

Downtown Frederick going to the dogs First Saturday

First Saturday is going to the dogs on Saturday, Aug. 7, when Downtown Frederick Partnership, Frederick County Bank and Two Paws Up present the August First Saturday — Dog Days of Summer from 5 to 9 p.m. This evening event includes dog costume contests, dog friendly stores, the My Dog's Diggin' Downtown Photo Booth, the Wet & Woof Chill Zone, the Flying Dog Beer Garden and a Yappy Hour. Four-legged friends can join their humans for an evening of fun and shopping as many downtown merchants open their doors to well-behaved dogs on a leash. A portion of the Dog Days proceeds will be donated to the event's co-organizer, the Frederick County Humane Society.

The evening begins with registration for the Dog Costume Contest in front of Two Paws Up located at 15 S. Carroll St. from 5 to 7 p.m. Dog owners can register their pretty pooch for \$10 with a discounted rate for additional dogs. Each registered dog will receive a Doggy Bag filled with treats for Fido and his two-legged friends including coupons, dog treats, a ticket to the My Dog's Diggin' Downtown Photo Booth and more.

From 6 to 8 p.m., doggie contestants will strut their stuff for the judges as they vie for the title of Hottest Dog (small breed), Coolest Dog (large breed), Best Owner/Dog Look-A-Like and new this year, Flying Dog's Ugliest Dog. The four judging stations include the Frederick County Bank & Bark station located in front of the

Federated Charities Building on 22 S. Market St., the Retro-Ruff judging station in the 300 block of North Market Street, Give-A-Dog-A-Bone which includes a Bandana Bling activity sponsored by the Frederick County Humane Society will be located at 112 E. Patrick St. and Bone Beach will be located in Everedy Square. Dogs can enter at any judging stations.

More dog-friendly fun can be found at the Carroll Creek Amphitheatre located between Carroll and Market streets across from the library terrace from 5 to 9 p.m. Hot dogs can cool off at the Wet & Woof Chill Zone while their humans grab a cold beer at the Flying Dog Beer Garden (6 to 9 p.m.). Flashy Fidos will enjoy getting their photo taken at the My Dog's Diggin' Downtown Photo Booth sponsored by Parlights Stage Lighting. And local band, Beyond the Flood, will be entertaining humans and their best friends at the Creek from 6 to 9 p.m.

The dog costume contest winners will be announced at Yappy Hour at the Carroll Creek Amphitheatre from 8 to 9 p.m.

Two additions to Dog Days at the Carroll Creek Trellis include the American Traveling Morrice, a traveling dance troupe performing traditional old English dance concluding its tour in Frederick at 6 p.m. and Soolah Hoops returns spinning fire beginning at dusk.

For a complete list of activities and locations, go to www.downtownfrederick.org.



Above, Sue Mahla poses with her dogs Lilly and Ava. Below left, a service dog.

Courtesy photos



Representatives from the non-profit group "Guiding Eyes for the Blind" will demonstrate their dog training techniques in the Museum Shop, Ltd, located at 20 N. Market St. in downtown Frederick from 5 to 9 p.m. as part of First Saturday's Dog Days of Summer Aug. 7. Guiding Eyes is an internationally accredited, non-profit dog school with a 50-year-plus legacy providing the blind and visually impaired with superior Guiding Eyes dogs, training and lifetime support services. These highly trained dogs give the gifts of personal freedom, independence and dignity to those with impaired vision. Headquartered in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., the staff cares for 50 to 80 puppies at a time, who are evaluated through a series of tests performed over a number of weeks to determine if they have the traits needed to perform as a Guiding Eyes dog. Demonstrations will be inside Museum Shop, Ltd., who will also be hosting the opening of a show of animal art by local artists. Nine local artists will show their art depicting animals, domestic and wild, during August. Artists include Peter Plant, Fred Les, Judy Roberts, Katie Waddell, Richard Kornemann, Les Grinspoon, Harry Richardson, Joseph Craig English and Tom Kozar. Art includes different media, including etching, photography and oil painting. For more information, call the Museum Shop at 301-695-0424.

Courtesy photo