

## Wagner project leads to snow removal issue

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The construction on the former Wagner building in downtown Beloit could cause some complications this winter.

Demolition of the buildings, located at 422, 430 and 432 E. Grand Ave., began last week, and several parking spaces on Grand Avenue, and a majority of the Broad Street parking lot has been fenced off for equipment.

The Downtown Beloit Association (DBA) is holding a meeting this evening for businesses and property owners in the downtown area to discuss plans for emergency snow removal.

Shauna El-Amin, Executive Director for DBA, said normally crews plow snow into the middle of the street and then remove the snow later. But, because of the construction, there would not be enough room for traffic to pass through if snow was piled up in the middle of the road as it normally is in the downtown area.

About 150 letters were sent out to downtown businesses, property owners and apartment managers inviting them to the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Vision Center, 500 Public Ave.

El-Amin said several alternative options for snow removal have been discussed, but she declined to go into any further detail.

“We’ll be discussing one of the options more in-depth because we feel it’s the best option,” she said.

The letter says a short presentation will start the meeting, listing the ideas for snow removal and then officials will answer questions about the project.

Public works and engineering staff, City Manager Larry Arft and El-Amin are all expected to attend the meeting.

The barriers are expected to remain in place during demolition and through most of the winter.

Demolition on the buildings is expected to run through the end of the year, and construction is scheduled to begin in January. The entire project will take about a year to complete.

The new 70,000 square foot building will house commercial businesses on the lower floors, and residential living space on the top two floors. The plan is to allow students at Beloit College to live in the apartments.

Hendricks Commercial Property purchased the building in December 2011 after more than a decade of being vacant.