

ESSLINGEN FEST 2017!

The Mayor's International Committee will be hosting Esslingen Fest, sponsored by Johnsonville and 3 Sheeps Brewery, celebrating the twin city partnership with Esslingen, Germany. This event will celebrate the spirit of "Zwiebelfest"— Onion Fest! The event will take place on Sunday, October 1st from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 3 Sheeps Brewing Taproom located in the former Coca-Cola bottling plant at 1837 North Avenue. Johnsonville Sausage and 3 Sheeps Brewing Company are sponsors of this event which will feature 3 Sheeps craft beer, German bratwurst and potato salad, grilled onions and onion specialties. Entertainment at the event will feature the Ryan Kautzer Trio playing polka tunes. There will also be silent auctions and raffle drawings throughout the day.

The week that Sheboygan was celebrating Johnsonville Brat Days, Esslingen, Germany was celebrating Zwiebelfest, or Onion Fest, which is held annually in our sister city. The tradition of the fest dates back to the Middle Ages. According to the legend, the devil requested an apple from a woman at Esslingen's market. Instead of an apple, the cagey woman provided the devil with an onion. Once the devil tasted the "fake" apple, he screamed: "These are your apples! That's ridiculous. This is an onion, a spicy onion." And that is why from now on you will be called 'onions' instead of Esslingen. According to the story, shortly after the incident, the devil left Esslingen and never returned.

A trip to Esslingen was organized by the Mayor's International Committee to celebrate Sheboygan's 50 year anniversary of its sister city relationship with Esslingen am Neckar, Germany in Esslingen on May 19, 2017. A delegation of 34 persons attended the anniversary banquet, including city officials, members of the Mayor's International Committee and People to People, residents, past exchange students and their host families. After arriving at the Stuttgart airport, they were greeted by representatives from Esslingen and treated to an elegant welcome luncheon. This was followed by a tree planting ceremony in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the sister city partnership. The City of Esslingen procured a sugar maple tree, the state tree of Wisconsin, to be planted at Merkel Park. Mayor Vandersteen presented a commemorative plaque to identify the significance of the tree.

During the five day stay in Esslingen the delegation toured the Georgii-Gymnasium High School, Kessler sparkling wine production, Old Town, Esslingen Fire Department, Fire Department Museum and took a canoe trip through the Esslingen Canals. The anniversary banquet was held at the "Altes Rathaus" (Old City Hall). Lord Mayor Zieger and Mayor Vandersteen presented speeches and exchanged gifts to commemorate the 50th year of the partnership between the two cities. Mayor Vandersteen and the Sheboygan delegation were invited to sign the Golden Book of Esslingen. The evening concluded with a buffet dinner and anniversary cake.

This summer People to People conducted a three week middle school exchange with Sheboygan students. They also conduct a year-long high school exchange, first semester in Sheboygan and second semester in Esslingen. Students are paired and live with their partner's family. For more information on the exchange program contact Ann Keckonen at 457-4318.

The Mayor's International Committee members are city residents who are empowered to represent and further the City's commitment to understanding and friendship between our Sister Cities and

Sheboygan. Each year the committee hosts a variety of events for the foreign exchange students visiting our city. The Mayor's International Committee has been holding fundraisers to help fund this trip and no taxpayer money was used.