

Celebrate Beloit - It's time for the Street Dance!

By ERICA PENNINGTON Staff writer | Posted: Thursday, August 4, 2016 4:00 pm

BELOIT — It's time to pick out some comfortable shoes and head downtown for a night of dancing in the street. — No, you won't get in trouble.

Beloit's beloved Street Dance, which has been hosted by the Downtown Beloit Association (DBA) for the past 23 years, will once again return to State Street from 5:30-11 p.m. Friday. Two live bands will perform and everyone is encouraged to stop by and bust a move, enjoy some delicious food and have a blast with their friends and neighbors. Admission to the dance is \$5.

"The Street Dance is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and proceeds from the night go to the different programming and projects that the DBA does," said Crystal Cribbs, DBA promotions coordinator. "We love this event, because it really shows just how great our downtown is."

The DBA helps support more than 160 unique businesses in the downtown Beloit district. The organization hosts the Farmers Market, Halloween Costume Parade and Party, Holidazzle and more throughout the year. It also helps support initiatives like the Mel Donny Flower fund, which beautifies downtown, and offers grants for projects like facade improvements.

Festivities will kick off at 8 a.m. Friday with sidewalk sales and kids activities at downtown Beloit businesses. Fridays in the Park will take place from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at First National Bank Plaza. Live music will be performed by The Lone Canary and lunch will be offered by Merrill & Houston's Steak Joint.

Sales will wrap up around 2 p.m. State Street will then be closed off to traffic and the stage will be prepared for the night's festivities.

Mister Big Stuff, an eight piece band, will take the stage at 5:30 p.m. The group has been performing rock, funk, R&B and more together since 1999. The lead singer of the group is Scott Herrmann. Vocals and guitar are provided by George Wulf. Rick DeRango (trumpet and flugelhorn), Pat Liddell (keys, guitar and vocals), Russ Wallace (bass and vocals), Doug Maracco (drums), Phil Pilcher (saxophones) and Paul Rehfeldt (trombone) round out the group.

"They're going to provide really energetic music and keep the crowd intrigued" Cribbs said.

After Mister Big Stuff is wrapped up at around 7:30 p.m., the Beloit Memorial High School Knightingales Step Team will perform. The Cold Sweat and Brew City Horns, a Wisconsin band featuring dynamic vocals



Have a blast!

The Street Dance always draws large crowds to Downtown Beloit. This year's fun will take place from 5:30-11 p.m. August 5.

and a three-piece horn section, will keep the crowd moving from 8-11 p.m. before Street Dance activities wrap up for the night.

On Saturday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. the Farmers Market will bring over 85 vendors to downtown. Sidewalk sales will continue at participating businesses.