



It is with immense pride and joy that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our beloved community on the successful completion of first provide the second the year of our city, the Department of Street Percentration and It is with immense price and joy that i extend my neartient congratulations to our beloved community on the successful completion and of two monumental projects that have transformed the very heart of our city: the Downtown Main Street Reconstruction and Downtown Private and Projects that have transformed the very heart of our city is a chieved when we come to other with a chieved private and the set of the context of the of two monumental projects that have transformed the very heart of our city: the Downtown Main Street Reconstruction and Downtown Riverwalk. These projects stand as shining examples of what can be achieved when we come together with a shared vision and determination First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the downtown businesses. Thank you for your incredible patience and positivity throughout these projects. The challenges you've feeed during this time have not gone unnoticed. Your FIISt and Totemost, I would like to express my neartien grantide to the downtown businesses. Thank you for your increation patience and positivity throughout these projects. The challenges you've faced during this time have not gone unnoticed. Your metalling and determination are increased. We look forward to coning the increase their or comparison of the increase we have not gone. patience and positivity inrougnout inese projects. The challenges you ve faced during unsume nave not gone unnouced. Four resilience and determination are inspirational. We look forward to seeing your businesses thrive on our newly-revitalized Main The \$4.6M reconstructed Main Street features a new underground stormwater system, watermain and water services to all of the buildings, applet reading v ADA accessible sidewalks, 20 additional parking stalls, safe pedestrian arcssings, landscape bed

Ine \$4.0M reconstructed Main Street reatures a new underground stormwater system, watermain and water services to an of the buildings, asphalt roadway, ADA accessible sidewalks, 20 additional parking stalls, safe pedestrian crossings, landscape beds,

uniumgs, aspnan roauway, ADA accessione sidewaiks, 20 auditional parking stans, safe pedesuran crossings, randst modern lighting, a water fountain/pet watering station, informational kiosk, sound system, and EV charging stations. The \$10M Downtown Riverwalk Project design started in 2019, a significant utilities upgrade was completed in 2021 and Biverwalk construction commenced in July 2022. It strutches 4.243 fact (or 82 miles) from Veterare Avenue bridge north to The \$10M Downtown Kiverwaik Project design started in 2019, a significant utilities upgrade was completed in 2021 and Riverwalk construction commenced in July 2022. It stretches 4,343 feet (or .82 miles) from Veterans Avenue bridge north to Riverbare Drive The registed is budge regulated and the construction of the stretches 2,572 foot of soiling. Units in a budge and the Kiverwaik construction commenced in July 2022. It stretcnes 4,545 feet (or .82 miles) from veterans Avenue bridge norm to Rivershores Drive. The project includes new riverwalls, concrete walkways, 2,573 feet of railing, lighting, landscaping, asphalt

Kiversnores Drive. The project includes new riverwalls, concrete walkways, 2,575 feet of railing, lignung, landscaping, asphalt parking lots, a new kayak launch and fishing deck, revitalized covered walkway to Main Street, and a pedestrian underpass below Highway 33 - creating segments interconnectivity from Degree Deck to the historic downtown Highway 33—creating seamless interconnectivity from Regner Park to the historic downtown. These monumental projects were made possible by many talented and dedicated professionals. For the Main Street reconstruction project, Mitch Leisses of Kunkel Engineering, and Max Marechal of the City Engineering For the Main Street reconstruction project, Mitch Leisses of Nunker Engineering, and Max Marechai of the City Engineering Department, have shown exceptional commitment, leadership and expertise in managing this complex project. Your professionalism and vision have truly made a positive impact, and we are grateful for you and your team's cutatonding work. Thank you to Todd Department, nave snown exceptional commitment, leadership and expertise in managing this complex project. Four professionalism and vision have truly made a positive impact, and we are grateful for you and your team's outstanding work. Thank you to Todd and vision nave truly made a positive impact, and we are graterili for you and your team s outstanding work. Thank you to roud Dorner and Dorner Construction for leading this project. You and your team were exceptionally accommodating, flexible and determined to execute this project at the highest level. Thenks to the menusule contractors including **PMCI** Construction Steiner

Dorner and Dorner Construction for leading unis project. You and your team were exceptionally accommodating, nextore and determined to execute this project at the highest level. Thanks to the many sub-contractors, including BMCI Construction, Steiner Electric Stork Payament, Crowley Construction, and many more Thank you to the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) Board for its role in the planning process, and for financially supporting the project. We are fortunate to have a committed group of leaders dedicated to continuous improvement and Inank you to the Downtown Business improvement District (BID) Board for its role in the planning process, and for mancially supporting the project. We are fortunate to have a committed group of leaders dedicated to continuous improvement and Electric, Stark Pavement, Crowley Construction, and many more.

