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EDITOR'S PICK

Summer in the City

Balmy weather, activities bring families down to Haverhill's Harbor Place

By Lisa Kashinsky lkashinsky@eagletribune.com Jul 28, 2018



AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo Bret Shaw, 12, of Haverhill plays corn hole during Super Saturday, which was part of the Harbor Place Summer Events on the Boardwalk series.

Amanda Sabga



HAVERHILL — A balmy Saturday in late July made for an ideal afternoon of family fun in downtown Haverhill.

Dozens of families with plenty of small children in tow headed for an open patch of land under the boardwalk to enjoy pony rides, face painting and a petting zoo, as music wafted out over the riverfront boardwalk.

The afternoon of kid-centric activities, which also included cornhole, bubble wands and snow cones, was put on as part of the Harbor Place “Summer Events on the Boardwalk” series, hosted by the city and Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce.

Lily Minot, 5, and her brother, 3-year-old Jeremy Minot, were among the first in line for the petting zoo. Lily flitted between the animals, first picking up a bunny and then clutching a duck to her chest with a grin, while Jeremy sat across the enclosure watching with interest as another bunny plopped down in a water bowl.

Their mother Meghan McLaughlin said her family is active in the Haverhill community, including the Haverhill Exchange Club. They came downtown Saturday to lend their support and continue to get involved.

Plus, she said: “My kids are social butterflies, so they love it all.”

All too soon, it was time for another group of youngsters to have their turn with the baby animals. As they exited the pen, it was clear the Minot kids couldn’t wait to go back in.

“They were soft and friendly,” Lily exclaimed, another smile stealing across her face.

Across the way, Christina Brewster walked her son, Liam McGuire, up to a black and white pony for his very first ride. The 2 year old approached the equine cautiously but curiously, allowing himself to be placed on the saddle for a quick lap around a flag-lined enclosure. The animals were provided by traveling petting zoo Animal Craze of Winchendon.

Mother and son came downtown with the boy’s brother, 1-year-old Caleb McGuire, and father Brendan McGuire. Brewster said they’re lifelong Haverhill residents who came out for an afternoon of fun.

“We’re just enjoying the summer,” she said.

Future events on the boardwalk include “Caribbean Night” on Aug. 4 and the “Dog Days of Summer” festival on Aug. 18. For more information and a list of events, visit <http://www.haverhillchamber.com>.