

naperville

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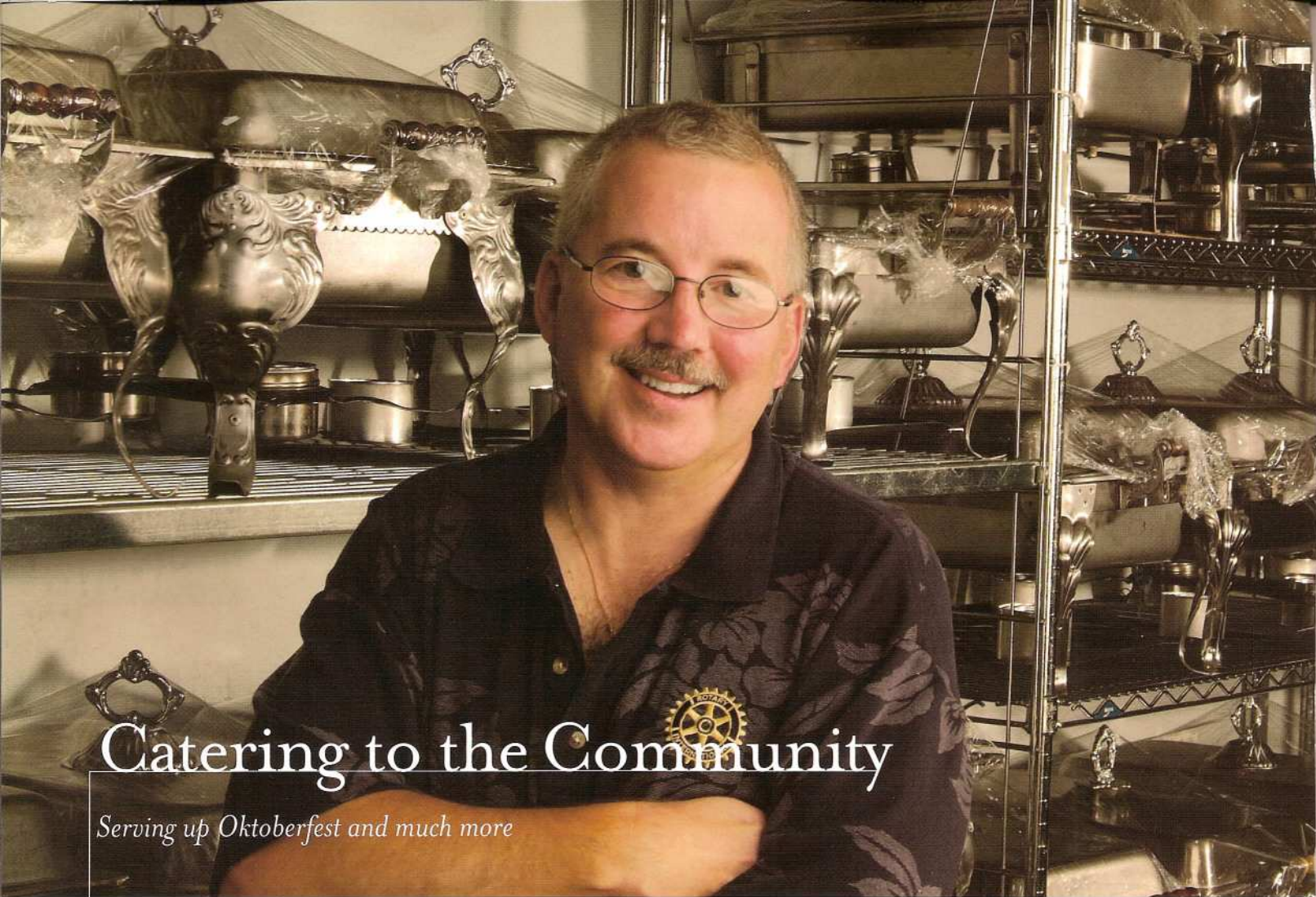
Fall Festivities

Making the most of the season

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Catering to the Community

Serving up Oktoberfest and much more

When fall rolls around each year, Bill and Karen Garlough find themselves manning the food tent at the Naperville Oktoberfest.

During the three-day event, they grill 10,000 bratwursts and dish out more than 400 pounds of sauerkraut. They also serve both mouth-watering apple strudel and German chocolate cake that taste as if they were baked in the vaterland.

As one of the city's premiere caterers, the Garloughs don't take on Oktoberfest for the extra work. It's a way to give back, a chance to help the community in which their business has thrived for nearly two decades.

"It's beneficial for the culture of a company to help others," Bill says. "It's important for my employees to have the experience of helping people."

The Garloughs would know about contributing to the community. They've been an important

part of the Naperville fabric since they first opened an upscale deli here in 1989.

From the beginning, their take-home entrées and catering service took off. Their dishes became so popular, the couple closed the store in 1992 and started My Chef, a full-service catering company.

That same year, the Naperville Rotary Club decided to sponsor Oktoberfest in the hopes of filling a void in the community's fall calendar. The Garloughs bid on the event with an authentic German menu that also appealed to the American palette.

It was the beginning of a beautiful, 15-year friendship between the company and Naperville Rotary. Bill Garlough joined the civic organization that same year and will become the group's president in 2008.