On the Downtown Riverwalk project, I want to recognize Mike Jentsch and his exceptional Parks, Recreation, and Forestry On the Downtown Kiverwark project, 1 want to recognize wrike Jenisch and nis exceptional Parks, Kecreation, and Porestry team for their unwavering commitment, exemplary project management, and unparalleled expertise in coordinating this complex project. A heartful thanks goes to City Administrator Law Shambaou, for his resolute leadership throughout the East and West ieani ior ineir unwavernig communent, exemplary project management, and unparaneted expertise in coordinating tins complex project. A heartfelt thanks goes to City Administrator Jay Shambeau, for his resolute leadership throughout the East and West Pitronyalk developments. Your professionalism and streatfest empressible here left on indelible medic and we are professionalism. enhancement of the downtown area!

project. A nearuen manks goes to City Administrator Jay Snambeau, for his resolute leadership throughout the East and west Riverwalk developments. Your professionalism and steadfast approach have left an indelible mark, and we are profoundly A special thank you is extended to Steve Janke and the entire Janke General Contractors team for their exceptional work ethic and automatic offers. Your team's remarkable edentability. Beribility and determination made it reacible to complete the region A special mank you is extended to Sieve Janke and the entire Janke General Contractors team for their exceptional work entire and outstanding efforts. Your team's remarkable adaptability, flexibility, and determination made it possible to the Diversible including incoments cheed of coheduled. We are also grateful to the numerous subcontractors tube contributed to the Diversible including grateful for your outstanding work.

outstanding efforts. Your team's remarkable adaptability, nexibility, and determination made it possible to complete the project nine months ahead of schedule! We are also grateful to the numerous subcontractors who contributed to the Riverwalk, including Short Elliett Handrickeen Inc. (SEII). Cost Construction and Stainer Electric My gratitude extends to our city's elected, private sector, administrative and department head leaders for their instrumental local tradecity educesting for these projects with our constituents and local Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH), Cost Construction, and Steiner Electric. My gratitude extends to our city's elected, private sector, administrative and department nead leaders for their instrumental roles in securing the necessary funding and tirelessly advocating for these projects with our constituents and local hybridesees. Therefore, all for your dedication and convict to the City of West Deed

businesses. Thank you all for your dedication and service to the City of West Bend. Let's embrace this new chapter of our historic downtown with open arms and hearts, knowing that the best is yet to come.

Joel Ongert, Mayor



Mayor Joel Ongert



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SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE FOR MORE EVENT INFO!





Photo courtesy of Sheila Kruepke

The Bend Theater, 125 N. Main St., with its marquee lit up at night in downtown West Bend, a night before the road was officially re-opened.

Back on Main events

WEST BEND — Back on Main will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 3 and 2 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 4 on Main Street in West Bend.

The event will serve as a way to celebrate the grand re-opening of Main Street, following the completion of the Main Street Reconstruction project on Oct. 13.

A portion Main Street will be blocked off during the event, which will feature fire pits for roasting marshmallows, booths with hot chocolate and deals at participating stores throughout downtown West Bend.

A total of 17 stores will also be participating in Holiday Open Houses this weekend. Stop by to see their holiday decorations while checking out their deals. For a full list of

participating shops, visit shopinwestbend.com.

Additionally, participating bars and restaurants will get in on the fun with a specialty drink that can be ordered during the weekend. According to the Downtown West Bend Association (DBWA), \$2 from each of the specialty drinks sold will be donated to the Washington County Humane Society.

According to the DWBA, there will also be children's activities from 2 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 4.

As for music, there will be a total of nine bands and DJs performing throughout three locations during Back on Main:

Nov. 3

Tim Kieffer — 5 to 8 p.m. outside The Antidote (302 N. Main St.)

