

EVENTS

Rotary Oktoberfest Raises Katrina Aid Funds

Whether you'd prefer an energetic polka and a fine German sausage, a cool beer and the sounds of Southern rock, or a neighborly afternoon with friends, family and a kids' play zone, you'll find Petaluma Valley Rotary's first annual "Rockin' Oktoberfest" the right place to be. 100% of the admission proceeds will be donated to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Earnings from the rest of the event will go Rotary community and humanitarian projects, such as the Cool Kids Camp for abused children, Lend-a-Hand to Education, and Rotoplast for treating cleft palates in children.

"Rockin' Oktoberfest" has the essentials you'd expect: more than 20 varieties of beers, traditional German foods, and a lively selection of polka and swing favorites by the incomparable Steve Balich Orchestra. Also on hand, though, will be the Alameda

All Stars, a band that specializes in Southern rock and blues. In addition, there will be performances by comic acrobat Merrie Mary. Local kid favorites Tim Cain and James K will each perform during the day, and parents can let their children play in supervised play areas including Jubilee Jumps, the Children's Discovery Museum and much more.

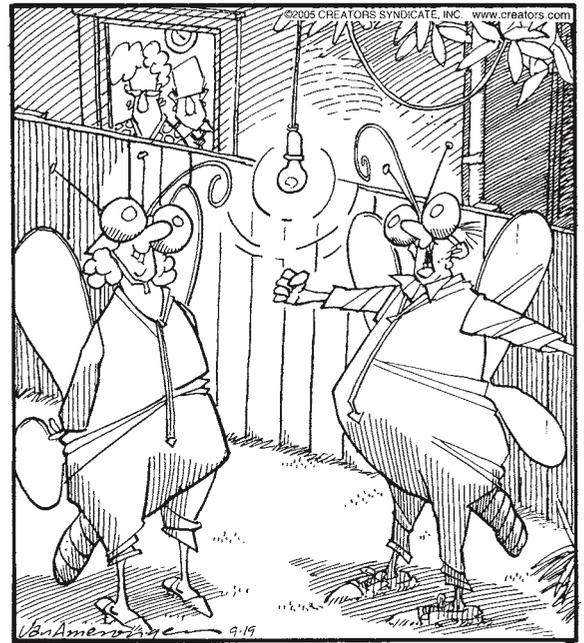
The original Oktoberfest in the Bavarian capital of Munich has been going on for over 170 years. It has been dubbed the "world's biggest party", with 6 million people attending. Petaluma Valley Rotary's Oktoberfest is not expected to attract quite as many, but it will share a spirit in common. "Oktoberfest is an excuse for everyone to get together with family, friends and neighbors to have a great time and at the same time benefit a great cause," comments Austin Garner, who came up with the idea for the event. "What's more, it grants

a little equal Sonoma County time to that other venerable beverage, beer."

Rockin' Oktoberfest will be held October 22nd from 1 PM to 7 PM at Herzog Hall on the Petaluma Fairgrounds. Admission is \$20 for adults (21 and up) and \$8 for children and teens (8-20). Children under 10 get in free. For further information, call (707) 364-0966 or visit www.rockinoktoberfest.org.

BALLARD STREET

by Jerry Van Amerongen



Gazing over at the new neighbors, the Swensons' thoughts will soon turn to the question of property values.

More October Outings

The Western Sonoma County Historical Society will present its third annual "Cemetery Walks" at Sebastopol Memorial Lawn Friday and Saturday, October 7th and 8th, at 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, and 7:45 PM both days. Tour tickets are \$25, by reservation only, and include supper and six dramatic vignettes at the Burbank Farm cottage adjoining the cemetery. For reservations and information, call 707.823.0884 or 707.829.1757.

Friday, October 21st, from 9 AM to noon, the City of Petaluma Parks and Recreation Department will be holding its annual "Senior Expo" at the Petaluma Community Center in Lucchesi Park, 320 North McDowell Boulevard in Petaluma. It's

an opportunity for businesses to share information about products and services of interest to seniors and an opportunity for seniors to learn about resources in the community. Free flu shots will be available. Pastries and coffee will be served. A prize raffle will be held. Admission is free. For details, call 707.778.4399.



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