Age is Just a Number

By KINSEY BURR

Ithaca's Ageless Jazz Band has been bringing jazz music to life throughout Tompkins County for over 30 years.

The band was founded in 1990 by George Carvell, former Ithaca middle school band director, with the purpose of promoting the music scene in Ithaca and bringing people together through jazz music. The band currently consists of 18 members of the Tompkins County community and is looking for new opportunities to share their love of jazz and music-making.

The Ageless Jazz Band is a non-profit



*Piano man Harry Segal is key to the Ageless Jazz Band. (Photo: Provided)*



*The Ageless Jazz Band performs at the Downtown Ithaca Concert Series, for senior communities like Longview and Brookdale and for the Cornell Swing Dance Club. (Photo: Provided)*

ensemble, and is run by volunteers who are local musicians. All of the members of the band are also all local musicians who volunteer their time and skills.

Nick Pauldine served as the director of the band from 1997-2022, and has been involved in the band since its early days over 30 years ago. He still continues to play for the band after stepping down as the director.

Pauldine said in the early days of the band there was a very mixed bag of demographics, including high school students, college students, and established adults.

"Recently that has kind of shifted away from the student ele-

ment and more towards the working adult range and retirees," Pauldine said. "We've had people that have been in the band so long they have perverse two or three of those demographics."

With the change in demographic, the band has become more consistent internally and a more consistent part of the Ithaca community.

"Over the years the amount of turnover in the band has decreased, so it became a much more regular group," Pauldine said. "Bodies are not so transient, which I think helps to develop that sort of usable evolution."

This consistency has allowed the band to explore more and larger

performance opportunities. The group often does local performances all around Tompkins County, including the festivals in Downtown Ithaca, senior communities like Longview and Brookdale and for the Cornell Swing Dance Club. In recent years the band has sought out bigger events, such as the Syracuse International Jazz Festival they attended in June, 2024.

Lisa Payne has been a member of the Ageless Jazz Band for 10 years and has served as President for the last two years. She is trained in classical music, but was invited into the group by another member and has been in the band ever since.

As President, Payne said she has begun looking for new sources of revenue to support the group and more performance opportunities. One thing Payne did to achieve this was apply for a grant administered by the Community Arts Partnership in Tompkins County.

"The money we receive supports our efforts to enhance the cultural climate in the rural communities of Tompkins County that we play in by helping to cover some of our expenses," Payne said.

In addition to being the President of the board, Payne also plays the Saxophone for the band. She said that the group is made up of musicians with a range of experience with jazz, and joining the band is a good way to become introduced to a new style of music.

"We've got folks of a variety of abilities," Payne said. "Nobody is a beginner, but not everybody is adept at jazz."

Although there is no formal audition to be a member of the band, there are opportunities for local musicians who are interested in joining.

"We do invite folks to a rehearsal to check it out, to see if our energy fits with their energy, and if the demands of

the music meet their skillset," Pauldine said.

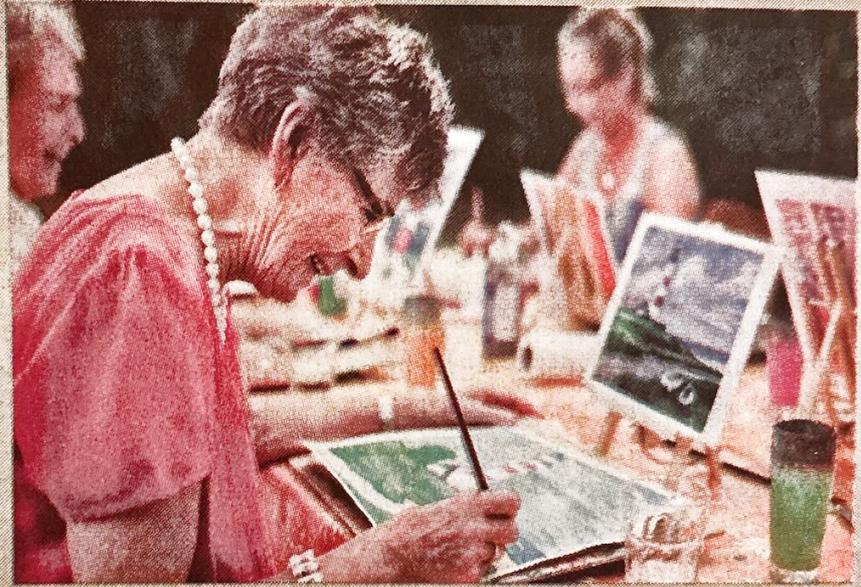
The band rehearses and performs year round, and there is a weekly Monday night commitment for rehearsals. Performances also occur year-round, but the group is more active during the summer. Despite the

commitment needed, Pauldine said the group is very understanding of the lives outside of music that everyone has and works around possible time conflicts. The group also recruits local volunteers who substitute for players when needed.

"Music is a lifelong skill, it's something you

can take with you from school and beyond, into your community and into your retirement if you want," Pauldine said. "There are opportunities for folks to continue playing even if they have been away from it for some time, like the Ageless Jazz Band."

## What do residents say about us?



*Kendal is about as good as you can get when it comes to senior care. I think it is a warm and comfortable place for my mother. I am deeply appreciative.*

Margaret

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