The Dualing Knights -

5 to 8 p.m. on the Old Settlers Park stage (200 N. Main St.)

Gabriella Zamansky - 5 to 8 p.m. outside West Bend Music Academy (102 N. Main St.)

Nov. 4

Midnight Lyrics - 2 to 5 p.m. outside The Antidote Keith Minikel - 2 to 5 p.m.

on the Old Settlers Park stage

Aly Hauser - 2 to 5 p.m. outside West Bend Music Academy

Love, Light & Harmony -5 to 8 p.m. outside The Antidote

Sam Rodewald - 5 to 8 p.m. on the Old Settlers Park stage

Bryan O'Donnell - 5 to 8 p.m. outside West Bend Music Academy

'The energy and excitement is already in the air' Back on Main Street in West Bend

By Grayson Sewell gsewell@conleynet.com 262-306-5043

WEST BEND — Main Street is open once again in West Bend, and to celebrate the Downtown West Bend Association (DWBA) will be holding Back on Main on Nov. 3 and 4, an event to welcome members of the West Bend, Washington County and southeastern Wisconsin communities back to Main Street in style.

Additionally, on Nov. 2, West Bend will be holding their Christmas Tree Lighting at 5:30 p.m., which will serve as an unofficial kickoff to the grand re-opening weekend for Main Street.

Main Street underwent reconstruction starting in April of this year. Additionally, the Downtown Riverwalk project along the

west side of the Milwaukee River, which is behind the businesses on the east side of Main Street, was being carried out at the same time, after construction of this portion of the Riverwalk beginning in the summer of 2022.

The two projects led to issues with parking and the convenience of traversing downtown West Bend throughout the summer in 2023, and businesses had to weather a storm to make it through.

But, as of Oct. 16, both projects are now completed, with West Bend holding ribbon cuttings for Main Street on Oct. 13 and the Riverwalk on Oct. 16 to celebrate their openings, both of which were ahead of schedule

The Main Street Reconstruction project finished up 10 days early, and the Downtown Riverwalk project finished a staggering nine months early, making the area what some call a crown jewel of the county.

"What West Bend has is the crown jewel of Washington County," said Todd Tennies of Tennies Ace Hardware. "I look at the downtown business district as being a fabulous place to shop, along with the Riverwalk and the Eisenbahn Trail. it's a destination people will want to come to."

"I think it looks fantastic," said The Bend Executive Director Bill Buettner. "I do miss some of the greenery that went with it, but I just think the way it's so nice, flat and new, which we did have some trip hazards out their [before construction] with uneven cob-

is going to be so much nicer. "And, once they get some planters and things going, it's going to be really nice.'

The Bend, unlike most downtown restaurants and businesses, decided to scale back a bit on their summer offerings, throughout the summer. Others who followed suit include both The Norbert and Pilot Boutique & Unique Finds, who both closed for renovations during the construction process.

According to Buettner, they are excited to be back to their full slate of offerings.

"Now that the road's open again, every weekend there is going to be something coming up from now through the holidays," said Buettner.

According to Christy

blestone, so safety-wise this Lafontant, owner of downtown boutique Christy Mac's, not only does the downtown area look amazing, there is also excitement in the air downtown now that the construction process is over.

> "It's so exciting. The energy and excitement is already in the air, for sure,' said Lafontant. "I love it, it's beautiful. It reminds me of the end of the movie 'Cars' ... at the end they have all their neon lights go on and they can drive down the roads, it reminds me of that."

> According to Mark Laufenberg, co-owner of Laughing Mountain Popcorn with his wife, Nancy, Main Street re-opening is not just exciting, but needed.

"It will be nice, we've missed people. It's a different story when you only see 10 people in your day," said Laufenberg.

He added that they hope the return of Main Street not only helps them reach pre-construction customer numbers, but exceed them as people flock to West Bend to check out downtown.

Back on Main

The DWBA will be holding their Back on Main event on Nov. 3 and 4. While the businesses never went anywhere, the road is now re-opened and they are excited to be back on Main Street. too.

