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FEATURED

Summer on the boardwalk: Haverhill's Harbor Place series delivers music, fun along the Merrimack River

Haverhill's Harbor Place series delivers music, fun along the Merrimack River

By Shaylen Vitale | svitale@eagletribune.com Jul 18, 2018



Courtesy photoSalsa dancing will segue into the jitterbug and swing as the Harbor Place Plaza and boardwalk in Haverhill welcome a "Doo-Wop on the Boardwalk" party this Saturday night.

Whether it's the beat of the steel drums or a '50s-inspired doo-wop, the boardwalk along the Merrimack River in downtown Haverhill will be alive with music and dancing this summer.

The new Harbor Place Plaza and adjacent boardwalk at the east end of Merrimack Street plays host to the inaugural Harbor Place Summer Series on periodic Saturdays with a variety of theme events featuring live entertainment, food and family fun.

If You Go

What: Harbor Place Summer Series

When: Periodic summer Saturdays

Where: Harbor Place Plaza, 44 Merrimack St., Haverhill

How much: Evening events, \$10; family events, free

More information: haverhillchamber.com

The series kicked off last weekend with "Salsa Dancing on the Boardwalk." Participants were treated to sangria, live music and salsa dancing taught by professional instructors.

"The first event was fantastic. There were over 100 people there," said Melissa Seavey, events director for the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, which is teaming with the City of Haverhill on the new series. "Everyone was dancing and enjoying the music."

The fun continues this Saturday, July 21, with a '50s-inspired "Doo-Wop on the Boardwalk" from 6 to 8 p.m. Seavey is hoping guests will dress up like it's 1955 again. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes, and there will be music and refreshments.

"We encourage people to put on their poodle skirts and come on down," she said.

"It's a great location, right on the river," she added.

Other theme evenings include a Caribbean Night with the PanNubean Steel Drum Band on Saturday, Aug. 4, and a Country Night on Saturday, Aug. 25, featuring music, line dancing instruction and a laser light show to celebrate the series finale. Both events go from 6 to 8 p.m.

Admission to the evening events is \$10, with proceeds each night benefiting a different local nonprofit group. The Emmaus House was the beneficiary of last Saturday's Salsa Night. The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Haverhill reaps the proceeds this Saturday, with the Haverhill YMCA and Career Resources Corporation in line to benefit from the last two events.

There will also be two afternoon festivals focusing on family fun with free admission this summer.

Super Saturday on the Boardwalk takes place July 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. and will feature numerous activities for kids, such as pony rides, face painting, a petting zoo, bubbles, super heroes and balloons. A free movie with popcorn will be shown in the plaza at 8 p.m.

Dog Days of Summer on the Boardwalk is set for Saturday, Aug. 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be a Pooch Parade on the boardwalk, followed by a Top Dog competition. Four-legged guests and their companions are invited to stop by the Bow Wow Beauty Bar for a free bandana or bow and visit the Doggy Oasis for a drink. Dog-related vendors will be on hand as well. Dogs must be leashed throughout the event.

Also this summer, the Haverhill Farmers Market continues every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Goecke parking deck, 51 Merrimack St.



Courtesy photoTwo dancers enjoy the salsa music at the opening event for the Harbor Place Summer Series last Saturday night in Haverhill.

Seavey hopes to see the summer series continue to grow with each installment, and attract attention to the new boardwalk.

"It's one of Haverhill's greatest assets on the river," she said. "We want to bring people down to enjoy it."

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