

# Hour by hour, the vibe keeps beating at Seaside

By **KEN DIXON**  
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**T**he difference between the rain gear of Friday and the tattooed, sun-dappled skin of Saturday, was plainly on parade at the Gathering of the Vibes.

**12:15 a.m.** Saturday. Deep Banana Blackout, a Bridgeport-based outfit, caps foggy funk night, following legendary performer George Clinton and P-Funk. "We need the funk," Clinton shouted. "We got to have it."

People who don't know each other are smiling and dancing. Ten thousand people or more are pulsating when the stage lights turn on the crowd.

Clinton's set is briefly marred by a crush of bodies up against the stage area and MC Mike Potashnick shouts "Let's clear a spot. Let's not play a game. Let's help somebody out. When something happens we need to help somebody out. This whole Vibe Tribe thing is not a joke."

Bridgeport Mayor John Fabrizi stuns the few people in the crowd who actually know who he is, by striding to the stage in a P-funk pink shirt to introduce Deep Banana Blackout.

"There's a band right here from Bridgeport and are you loving Bridgeport?" Fabrizi roars into the stage microphone. "You love James Brown. You just saw George Clinton. Folks, we have one hell of a show for you now: Deep Banana Blackout."

"Bridgeport, get yourself together," shouts Jen Durkin, DBB's vocalist.

**12:49 a.m.** They return to the stage for their second encore, in memory of James Brown. "Yo," Durkin shouts, pointing out that the band members live here. "You know, we have Bridgeportoricans, Jamaicans, and Americans."

## AFTER SUNRISE

**11 a.m.** The evening's overcast finally blew away, leaving a spotless sky as Tim Geary, 41, of Newtown, oversees parking at Marina Circle. He's been working nearly around the clock since Wednesday, sleeping in a nearby University of Bridgeport dorm rented for key staff.

"The first thing I tell people is 'welcome home,'" says Geary, whose 16-year-old son, Michael is also on the festival crew.

**11:15 a.m.** Deputy Chief James Honis of the Bridgeport Police says that there have been relatively minor incidents.

"The people are very friendly," Honis says. He detailed an incident in which the operator of a tow truck, dispatched to remove a vehicle blocking access for emergency vehicles, was offered \$50 by bystanders to not perform the tow.

"No one even knew who owned the car that was blocking," Honis says. The vehicle was towed away, however.

"This seems to be a very caring group of individuals," he says. Honis recalls that on Thursday, in the site's only arrest, a 20-year-old vendor, wanted in Virginia for grand larceny, was identified by his pickup truck and arrested near the baseball fields.

"There have been a number of lockouts of cars, but very few vehicles towed," Honis says.

Drug use has not been in the open. "The festival has actually been a pleasure," he says.

He says that daily morning meetings with Ken Hays, director of Terrapin Presents, tackle new challenges as they occur, particularly access issues.

"It's a work in progress," Honis says of the festival.

**Noon.** As the Ryan Montbleau Band wails, Elizabeth, a student from Syracuse attending the festival with her sister, emerges from a portable toilet at the Civil War monument. "There's no toilet paper," she says.

**12:09 p.m.** Radios in the campgrounds a half-mile away from the main stages play WPKN's live feed a second or two before the life sounds arrives from the city of tents.

**12:15 p.m.** A young man walks along Sound View Drive,

whispering "mushrooms." He's asked what the police is for the hallucinogen. "Twenty five dollars for an eighth of an ounce."

**12:20 p.m.** Michael Matarese, 26, of Wilmington, Del, is walking around the campgrounds picking up stray litter. He works five hours a day in exchange for a ticket and dorm room.

"It's really pretty clean," says Matarese, a security manager for an art museum. "I fell like I don't have much to do."

He's wearing a T-shirt that says: "It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they

need and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomb."

**12:25 p.m.** Another student "Maralize Leguinao"

**12:30 p.m.** In the VIP tent, word comes to a Connecticut Post reporter that LSD, that holdover hallucinogen that's been illegal since 1966, is going for \$80 for a paper blotter containing about 10 doses.

**12:43 p.m.** Jim Ryan, 23, an environmental engineering major at the University of New Hampshire and Kyle Whittemore, 22, are wearing primitive-looking headgear representing the

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**12:50 p.m.** The Starbucks folks are giving away shots of their new Blueberry and Cream Frappuccino.

**12:55 p.m.** Steve Crews, 41, a Woodstock, N.Y. housepainter, is making soap bubbles for the breeze to send over the heads of passersby. It's a mixture of soap, water and the secret ingredient of corn syrup.

**1 p.m.** Strangefolk hits the Bandshell Stage, while down on the seawall, between baseball diamonds 8 and 9, rock sculptors are creating more than a dozen little rock towers. One has a miniature disco ball.

**1:33 p.m.** Dan Lacasse, a 31-year-old engineer from Leominster, Mass, walks away from the Solar Beach Stage, located about a mile along the seawall from the main stages.

Darian Cunning is playing a blues/funk set as Lacasse remembers changing clothes a couple times in the Friday rain. He says Mayor Fabrizi introduced the first band of the day at the beach stage.

**2:13 p.m.** Back near the main entrance to the big stages, there's an overload of adults on a three-car kids' electric choo-choo train that had been shuttling campers from the west.

First the driver determines it's okay, then another group loads, before he determines the once-cute idea is now broken.

**2:47 p.m.** Bill Schietinger, general manager of American Medical Response, says the total taken to city hospitals has reached 35 for the weekend.

"There's been nothing major: a couple more bee stings, a couple of intoxications, either alcohol or drugs," he said. "There was also an assault last night."

**2:50 p.m.** Indeed, the victim, with a nearly closed right eye that's eggplant purple, is describing to Deputy Chief Honis what happened the night before. It involved his former girlfriend, her current boyfriend and another man. Officers are about to go out and arrest two men in one of the campgrounds.

Honis adds that between 4 and 5 a.m. on Saturday, police made several arrests for breaking into vehicles in the old Remington parking lot, which has become a spillover site for festival parking.

**4:40 p.m.** There are two large gongs set up near a food court and a woman is lying between them as two men softly hit the gongs.

Nearby, a man is lying on a blanket with three bowls — said to be more than 300 years old and from Tibet — surrounding his head and two on his stomach. He alternately strikes each bowl with a small mallet and soaks up the vibrations.

With her turn between the large gongs is finished, Jenna Laurino of New Jersey seems content, though she doesn't exactly know how or why.

"It's real hard to explain," she said, "but it just feels very beautiful.

**4:55 p.m.** A young man walks around with what looks like a Hartford Whalers T-shirt, but it turns out to be another Grateful Dead shirt with the defunct NHL team's logo plastered on the shirt's skull.

**5:20 p.m.** Two women walk by wearing skeleton outfits, which are mostly black, see-through bodysuits. They are accompanied by two men in full green body paint wearing bright red skirts.

It's just another Gathering of the Vibes day at Seaside Park.

*Staff writer Sean Spillane contributed to this report.*