

Block party to hit Willow Street Park

By Francine Maglione
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NEW BRITAIN — With summer quickly winding to a close, it's time to squeeze in as many barbecues, picnics and block parties as possible.

In an attempt to provide a

drug free summer event for families, the Coalition Against Substance Abuse (CASA) is holding a Community Block Party on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. at Willow Street Park.

"This is an event for the whole family," said Dianette Martinez, project coordinator

of CASA.

The party will offer food, vendors selling jewelry and crafts, information booths featuring resource agencies for families, and activities for children like face painting and arts and crafts.

There will also be a three-on-three basketball tournament held for children ages 10 and up, as well as live music by a DJ and church group, and dance performances.

"We might have an open mic that night as well," said Martinez. She added that anyone interested may sing or read a poem at the open mic.

This will be the first year of the block party, which was started by Martinez.

"I used to do a block party when I lived in Massachusetts," she said.

The entrance fee for the basketball game is \$20 per team. To get a registration form call (860) 826-4676.

The coalition is also currently looking for volunteers to referee the games.