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“Buffalo Harbor Oktoberfest” Coming to Canalside

Celebration kicks off fall and winter programming on the waterfront

Canalside will host “Buffalo Harbor Oktoberfest” on Saturday, October 1, 2011 with the German American Musicians Association, Inc. (GAM) and S.G.T.V Edelweiss of Buffalo combining their talents to offer a celebration of German music, dance, food and drink. The event marks the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation’s (ECHDC) commitment to making Canalside a four-season destination by offering events and programming throughout the fall and winter.

“We are excited to bring Oktoberfest to Canalside,” said Melanie Hachten, spokeswoman for the GAM. “Combining talents, such as German American Musicians with the Edelweiss dancers, will make for the most authentic Oktoberfest celebration in Western New York. I encourage anyone who is interested in having a good time and learning about German culture to attend.”

The celebration starts at 3 p.m., with a celebrity keg tapping at 4 p.m. featuring Harry Neale and Rick Jeanneret. The German American Musicians—Buffalo’s “Big German Band”—will provide music, and attendees can learn authentic Bavarian dances from the Edelweiss Schulplattler Dancers. Vendors specializing in German crafts and merchandise will be set up in the Marketplazt. Visitors will be able to enjoy a variety of German delicacies from Scharfs, a local German restaurant, and partake in a selection of German and domestic beers.

The Oktoberfest celebration marks the kickoff for fall and winter programming at Canalside. ECHDC is making plans to bring winter events to Canalside, along with warm environments and food.

“We have always envisioned Canalside as a four-season destination,” said ECHDC President Thomas P. Dee. “If you look at successful cities around the world, they embrace their winter through activities and events, and our goal is to do the same at Canalside. This summer was tremendously successful, and we intend to maintain the momentum with fall and winter programming that will continue to drive visitors to the site.”

Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation is a subsidiary agency of Empire State Development Corporation whose vision is to revitalize Western New York’s waterfront and restore economic growth to Buffalo based on the region’s legacy of pride, urban significance and natural beauty.

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