

Celebrations, Music & Rain



The end of June brought two celebrations, complete with music, food, dancing and unpredictable weather. On Sunday, the Asylum Hill Congregational Church and AHNA sponsored *Jazz on the Lawn* for the second summer; but this year a downpour mid-afternoon moved the music indoors even though the rain was all over by the time the music started. It didn't stop friends & neighbors from stopping by the Ice Cream for a Dream or the Quick Bites Jamaican food truck before going inside to enjoy the music, or the bouncy house and craft tables that were a big hit as well. Inside there was free punch and snacks as well and the excellent Jazz of Conga Bop a well know jazz ensemble all around Hartford. Add to that the intermission performance by Hartford Proud Drill, Drum, & Dance Corp that led everyone back out to the parking lot for their spirited show, and you had a really wonderful Sunday afternoon.

Then on Tuesday the long planned 14th annual South Marshall Block Party began setting up at 2:00pm for a 4:00pm start. But the weather intervened and it wasn't until 4:30 that things finally got underway.



Nancy Rion and others organized more than 20 non-profits who entertained the children and informed the parents. Among them, Immanuel Congregational Church headed up the book collection on four long tables, giving students and children

as many as they chose. Grace Lutheran Church offered free plants, while Trinity Episcopal Church gave away much needed shoes.

The annual bicycle raffle is eagerly anticipated each year. Each person entering the raffle received a numbered wristband. Between bouts of rain, the winning numbers were posted on a board. Those children whose numbers matched the posting went in to choose a bicycle and get fitted for a helmet. Every 20-30 minutes, more numbers were posted, until all 60 bicycles were claimed. Hail brought the raffle to a halt, but when the sun finally peeked through, children were happily riding their newly acquired two-wheelers around the street, as satisfaction rippled through the hearts of every volunteer.

Next year, we can't guarantee a hail storm, but we can assure you that the 15th annual South Marshall Street Block Party will bring hard work and happiness to many residents and volunteers. More volunteers are welcome!

For photos of both events got to: <https://goo.gl/photos/qbocBBum5FcQKoiq8> and <https://goo.gl/photos/qbocBBum5FcQKoiq8>