

# COVER STORY

## Wow, What A Weekend!

With the Butter & Egg Days Parade and activities, the Spring Antique Faire, and the Great Petaluma Chili Cookoff all taking place, it's hard to imagine a better place to be than Petaluma on April 29th and 30th.

### Butter & Egg Parade Brings History Alive

There can't be a more enjoyable way to learn history than by watching a parade. Petaluma's Butter & Egg Days Parade was actually designed to teach history, and this year history is the primary theme of the event.

More than 300 local residents will spend the month of April building, practicing, and preparing to be in the 24th Annual Butter and Egg Days Parade on April 29th. The parade steps off at noon in Historic Downtown Petaluma, with 100-plus units winding from the corner of 4th and D Streets, up 4th Street and Kentucky Street, to Washington Street. They'll turn right on Washington, and right again onto Petaluma Boulevard, ending at Petaluma Boulevard and D Street.

In honor of this year's theme, "100 Years of History/Celebrating Carnegie Library's 100th Year", entrants have researched the Library, Museum, and Petaluma's history. Twenty floats and 13 novelty units will pay tribute to eggs, incubators, library books, and reading. One float will feature Andrew Carnegie (who funded the library) with Helen Putnam. Another will showcase the way young people use the library, from studying to making friends. Yet another will display historic equipment and replicas from the laying of the cornerstone of the Library.

Among the many dignitaries who in the parade will be Lucy Kortum, voted Petaluma's Good Egg for 2006 (see separate story on page

10). Ed Cerar and his team of volunteer "Petalumans Eradicating Graffiti" will also be honored in the Butter & Egg Days Parade as Petaluma's Egg-ceptional Citizens. The Petaluma Downtown Association responded to numerous requests from the community to honor Ed for his tireless commitment to keeping Petaluma graffiti-free. Ed answers the Graffiti Hotline personally, is often on the job within minutes, and does not expect recognition or remuneration. The parade also boasts more than 30 antique and classic cars and tractors, six marching bands, four equestrian units, and 16 costumed marching groups. It's expected to last about two hours.

### Other Butter & Egg Festivities on Saturday

In addition to the parade, the Saturday activities and entertainment offer something for everyone.

Saturday starts early with the Lions Club French Toast Breakfast beginning at 8 AM at the foot of Western Street, across the Boulevard from the Festival's Food Court. Lions Club members serve the \$5 breakfast (\$4 for seniors and children) until 11 AM. The menu includes French toast, scrambled eggs, sausages, juice and coffee.

The traditional Cow Chip Throwing Contest starts at 10 AM in the open lot next to McNears. Contestants in the Cow Chip Contest are recruited from the audience and invited VIPs. They compete to see who can pitch a cow chip the greatest distance. KZST's Brent Farris makes sure everyone has a lot of fun in this crazy agricultural contest.

The Cutest Little Chick In Town Contest will be held at 11 AM on Kentucky Street, mid-block between Western and Washington Streets. To enter your under-six-year-old

tot (and your costume-making expertise) in the contest, call Petaluma Farms (763-0921) before Wednesday, April 26th. Annually, more than 70 youngsters parade in their egg-cellent feathered finest and then ride on the Cutest Little Chick Float in the parade.

Impatient youngsters awaiting the parade on the curb will have entertainment from Petaluma Valley Athletic Club, providing four stations of big muscle activities for wiggly youngsters so they will be less fidgety during the Parade. Look for the activity stations near the announcer stands on 4th Street across from the Post Office, across from the A Street Parking Lot on Kentucky, in the 100 block of Petaluma Boulevard North, and near the main announcers' stand on the Boulevard in front of McNears. Activities will begin about 11:15 AM.

From 10 AM to 5 PM, there will be kids' activities, arts and crafts sales, and food and beverage booths on side streets and in parking lots around the downtown.

While the City of Petaluma and the Petaluma Downtown Association are underwriters of the parade, Bank of Marin is the presenting sponsor of the Parade this year and Southgate by Delco Builders is the Sponsor of the Kids Area. Parade Division Sponsors are Clover Stornetta Farms, Yarbbirds Home Centers, Kaiser Permanente, Circle Bank, and G and G Supermarkets. Green Waste Recovery will sponsor the "Keep Downtown Petaluma Clean" activity, handing out trash bags to spectators and picking them up post-parade. Toley at the Sheraton Petaluma will host the Volunteer Training Session. Other Parade Sponsors include Petaluma Valley Athletic Club sponsor of pre-parade activities for kids, Sonoma National Bank, *The*

*Argus Courier*, *The Press Democrat*, KZST, and NBC11. Each will have a special unit in the parade or host an activity during the celebration. Sponsors contribute cash toward the event's \$60,000 budget.

Along the parade route there are five announcer stands where celebrity and local announcers will identify the units for the crowd. They will be located at 4th Street midway between C and D Streets, across 4th Street from the Petaluma Historical Museum, on Kentucky Street near Golden Concourse, on Petaluma Boulevard North near Putnam Plaza Park, and at the Judges' Reviewing Stand at the entrance to Center Park parking area.

### Sunday Antique Faire

On Sunday, April 30th, the Petaluma Downtown Association will hold its traditional Spring Antique Faire from 8 AM to 4 PM along 4th Street and Kentucky Street and in the A Street parking lot. Vendors from across California will offer quality collectibles and antiques in all categories. A more complete description is on Page 5 of this issue.

### The Great Petaluma Chili Cookoff

The 9th Annual Great Petaluma Chili Cookoff, Salsa and Beer Tasting fires up on Sunday, April 30th, from 1 to 5 PM, at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds in Petaluma. Forty challengers will be competing for several awards, including the People's Choice Awards and the VIP judges' decisions for the best chili, salsa, and beer on hand.

If you've never been to the Cookoff, here's what you can expect: fierce competitors who not only create the best chili west of the Pecos, but are also willing to go to any lengths to get your attention --including dressing up in outrageous costumes and sounding every

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form of noisemaker imaginable. Who will ever forget Hayward Fire Department's "Lord of the Beans"? There will be live entertainment, unlimited tasting of chili and salsa, tasting of micro-brews from around Northern California and more.

A separate story and complete list of entrants in this popular event appears on Page 5.

For information about the Butter & Egg Days Activities, call 707.763.0344 or log onto [petalumadowntown.com](http://petalumadowntown.com) and click on the chickies. For information about the Antique Faire, call 707.762.9348. For information, or to register your youngster for the Cutest Little Chick Contest, call 707.763.0921. For information or tickets to the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, call 707.763.5998. For information about History Week activities, call 707.778.4398. For information on the Chili Cookoff, go to [greatchilicookoff.com](http://greatchilicookoff.com) or call 707.763.8920.