

# PLAY NEW HAVEN

07-25-08



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Editor

Here we go again...

It's time for **Gathering of the Vibes** again. Yup, that big old jam fest, now in its 13th year, is back at Seaside Park in Bridgeport. And, there's good news for all you local vibers— it looks like the festival will be sticking around the Park City for a while.

**If You Go....**  
**Gathering of the Vibes**  
Thursday, July 31-  
Sunday, Aug. 3  
Weekend Camping  
Pass: \$195  
Weekend Pass (non  
camping): \$175  
Single Day pass: \$80  
Seaside Park,  
Bridgeport;  
203-908-3030

In June, Bridgeport Mayor **Bill Finch** agreed to a five-year contract, assuring the Vibes will have a home at Seaside Park through 2012. Finch said in a press release of

the festival, "The Vibes is an exceptional addition to

Bridgeport's blossoming arts and entertainment scene, as well as a tremendous opportunity to showcase the Park City to thousands of out-of-town guests from throughout the country. We look forward to growing together over the next five years."

Finch is right, with more than 20,000 patchouli-scented, sun-soaked music fans roaming throughout Seaside Park daily last year, the Gathering of the Vibes was a huge economic boost for a city that could really use it.

But enough with the economic stimulus talk. Gathering of the Vibes isn't about cash (although there is plenty of it changing hands over the course of the festival), it's about music, good times and celebrating the free spiritedness of hippies past and present.

Originally conceived as a celebration of **Jerry Garcia's** life following his passing, Gathering of the Vibes has become one of the premiere jam festivals in the country. However, it's not just about the music; with hundreds of unique food vendors and craft merchants, Gathering of the Vibes stimulates all the senses.

But while it may not be all about the music, the music is a probably the biggest part of the event, and

this year is no different. With nearly 50 acts spread throughout the four-day festival, they'll be plenty of time for twirling. Here's a small spattering of some of the "big names" that will be sharing the Vibes...

This year's festivities will kick off on Thursday July, 31 with **Dark Star Orchestra**. DSO has made quite a name for themselves in the jam community by meticulously recreating **Crateful Dead** performances. The band has delighted even the most fervent **Deadhead** out there with its dedication to staying meticulous to the original source material. Also on the bill opening night are **Groovesect** and **Donna Jean & The Tricksters**.

Aug. 1 is headlined by three big-time acts. First it's **Zappa Plays Zappa**. ZPZ is the brainchild of **Dweezil Zappa**, who wanted to pay tribute to his father, the legendary **Frank Zappa**— which is no easy feat, which Zappa documents on his website by saying, "In order for me to play my father's music correctly I needed to understand the fundamentals of his music more thoroughly, which meant a lot of studying."

Following ZPZ are Fairfield County's finest, **Deep Banana Blackout**. For 13 years they've been bringing

Vibes OOOO



BrittWormin



BrittNemeth

A "Viber" in the Long Island Sound.

OOOOO Vibes

their New Orleans-style funk to the Vibes for the second straight year. The crowd will no doubt be digging on their hometown heroes in a big way.

Deep Banana will be followed by the legendary **Black Crowes**. It's been nearly 20 years since the brothers Robinson released **Shake Your Money Maker**, and the band hasn't looked back since. The group's blend of '70s style funk and rock have established the Crowes as one of the greatest rock bands of the last decade. Taking cues from **Zeppelin**, the **Rolling Stones**, the

**Who** and **Aerosmith**, the group is renowned for their high-energy performances.

Aug. 2 marks a night of legends at the Vibes. Following the early acts will be **Mike Gordon**. Gordon is probably best known for his role as bass player for seminal jamsters **Phish**; however Gordon's musical repertoire extends well beyond the Vermont band. Gordon has maintained in the musical spotlight despite Phish's hiatus— he has worked with numerous musical luminaries, including **Mickey Hart**, **Bill Kreutzmann**, **Bob Weir**, **Bruce Hornsby**, **Warren Haynes** and **Leo Kottke**.

Next up is the legendary **Taj Mahal**. For more than 40 years, Mahal has been an immense influence on the world of blues. His ability to incorporate world music into the classic American musical style creating a sound that is truly unique. Having been nominated for eight **Grammys** in his career (and winning two along the way) the **Taj Mahal Trio** is truly the type of act no one should miss.

