DBA PLANS SPRING TRADITIONS, INCLUDING FARMERS MARKET

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BDN file photo Visitors to the Downtown Beloit Farmers Market can collect plants, flowers, early produce, honey, eggs and more, as seen in this photo. The Farmers Market is held in downtown Beloit each Saturday from May through October.

BELOIT - The recent spring snow in the Stateline Area is only making people long for the sights and smells of fresh flowers and produce all the more.

Well, the people at the Downtown Beloit Association say, take heart. A few spring-time traditions soon will be here to usher in the new season.

"Think spring. It will eventually come," said Crystal Cribbs, promotions coordinator for the Downtown Beloit Association.

She added the bit of snow we just had only builds the anticipation for our coming events.

The Downtown Beloit Farmers Market will kick off May 5 in the area of State Street and Grand Avenue.

The Farmers Market will start out with about 60 vendors, but it will grow to include about 90 vendors at the height of the growing season.

The Farmers Market is held from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. each Saturday from May through October.

Cribbs said there won't be a lot of fresh produce for sale at the market early in the season, but there will be vendors selling cheese, honey, meats, soap and other products. There will be some plants for sale.

"With Mother's Day coming up, there will be people who want to buy a plant for mothers or grandmothers," Cribbs said.

Another sign of spring in Downtown Beloit is the annual Art Walk, which is set for May 11.

More than 30 artists and crafters will be hosted by about 25 businesses in downtown Beloit during the Art Walk. There also will be performances and demonstrations during the event, set for 5 - 9 p.m.

"We try to get the Beloit Memorial High School choir or the drama club to do a performance," Cribbs said. "It is about celebrating the arts in Beloit."

A downtown spring celebration would not be complete without another Downtown Beloit Association tradition - Fridays in the Park.

Music and munching is the feature of this event which will be held each Friday from May 25 through Sept. 21 at First National Bank Plaza, near the corner of State Street and Grand Avenue.

The event is held from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and features live music and an affordable lunch served by a downtown restaurant. As has been the tradition in years past, the first musical feature on May 25 will be the Beloit Memorial High School Jazz Band.

The event allows downtown business people and residents to enjoy an outdoor lunch, listen to some soothing music and enjoy some conversation with friends and neighbors.

The plans are in place for some enjoyable springtime events in downtown Beloit. Now all that is needed is for Mother Nature to cooperate.