

Oktoberfest

by Harry Zirkelbach

Before radio and television, communication was informal. Life reflected the seasons of the year, was local. Then none living in a small community anywhere, raising a crop or tending animals, knew or cared about the climate in any other area. There was a sharing of concerns with neighbors for each were involved in the survival and prosperity of the other.

Moments of communal rejoicing were infrequent. But they did exist, and families participated raucously, often for days. The end of the harvests was one such, and centered on the gathering of crops, tending the field for the next year, then celebrating. In Europe, this was most often in October. So the party began.

In second decade of the 21st Century there is not lack of occasions to celebrate. One is the German Oktoberfest, where those hearty souls, known to waste nothing, don their best lederhosen, embroidered shirts, feathered small brim hats, woolen stockings, leather shoes, begin to celebrate, spending days with food, drink, friend, something close to debauchery.

What does that mean in Denver? A reason to copy that celebration. Here in Windsor Gardens, courtesy of both our Board and Administration, residents are offered land for gardening, some 91 pieces of the acreage here.

Each of these gentle farmers had been provided use of a space west gardens 10' x 10'. Comes spring, the field is spaded, fertilized, planted. Each garden has a water connection. Seemingly an eon later, the first seed breaks the soil, looks around as a shoot, sees no evil, and with water/fertilizer/soil nutrients, begin that amazing journey, parts of which end up on the tables of the gardener as Oktoberfest treats.

The produce of the land is good, seasoning makes it more tasty, washing down with a light alcoholic beverage, brings it near to what was once celebrated as the food of the Gods. Yes, music, singing and sharing add to every festive moment.

The 120 plus residents who toil the 91 plots will share their crops, celebrate Oktoberfest with family and others. They also will participate in the Windsor Gardens' Oktoberfest /Street dance Oct 5. Join them. Like so many of America's blessings, it too is FREE.