"It's refreshing to know the road is open. I hope and I would expect the crowds are going to be huge downtown. People are going to want to see what it looks like," said Tennies. "I hope continued on next page



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PFRKIN

in the air continued from page 7

we can attract and bring new customers into the downtown area."

According to Lafontant, being back on Main Street is a way to bring the community back together.

"To bring the community back together in one space, to restore the historical downtown and to bring people back together as a community," said Lafontant. "To share the joy of the city."

For Alissa Fischer, general manager at 6th Avenue Barbecue Pit and Bar, being Back on Main means serving customers excellent barbecue.

"The last few years have just been rough with COVID and everything, and just for this area specifically with construction," said Fischer. "But, for us, [being Back on Main] just means bussing out some really good food. We've done some improvements during this time and we are excited to get people in here."

At Dooley's on Main, they are excited to see continue seeing regulars who have supported them through construction, as well as new faces ready for a meal in a relaxed environment.

"It's everything to us. We're thankful that all of our guests have supported us through the construction and we're able to still be here," said Hugo Flores, Dooley's general manager. "Hopefully they see that we're still here. I know they will enjoy our food, enjoy our service and our ambiance, and we are just so happy."

According to Husar's House of Fine Diamonds Owner Mike Husar, being back on Main Street isn't just a chance to come and revisit West Bend, but to discover something new while downtown.

"I think there's a lot of unique businesses down here, and there's a lot that people don't realize are here," said Husar. "They need to just come out and see it."

The past 40 years

The last time that Main Street underwent significant construction was in the 1980s. Since that time, many things have happened in downtown West Bend.

In 1981, the West Bend Outlet Mall was built along Veterans Avenue, where MOWA stands today. A year later, in 1982, an enclosed bridge that went over the Milwaukee River was installed to connect the outlet mall to downtown.

The mall would later close in 1990, which made way for MOWA to purchase the land in 2011, and construct their current West Bend mothership location, which finished in 2013. MOWA is currently celebrating the building's 10th anniversary this year.

In 1985, an idea was born on Main Street. After weather ruined Maxwell Street Day plans in downtown West Bend, Herb Tennies, who owned Tennies Ace Hardware at the time, came up with the idea for GERMANfest. The celebration is now run by Habitat for Humanity and is still held on Main Street each year, with the exception of 2023 due to construction.

Just a few years after construction was completed, downtown West Bend had a presidential visitor, as former President Ronald Reagan visited the West Bend on July 27, 1987 for a luncheon at Greene's Fort Silver Inn. Washington House was decorated for the occasion, which was the third time West Bend welcomed a president. The other two were former presidents John F. Kennedy and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

GERMANfest wasn't the only downtown event to be created in the past 40 years, with the DWBA creating several of their own, including their annual Music on Main Series, which started in 2007. The weekly concert series brings hundreds to downtown West Bend each Thursday during the summer, and with Main Street open once agin will do so moving forward. In 2023, the event was moved to the Immanuel UCC parking lot near downtown.

Later on The Bend Theater would make a comeback. In July, 2017, Historic West Bend Theatre Inc. bought The Bend Theater for \$250,000 to convert the space into a venue



Photo courtesy of Sheila Kruepke Urban Farm Girl, 136 S. Main St., a boutique where you can find custom painted furniture, jewelry, candles, home decor, goods from local artisans and more, lit up at night following the completion of the Main Street Reconstruction project.

for classic and children's movies, plays by local theater groups, music and comedy shows, and events such as weddings and corporate meetings.

The Bend would open for one day on March 14, 2020, initially, as COVID-19 would close them down on March 15, 2020. But, later that year in July, the theater would re-open for good as The Bend Theater, 125 N. Main St.

In 2022, the West Bend Downtown Historic District was listed on the State Register of Historic Places to preserve the distinct concentration of 19th to mid-20th century buildings downtown.

With the Main Street Reconstruction and the Downtown Riverwalk projects now completed, the DWBA, city and all of the shops and restaurants invite you to visit downtown West Bend for the Christmas Tree Lighting on Nov. 2 at 5:30 p.m., and to come back on Nov. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m., and Nov. 4, from 2 to 8 p.m., to light up downtown and kick off the next 40 years on Main Street in West Bend at Back on Main.