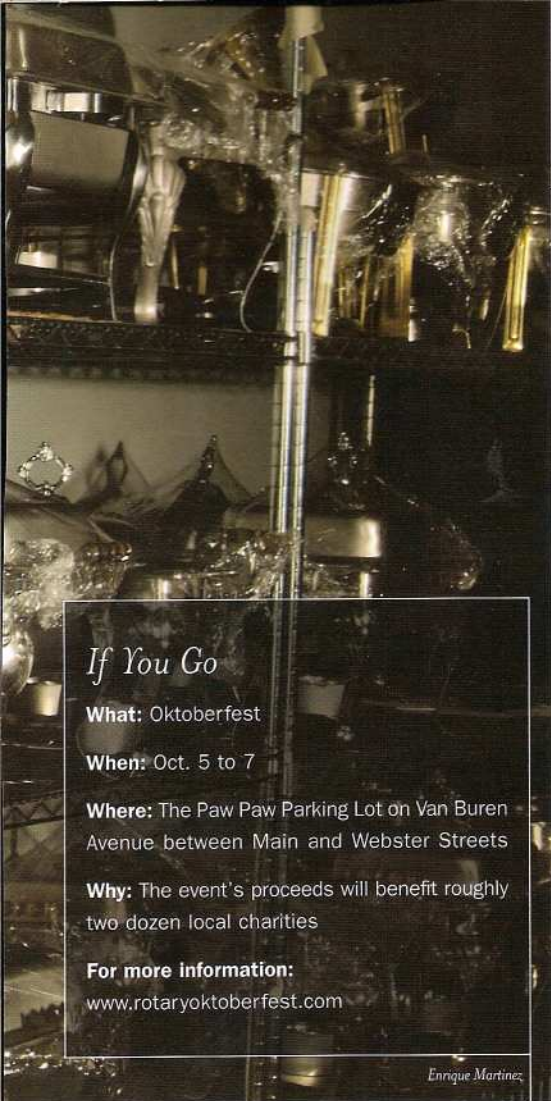
"I believe in what Rotary does," Bill says. "I believe we have a responsibility to help people

who are less fortunate."

And the Garloughs certainly have done that. In addition to the couple's involvement in Rotary, their company is among the most philanthropic businesses in Naperville. Their catered dinners for eight people are a staple of local charity auctions, with one meal often fetching up to \$4,000.

Amid all their charitable endeavors, the Garloughs also run one of the most sought-after catering companies in the western suburbs. My Chef's upscale fare and first-class service have become the gold standard for formal events in the community.

The company also caters hundreds of weddings each year, becoming an integral part of the town's happiest memories. Even more special for the Garloughs, those same couples often return to My Chef for their children's birthday parties, baptisms and first communions.



If You Go

What: Oktoberfest

When: Oct. 5 to 7

Where: The Paw Paw Parking Lot on Van Buren Avenue between Main and Webster Streets

Why: The event's proceeds will benefit roughly two dozen local charities

For more information:
www.rotaryoktoberfest.com

Enrique Martinez

"It's wonderful to be a part of their lives like that," Garlough says. "We find joy in seeing people happy."

The Garloughs' dedication to their customers and their community led to My Chef being named Naperville's Small Business of the Year. A few months later, the company was named the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year 2007.

The national award was announced at a banquet in May in Washington, D.C. When My Chef was declared the winner, the Garloughs and 23 members of the Naperville Chamber of Commerce in attendance, jumped up in joyous celebration.

"It was a Naperville celebration in D.C.," Garlough says. "It was a very emotional moment knowing we were bringing it home for Naperville. The community has meant a lot to us."

Those Dog Days of Fall

Considering adding a four-legged friend to your family? Well, you couldn't have picked a better time to go barking up that tree.

October just happens to be Adopt-A-Shelter Dog month. Over the next 31 days, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals suggests people considering new pets begin their search at local shelters.

With nearly 10 million animals entering shelters each year, the facilities offer a wide variety of canines. Studies show 30 percent of sheltered animals are surrendered because of behavior issues, but most have been abandoned because they are incompatible with their family's housing, lifestyle or expectations.

Facilities like the Naperville-based Animals Deserving of Proper Treatment have a careful screening process in place to make sure the right pooch is matched with the right family.

"Pet stores will by and large sell a dog to anyone over 18 years of age," says Jerry Pietrzak, ADOPT's dog care manager. "There are certain dogs and breeds we won't place with families that have children

under the age of 6. Some dogs require a fence or invisible fence. We literally drive out to the person's house and do a fence check. All of this is to ensure the safety and well-being of the dog."

But it's not just the dogs that benefit from shelter adoptions. In addition to getting the right dog for their family, adoptees also get a pet in excellent health.

"You don't always know what you're getting when you purchase a dog from a pet store," Pietrzak says. "That puppy might have been pulled away too early from his mother and because of that they might have an underdeveloped immune system. An advantage of adopting a shelter dog is that they all have a clean bill of health."

For more information on shelter dogs, call ADOPT at 630.355.2299.



A Walk to Remember

There are a lot of different charity walks in Naperville, but few are more heart wrenching—and heartwarming—for participants than "A Walk to Remember." The event offers an opportunity for bereaved parents of miscarried, stillborn or deceased infants to honor their child. The third annual walk will take place at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 20 along the Riverwalk. The event will benefit the Edward Foundation SHARE Program and help the building of an angel garden on the Hospital grounds. The walk is a leisurely two-mile stroll around the Riverwalk. The day begins with a memorial ceremony including music, poetry, guest speakers and a reading of the babies' names that participants hold so dear. For more information, e-mail walktoremember@comcast.net