

DOWNTOWN WEST BEND

Germanfest readies for 25th anniversary

By JUDY STEFFES
For the Downtown News

Germanfest is rolling out the red carpet for its 25th anniversary Aug. 26 to Aug. 29.

The feel of Germanfest is evident downtown with black, red and yellow German flags suspended over Main Street.

Hand-painted beer steins and murals by Eileen Eckart dot the borders of downtown as West Bend prepares to raise a frothy stein and toast its German heritage.

The 25th annual Germanfest kicks off a day earlier this year with beer and music on Thursday night. The celebration, called Musik Off Main, combines the flavor of Germanfest with the weekly summer music on Main. Oil Can Harry will headline the night.

"We'll have beer and food and the new stages will be in place on the festival grounds at Walnut and Main," said Germanfest Chairman Herb Tennes.

One change to the festival music lineup occurs Friday night as Austrian Express replaces The Polka Family. The scheduling conflict was recently discovered and the Germanfest Entertainment Committee managed to quickly find a replacement, Tennes said.

"These are the situations that give you gray hair," he said.

Austrian Express starts at 5 p.m. Friday. The Polka Family will play Saturday beginning at 5 p.m.

Desserts are big draws

Taste testing has been completed, recipe cards are being dusted off and orders for sugar, eggs, flour and shortening are being reviewed one more time as Judy Etta and Keith Hankerson from Hankerson's Bakery prepare to unveil German masterpieces for this year's Germanfest.

The dessert tent at the fest is nearly as popular as the beer tap and hardwood dance floor.

DOWNTOWN DETAILS

What's coming, going and changing?

Tortes and cheesecakes, strudels and almond horns are just a few of the specialties.

Last year Hankerson unveiled a Beienstich – otherwise known as bee-sting cake.

"It's very German, sweet dough based," said Hankerson.

The pastry has a sugary almond crunchy crust with almond-flavored custard inside.

All items were made from scratch by Hankerson, who started prepping a week ahead of time.

"We used 180 pounds of cream cheese which equals about 360 of those little 8-ounce packages you'd get at the store," he said.

Other ingredients included 560 eggs, 125 pounds of sugar, 160 pounds of custard made from scratch, 120 pounds of cherry pie filling, 100 pounds of apple pie filling, 25 pounds of almonds, 110 quarts of whipped cream, 150 pounds of flour and 80 pounds of shortening.

This year's specialty, according to Hankerson, will be a pecan coffee cake.

The 25th anniversary of Germanfest will also feature authentic German food and dancing, daily sheephead tournaments and raffles. Other activities include a traditional Wisconsin fish fry, Saturday pancake breakfast, Farmers' Market, Riverwalk Art Fair and the inaugural AODA marathon and half marathon, which will finish Saturday across the street from the Germanfest grounds.

Downtown updates

■ Grasshopper Restaurant, 241 & 243 N. Main St., has unveiled a customer loyalty card.

"Our biggest focus is to give back to our customers," said



Dancers kick up their heels during the 2009 Germanfest in downtown West Bend. The event will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year.

Daily News file photo

owner Stefanie Ulma.

The restaurant, bar and coffee shop are included in the loyalty card. Examples of incentives include a senior citizens discount, half-price appetizers from 4 to 6:30 p.m., discounted bar drinks from 4 to 6 p.m. and 10 percent off bakery and sandwiches.

The loyalty card promotions and benefits will change each week, Ulma said.

■ Tranquil Water Massage & Spa will be opening soon at 125 S. Main St.

■ Travel On South Main Street has moved from 349 S. Main St. to 1204 E. Washington St.

■ Ruth-Anne's Gourmet

Market, 136 N. Main St., has updated its facades with a new blue and yellow sign from the Sign Shop of West Bend. The awning is by Cream City Awning of Kewaskum.

Park gets new flag

A new United States flag is flying at Old Settlers Park in downtown West Bend.

The story behind the flag has a bit of drama.

In June, Lori Lynn-Radloff from American Metal & Paper Recycling purchased a heavy-weight 5-by-8-foot flag with embroidered stars and presented it to Steve Rhode, chairman of the

Memorial Day parade committee. The flag was raised at the park, located at 6th Avenue and Main Street.

"I think the flag was definitely put up for Memorial Day, but then about a week later I noticed it was gone," said Lynn-Radloff.

An independent search by Lynn-Radloff proved fruitless, but following a couple of tips the flag was eventually found at the West Bend Police Department.

Lynn-Radloff was able to identify the flag, but soon found out that the city Parks and Recreation Department has now replaced it with a new one at Old Settlers Park.

Germanfest Event

3-Days of Deals

Friday, August 27th 9am-6pm
Saturday, August 28th 8am-4pm
Sunday, August 29th Open at 11am

Shop our Tent Specials

STOREWIDE 25% OFF

60% OFF

YELLOW

Clearance items

40% OFF

RED

Clearance items

25% OFF

WHITE tag

Regular Price items

25% OFF

RED dot

Holiday items

139 South 6th Ave, West Bend • 262-365-0365 • Hours Mon-Fri. 10-5; Sat 9-2

Join us for Diva Night • September 23rd

Sal's PIZZA

262-334-3944
262-334-5644

161 N. Main St.
Downtown West Bend
***Free Delivery**

Pizza By The Slice

Sal's Pizza
262-334-3944 • 262-334-5644

Family Salad for 2

\$3.95

Not valid with other offers. Expires 9-11-10.

Sal's Pizza 262-334-3944 • 262-334-5644

Full Meal Deal

ONLY \$19⁹⁹

18" 1-topping pizza, order of buffalo wings, 2 liter bottle of soda & garlic knots. Not valid with other offers. Expires 9-11-10.

Sal's Pizza 262-334-3944 • 262-334-5644

Monday Special

\$14.99

Large Cheese Pizza with 1 Topping, 2 Liter Soda, 2 Garlic Knots. Not valid with other offers. Expires 9-11-10.

Sal's Pizza 262-334-3944 • 262-334-5644

Tuesday Special

\$12.99

18" Large Cheese Pizza, 2 Liter Soda, 2 Garlic Knots. Not valid with other offers. Expires 9-11-10.

Sal's Pizza 262-334-3944 • 262-334-5644

Wednesday Special

\$5 Off

Buy Large Pizza at Full Price, Get Medium for \$5 Off. Not valid with other offers. Expires 9-11-10.