

Jumpin' jazz joint hits bumpy road

Brookfield's Red Mill owes thousands in back taxes as owner tries to save club

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Brookfield — Sporting a Hawaiian shirt and a mellow grin, the 76-year-old retiree bounces to the sounds of live jazz at the Red Mill Supper Club.

"I lo-o-o-ve good music," he says, swooning as the Chuck Hedges Swingtet entertains an-

other weekday night crowd in Brookfield.

The jazz fan is none other than Roger Murphy, a retired judge who also has served the area as a Republican district attorney and state senator.

Forget what you've heard about Brookfield being a sleepy suburb where folks are high-brow and uptight.

At the Red Mill — a farmhouse-turned-nightclub — that stereotype is shattered with every crash of the cymbal and every blare of the trumpet.

For more than 30 years, this has been where suburbanite and city dweller alike go to cut loose and have fun after dark. With live musical performances five nights a week, they clap and cheer, hoot and holler, dance and sing.

"Oh, yeah, it's a jumping place," regular customer Bob Totushek said.

But the jazz joint that's given music lovers so many high times might be about to crash back to

Please see JAZZ page 6