Saturday night concludes with Grateful Dead co-founder and bass player **Phil Lesh**. Lesh has carried the torch for the Deadhead nation since the passing of Garcia's death, making his shows wildly popular.

Taking a cue from his legendary former band, **Phil Lesh & Friends** will be jamming out some Dead and some Lesh over the course of their four hour set.

The final day of the Vibes welcomes

**Umphrey's McGee**, who have seemingly been passed the torch to become one of the biggest bands in the jam scene. Much like former torch bearers **Phish**, Umphrey's success stems from their ability to fuse countless musical styles together, whether it be pop, rock, jazz, blues, classical or prog, there's a good chance you'll hear some of it during their Sunday set.

Gathering of the Vibes closes out with the New Orleans funk legends the **Neville Brothers**; The group is comprised of siblings **Cyril**, **Art**, **Charles** and **Aaron** (yeah, THAT Aaron Neville, but if all you know about Aaron is his duet, **I Don't Know Much**, with **Linda Ronstadt** you've got a lot to learn...)

The Nevilles have had an extremely successful and lustrous career. Fusing classic R&B, fusion and— of course— funk, the group has been recognized as true pioneers in several genres of music.

Beyond the aforementioned groups, there are dozens more playing... on the main stage alone. GOTV also features a second stage, known as the Solar Stage.

The Solar Stage will feature a slew of regional up-and-comers, as well as some established local acts, including **The Durkins**, **Dylan Connor**, **Saint Bernadette**, **930 Moon**, **Andrew Hoover** and **The Grapes**.

All in all, this year's Gathering of the Vibes looks as though it has the potential to be one of the best yet, so break out your tie-dye and get to it...

2008 Gathering of the Vibes Main Stage Lineup

Thursday, July 31:

5:30 p.m.— Groovesect  
7:15 p.m.— Donna Jean & The Tricksters  
9 p.m.— Dark Star Orchestra

Friday, Aug. 1:

Noon— King for a Day  
1:25 p.m.— American Babies  
2:50 p.m.— Ryan Montbleau Band  
4:15 p.m.— Porter Batiste Stoltz  
7:10 p.m.— Zappa Plays Zappa  
9 p.m.— Deep Banana Blackout  
10:45 p.m.— The Black Crowes

Saturday, August 2:

11 a.m.— Alternate Routes  
12:45 p.m.— Strangefolk  
2:30 p.m.— New Riders of the Purple Sage  
4:15 p.m.— Bill Kreutzman Trio  
6 p.m.— Mike Gordon  
7:30 p.m.— Taj Mahal Trio  
9 p.m.— Phil Lesh & Friends

Sunday, August 3:

10:30 p.m.— World Peace Prayer  
11 p.m.— Organically Grown Gospel Choir  
12:15 p.m.— Jackie Greene  
1:45 p.m.— Sam Bush  
3:15 p.m.— Derek Trucks & Susan Tedeschi  
4:45p.m.— Umphrey's McGee  
6:30 p.m.— The Neville Brothers

Here Come the Vibes

Well-Dressed Peacenik

**What to wear:** Joining your tribe for the Gathering of the Vibes this weekend? Grooving do-gooders don't have to be drab, and here's proof: Check out this 1960s tribal love dress with lace-up bodice (\$68), worn with a kid's vintage cowboy hat (\$8) and a sunshine orange hatband (\$8), fastened with a "Z" for reasons of your own (\$2). You'll need a canteen, of course. Vintage is best, and this fuzzy number is a bargain at \$7. The fringed Earth Shoe sandals (\$16) will save your soles, and the '70s geo print bathing suit (\$24) will mesmerize all the hippies at the karma wash, the drum circle, and yoga sessions on the beach.

**Where to be seen:** This weekend at Seaside Park in Bridgeport for the Gathering of the Vibes, a major music festival featuring such headliners as The Black Crowes, Phil Lesh & Friends, and the Neville Brothers, as well as lesser-knowns like Scrapomatic and The Heavy Pets.

Weekend camping passes are \$185; single tickets are \$70; and don't forget to sign up for a solar cooking class. Contact [gatheringofthevibes.com](http://gatheringofthevibes.com) — Todd Lyon

If You Shop...

Fashionista Vintage & Variety  
33 Church St.,  
Second Floor  
New Haven  
203-777-HIFI (4434)  
[fashionista-vintage-variety.com](http://fashionista-vintage-variety.com)



Photo by Nancy Shea