

NOMA Square Oktoberfest kicks off Sept. 29

Beer, brat and music festival

By: Arial Turner

Sept. 8, 2016 - The four day-long 2016 Oktoberfest at NOMA Square will kick off with a ceremonial keg tapping Sept. 29 and run through Oct. 2. And unlike last year when the non-stop rain put a serious damper on things, here's hoping Mother Nature behaves herself.

"We held the festival Thursday and Friday in drizzly conditions under tents. It was still fun and festive with good attendance on those days," said Heather Meador, director of community relations for JHM Hotels, the host of Oktoberfest. "However, around midnight on Friday the torrential rains came in with hurricane warnings and we had to take down the tents and cancel the remainder of the weekend."

This year, organizers are more than ready for the elements.

"We have huge tents for the entire area. We are prepared to have fun even if it rains," Meador said. "As long as it's not a monsoon, we are covered!"

The 2016 Oktoberfest features the Paulaner traveling biergarten, which includes a party truck equipped with draft beer, a sound system, Bavarian decorations and traditional biergarten benches that can host up to 350 seated guests. There will also be German food, corn hole, a limbo contest, live music from various German bands and a bratwurst-eating contest on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds from Oktoberfest will benefit the Community Foundation of Greenville.