

2nd annual West End Oktoberfest promises

music, food, beer, fun for families

The excitement of the German celebration, Oktoberfest, is again coming to 19th Street in the West End of Allentown.

The second annual West End Oktoberfest (www.westendoktoberfest.com) will celebrate the age-old tradition with lively German music, specialty beer and a variety of activities for children and adults on Saturday, October 3, 2009, from noon to 10 p.m. in the heart of Allentown's West End Theater District.

The West End Oktoberfest will take place on 19th Street between Tilghman and Liberty Streets. This vibrant festival is presented by the West End Alliance, an organization of neighbors and merchants dedicated to the continued revitalization of the 19th Street corridor and the surrounding neighborhood.

The sidewalks of 19th Street will be lined with local vendors, artists, merchants, food and fun. Some of the vendors attending the Oktoberfest include: Amber Connection, Baja Beach Tanning, Robi Beads, Jaqueline Jones Jewlery, Trish Strausdbaugh Glass, The Quillian, The Shoe Box, Svetlana Designs, The Good Buy Girls, Alrita Morgan and Jewlery Design. Additional vendors are being added.

The Lehigh Valley Sangerbund will be providing traditional German food. Vegetarian and vegan cuisine will be provided by Balasia.

The PA Villagers will be performing live polka music to add to the traditional atmosphere of the Oktoberfest. The Boombadiers will perform on their boombas. And local bands The Current, Masculine Feminine and Your Welcome Surf will perform in the evening.

A tattoo contest organized by 19th Street business The Quillian will occur at 6 p.m.

Throughout the day, special events for children will be held such as pumpkin painting, a caricature artist, face painting, balloon animals and more.

For the adults, there will be an assortment of domestic and seasonal beers available. A commemorative beer mug will be available for purchase and discount refills.

Money raised from the event will support the efforts of the West End Alliance.