

A bit of Germany comes to Beloit

Whitney Helm Staff writer | Posted: Friday, September 4, 2015 4:00 pm

A little bit of Germany is coming to the Midwest with the second annual Oktoberfest in Beloit.

Shauna El-Amin, executive director of Downtown Beloit Association, said the event born from the association's Street Dance event, is held every summer and draws crowds each year. It will take place on Sept. 26 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the 400 block of East Grand Avenue in downtown Beloit.

El-Amin said residents have asked the DBA to host more events like the "street dance," so organizers came up with an Oktoberfest event.

"We like doing Street Dance and people have asked us if we could do this every week," El-Amin said. "So we decided to have two different celebrations each year."

The event will feature three bands: ThunderJunk — a collection of Beloit College faculty and staff — at 5:30 p.m.; Zweifel Brothers at 7 p.m. and Jamie Campbell and the Redneck Romeos at 8:30 p.m. A beer tent and food vendors will also be part of the event.

Last year's fest was dampened by bitter cold weather, with temperatures in the lower 50s. Organizers are hoping for better weather this year.

Darren Larsen, owner of Café Fromage, said he was looking forward to the event, with better weather.

"It's a great event for downtown," Larsen said. "It gives everyone a chance to see what's on this side of downtown."

The event will cost \$5 for adults and \$1 for kids ages 4 and under.

"It's definitely a great time and a great way to showcase our downtown and create a fun atmosphere for partying in the street," El-Amin said. "We're hoping for a really good crowd and a really good time."

The event will serve as the fall kickoff for the DBA which also will be holding its Halloween Costume Parade and Party on Oct. 31. The event will mark the final Farmers Market of the season. In



Oktoberfest crowds

Photo providedA crowd enjoys the first Oktoberfest in Downtown Beloit last year. The second annual fest will be held on Sept. 26 at the 400 block of East Grand Avenue.

November the Grand Lighted Holiday Parade and then Holidazzle in December will round out the year of events for the association.

For more information about the events of the Downtown Beloit Association, go to the website at www.downtownbeloit.com.