

Rain, mud can't chase fun

By Shaun Zinck szinck@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Monday, April 14, 2014 4:00 pm

A last-minute change of venue and rainy, windy weather didn't keep the crowds away Saturday from Downtown Beloit Association's annual "Eggstravaganza."

The Easter Egg hunt is usually held at Horace White Park, however, rainy weather caused the park to become too muddy for the event, said DBA Executive Director Shauna El-Amin. So the crowd made its way down the block to Vision Beloit, 500 Public Ave., for goodie bags, face painting and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

A long line formed outside the building, and children were able to grab five plastic eggs from two large bins. Some of the eggs were filled with red tickets and it meant the winner could pick out a prize from several different items such as kites, binoculars and toy trucks.

Once their eggs were opened they made their way to the goodie bag station, and all those who came received a bag filled with candy, chips and other items. Then they could get in line for face painting or a picture with the Easter Bunny.

Natalie Marino brought her 2-year-old daughter, Dalaini, for the first time. She said she heard about the event from her cousin.

"I thought it would be fun for her," she said. "She's even more excited to get a picture with the Easter Bunny."

Matt Karr brought his daughter, Evie, 2, to the event. Karr said they came last year too.

"I remember last year was pretty cold, but she likes seeing the Easter Bunny," he said.

Allyson and Garrett Bapp brought their two daughters, Audrey and Teagan, for the first time this year. Allyson said she thought the girls would have fun getting their face painted and visiting the Easter Bunny.

"They've been excited all morning," she said. "They were running around all morning with their bunny ears on."

Gavyn Edwards won a red ticket in one of his eggs and chose a Spiderman kite as his prize. His mother, Shelly, said he likes getting the eggs and goodie bags during the event.

Kayla Kingslien brought her daughter Lilyana after she heard about the event last week.

"I didn't get to do a lot of this stuff as a kid so I want her to experience as much of it as she can," Kingslien said.

El-Amin said the DBA ran out of the 400 goodie bags that it had packaged for the event.

“It was an amazing turnout,” she said after the event. “Changing the venue at the last minute had no impact on the number of children who came. We had well over 400 children and it was so much fun.”