

# Downtown AJ's Music Festival & Alzheimer's Walk



The Downtown AJ Music Festival & Alzheimer's Walk was a 2-day event; starting Friday evening November 13, 2020 and rolling into Saturday November 14. The Downtown AJ Festival is a monthly gathering hosted by the Treasure Box Boutique at their Downtown AJ location, in the parking lot of the old Basha's Plaza. That is on the northwest corner of Phelps Road & Apache Trail.

Each month they choose a different beneficiary, with any profit being donated to the cause. November is Alzheimer's Awareness Month and so all donations benefited the Alzheimer's Association 'Walk to End Alzheimer's'.

There were about 14 vehicles in Saturday's show. While the show is open to cars AND motorcycles, this time the show was mostly cars. This portion of the event was hosted & organized by the East Valley Mustang Club. There were real nice classics on site, including a 1932 Ford Roadster and a 1934 Studebaker. Understandably, there was a variety of Mustangs on hand representing different eras.

The 1st place winner of Saturday's show was a 1967 Camaro owned by

Pat O'Donnell. Second place was Rich Sobrich's 1956 Ford. AEVMC's Steve Rushefsky chuckled, "There's nothing like bringing a Camaro to a show hosted by a Mustang Club and winning."

Music was provided by four bands: country with 'The Dave & Tony Show' and 'Angie Senger's Last Train Band'; 'Innocent Joe & the Hostile Witness' brought a variety of Jazz and R&B; ending the day with some classic rock by 'All Due Respect'.

Vendors included some great gifting ideas – including jewelry, wood crafted art, and Arbonne Body Care. 'Saving Paws Rehab' had an information & support booth. This is a local non-profit organization that raises money to assist with the medical needs of animals in the Apache Junction Shelter, so the little ones can then be adopted. The AZ Big Train Operators had a display of trains running; which was very cool to watch.

The Alzheimer's Walk had about 30 participants. The Walk traveled out to the sidewalk & looped the event venue. There was a Promise Garden set up with pinwheel flowers in a variety of colors;

each of which represents a stage of Alzheimer's. People could carry a flower in the Walk to represent the stage of Alzheimer's that a person in their life is going through.

On display was Steve & Victoria Rushefsky's Mustang Convertible. It has had a custom wrap done to promote Alzheimer's Awareness and to honor victims of this terrible disease. Victoria's mother Lucy was taken by Alzheimer's. This is a way to honor her memory, raise awareness, and help others who are dealing with Alzheimer's and dementia in their families.

The chosen fundraiser for Arizona's East Valley Mustang Club is Alzheimer's Research. Through the Purple Passion efforts of the Club's Members and Administrators, Team AEVMC raised over \$10,000 in 2020; ranking it 8th in the State for donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

The next Downtown AJ Festival takes place Friday –Saturday February 12&13. Follow the Treasure Box Boutique for future dates and more information, about the event and about the shop.

*Betsy & Bruce*

