

TAPPING INTO

Oktoberfest

CELINA • TEXAS

By Lisa Ferguson

Hometown traditions to be highlighted at event

A bit of Bavaria will make its way into the far reaches of northern Collin County when the inaugural Celina Oktoberfest celebration takes over the city's historic downtown square from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018. The family friendly event - featuring a tempting assortment of foods and beverages, as well as a slate of fun activities, contests and entertaining performances - will be presented rain or shine.

General admission tickets are \$5 per person. Children age 12 and under will be admitted free, and will any attendee who wears a traditional German lederhosen or dirndl costume to the festival. Tickets are available now for advanced purchase at www.celinaoktoberfest.com, and will also be sold at the gate on the day of the event. A limited number of specially priced tickets are on sale at www.Groupon.com.

Alcoholic-drink tickets (\$1 each) will be available at the ticket booth during the festival (four tickets for a 12-ounce beer; six tickets for 16 ounces). Commemorative, half-liter beer steins (\$10) can be purchased

and used at Celina Oktoberfest or kept as a souvenir.

Free parking and shuttles to the event will be at Celina Elementary School, 550 S. Utah Dr., and at Brookshire's Food & Pharmacy Celina, 675 Sunset Blvd. Paid parking (\$20) will be adjacent to the square at the corner of West Pecan Street and North Louisiana Drive.

The centerpiece of Celina Oktoberfest will be the festive beer garden, boasting a bountiful selection of bubbling craft brews. Get your prost (German for "Cheers!") on in the sizeable space that will be the site of beer-pong contests as well as a much-anticipated beer stein-holding competition.



Fort Worth-based Texas Turkey Legs will be among the food and beverage options featured at Celina Oktoberfest. Photo credit: Texas Turkey Legs

In a nod to Celina's deeply rooted tradition of championship-winning high school football, the day's biggest college-gridiron matchups will be presented on a massive LED screen in the square during a live broadcast from noon to 2 p.m. by radio personalities Mike and Cash Sirois, hosts of the popular Cirque du Sirois show on 1310 AM/96.7 FM The Ticket. Pro-football legends and members of the North Texas chapter of the NFL Alumni Association are also scheduled to appear.

"This will be an Oktoberfest celebration unlike any other in Texas," said Melissa Cromwell, president of the Greater Celina

Chamber of Commerce which produces the event. "Celina's history is steeped in football, so it's only fitting that it has a big presence at what is sure to become one of the city's signature annual festivals."

The Greater Celina Chamber of Commerce is pleased to have Landmark Bank as the title sponsor of the 2018 Celina Oktoberfest celebration. The bank will open its first Celina branch location early next year. "For Landmark Bank to become involved with the community through this event shows that they understand and appreciate the inherently giving spirit of Celina," Cromwell said.

Joe Adair, Landmark Bank's vice president and senior regional retail manager, said the company is "really excited to bring our brand to that market." At Celina Oktoberfest, "I'm looking forward to being able to meet and talk to the people," he added, "and to see and hear about what's going on in Celina and the exciting things that are happening there."

Celebrating the sights and sounds of the Fall season, Celina Oktoberfest will kick off with a cornhole tournament



Bavarian boutique The Kuckucks Nest will open a pop-up shop in Celina's historic downtown square, featuring its German-themed attire and accessories, in advance of the city's inaugural Oktoberfest celebration. Photo credit: The Kuckucks Nest

presented by the Celina Police Association, followed by the ceremonial tapping of the keg by Celina Mayor Sean Terry and a traditional toast. Exciting events will follow throughout the day and evening, including



The Dogensteins, who turns pop, rock, country and new-wave hits into foot-stomping polka tunes, will headline the inaugural Celina Oktoberfest event. Photo credit: Wes Kucera

a Dachshund Derby dog race, Chicken Dance circles and costume contests for children and adults.

The entertainment, including live music and cultural performances, will be nonstop beginning with a set by traveling tuba quartet Imperial Brass, followed by American-polka aficionados The Royal Klobasneks. Bavarian dance troupe Texanischer Schuhplattler Verein and Alps-inspired musicians Auf Gehts Musik will each take a turn on the main stage ahead of headliners The Dogensteins. Best known for transforming popular rock, country and new-wave hits into foot-stomping polka songs, manager and drummer Wes Kucera said the band will "mix it up pretty heavy" at Celina Oktoberfest. "Everybody is going to be in for a really good time."

In the free Kids' Zone area, sponsored by Martin Marietta, youngsters can enjoy bounce houses, an obstacle course, a rock-climbing wall and a petting zoo, among other activities. For a nominal fee, kids may also decorate cookies, courtesy of Brookshire's Food & Pharmacy Celina, as well as seasonal pumpkins.



The Royal Klobasneks, a seven-piece polka band fronted by accordion player Matt Tolentino, will take the stage at Celina Oktoberfest. Photo credit: Matt Tolentino

Authentic German delicacies and other culinary treats will be served at Celina Oktoberfest by more than a dozen food-and-beverage purveyors including Bayer's Kolonialwaren from Muenster, Texas. For four decades, it has sold its renowned strudel, kolaches and other goodies at its popular store. Meanwhile, true to its name, Texas Turkey Legs will offer massive drumsticks sure to satisfy the hungriest of festivalgoers. Since it wouldn't be Oktoberfest without bratwurst, the folks from Cristi and Ali Cuisine will serve the traditional sausages as well as fried pretzels and parmesan fries.

Shopping will commence early at Celina Oktoberfest, which will feature numerous merchandise vendors. On the evening of Friday, Oct. 12, the public is willkommen ("welcome") to visit the

storefront on the square, at 229 W. Pecan St., where The Kuckucks Nest, a Bavarian boutique and gift emporium from Fredericksburg, Texas, will open a pop-up shop selling German-themed attire and accessories. From shirts to shorts and hats to handbags, the inspired designs are bound to excite Oktoberfest fashionistas.

"There will truly be something for everyone at Celina Oktoberfest. The square is going to be packed with entertainment and activities," Cromwell said. "It will be an exciting, fun-filled start for this new, annual Celina tradition."

For additional information and updates about Celina Oktoberfest, visit www.celinaoktoberfest.com. Follow @CelinaOktoberfest on Facebook, and @celina_oktoberfest on Instagram.



Famed food shop Bayer's Kolonialwaren, from Muenster, Texas, will offer its delectable delicacies at Celina Oktoberfest. Photo credit: Bayer's Kolonialwaren