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## **Gaithersburg's Downtown Crown celebrates progress with tasty charity event**

By Jenn Davis

Downtown Crown is a relatively new addition to the Gaithersburg community, but this weekend the 26-acre mixed-use neighborhood is hoping to leave a lasting impression.

JBGR Retail, the retail developer of Downtown Crown, has organized Sip. Nosh. Mingle., an event set to take place on Friday that will invite people to become a part of the growing, vibrant development and raise money for charity at the same time.

"The past couple of months have been very busy for us with restaurant openings and new shops moving in," James J. Garibaldi, a principal in JBGR Retail, said in a press release. "We've gone from a project under development to a bustling destination for socializing and shopping, and it seems like a good time to celebrate and show off all that's happening at Downtown Crown."

The event, which will run from 4 to 7 p.m., will feature tastings from several of the Downtown Crown restaurants, the Dogfish Head Ale Bus, beer garden, live music, giveaways and more under an outdoor tent.

Participating restaurants include Ted's Bulletin, Coastal Flats, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Asia Nine, Chop't, Downtown Crown Wine and Beer, la Madeleine Country French Cafe, Paladar Latin Kitchen & Rum Bar, Venti Tre Modern Italian and Starbucks.

Admission is \$30 per person, and all of the proceeds will be donated to National Institutes of Health Charities. Tickets can be purchased at [downtowncrown.com](http://downtowncrown.com).

NIH Charities was chosen to be the recipient of the funds raised because of the research center's focus on innovation, according to Downtown Crown spokeswoman Tammy Murphy.

"The National Institutes of Health is a true innovator and neighbor that touches many lives," Murphy said. "We believe NIH Charities is a wonderful beneficiary and we are very happy to give 100 percent of ticket sales to this worthy cause."

Bethesda Magazine and On Tap Magazine are sponsors of the event.

While the charity portion of the celebration will end on Friday evening, free festivities will take place over on the weekend.

The Downtown Crown Beauty Bash will be on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m., and feature fashion trucks, product samplings and demonstrations. Blo Blow Dry Bar, Couture by Posh, Floyd's 99 Barbershop, Le Mer, Massage Envy and V Eye P are the participating merchants.

Boutiques and businesses from outside of the Downtown Crown community will also be on hand.

Celebrations will wrap up the following day when Sunday Funday in the Park takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. Attendees can enjoy games, exercise classes, a running clinic, farmers market and music.

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