

Time for dancing in the streets

By Sophie Harris sharris@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 4:00 pm

On Aug. 7 and 8, the streets of downtown Beloit will be filled with dancing, drinking, shopping and eating.

The 22nd Annual Street Dance and Downtown Celebration will allow citizens to kick back and relax, or if they choose, to get up and dance. Downtown Beloit Association Program Coordinator Crystal Buhmeyer said people look forward to hanging out downtown in a relaxed setting and having a good time.

“Our sidewalk sales will begin Friday,” Buhmeyer said. “Downtown businesses and other local businesses can set up booths and sell things.”

According to Buhmeyer, these booths will carry a wide range of items, like baked goods, jewelry and home decor. After the weekly Fridays in the Park event from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at The Gantry, the Street Dance will officially begin at 5:30 p.m. with music by the Extra Crispy Brass Band. There will be an “Uptown Funk” street dance at 7:30 p.m. led by public safety agency personnel. Then at 8 p.m., Cold Sweat and the Brew City Horns will take the stage.

Buhmeyer said there will be multiple food vendors at the event, and the entire 300 block of State Street would close for the evening.

“Usually you can’t drink on a public street, but this one night is the exception,” Buhmeyer said.

There will be beer tents at the event, which she said will make it a night of celebration.

“We want to celebrate downtown Beloit,” Buhmeyer said.

The Street Dance brings as many as 3,500 people to the streets of Beloit each year, and Buhmeyer said more and more attend each year. The Street Dance serves as the Downtown Beloit Association’s largest fundraiser of the year. Buhmeyer said money raised allows the association to fund multiple other events throughout the year.

“It helps with everything it takes for us to function,” Buhmeyer said. “It’s really something different that people love. They enjoy the ambiance of the night.”

Buhmeyer said some new businesses will have booths at the event this year alongside many longtime participants, like Stanton Shoes.

“It’s a great time for businesses to pull in some sales,” Buhmeyer said.

Sidewalk sales will continue into Saturday with the Farmer’s Market from 8 - 1 p.m. The final event

in the Street Dance weekend is the Kubb Tournament, hosted by the Parks and recreation Department, at Riverside Park at 9 a.m. Saturday.