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FEATURED

Taste of Bloomington, Arts Fair on the Square this weekend

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Janko's grillers Erik Bertermann (left) and Marcus Etnier load the grill with ribeye steaks at the Taste of Bloomington Saturday at Showers Plaza. David Snodgrass | Herald-Times

Staying well fed and entertained in Bloomington won't be a problem this weekend.

Downtown will be bustling Saturday with the annual Taste of Bloomington and Arts Fair on the Square. At the 35th annual Taste, 40 of the city's best-known restaurants, food trucks, wineries and breweries will be serving up samplings of their fare at the Showers Commons at Seventh and Morton streets, just outside City Hall.

The weekly Saturday Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, also at the Showers Commons, will start at 8 a.m. as usual, but will close at noon to make way for the event.

Taste of Bloomington will run from 3 to 11 p.m., and admission is \$7 in advance or \$8 at the gate. Credit card ticket payments will be accepted at the gate, but all food purchases must be in cash. Purchase advance

tickets online at bctboxoffice.com. Children younger than 12 will be admitted free of charge.

The various eateries, including the Trojan Horse, Crazy Horse, Janko's Little Zagreb, Mother Bear's Pizza and Chocolate Moose, will sell food and drinks, with a portion of the proceeds going to two local nonprofit groups — the Hoosier Hills Food Bank and the Community Kitchen of Monroe County.

The event will also feature funk, jazz and other musical acts on three stages and a variety of free activities for kids. For a full list of performances, go to visitbloomington.com/taste.

Closer to the Monroe County Courthouse, the 37th annual Arts Fair on the Square kicks off at 10 a.m. Saturday and runs until 5 p.m. In booths lining the courthouse square, local, regional and national artists will be selling their jewelry, photography, paintings and a variety of wood, metal and glass works.

Performances by Windfall Dancers, Dark Side Tribal belly dancers and Jordan River Crossing barbershop quartet will take place throughout the afternoon, and at interactive art centers scattered throughout the fair, visitors can participate in cookie and canvas-painting classes and other activities sponsored by the Bloomington Playwrights Project and Lotus Education and Arts Foundation.

For more information, go to artsfair.org.

If you'd rather stay out of the heat, Cardinal Stage Company's "West Side Story" will have its opening performance at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, with more weekend shows at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday. The musical adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet," set in New York City in the 1950s, is Cardinal Stage founder and director Randy White's final show with the company.

Other indoor family-friendly Saturday events include the debut of the WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology's "Wonder Under the Waves: Coral Reef Aquarium" exhibit, a 300-gallon saltwater coral reef aquarium containing nearly 30 species of fish, coral and invertebrate organisms from the Indo-Pacific region. Tickets for the 6-8 p.m. event are \$10 for WonderLab members and \$12 for nonmembers.

If you spend time around the city this weekend, you might also run into some future Indiana University students and their families in town for new student orientation, which continues through the summer. On campus at

the Wells-Metz Theatre, IU Summer Theatre is presenting the 1930s musical parody "Dames at Sea," with shows at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

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Taste of Bloomington set for Saturday

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