

FARMERS MARKET KICKS OFF TO BIG CROWD

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Clint Wolf/Beloit Daily News A sizable crowd turned out Saturday morning for the first Downtown Beloit Farmers Market of the season. The Farmers Market, featuring vegetables, flowers and more, is held each Saturday through October in downtown Beloit.

BELOIT - Saturday marked the true beginning of spring in the Stateline Area as vendors unpacked their plants, flowers and vegetables to sell at the first Downtown Beloit Farmers Market of the season. ☐

The sun was out and so were the crowds of people looking to take advantage of the warm weather and the wide selection of items for sale at the Farmers Market, located on State Street and Grand Avenue.

Gayle and Jack Krevel of Machesney Park said they have been coming to the Beloit Farmers Market for years.

"I used to go to a farmers market in Madison, but then I found this one and I thought, wow, this is awesome," Gayle Krevel said.

Finding the selection offered so close to home made her a regular at the market in downtown Beloit.

The Krevels had stopped by the Willow Creek Acres booth, when Brenda Dautermann and her daughter Valerie McCannon were selling tomato plants, herbs and flowers.

"We've been part of this farmers market for about eight years," McCannon said.

She said Dautermann has a greenhouse and they start growing their plants in March so they are ready for their customers at the Farmers Market by the first week in May.

Brooke Suddeth, of Shady Tree Farm Market, said she has been coming to the Beloit Farmers Market all her life. She said her great grandfather started selling plants at the market and she is continuing the tradition. She was selling rhubarb, flowers and other items to customers dropping by her spot near the corner of State Street and Grand Avenue.

Hanging flower baskets, honey, cheese, hand-crafted items and a variety of home grown items from rhubarb to mushrooms were on sale at the market in downtown Beloit.

The Downtown Beloit Association says the Farmers Market usually starts out with around 60 vendors. Once the growing season gets going, the market can feature over 80 vendors.

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