

STREET DANCE RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN BELOIT

August 02, 2018 at 10:21 am | By [Erica Pennington \(mailto:epennington@beloitdailynews.com\)](mailto:epennington@beloitdailynews.com)



BDN file photo The Downtown Beloit Association Street Dance draws large crowds to State Street each August. The beloved event features live music, food, activities and much more as part of "Celebrate Weekend." Street Dance is the Downtown Beloit Association's largest fundraiser of the year.

BELOIT - The Downtown Beloit Association is celebrating 30 years of helping transform the city's historic center into a community hub.

The organization's many successes will be on full display during Celebrate Weekend, which features sidewalk sales, the Street Dance and Farmers Market.

"We like to try and have a whole weekend of activities," said Shauna El-Amin, Downtown Beloit Association executive director.

The 2018 Downtown Beloit Association Celebrate Weekend activities will begin as local businesses open up their doors and offer a variety of sidewalk sales on Friday.

"There also will be vendors participating and there is a complete list of shops offering sales on our Facebook page," El-Amin said.

Shoppers can take a break from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for Fridays in the Park at the corner of State Street and Grand Avenue. This week's meal, which costs \$7 and includes a drink, is being provided by Zen Sushi and Grill. Live music will be provided by Danielle at First National Bank Plaza.

"Fridays in the Park is a great way for people to get out of their office and celebrate the start of the weekend," El-Amin said.

State Street will come to life and start drawing crowds starting at 5:30 p.m. as the beloved Street Dance kicks off.

During the event, which runs until 11 p.m., the street will be off-limits to traffic and instead become the perfect venue for pedestrians who want to take in live music and get up and dance.

The event is the perfect opportunity to spend quality time with friends, family and neighbors. Admission is \$5 per person.

"The ambiance of downtown is really special when you have live bands, close down the streets and the businesses are staying open late," El-Amin said.

The 2018 Street Dance Lineup will begin with Top Flight Band opening the evening. The Beloit-based group will be performing pop, funk, R&B, soft rock and blues music from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on stage.

From 8-11 p.m. the 2018 Street Dance headliner, Mr. Big Stuff, will perform. The Rockford group is an eight-piece party band that plays show tunes, rock classics, funk, R&B and soul music.

"We hope that everyone is ready to come out and have a great time," El-Amin said.

In addition to being a lot of fun, the Street Dance is the Downtown Beloit Association's largest fundraiser of the year. It helps to support the organization's mission of provide resources for downtown businesses, as well as helping to beautify and animate the city's historic downtown district.

There are currently 170 businesses who receive representation and help from the Downtown Beloit Association.

Celebrate Weekend will continue on Saturday with the Farmers Market, which takes place from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. along State Street and Grand Avenue.

Visitors to the Farmers Market can expect to find all sorts of produce, organic goods, baked treats, flowers, meat, eggs and cheese, crafts and skin care products. Downtown Beloit businesses will also continue their Sidewalk Sale offerings and lots of tasty food options will be available via food trucks and local restaurants.

"Celebrate Weekend is a great opportunity to see downtown extremely animated and find lots of cool things to do," El-Amin said. "Kids are going back to school soon, so this is a chance to get out and have fun with friends."

For more information on Celebrate Weekend and the Downtown Beloit Association visit www.downtownbeloit.com or 'Like' Downtown Beloit Association on Facebook.