

Downtown hosts Art Walk this weekend

By Hillary Gavan hgavan@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Tuesday, May 12, 2015 4:00 pm

Downtown Beloit will be filled with unique works of art and musical entertainment when the 13th annual Art Walk kicks off this weekend.

Artists, craftspeople and musicians will be selling their merchandise and entertaining crowds touring the downtown. During Art Walk some 50 artists will display their works, ranging from jewelry to paintings, at 25 participating businesses.

The event kicks off Friday, May 15 from 5 - 9 p.m. in downtown Beloit, and continues on Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Participating businesses will be showcasing local artisans' work.

Many artists return each year, said Crystal Buhmeyer, Downtown Beloit Association program coordinator.

It's not only a good chance to see what businesses have to offer, but it is a great chance to see local artwork and to experience the camaraderie of such a fun event.

"The ambiance is awesome," Buhmeyer said.

This year the free trolley rides will be back along with a clarinet player who will serenade riders.

Rob Tomaro and Colin Boltz of the Rock River Philharmonic will perform from 5 - 9 p.m. Friday at the Vision Center, 500 Public Ave.

A meet and greet Friday evening at Bagels and More, 324 State Street, will give Art-Walkers time to chat with the new Miss Beloit Kylie Thompson and Miss Outstanding Teen Chassidy Walworth.

Buhmeyer said the date of the event was changed this year to coincide with Beloit College commencement to give parents and students the opportunity to see downtown Beloit. On Saturday, people will also be able to partake in the accompanying farm market.

There are many veteran participants in Art Walk as well as a newcomer, The Flying Pig.

Buhmeyer urges visitors to watch for the pink and purple flags that will be flying outside



Art Walk fun

Susan Valenti, right, of Terramore, explains some of the jewelry and recycled creations to Susan Swedlund at The Villager in downtown Beloit during last year's Art Walk. This year Art Walk will be held Friday and Saturday in downtown Beloit.

participating businesses. Brochures with maps will be available at all those locations, restaurants and at Vision Beloit. For a preview, Art Walk enthusiasts can make their plans by visiting www.downtownbeloit.com.

The Art Walk transformation of Beloit's downtown into a multi-block art gallery is made possible by Downtown Beloit Association, Kerry, Hendricks Commercial Properties, Beloit Daily News, Jones Travel, McDonald's, Turtle Creek Bookstore and Wisconsin Distributors.