West Bend city documents

An aerial view of Main Street, from the Main Street, Veterans Avenue and Walnut Street intersection facing north, following the completion of the Main Street Reconstruction project.



Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff

Main Street, after it has been reconstructed, outside of (from the left) Husar's House of Fine Diamonds, The Bend Theater and Candyman on Main, a local stop for all your candy and confection needs.

The new Riverwalk underpass that connects downtown West Bend to several new apartment developments in West Bend, including The District Apartments. The Riverwalk will also connect people to the 1840 Brewing Company's new West Bend Taproom, located on the ground floor of The District, 433 N. Main St., which will open this fall.



Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff





Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff



TODAY: This view looks north on Main Street, following the completion of the Main Street Reconstruction project. On the right you can see (from the right) Candyman on Main, The Bend Theater, Husar's House of Fine Diamonds, Brazen Head Pub and more along the east side of Main Street.

Photo courtesy of the Tower Heritage Center

CIRCA 1959: The view looks north on Main Street. On the right is the First State Bank. Schultz Bros. Variety Store now occupies the street floor of the Hotel Weinand/Schlegel. The next building on the right is the West Bend Drug Store. Farther on the right is the West Bend Theater, with its vertical "West Bend" sign. On the left the Beacon Restaurant is on the street level of the Hangartner Building. Just before the restaurant is the Lange Meat Market.

Proud to be part of this transformative project

A heartfelt thank you goes out to those who live and work in the community for your patience and cooperation. It's an honor to see the West Bend Riverwalk come to life!





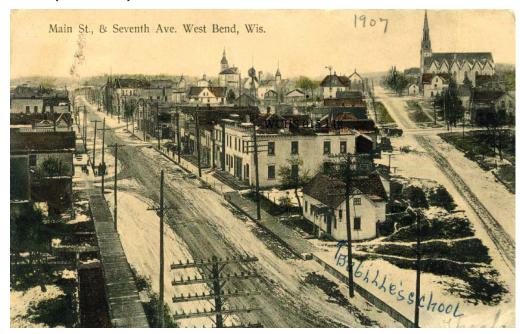


West Bend city documents

TODAY: This view of Main Street was taken via drone, following the completion of the Main Street Reconstruction Project. It looks south down Main Street from Highway 33/Washington Street. On the horizon, you can still see the old Washington County Courthouse, now home to the Tower Heritage Center, on the right side.

Photo courtesy of the Tower Heritage Center

CIRCA 1907: This view of the city is taken from the roof of the West Bend Brewing Company. It looks south with Main Street on the left and Seventh Avenue on the right. Old Holy Angels Catholic Church is on the hill at the right at Seventh Avenue and Elm Street. In the center distance is the old Washington County Court House. Cedar Street is the first street intersecting Seventh Avenue and Main Street in this photograph. In the triangle foreground, is the Babille Academy. In 2023 only the courthouse exists.







Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff

The newly completed Riverwalk in downtown West Bend along the Milwaukee River. Opposite downtown, across the river, stands the Museum of Wisconsin Art, 205 Veterans Ave., home to permanent installations and exhibitions of Wisconsin art.



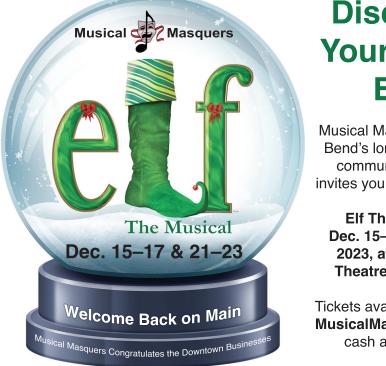
West Bend Transit would like to commend the City of West Bend and all the contractors on a job well done!

Renovations to the historic downtown played a big part when choosing a location for our new corporate office, located at 321 N. Main St.



West Bend Transit, a family-owned transportation firm employing 150 people in the Midwest, has been based in West Bend, since 1911. West Bend is a great place to live and do business, we are excited to see our city progress and plan to continue reinvesting in our community for the next 100 years.

Ben Schloemer, President



Discover Your Inner Elf!

Musical Masquers, West Bend's longest running community theater, invites you to experience:

Elf The Musical Dec. 15–17 & 21–23, 2023, at UWM-WC Theatre on the Hill

Tickets available online at **MusicalMasquers.org** or cash at the door.



Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff

A view of Main Street in West Bend, facing north, from behind the Main Street and 6th Avenue intersection. On the left side of the street you can see the historic Washington House, built in 1852 by Balthazar Goetter to serve as a hotel and meeting space, and 6th Ave Barbecue Pit and Bar, 228 N. 6th Ave. Further down the road on the left you can see The Antidote, 302 N. Main St., on the corner of Main Street and Cedar Street. On the right hand side you can see the sign for Saloon Royale, 241 N. Main St., a bar with a Vegas-style contemporary interior design. In the distance, you can see West Bend's newest apartment complex, The District, which is across Highway 33.



Main Street is the main focus.

Congratulations to our leaders and business partners! Your efforts help our economy, spotlight our history, and improve our quality of life.

WEST BEND

orst brinas out our best.®



The north end of Main Street, facing south from the roundabout that exits onto Highway 33 eastbound. Pictured here (from the left on the east side of Main Street) is Cherry Pickin's, BMO Harris Bank and Dooley's on Main.



Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff



Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff

The corner of Main Street and Mill Street in downtown West Bend after the completion of the Main Street Reconstruction project. On the left you can see The Garden Lounge, 258 N. Main St., a bar that serves appetizers and pizza, and hosts weekly karaoke, and Ann D's Boutique, 264 N. Main St., a trendy retail boutique for women of all ages.



Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff

A view of Main Street outside of Tennies Ace Hardware, 112 S. 5th Ave., which has been on the corner of 5th Avenue and Main Street since the last time the road was redone in the early 1980s. Down the street to the right, you can see Pearl of Canton on the corner of Main Street and Hickory Street.



Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff

A view of Main Street outside of Dooley's on Main, 315 N. Main St., a casual restaurant that features craft beers and a seasonally changing menu, BMO Harris Bank and Cherry Pickin's, 337 N. Main St., a home furnishings consignment store.



The Regular Retail Price Of All In-Stock Grills. (Restrictions apply. See associate for details. Offer expires Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023).



Come Take A Walk Through Our Beautifully Re-Constructed Downtown Shopping District!





The new kayak launch onto the Milwaukee River from the West Bend Riverwalk.

Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff



Thanks

to all of the downtown businesses and residents of West Bend for your cooperation on making The Main Street Reconstruction a huge success. We hope you enjoy the improvements with your friends, family and fellow citizens of West Bend. *Cheers!*



Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff

The West Bend Riverwalk, behind downtown businesses along the west side of the Milwaukee River. On the left you can see the back of the West Bend Pilot Boutique & Unique Finds, 101 S. Main St.



Grayson Sewell/Daily News staff

TODAY: A view down Main Street from the Main Street and Fifth Avenue intersection, following the Main Street Reconstruction project. On the left, you can see Pearl of Canton, 102 S. Main St., and authentic Vietnamese, Chinese and sushi restaurant in downtown West Bend. Across Hickory Street, in the former Ott and Boden Hardware store location, is the West Bend Music Academy, 102 N. Main St.

Photo courtesy of the Tower Heritage Center

CIRCA 1905: This is a mid-street view taken from the apex of the triangle at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Main Street. The view looks northwest with the Detuncq Furniture and William Peters stores on the left. The building on the left with the tower is Hangartner building. Also on the left across Hickory Street is the Ott and Boden Hardware store. On the right, the building with the triangular piece on the top is the Pilot building.



The City of West Bend is ready to kick off the holiday season in Old Settlers Park. Performances by the River City Brass Band and the Fred Luft & Rick Gilbertson Band will set the festive mood before the tree comes to life at 6:30! Stay downtown after the tree is lit for shopping, dining, and a free show at The Bend.

> KOFI BAKER'S CREAM FAITH Oct 14 730 PM

BACK ON O D D D NOVEMBER 3, 5-8 P.M. | NOVEMBER 4, 2-8 P.M.

UOU

Join the Downtown West Bend Association and celebrate the grand reopening of Main Street with live music, glow sticks, fire pits and fun for the whole family! Shops and restaurants are open and offering deals all wweekend long!