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By NORTHWEST HERALD

Run for the Arts coming to downtown Crystal Lake

CRYSTAL LAKE – An effort more than a decade ago to honor a local civic-minded man still is running strong in the annual Bob Blazier Run for the Arts event.

This year's 5K run and walk – the 14th annual – will be May 1, starting at the location that benefits from the run, the Raue Center for the Arts at 26 N. Williams St. in downtown Crystal Lake.

Named after Blazier, a zealous supporter of the arts, the walk and run is a significant fundraising event for the Raue's programming, galleries, classes and performances. All of the money raised from the event goes to the Raue, according to a news release from the arts center.

Early registration is ongoing. Applications can be downloaded from rauecenter.org, or can be picked up at the box office at 26 N. Williams St.

Those registering before April 25 pay \$30, and the first 700 to register will receive a T-shirt. All registration forms and payment must be received by 11:59 p.m. April 24 to be considered an early registrant.

Turn in forms and payment at the Raue's administrative office, 108 Minnie St., Crystal Lake.

The cost to register between April 25 and May 1 is \$35, and T-shirts no longer will be available, the news release said. Those who register early can pick up their bib, T-shirt, chip timer and race packet between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. April 30 at the Raue Center for the Arts.

The schedule for race day on May 1 is:

- 7 to 7:45 a.m.: Day-of participant registration and packet pickup.
- 8 to 11 a.m.: Arts festival – face painters, balloon artists, music and more.
- 8 a.m.: Start gun for the 5K run and walk.
- 8:45 a.m.: 50-yard dash and sack races for children younger than 12. No registration is required.
- 9 a.m.: Awards ceremony.

Also planned is a pancake breakfast provided by Benedict's La Strata. Tickets are \$5 and can be bought on race day at the pancake station.

The race route is flat asphalt and concrete. Water will be available along the course, and food and drinks will be available at the finish line.

Trophies and \$50 gift cards to the Running Depot will be presented to the top male and female winners across numerous age categories. First-, second- and third-place men and women will be awarded medals and gift cards.

Bob Blazier Run for the Arts

Registration information, a list of sponsors, and race route for the Bob Blazier Run for the Arts are available at rauecenter.org. On the home page, click "Support Us," then "fundraisers," then "14th Annual Bob Blazier Run for the Arts."

For information, call 815-356-9010.

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