

## GOOD NEWS: THE END IS NEAR

### End

Saturday's Broadway Street Fair will celebrate the near-completion of the ongoing 4-year streetscape project.

### By Colin Howarth

Staff writer

NEWPORT - To celebrate the four-year construction project on Broadway as it approaches completion, the businesses and residents of the street are putting on a Broadway Street Fair on Saturday from noon-7 p.m.

The fair, which will stretch from Equality Park to Washington Square, will feature five stages of live music and other performers, as well as a number of merchants set up with tables, refreshments and activities for visitors.

Besides the stretch from Marlborough Street to Washington Square, Broadway will remain open to traffic. Parking on the east side of the street will be open, while merchants and artists set up shop in the newly paved parking spaces on the west side of the street.

"All day, there will be music, entertainment, laughter, things for kids, a bouncy house, balloons, face painting, everything," said Karl Nurse, one of the organizers who owns a building and lives on Broadway. "It's going to be the most wonderful thing ever."

The fair will start at noon with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Equality Park with Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano, representatives of the state Department of Transportation and others. Nurse said stages will be set up along Broadway at Equality Park, City Hall, the Salvation Cafe area, Stone Street and Empire Tea & Coffee.

"We're encouraging people to bicycle or walk to the fair," said Bari Freeman,

**END A7**

**'It's going to be the most wonderful thing ever.'** KARL NURSE

one of the festival organizers

---

Continued from [A1](#)

the executive director of Bike Newport. "There will be plenty of places to lock it up, and you can come visit us in front of the Newport Police Department."

Freeman said six bike racks will be set up along Broadway. At the police station, the nonprofit organization will be providing bike safety checks, helmet fittings, information about riding in Newport and a youth obstacle course.

There will be an inflatable bounce house in the parking lot of Newport Family and Cosmetic Dentistry available for children between 1-4 p.m., along with other activities.

"I think the goal of the fair is to welcome the community in celebrating that the end is near as far as the construction and showcasing what we can do with the street," said the owner of Newport Family and Cosmetic Dentistry, Nathan Tilman.

“I think (when the construction is done), Broadway is going to be awesome,” Tilman said. “I've been excited since it started. In the last couple months, with the sidewalk finishing up, the vibe is already a lot better.”

Nurse said the official contractual end-date for the construction is Dec. 15, and right now the street is about 90 percent done.

He said much of the credit for the progress of the street should go to the Broadway Merchants Association. In the spring, he and 55 other merchants and residents came together to form the group, which frequently met with the city government to have a say in the construction project.

He said three things came from these meetings between the group and city government: accountability, trust and, most importantly, dialogue - something Nurse said didn't exist before the association was formed.

“On Oct. 8, we're going to celebrate the completion of the street and the celebration of community,” Nurse said. “People come to Broadway because they feel comfortable. This is where the locals go. What you're going to see on Oct. 8 is what happens when you want to turn a neighborhood around, a community around. You're gonna see a bunch of smiling faces, so come down.”

[Howarth@NewportRI.com](mailto:Howarth@NewportRI.com)