

ARGUS-COURIER  
THURSDAY  
JUNE 18, 2015

# PETALUMA COMMUNITY

ABOVE THE BRIM

## Excitement 'brewing' over coming beer garden

If you have been downtown over the past couple of months, you may have noticed a large boat moored in the Turning



**HOUSTON PORTER**

Basin below the Apple Box. That boat is here for our food. More specifically, the crew is here for our food. Although they do contract drilling work throughout the Bay Area, the crew prefers to spend their off days and nights here in Petaluma because of our restaurant scene

and our overall downtown charm. I guess the word is getting out. Stop by, say 'hi', and show them a warm Petaluma welcome.

### Brewster's Beer Garden

Speaking of the word getting out, I was concerned to hear the team behind this proposed new restaurant and beer garden was not from Petaluma. (Brewster's is slated for the parking lot across the Boulevard from "Cannonball Park" (officially named Penry Park.)

My concern turned to cautious optimism when I saw that local and esteemed "MAD Architects" is handling the project. MAD has redesigned and rehabbed some of our most significant Petaluma landmarks, restaurants and bars, such as the Water Street River Promenade and Jamison's

Roaring Donkey. (She also runs Petaluma's Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot ... pun intended.) Although no guarantee of a project's ultimate success, the "MAD" stamp of approval shows that Brewster's is in good, local hands and it's that much more likely to fit into our community.

Outsiders have come into town before, with plenty of pomp and circumstance (and money.) They look to capitalize on Petaluma's recent culinary fame, only to find that the "big fish in a small pond" mentality won't float in these parts. Success requires listening to and getting involved in our community. Petalumans have strong opinions on what we will and will not support and are not simple backwoods hicks in need of cuisine guidance.

After meeting with Brewster's partner and chef Chris Beerman (great name, right?) and tasting some of his food, I am ready to drop the "cautious" part of my optimism.

Beerman grew up in the restaurant business, but more importantly, he is as genuine as they come. Brewster's is already working with local pig purveyor, DG Langley, to come up with the best breed of pig for their style of barbecue. That is about as culinarily Petaluma as it gets. (Stay tuned for my upcoming article on Brewster's Beer Garden.)

### Taste of Petaluma

Speaking of giving the people what they want, it doesn't get any better than Taste

of Petaluma. Now is the time to sign up to host a spot on this culinary walking tour of Petaluma's downtown restaurants and boutiques. Restaurants from outside the downtown are welcome, and can be hosted in downtown shops. Visit [tasteofpetaluma.org](http://tasteofpetaluma.org) for more info.

### Getting Plastered...at Lagunitas?

The Sonoma/Petaluma Historic Parks Association needs our help to re-plaster and preserve the Old Adobe. Sponsored by the Argus-Courier, the "Let's Get (the Adobe) Plastered" fundraiser will be held at Lagunitas Brewery on Tuesday, June 23, starting at 6 p.m. Bring your friends for a great evening of food (Velasco's), music (Tsunami), beer and wine and a silent auction. Visit [sonomaparks.org](http://sonomaparks.org) for more info.

### Mario & John's — Ribs for Kids

#### Cook-off

Very limited tickets are available for Petaluma Active 20-30 club's "Ribs for Kids Cook-Off," at Mario & John's on Saturday, June 27, starting at 11:30 a.m. Yours truly will be one of four official judges, along with Dano from country radio's KFGY Froggy 92.9. Visit [petaluma2030.com](http://petaluma2030.com) immediately if you want any chance of nabbing a ticket.

*(I look forward to your feedback, as well as hearing about any Petaluma food news that you choose to share with me at "Above the Brim" on Facebook or [abovethebrim@houstonporter.com](mailto:abovethebrim@houstonporter.com).)*