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Oktoberfest to include brewing demonstration

PORTLAND - The Portland Main Street program has announced that the 2009 Oktoberfest will feature a home beer-brewing demonstration by Portland resident Eric Frederick.

Frederick, who is an avid brewer, has been pursuing his hobby for almost two years.

"I really enjoy the craft," said Frederick. "It's a very social activity -- one that brings people together and focuses on collaboration, rather than competition. It's a great time, and I would really like to see more people in our area take part in the home brewing experience."

Frederick stated that while he enjoys brewing various types of beers, Belgian Wheat and English Bitters are the two that he enjoys brewing the most. "It's not a difficult process, but it is one that takes patience.

It can take up to five weeks from start to finish before a home-brewed beer is ready for tasting."

While people will be able to watch how the brewing process works, no "home brewed" beer will be available for purchase or consumption. Guests will be able to ask Frederick questions about the process, and handouts will be available that highlight how beer is brewed, along with a listing of the specialty stores in the area that carry beer brewing equipment and ingredients.

"We are very excited to have Eric bringing his knowledge to our second annual festival," said Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan.

"I'm eager to see how the process works and to learn more about it. I think that when people think of brewing beer, they normally think only about some large corporate brewery - it will be fun to see how this is done by an individual instead."

The home-brewing demonstration will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17. The Portland Main Street Oktoberfest is held in the Portland City Hall Parking lot, with gates opening at noon. Admission to the festival is \$2, with children 12 and under admitted free.

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 to revitalize downtown Portland.

The goal of the Portland Main Street program is to actively revitalize Portland's vibrant, charming, and unique downtown into a gathering place-one that uses broad-based community support to (1) provide opportunities to entrepreneurs; (2) sustain a strong economic foundation for the region; and (3) safeguard history, tradition, and a sense of community for residents and visitors.

For more information on how you can be part of this mission, visit the Portland Main Street Web site at www.portlandmainstreet.org or call the Portland Main Street offices at (517) 647-5027.

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