



## **Saint Viator Jazz Band Returns for 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Series**

June 11, 2010



Members of the sax section at a recent concert.

At this summer's concert series in Harmony Park in Arlington Heights, the Saint Viator Jazz Band is the only high school ensemble slated to perform. They took the stage on June 10 for the free outdoor concert in the park called "Unplugged Thursdays."

Fittingly, they returned during a milestone year for the concert series. Saint Viator's jazz band was the first group to play in the park, and they have been part of the growing weekend tradition nearly every year since then.

This summer marks 10 years since village officials launched the concert series on Thursday and Friday evenings. Residents of all ages bring their folding chairs and picnic suppers to hear the mix of live music, ranging from jazz and bluegrass to Beatles and Motown cover hits.

The concerts have drawn so many people into the downtown area and to its mix of restaurants and shops that Arlington Heights leaders eventually developed the park around the concept, calling it Harmony Park.

"We play for only 90 minutes, but the students love it," says Tom Seaman, now in his 15<sup>th</sup> year as Saint Viator band director. "They love getting out and having the chance to perform."

They love to perform so much that graduated seniors have continued to stay on and rehearse at the school, for the chance to play gigs --- outside their school auditorium.

"These concerts are a lot of fun, there's just a real community feel about them," says senior trumpeter Brian Cerabona of Arlington Heights, voted MVP of the jazz band. "It's great to see everyone out there, relaxing and enjoying our music."

Seaman says their summer set covers a wide range of styles, from big band charts arranged by such legends as Count Basie and Duke Ellington, to more contemporary funk, Latin, and some pop tunes arranged for jazz band.

"The jazz band is just a really good group," Cerabona adds. "We just love playing together."

The following week, the Saint Viator jazz band will perform in a summer kick-off festival at its sister school, St. Viator Elementary School, located in the Irving Park Neighborhood on the city's Northwest side.

The 100-year old school is part of a parish administered by the Clerics of St. Viator, the same order that runs the Arlington Heights high school.