



September 13, 2009

Oktoberfest to take place Oct. 16-17

PORTLAND - Portland Main Street will host its second annual "Oktoberfest" celebration on Friday, Oct. 16, and Saturday, Oct. 17, in the City Hall parking lot in downtown Portland. Live music, local food, a 5K run, and inflatable entertainment for children will highlight the 2009 event.

Festivities will get underway on Friday at 6 p.m., and at noon on Saturday. Tickets to the event are \$2, with admission being free for children 12 years old or under. All tickets may be purchased at the gate on the day of the event. "This is going to be a great celebration this year - both of the strong German heritage found in this area as well as a celebration of downtown Portland," said Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan. "A lot of local volunteers have put a lot of effort into planning this event, and we are excited to bring it back for its second year."

The Mid Michigan Radio entertainment tent on Friday will feature "The Royal Ramblers," who will take the stage from 8 to 11 p.m. On Saturday, "The Dave Wells German Oompah Band" will entertain from 3:30 to 6 p.m., followed by pianist Dan Duncan from 6 to 8 p.m. The evening will be capped off by the band "Rush Hour," beginning at 8 p.m. The entertainment tent will also feature beer as well as locally prepared food by Cheeky Monkeys Coffeehouse and Bakery and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4090. New events have been added to the 2009 Oktoberfest, as well. "The Big Beer 5K Run" will take place on Saturday at noon, with registration beginning at 10:30 a.m. The run will begin at the Bridge Street bridge and will follow the Portland river trail system throughout downtown.

Also added for this year will be a youth entertainment area. Ultimate Bounce Inflatables will be bringing a giant slide and a bounce house for children on Saturday, Oct. 17. Wristbands are \$5 for unlimited rides and can be purchased at the event.

"Oktoberfest is great for the city," said Main Street Board Chairperson Joel VanSlambrouck. "This event will draw a variety of people downtown to see everything that we have to offer. Portland Main Street encourages people to come shop at our local retailers, and then come over to the Oktoberfest to cap off a perfect day in downtown Portland."

"Sponsors have also been a key to bringing this event back downtown," said VanSlambrouck. "Mid Michigan Radio has been outstanding, as have our other sponsors such as Fleis and Vandenbrink; Duff, Chadwick, and Associates; and Midwest Business Equipment." Portland Main Street's "Oktoberfest" is a fundraiser for the Main Street program. All proceeds from the event will be used to help this program with its continuing efforts in revitalizing downtown Portland.

For more information, visit the Portland Main Street Web site at www.portlandmainstreet.org or call the Portland Main Street offices at (517) 647-5027.
