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Walking route opens downtown

BY ELIZABETH COUNCIL

ecouncil@grandhaventribune.com

Health officials in Ottawa County are telling residents to take a hike — or at least a walk through downtown Grand Haven.

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The Ottawa County Wellness Coalition, along with Mayor Roger Bergman and Spring Lake Village Manager Ryan Cotton, kicked off the Golden Shoe Campaign Friday morning at Central Park in downtown Grand Haven with a special shoe-string untying ceremony.

The initiative encourages walkers of all ages to be more active by following a nearly two-mile walking route throughout the downtown business district.

Now through October, walkers of all ages are encouraged to walk the route in their free time and then fill out an entry form at the Loutit District Library to be registered to win a wellness basket full of healthy products donated by local businesses.

What may be even more enticing to lace up those walking shoes is a bi-weekly contest for a new pair of shoes. Every two weeks a gold-painted shoe will be hidden along the walking route, with walkers encouraged to find the shoe for a special prize — a new pair of walking shoes, valued at \$80.

Walkers can find walking route maps at Loutit District Library or online at www.gethealthyottawa.org

All routes are stroller and wheelchair accessible.