

# The Montgomery Herald

www.montgomery-herald.com

## Oktoberfest preparations in final stages

Published: October 07, 2009 04:41 pm

MONTGOMERY — With the massive Bridge Day festival playing practically next door, and the Coal Bowl pitting WVU against in-state rival Marshall the same day, organizers of Oktoberfest are still angling to draw visitors and locals to their fledgling event.

The second annual Oktoberfest, sponsored by the Upper Kanawha Valley Economic Development Corporation and the City of Montgomery, will be staged on Saturday, Oct. 17. It will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., with a variety of activities available to attendees.

And, if you want some of the things being offered in the county seat without the major parking headaches, organizers say, Montgomery is the place to be.

“It was good last year, but I anticipate more people participating this year,” said Diana Wilson, UKVEDC executive director. “We have more food vendors and other vendors than last year.”

Festivities will include a sanctioned chili cookoff that is listed on the International Chili Society Web site. There will be prizes for the top three chili contenders, as well as a people’s choice award. The cookoff begins at 10 a.m.

Also, there will be a 5-K run/walk, an authentic German beer and food garden, artisans and crafts, boaters and a classic car show.

The sweet strains of live music will be heard throughout the day, culminating with The Esquires from 8 to 10 p.m. The earlier lineup includes:

- \* 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Stonestreet;
- \* 12 to 2 p.m. — ZZ German Brass Band;
- \* 3 to 5 p.m. — Central Standard Time; and
- \* 6 to 8 p.m. — Krank.

Oktoberfest was created not as something to offer direct opposition to Bridge Day, but rather to complement the state’s largest festival, which is staged on the third Saturday of October each year in Fayetteville.

“When Bridge Day ended, we thought people could come back to Montgomery and join in the festivities. We would just be getting started when their event ended,” said Wilson. “We felt since

tourists are traveling Rte. 60 to Fayetteville, they might stop by going up or coming back.

“Last year, we had our first chili cookoff and this year we have added the WVU-Marshall game on the big screen. We’re not trying to be in competition with Bridge Day.”

The Oktoberfest committee may consider adding an additional day next year, Wilson noted.

“It is difficult choosing a date in the fall because so many activities are going on in many communities throughout the area, and we try to stay away from a WVU game weekend. However, some times that’s impossible.”

Those cruising the Kanawha River on their boats on that day are urged to anchor at the WVU Tech Marina for a while and catch a free shuttle to the festivities.

And, if it’s not live music, German beer or arts and crafts you want, football will be a big part of the day. The WVU-Marshall game will be shown on a big screen TV at 3:30 p.m., and the WVU Tech Golden Bears will play up the mountain a little ways at Martin Field, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Sponsors include: Smith, Cochran & Hicks and TSI Technology Solutions, Appalachian Electric Power, West Virginia Radio Corporation, National Publishing Innovation Center, WVU Institute of Technology, Bridgemont Community & Technical College, Central WV Convention and Visitors Bureau, Division of Culture and History - Fairs and Festivals grant, City of Montgomery, Burgess Real Estate and Burgess Insurance/Allstate, Fayette County Commission, Brookfield Renewable Power, Brown Chevrolet, City National Bank, Upper Kanawha Valley Economic Development Corporation, BB&T Bank, Danhill Construction, United Bank, D&J Rental, Montgomery General Hospital, Upper Kanawha Valley Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery Women’s Club, Cutting Edge Designs, Graphics and Embroidery, and Kanawha County Commission.

A few vendor spots are still available. They cost \$40 for one space or \$80 for a trailer.

For more on the event, visit [www.ukvworks4u.com](http://www.ukvworks4u.com). To register for vendor spots or for more information, call 304-981-6400.

— E-mail:

[skeenan@register-herald.com](mailto:skeenan@register-herald.com)