

## South Marshall Block Party '21 Success



After a year's absence, not counting a few "pop-ups" the group of volunteers that have annually hosted the South Marshall Street Block Party returned in late August.

The weather was agreeable, (no rain), the music/entertainment was excellent and well appreciated, and the neighbors had a good time.

The food was prepared by the Salvation Army's mobile canteen and all meats were cooked in advance, which made for very efficient distribution. There was plenty of water and other beverages to keep all the neighbors, as well as the volunteers well hydrated.

A first this year was a petting zoo with sheep, goats, geese and other farm animals. It was pretty obvious that this was a first experience seeing and petting these animals for many of the children, and one they're likely to remember for a long time.

The entertainment consisted of Patrick, aka KlokWize, with Lawrence V. White (bass) and Rich Stone (drums). The DJ was Alex Ashley and the female vocalist who energized the neighbors right from the start was a young singer named Ysanne. It seemed that the missed block party from last year was made up for by the enthusiasm of both the partners/sponsors as well as the neighbors. The children had a great time, especially in the bounce house, which saw a steady flow of eager bouncers. Of course, COVID had its effect on the event. Lots of people wearing masks, and the number of children in the bounce house and the duration were limited, as was the children going through the Hartford Fire Department's Smoke house. But the children are resilient and by now they are used to it. Everything seemed to work smoothly, even though there were a few last minute surprises. One pleasant surprise was when Matt Rivera, stopped long enough from giving out Ice Cream for Dreams to receive a Citation from Mayor Bronin's Office. For photos of the event, go to: <https://bit.ly/SMBP-21>