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WHEATONARTS TO HOST ‘PAWS FOR ART’ ON SUNDAY, APRIL 8

MILLVILLE, NJ (March 23, 2018) – Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, in partnership with the South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter (CCSPCA), presents *PAWS for Art* on Sunday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. *PAWS for Art* is a Wheaton Wide Open event, providing free admission to visitors (and their dogs) for the entire day. Hosted each year as the unofficial kickoff for the WheatonArts spring re-opening (WheatonArts resumes its normal six-day-a-week operating schedule on April 3rd), *PAWS for Art* is a unique experience for two-legged and four-legged family members to enjoy a day of art and fun! Pet food donations for the shelter are welcome and encouraged, and will be received at the gate.

Event highlights include:

- WheatonBarks Dog Show at 2:30 p.m. “Top Show Dog” awards for **Best in Show**, **Top Dog** and **Sportsmanship**. Prizes will be awarded to in both child and adult age groups for each of the following categories:
 - **Best Dressed Pet** – *Dress up your pet in their best costume!*
 - **Best Golden Oldie** – *Show off your senior pet!*
 - **Cutest Wiggle & Wag** – *Wow the crowd with your pet’s happiest moves!*
 - **Wettest Kiss** – *Win over our judges with your pet’s sloppiest kisses!*
 - **Prettiest Eyes** – *Show us your pet’s beautiful eyes!*
 - **Crazy Hair Day (Dog & Owner)** – *Don’t be shy! Show us your (and your pet’s) wackiest do!*
 - **Best Six Legs (Dog & Owner)** – *Socks, shoes, & leggings, oh my! – Team up with your pet & show us your best six legs*
- Pet First-Aid demonstration led by Dr. Catalina Montealegre in the Dog Show Arena at 11 a.m.
- Animal-themed glass-blowing demonstrations in the Glass Studio
- Pet-themed craft activities for children
- Dog activities, such as clay paw prints, agility course, and photo booth
- Paw Shakers of Cumberland County 4-H obedience and agility demonstrations in the Dog Show Arena at 2 p.m.
- Animal rescue groups
- Leash and obedience demonstrations by Balanced Buddies and Paw Tracks
- Nature Trail with painted rock hunt
- Pet supplies, treats, and clothing

For pet safety, all dogs are required to be on a short, no longer than four-foot, lead. No retractable leashes. Dogs are invited to visit inside the Artists Studios. The Cumberland County SPCA will provide volunteers as dog sitters so dog owners may visit the Museum of American Glass and Museum Stores. Water stations for dogs will be located throughout the grounds.

WheatonArts resumes its six-day operating schedule on April 3. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. Open July 4. Admission: \$10.00 per person, \$9.00 seniors, and \$7.00 students. Children five and under are free. Free to shop and stroll except during special outdoor events. For more information about WheatonArts exhibitions, programs and events, call 856-825-6800 or 800-998-4552 or visit wheatonarts.org.

For more information about Cumberland County SPCA located in Vineland, NJ, call 856-691-1500 or visit CumberlandCountySPCA.org.

WheatonArts strives to ensure the accessibility of its exhibitions, events, and programs to all persons with disabilities. Provide two weeks notice for additional needs. Patrons with hearing and speech disabilities may contact WheatonArts through the New Jersey Relay Service (TRS) 800-852-7899 or by dialing 711.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Jersey Cultural Trust. WheatonArts receives general operating support from the New Jersey Historical Commission, Division of Cultural Affairs in the New Jersey Department of State, and is supported in part by the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.

About WheatonArts

WheatonArts and Cultural Center, founded as Wheaton Village in 1968, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to ***engage artists and audiences in an evolving exploration of creativity. The mission will be advanced through the interpretation of collections and exhibitions; education initiatives and culturally diverse public programs; residencies and other opportunities for artists.*** With a history spanning four decades, WheatonArts has earned regional, national and international recognition for its unique collections and programs. The *Museum of American Glass* is at the heart of the Center, housing the most comprehensive collection of glass produced in America - from the first glass bottles made in America to celebrated works by Dale Chihuly, Paul Stankard, and other contemporary artists who work in glass. Visitors experience the art of glassmaking, ceramics and flameworking in the Artist Studios. From April through December the Museum of American Glass and Gallery of Fine Craft present special exhibitions. WheatonArts also offers traditional and multi-cultural programs, classes, workshops, performances, and weekend festivals. The award-winning Museum Stores offer traditional and contemporary art and craft in all mediums.

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