



Christine Zeiger

Montrose Oktoberfest expects 30,000+ patrons to celebrate German heritage



Who will be the next "Master & Little Miss Oktoberfest"?

Photo: Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce Archives

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Not everyone who comes to the Montrose Oktoberfest is of German descent. Some are, of course. But for many others, the festival is simply a great opportunity to enjoy some unpretentious fun, with friends and family.

Touted as a family event, last year there were nearly 33,000 attendees; this year, the 33rd Annual Montrose Oktoberfest is expected to attract just as many people. What with live entertainment, contests, games, rides and Bingo, there is sure to be something for people of all ages. In addition, vendors offer authentic German delectables, such as sausage, strudel and more. And if you like beer, get your stein ready!

On the Main Stage located at Ocean View Avenue, the live entertainment kicks-off at 1:00 p.m. First up, will be local performers from [Revolution Dance Center](#). Included in the presentation will be a performance by the dance studio's ballet students set to Antonio Vivaldi's "Winter"; then members of the Dance Competition Team will demonstrate their skills in jazz and tap dance. In addition, soloists Claire Coddling will perform a ballet piece and Ryan Dubb will perform a jazz-based character piece.

The free, live entertainment continues all afternoon, culminating with [The German-American Brass Band of Southern California](#), which will perform from 5:00-10:00 p.m. With more than twenty musicians, ranging in experience from high school students to seasoned professionals, the band is known for their excellence in performing *Blasmusik* (German music using wind

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instruments) and doing it with a lively, bodacious spirit. As the main performing group of the [Alemannia Music Foundation](#), a non-profit organization, the band fulfills the purpose of the organization by increasing overall music appreciation and by providing musical education.

To add to the day's enjoyment, there will be several contests, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Among them: The "Master and Little Miss Oktoberfest" contest and "The Best Dressed Dog Contest". The dog contest is open to any breed dog (mutts included), as long as they are in their Bavarian best. Prizes will be awarded to the top winners.

The history of the original Oktoberfest dates back to 1810, when then Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig married Saxon-Hildburghausen Princess Therese, and the citizens of Munich were invited to join in the celebration; however, they had to remain on the fields outside the city gates during the five-days of merriment.

Today, in Munich, Germany, [Oktoberfest](#) is the largest festival in the world. Each year, about six million people attend the 16-day event and consume an estimated 1.5 million gallons of beer!

Of course, beer drinking remains a part of any Oktoberfest. However, as Ted Ayala, Executive Director of the [Montrose-Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce](#) (and sponsor of the event) explained, "There are all sorts of things to do. It's going to be a lot of fun."

(The [Montrose Oktoberfest](#) will be held Saturday, October 2, from noon-11:00 p.m. in the 2300 and 2400 blocks of Honolulu Avenue. Admission is free. Free public parking will be available behind Citibank at 2350 Honolulu Avenue, as well as at the Professional Development Center at 2340 Honolulu Avenue. For additional information contact the Chamber of Commerce at (818) 249-7171.)



By Christine Zeiger

Christine Zeiger, a voracious reader and mother of three, is a former New Yorker who grew up in Harlem. An alumna of the University of Arizona, she...[Read more](#)

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