

Jazz on the Green moving to Estero By DENISE L. SCOTT  
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The Seventh Annual Jazz On The Green outdoor concert is moving from Gateway to Estero.

The move, forced by a need to change venues, is expected to boost attendance at the Saturday, Oct. 26, concert and proceeds for the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

"The location is going to be a key factor in growth," said event chairman William Taylor about the new Estero venue at Miromar Lakes Beach and Golf Club. "We've got more Naples jazz fans than ever before."

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Seventh Annual Jazz On The Green featuring Kirk Whalum, Brian Culbertson, Nestor Torres and Joyce Cooling WHEN: 4 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26

WHERE: Miromar Lakes Beach and Golf Club, 10160 Miromar Square Blvd., Estero

COST: \$25 in advance; \$30 day of show

INFORMATION: Visit [www.jazzonthegreen.com](http://www.jazzonthegreen.com) or call the Jazz Hotline at 477-4683.

Tickets are now on sale through the Web site or by calling TicketWeb at (800) 965-4827.

He said the children's hospital benefits the entire region, so Estero is a good central location for the concert. Event co-founder Kim Algaier said the area's growth also influenced the decision to move there. "The population growth in south Fort Myers, Bonita and Naples is certainly a draw for us," she said. "We would like to draw a larger audience, including from Miami as well. Being near I-75 will help. Gateway wasn't as accessible as Miromar."

Taylor said after five years at Gateway Golf & Country Club, southeast of Fort Myers, the move came because of a lack of parking and because developer WCI no longer controls that golf course.

"The residents took over the golf course," Taylor said. "We're greedy. We're trying to turn dollars over to the kids (at the hospital). When we have a developer partner, we ask them for money to be involved. It's hard to ask (Gateway residents) to give us money."

Taylor said Jazz on the Green maintains a strong relationship with WCI, which still supports the event and sells hundreds of tickets.

"We did research the whole area for what would be the nicest location and fit with the atmosphere of the event," he said.

That location was Miromar, which has a nearby outlet mall just off Interstate 75 for free paved parking and shuttle service to the concert on Miromar's driving range.

Algaier said Jazz On The Green raises, on average, \$50,000 per year for the hospital.

Taylor said the goal is to boost that through increased attendance. He expects a crowd of up to 7,500 or 8,000 this year, about 2,000 more people than last year.

"We're trying to expand," he said. "(Fans) are coming from around the world."