

10th ANNIVERSARY
**DOWNTOWN
 WEST BEND**

Germanfest to get a boost from new Eisenbahn marathon

By JUDY STEFFES
 For the Downtown News

The 25th anniversary of West Bend's annual Germanfest will get a kick-start this year with a marathon and half-marathon.

The event is a team effort, coordinated by the Kettle Moraine and Fond du Lac YMCAs and the Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse of Washington County.

The 26.2-mile course will begin at Eden Village Park in Fond du Lac County, and will follow the Eisenbahn State Trail and end at the newly renovated train depot in West Bend.

The half-marathon, which will begin at 6:45 a.m., starts on Ashford-Auburn Drive for 800 yards just north of the county line and finishes in West Bend.

"We thought of Seafood Fest, Jam for Kids, Fourth of July, etcetera. Germanfest seemed like a great fit because it is unique and specific to West Bend's history," said marathon volunteer coordinator Kraig Sadownikow.

Although the run is still in the organizational stage, the event is slated to kick-off early, at 6 a.m., so runners can avoid the mid-day August heat and finish near the downtown to take advantage of Saturday events.

"A couple great attributes to ending downtown are that we will be able to display not only Germanfest, but also offer exposure to the Farmer's Market and all the restaurants, bars and coffee shops," said Sadownikow.

Also scheduled for downtown West Bend that day is the Riverwalk Art Fair, sponsored by the Daily News, and the Quad-Parish Youth

Outreach Strawberry Pancake Breakfast, which is part of Germanfest.

Aside from showing off the downtown, runners will be able to experience the industrial history of West Bend as the race winds through the old West Bend Co. and former Gehl Co., Sadownikow said.

"With the Amity tower and Old County Courthouse in the background, the renovated depot and hopefully the Museum of Wisconsin Art at the finish line, the run will really put West Bend on display — especially for people who come from out of town," Sadownikow said.

Because organizers are working to certify the course as a qualifier for the Boston Marathon, there has already been significant interest.

Mary Simon is executive director with the Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse of Washington County. Last year the AODA organized a triathlon, which drew more than 300 athletes, many from outside the area.

"At the triathlon last year, 68 percent of the participants resided outside of Washington County. There's no reason to believe that this statistic will be that much different for the marathon," said Simon. "What a great way to promote tourism and showcase all we have to offer here in West Bend. Plus if the community turns out and cheers on the participants it will add to an exciting finish line."

Simon is already starting to see an uptick in early registrations, drawing interest across Wisconsin and Illinois.

"Even though the event is still five months out I am hearing a lot of enthusiasm in the

community," she said. "After an article ran in February in the West Bend Daily News we had two new registrations, a person interested in volunteering and a local hotel that wants to partner and offer participants a discounted rate."

Between 600 to 800 runners are expected to participate.

The entrance fee for the marathon is \$60 until March 31 and then rates increase. A half-marathon is also being organized. More information can be found online at www.adrenalineraces.org.

Grasshopper to open

Grasshopper Restaurant, which recently opened at 241-243 N. Main St., is drawing rave reviews.

"Actually I'm taking over the St. Somewhere site and my restaurant will be the whole corner building," said owner Stefanie Ulma, who will also occupy the business next door, previously home to Ruth-Anne's Gourmet Market.

Ulma and her father bought the building on the southeast corner of Main and Mill Drive in April. The new business has a combination class B liquor license and features "homemade everything," according to Ulma.

"I will have ice cream and gluten-free products, gluten-free breads and desserts," she said.

The restaurant will be open for breakfast, lunch and private parties. The St. Somewhere Cafe coffee shop closed early last year as owners John and Cathy Dunton retired to spend more time with their family.

Ruth-Anne's Gourmet Market moved down

the street to a new location at 136 N. Main St.

Celebrating Girl Power

The Old Courthouse Museum will be celebrating Women's History Month with an event called "Girl Power - 1940s Style."

The event will feature women's roles on the home front during World War II.

Among the events include victory gardens, jitterbugging, Movie Tone newsreels and other blasts from the past.

While GIs bravely fought overseas during World War II, girls joined family efforts on the home front to assure victory.

Through authentic artifacts and stories, today's girls will get a glimpse of life that included sacrifice and ingenuity, rationing and shortages, and how growing a "Victory Garden" was an important part of the war effort.

University of Wisconsin-Washington County professor Michael Mattek will make a guest appearance and teach "The Jitterbug." Mattek teaches ballroom dance at UW-WC and will have participants "jumpin' and jiving" to the lively beat of 1940s music.

There will also be audio of vintage radio broadcasts, snacks of applesauce cupcakes and vintage crafts, including piecing together a paper quilt square and stitching a "situpon."

"Girl Power - 1940s Style" takes place on Saturday, March 13, from 8:45 a.m. to noon. The Washington County Historical Society, West Bend Community Memorial Library and University of Wisconsin-Extension present the fun activity.

Business updates

■ Riverside Brewery and its brewmaster, Christopher George, took second place in the Fond du Lac Brewfest held on Feb. 6 at the Fond du Lac County Fairground Expo Center. Sixty beers from 21 Wisconsin breweries competed. Riverside Brewery and Restaurant entered three beers: Smashing Pumpkin Ale, Broken Oak Abbey Dubbel Ale, and Main Street Amber Ale.

■ Tastings Food & Spirits is for sale. Jerry Grosnick from Exit Realty XL is representing the sale of the restaurant, 315 N. Main St., seats 55 and the party room seats 50. Brian and Gerri Liteski own the business. The asking price is \$400,000.

■ Déjà vu has closed. Patti Derge opened the downtown consignment store, 121 S. Main St., three years ago.

■ A new paint contracting business has opened at 113 N. 6th Ave. Prep 'n Paint is owned by Jeffrey Margenau. He has been in business since 1986.

■ West Bend Art Center Framing & Illustrations has a new storefront sign at 125 N. Main St. The sign features a framed painting of a woman with long black hair painting a red and orange flower. A similar sign hangs at the back of the building on 6th Avenue.

■ There's a new banner hanging over the entrance to Northern Lights Tattoo, which opened in January, at 347 S. Main St.

■ Integrity Log Homes and Design for Style has moved out of the Baird building at 111 N. Main St.

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Girl Power - 1940's Style!

Saturday, March 13
8-45am - 12:00pm
Old Courthouse Museum
320 S. 5th Avenue, West Bend

Girls in 2nd through 5th grades are invited to learn about girls in the 1940's and life on the home front of WWII. Period crafts, activities, snacks and fun!

Come dressed like the 1940's!
 \$15 per girl • Ask about discounts • Space is limited
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Washington County Historical Society
 320 S. 5th Avenue, West Bend, WI 53095
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