

# Festival, Farmers' Market this Saturday

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Saturday will see farmers and fall festivities descend upon downtown Beloit.

The Downtown Beloit Association will throw its annual Halloween festival in combination with the finale of this season's downtown Farmers' Market.

The Halloween festival officially kicks off at 10 a.m.; however, children are invited to don costumes and march in a parade that will begin at Horace White Park and proceed down Grand Avenue. Local businesses will be handing out treats. Children should arrive at Horace White Park by 9:45 a.m. to participate in the parade.

"We usually have about 800 to 1,200 kids come out to walk in the parade," Shauna El-Amin, Executive Director of the Downtown Beloit Association, said.

Participating organizations in the parade will include, but not be limited to, Turtle Creek Bookstore, the Beloit Fire Department, the Beloit Family Eyecare Center, Bagels and More, and Blackhawk Bank.

"A map will be available that will highlight what businesses are participating," El-Amin said.

In addition to treats, the festival also will host some special guests including Snappy D. Turtle and Scoopie from Culver's.

New to the festival this year is the "Fun Zone," which includes a super slide, bounce house, and obstacle course. Admission to each of the attractions is \$1.

Guests also are welcome to participate in pumpkin decorating. Pumpkins donated for the festival will be made available free-of-charge for decoration. Additionally, children will be given free trick-or-treat bags in the morning at Horace White Park.

El-Amin says that the normal refreshments and cuisine from the Farmer's Market will be made available for the Halloween festival.

"We'll have a hot dog stand, Salvadors, donut holes, egg rolls, and all kinds of good stuff," El-Amin said.

As usual, the festival will not only celebrate Halloween, but also mark the conclusion of the downtown Farmers' Market season. Thanks to the combination, the final market may see business that it otherwise would not.

"Seeing as how it's the last Farmer's Market, some of the produce stuff is gone. So by this point in the season sometimes there's fewer people," El-Amin said. "But, since it's the festival too, you actually

see more people, so it kind of evens out.”

On an average Saturday during the season, El-Amin says that over 4,000 people visit the Farmer’s Market. She also believes that the summer drought had little if any affect on the season.

“I don’t think there was less business. I think it did fine,” El-Amin said. “There was always something to sell.

The downtown Beloit Farmer’s Market was booked on vendors throughout this season, which runs from June to October. There is space for 118 booths as well as another 18 in the parking lot near the corner of State Street and Grand Avenue.