

Press Release



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The City of Hartford Presents Three Inspiring Events In One Exciting Day!

- *Over 1,000 people expected to bike and walk around Hartford's main attractions and best kept secrets*
 - *Gospel music to fill the air at Bushnell Park*
 - *Hartford celebrates grandparents*

The Central Connecticut Bicycle Alliance, with the assistance of the City of Hartford, is preparing their second annual bicycling and walking tour of Hartford on September 13, 2008. Last year's event drew 1,300 cyclists and walkers into Bushnell Park for a great day! This year's event is being advertised as the centerpiece of one of the "Discover Hartford" Rising Star weekends.

The purpose of this event is to demonstrate that recent improvements in infrastructure, community organizations, and commercial and residential investment have brought Hartford to a better quality of life. The Tour has the backing of the Metro Hartford Alliance and Convention and Visitor's Bureau, along with other community organizations. This event is diverse: multi-racial and ethnic, multi generational, multi-skill level, multi-geographical, and multi-economic level.

The tour will have 10 and 25-mile bicycling options, as well as a 1 1/2-hour (1 mile) walking tour. The route will introduce participants to places like Cedar Hill Cemetery,

major new commercial developments, arts venues, and historic places. Last year's route is reversed, to give folks a chance to see the city from a different perspective and to allow last year's 10-milers to see parts of the city they didn't see last year.

CCBA believes by encouraging and developing alternative transportation modes the city will become a more attractive place to live or visit. This event is a regional advocacy event (not a fundraiser), and involves dozens of community groups that want to make a positive statement about Hartford. It unites many of Hartford's diverse cultural communities, be they arts, health, museum, neighborhood-oriented, commercial, or recreational. A vibrant city is more likely when there is a vibrant pedestrian and bicycling friendly community! CCBA affirms the importance of regional bike trails, and recognizes that the failure to provide routes into and through our cities stands as a roadblock to making important inroads into alternative transportation methods, into cleaning the environment, and into promoting healthy lifestyles – and in the end to creating a place where people want to live and work. Call 860-727-0050 for more information about the tour or visit www.hartford.org

In addition to the CCBA Discover Hartford tour,

The 13th Annual LEVAS Gospel Festival and Fair will also take place at Bushnell Park's Thomas D. Harris Pavilion on September 13, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Featuring: Gospel Saxophonist Dr. Vernard Johnson, Agape Band, Crystal Lake Praise Team Band, Grace and Truth Delegation, Hoods Angels Music Ministry, Rapper Nyles "Witness" Houston, Marcus Jarvis, Sanctuary of Faith and Glory Voices of Glory, Mearise Parker, SoideYaveh Rodriques, Antny Tran, Gloria Brown, Singer & Acoustic Blues & Gospel Guitarist Robin O'Herin, Red Letter Day, Tapestry Worship Jazz Ensemble, New Hope Community Church Choir & Mimes, Gospel Jazz Recording Artist Gwenath Douglas, Marcus Jarvis, West Avon Congregational Choirs, James Chappell, III and The Lift Every Voice and Sing Community Choir will be performing throughout the day.

In addition, LEVAS is delighted to host voter registration/ education, a health fair, HIV/AIDS on site testing and counseling, prayer and counsel by the CT House Of Prayer-Hartford, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, seniors and children activities, life skills youth and Reverse Mortgage workshops, face painting, Fire Safety, Food and Merchandise vendors, Remembering 911, and much more.

Founded over a decade ago, the mission of LEVAS is to promote the Spirit of Community through the Arts. LEVAS believes that the reduction of ignorance, bigotry, separation and the celebration of differences must be supported through positive interaction and shared experience. This free event is sponsored in part by: GHAC, The Evelyn Preston Memorial Foundation, Robert & Margaret Patricelli Family Foundation, George A. & Grace I. Long Foundation, United Technologies, CAC, Ensworth Foundation and Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation. For more information, contact Carolyn Brooks-Burton at (860) 243-8734.

Finally, the 6th Annual Grandparents Day Family Fair will also be celebrated Saturday, September 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bushnell Park, near the Carousel. The City of Hartford celebrates this day in honor of the more than 2,000 grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and more than 18,000 grandparents raising kids in the state of Connecticut.

Families will have an opportunity to bring a blanket and picnic lunch while enjoying the event filled with games, arts, crafts and relays. Grandparents and their families will also have the opportunity to learn more about the special programming and services that are available to them in our community.

For more information about this event, please contact Elby Gonzalez-Schwapp at (860) 547-1426 ext. 7572.