

# HARTFORD COURANT

By Kassi Jackson  
JUL 27, 2019 | 4:52 PM

Link: <http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-community-clean-up-day-20190727-w4h7uuv2pzbaxkazrkf6yvm574-story.html>

## Community members team up with organizations for a Frog Hollow SAFE community cleanup day



Edwin Ramos puts bags of trash in the back of Joel Otero's patrol car during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE ? Safety Alliance for Everyone ? is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)

Frog Hollow SAFE — Safety Alliance for Everyone — put on the sixth community cleanup day competition Saturday and dozens of community members took to the streets to pick up trash and recycling.



Jane Baird, as part of the Connecticut Children's group, picks up trash along Madison Street during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone) is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)



Antonio Garcia puts on gloves before hitting the streets for a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone) is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)





A community clean-up competition map rests in the front window of Joel Otero's patrol car during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone) is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)

Some of the groups participating included Connecticut Children's, Pullman & Comley, the Hartford Police Explorers, the Hartford Police Department, the Hartford Fire Department and more.

Over the past two years, the goal of Frog Hollow SAFE has been to create cleaner and safer neighborhoods, according to Logan Singerman, community engagement consultant with SINA (Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance).

"It's bringing people together and just being this positive force in the neighborhood," Singerman said. "Whenever we clean up, people honk horns, people will stop some of the younger people cleaning up to thank them for what they're doing. So it's just trying to build this positive momentum; and we've been able to, which is completely resident-led."

Hartford resident Delene Falcon has lived on Wolcott Street for the past two-and-a-half years and has been a part of the cleanup days since they began. "It's been life-changing," Falcon said.

Falcon said when she first moved to Wolcott Street, the roads were dirtier and there was more crime happening on her street. She said she has seen continuous improvement since the cleanups began. "I can see the residents responding to that: they don't toss trash as much, and they look a lot more hopeful," Falcon said. "They believe in the community. And I see the community coming together a lot more — like community projects, they'll show up, try to put their input, stuff like that."



Joel Otero, of the Community Response Unit, picks up trash bags to transport back to Templo Fe during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE ? Safety Alliance for Everyone ? is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)



Bags of trash sit where they were dropped off in the parking lot of Templo Fe during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone) is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)

While teams of six to eight people screened the streets for trash, the Hartford Police Department had officers in their patrol cars picking up and transporting the trash bags back to the parking lot of Templo Fe on Broad Street, where the groups originally congregated Saturday morning.

Officer Joel Otero, of the Community Response Unit, said this was his first community cleanup day and that he enjoyed it. He played the "Avengers" theme song over his patrol car speakers.





Antonio Garcia looks toward Joel Otero's patrol car as he reacts to Otero playing the "Avengers" theme song over the patrol car speakers during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone) is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant) "The community is loving it," Otero said.

If you'd like to get involved with the next community cleanup day, visit the Frog Hollow SAFE Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/froghollowSAFE/>) or contact SINA at 860-493-1618.



Evan Baird squeezes water out of a plastic bottle during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone) is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)





Logan Singerman, community engagement consultant for Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA), (left) marks on a map laying out group cleanup efforts during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone) is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)



Joel Otero, of the Community Response Unit, puts bags of trash in the backseat of his patrol car during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone) is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)





From left, Melsun Greyer, Devon Gay, Jr., Bryce Gay and Vanessa Gay pick up trash along Madison St. during a community clean-up day put on by Frog Hollow SAFE downtown Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Hartford. Frog Hollow SAFE (Safety Alliance for Everyone) is a coalition that organizes community events, such as the clean up day, in order to reach the goal of making the neighborhoods safer and cleaner. (Kassi Jackson / Hartford Courant)