

Downtown Beloit rocks out during street dance

By **Shaun Zinck** szinck@beloitdailynews.com | **Posted: Saturday, August 4, 2012 10:00 am**

People from all over the Stateline Area came out and danced the night away at Beloit's 19th Annual Celebrate Weekend Friday night at the corner of State Street and Grand Avenue.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. blues band The Reverend Raven and the Chain Smoking Alter Boys took to the stage much to the delight of the crowd. Roscoe residents Susan Galvin and her husband Bill Lazor said this was their third time coming to the street dance.

"We really like this band," Galvin said of the Reverend Raven. "We heard them in Byron, Ill. earlier this year."

She said they've met a lot of their friends near the Beloit area ever since they moved from Pittsburgh a few years ago.

Lazor said the weekend provides good entertainment and a relaxing environment.

"The Beloit people here are very nice and friendly," he said.

The Reverend Raven was a big hit with a lot of the early crowd that showed up to see them. Madison resident Susie Launder said she's seen The Reverend and the main event, Milwaukee's Eddie Butts Band a total of 50 times.

"These are my two favorite bands," she said.

For the Czosnek family coming to the street dance was an opportunity to get out of the house and spend time with the whole family. Heather and Andrew Czosnek said they've lived in Beloit for about 13 years, but this was the first time they came to the Celebrate Weekend.

The couple brought their four kids, Clairra, 9, Ian, 7, Eva, 5, and Lexa, 3, after Heather said she saw on Facebook that someone she knew was coming.

"We were looking for something to do tonight and we decided to check it out," she said. "The food looks delicious.

The food vendors seemed to be one of the main attractions. Beloit resident Tameka Davis brought her two nephews, Kysir Franklin, 2, T.J. Marshal, 3, and her niece Kylie Cribbs, 7, to the dance to check out the different types of food vendors.

Davis said while she's been living in the city for 20 years this is the first time she's been to the street dance.

“I ran a business for a long time and I was usually working on Fridays so I haven’t been able to come,” she said. “But I’ll be back.”

The event, sponsored by the Downtown Beloit Association, serves as its largest fundraiser of the year. The money raised supports the “revitalization efforts in Beloit’s historic downtown district.”

This morning, the celebration was scheduled to continue downtown, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the sidewalk sales along with the weekly Farmer’s Market.