

# Celebrate Weekend coming soon

By RYAN SILVOLA Staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 4:00 pm

BELOIT — Eating, shopping and a whole night of dancing in order to liven up Beloit. That's what the Downtown Beloit Association (DBA) promises with its largest fundraiser of the year — Celebrate Weekend, on Aug. 5 and 6.

Shauna El-Amin, executive director, said DBA's goal is to animate downtown Beloit and to bring more businesses to that area. She said the DBA animates the town by putting on different events for the community that also allow residents to enjoy the beauty of Beloit.

"It's an opportunity for the community to dance, eat and shop," El-Amin said.

She said the businesses stay open late, providing more time for residents to peruse local store owner's items.

"It's a fun time for people to let loose a little bit," El-Amin said.

She said all of the events on Friday will take place on State Street in downtown Beloit, which will be closed off for the event.

This year marks the 23rd annual Celebrate Weekend, which begins with the sidewalk sale from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Friday. This includes deals from local shops and vendors as well as face painting and balloon animals.

"Obviously with kids being out of school for the summer, we want to have some fun activities," El-Amin said.

Fridays in the Park will take place from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Folk/Americana band The Lone Canary will be playing, and there will be lunch for \$7 from Merrill & Houston's Steak Joint.

The Street Dance opens from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. with Mr. Big Stuff providing the music. They are an eight-piece party band with a horn section that will play show tunes, rock, funk, R&B and soul. El-Amin said the band has never been to downtown Beloit, but the local artists have "rocked out" at different events around town, including at Music at Harry's Place.

Beloit Memorial High School's step team the Knightingales will be performing at the 7:30 p.m. intermission before the headliner, Cold Sweat & The Brew City Horns, plays from 8 - 11 p.m. at the dance.

"We brought them last year, and they were amazing," El-Amin said. "It was definitely a great, great show."



## Dancing in the streets

Downtown Beloit Association's 22nd annual Street Dance kicked off last year with live music, vendors and of course dancing. Rhonda Heumiller and her four-year-old granddaughter Kaylee Myers danced to swing music.

The DBA will host its farmer's market and sidewalk sales from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, with more than 85 vendors on State St. and East Grand Ave.

El-Amin said Celebrate Weekend typically brings out 3,500 people, earning the DBA a net profit of \$15-20,000.

The DBA hosts 50 days of events annually. Their second yearly fundraiser, Oktoberfest, is on Sept. 23.