

OKTOBERFEST TO FEATURE BEER AND HAMMERSCHLAGEN

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BDN file photo Oktoberfest will return to downtown Beloit on Sept. 20 featuring music, food and drink for the masses.

BELOIT - Grab your lederhosen, or perhaps a pair of bib overalls.

The Sixth Annual Oktoberfest will be back running from 5:30 - 11 p.m. on Sept. 20 in downtown Beloit, featuring live music, beer, food, fun and more.

"It's full of exciting German beers, and Hammerschlagen is sure to be a great time. You can win prizes for playing," said Downtown Beloit Association (DBA) Executive Director Shauna El-Amin.

Hammerschlagen, a competitive game involving hitting a nail into a log, will be played all throughout the night. There also will be a face painter and balloon animalist.

El-Amin said each year the event grows. It attracted 1,222 people last year and with more of them wearing costumes. The event will include an Oktoberfest-themed costume contest for best couple, kids and individuals with accompanying prizes.

For a simple costume, El-Amin said people could try wearing tall socks, bib overalls, lederhosen, a cute dress or peasant style blouse. Last year a few volunteers dressed up as beer mugs.

El-Amin also said a growing number of high school reunion groups are choosing to meet and celebrate together at Oktoberfest.

The German-themed event will take place from 5:30-11 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for kids ages 4-12.

The day's activity lineup will kick off with downtown Beloit businesses participating in sidewalk sales that start at 8 a.m. From 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. the final Fridays in the Park of the season will take place near the corner of State Street and Grand Avenue at the First National Bank Plaza.

The Zweifel Brothers will be providing live German-style music and polkas while the Velvet Buffalo Cafe will be serving a meal and drink for \$7.

Oktoberfest activities will kick off at 5:30 p.m. along the 300 block of State Street. The Zweifel Brothers will perform until 7:30 p.m. From approximately 8-11 p.m. the Zac Matthews Band will play.

All proceeds of Oktoberfest will go to the DBA for its revitalization efforts.

Oktoberfest is the second largest DBA fundraiser of the year, right behind the Street Dance. For more information, visit www.downtownbeloit.com or 'Like' Downtown Beloit Association on Facebook.