

Street Fest returns to Port Sunday

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Fifth annual community celebration will feature music, vendors and more

The fifth annual Port Washington Community Street Festival will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 27.

Franklin Street will be closed off for the festival, which is a celebration of the community and its downtown.

“This is a great opportunity for people to support their local businesses,” said Cathy Wilger, chairman of the festival’s organizing committee.

This year’s event will include many of the attractions found in previous years — booths by city businesses, a bounce house, chalk drawings, face painting, a Port Washington Fire Department truck, the police department’s DARE vehicle and children’s games.

The Disney princesses — including Cinderella, Belle, Jasmine and Mary Poppins and perhaps Snow White — will be on hand from 1 to 4 p.m. outside Pear & Simple, and a princess boutique will be set up next door so youngsters can primp for their visit with royalty, Wilger said.

A hole-in-one contest will be held in Rotary Park throughout the day. Golfers will try their hand at hitting a ball onto a hole set in a boat in the west slip.

The Port Washington Yacht Club will be offering free boat rides throughout the festival, with a shuttle taking people from Franklin Street to the marina, Wilger said.

Port Washington Main Street, which sponsors the festival, will begin to participate in foursquare, where people can check in using their smartphones to accumulate points for various rewards, Executive Director Sara Grover said.

In addition, Main Street will begin selling naming rights to the trees, planters, bike racks and benches that line Franklin Street, she said. The street festival began when Franklin Street was reconstructed and amenities like these were placed along it.

More than 70 vendors, including businesses and service clubs, will line Franklin Street to sell a variety of items, including children’s books, fresh produce, plants and baked goods.

Duluth Trading Co., which will open in the Smith Bros. Marketplace building, will have a booth, as will the Port Washington Historical Society, which is purchasing two downtown buildings for its archives and a museum.

Northern Cross Science Foundation will set up telescopes so people can safely view the sun, she said.

Ozaukee Sports Center will offer laser tag, and a number of city restaurants will have their

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specialties on hand for purchase.

A full lineup of entertainment will be part of the festival. Wilger said that at the Performing Arts Stage in front of Port Washington State Bank, Port Washington High School's award winning a capella group Limited Edition will perform at 12:30 p.m. followed by Impact Dance from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and Lake Shore Dance from 3:30 to 4 p.m.

Otto Day and the Nites will play at the South Stage beginning at 1 p.m. and Soul Kitchen will be at the north stage beginning at 12:30 p.m.