

# Families treated to downtown fun

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Elliott Rhodes, 6, of North Kingsville, checks out a new "selfie spot" along Main Avenue in downtown Ashtabula during the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association's "Summer Block Part" on Saturday.

- Warren Dillaway | Star Beacon



Mason Huber, 6, of Conneaut, throws a child-friendly ax at the "Summer Block Party" in downtown Ashtabula on Saturday. The event was sponsored by the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association. Warren Dillaway | Star Beacon



Children play along a large bounce house on Saturday during the "Summer Block Party," sponsored by the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association at Lance Corp. Kevin Cornelius Park and along Main Avenue.

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ASHTABULA — Visitors to a “Summer Block Party” were able to take pictures at a new sculpture on Main Avenue.

“The selfie spot is a place-making strategy as part of ‘Made on Main,’ an effort to recruit makers to locate, collaborate, and grow their businesses on Main Avenue,” said Jamie Baker, a consultant with the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association.

The steel sculpture was created by Andrew Miller, of Castle Railings, and the decorative concrete base was built by Thad Blessing, of Blessing's Concrete Designs. People were checking out the new sculpture that was recently placed on the street.

Downtown was alive with activity on Saturday as families gathered to shop, eat and have fun.

The Summer Block Party was designed to kick off the summer season, organizers said. "We are so happy with the turnout," said ADDA Co-Chair Heather Tulino.

Sixteen vendors joined the downtown experience and several food trucks were selling food along Main Avenue. Many of the downtown businesses were open as well.

Lance Corporal Kevin Cornelius Park was busy with a wide variety of activities, including child-safe ax throwing, three large bounce houses and other craft opportunities for the kids.

A disc jockey was getting the party revved up around 4 p.m., halfway through the planned event, with snappy dance music that got visitors toes tapping.