

Chamber readies for Downtown Dash

By Hillary Gavan hgavan@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Saturday, April 11, 2015 10:00 am

The Second Annual Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) Downtown Dash 5K run/walk is coming back to Beloit.

The Dash will be held Saturday, May 2 and will coincide with the launch of the first day of the Beloit Farmers Market. The title sponsor of the Dash is Kerry Inc. The race will begin at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$25 or \$15 for students.

Last year the event attracted 130 walkers and runners.

"It was very successful. We are doing it again and hoping for 200 people," Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce Director of Operations Aimee Thurner said. "We are really excited to bring this to the Greater Beloit area again. Our amazing committee members for this event have planned a fun and healthy community event for all ages."

People will gather downtown for the race which starts at the Gantry at the corner of State Street and Grand Avenue. Runners will then zip along the path along the Rock River to the Ken Hendricks Memorial Bridge and return to cross the finish line downtown. Prizes will be awarded to winners in select age groups.

The event is the third biggest fundraising event for the chamber.

"It's a fun family event, but it is a timed event. You can be a serious runner, or you can be doing it just for fun," Thurner said.

Dogs are invited to run with their owners. Kids, and even strollers, are welcome.

Thurner said attendees will have two options for an after-party this year. People can stay downtown and enjoy the Beloit Farmer's Market or can go to Grand Avenue Pub, 132 W. Grand Ave., and enjoy additional food and drink specials.

People can only register online at <http://greaterbeloitichamber.org>. They can then click on "events" and scroll down to "Downtown Dash - 5K."



Dashing through downtown

The inaugural Downtown Dash attracted more than 130 participants in last year's Downtown Dash. Runners and walkers again will run or walk from the Gantry to the Ken Hendricks Memorial Bridge and back for the May 2 5k.

Downtown Beloit Association (DBA) Executive Director Shauna El-Amin said Beloit will host its first Beloit Farmers' Market of the year from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 2. It will run every Saturday until the last Saturday in October, which is Halloween.

The DBA is no longer having the Farmers Market pre-sale for May, as it is kicking off with the full market. State Street, Grand Avenue and the parking lot next to Bushel & Peck's will be filled with vendors.

El-Amin said there are more than 85 regular vendors at the Beloit Farmers' Market. They will have as much produce out as possible. She said vendors have been wanting to do a full market right away for a long time.

"We decided to expand it right away and go to a full-blown farmers' market. Everybody is waiting because they have spring fever," El-Amin said.

Vendors will have fruits and veggies, plants and flowers, meats, cheeses, eggs, crafts, breads, candles and baked items. There will also be a full food court, usually with about seven vendors.