



News, Views & Entertainment

Free  
Take One!

"More of the Best of the Valley"

May 9, 2016

**VENDORS WANTED**  
Sign Up ASAP to lock in your spot!



Crafters  
Antiques  
Collectibles  
Jewelry  
Sports Item  
Food

Over 18,000  
visitors  
last year

Event Date: **June 5, 2016**  
Rain Date: **June 12, 2016**

Visit [www.seymourfoundersday.org](http://www.seymourfoundersday.org)  
for info & vendor registration forms

The Valley-Voice Newsletter is now published twice-weekly!

## The Cast of Beatlemania coming to Ansonia to Rock the Valley in August

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - Is it Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band? The Fab Four?

Are they on a Magical Mystery Tour? Have they had a Hard Day's Night?

Help! Actually it's all of the above!

The headliners for the second annual Rock the Valley festival Aug. 20 at Nolan Field in Ansonia: The "Cast" of Beatlemania!

Rock the Valley drew close to four thousand people in attendance last August. The new music and arts festival was well received by the community.

A wide variety of arts and crafts vendors, food to tempt every palate, live music, and a fireworks finale made for a perfect, family-fun day.

In addition to the internationally acclaimed "Cast of Beatlemania", this year's musical lineup features top local musical acts The Kathy Thompson Band, All Funked Up, XYZ (Revisited) and Quicksand Planet. This is one of the most impressive musical lineups ever assembled in the area.

Organizers have extended the hours of operation, running from 11 AM to 10PM, and the the venue has been expanded.

Most importantly, the paid admission policy has been removed.

There will be free admission to all, because, they say, something of this magnitude needs to be shared with everyone in the community.

Mayor David S. Cassetti said he's "looking forward to another successful event for the City of Ansonia." "It's going to be exciting for the residents of the Valley," he said. Cassetti has heard the band in concert. "They sound just like The Beatles," he said. "It's going to be a good time."

Let it be.



Application for Craft, Food and Business Vendors may be found here:  
[http://cityofansoniam.com/filestorage/2520/Rock\\_the\\_Valley\\_Application\\_\(1\).pdf](http://cityofansoniam.com/filestorage/2520/Rock_the_Valley_Application_(1).pdf)

## Fourth annual event raises funds for TEAM's Meals on Wheels program



### Taco-eating champ defends title at Hot Tamale in Seymour

SEYMOUR - Hot Tamale Mexican Grille and Bar in Seymour hosted the eating contest to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, with proceeds going to support TEAM's Meals on Wheels program.

It was a great turnout for a great cause!

Participants and spectators at the event:

Back Row, standing, L-R: Don Smith, Boys & Girls Club; Ansonia Mayor David S. Cassetti; Phil Wilhelmy, Seymour Public Works; State Rep. Theresa Conroy; David Morgan, CEO of TEAM; Rory Burke, Seymour 1st Selectman's Office; Derby Mayor Anita Dugatto

Front Row, seated, L-R: Seymour First Selectman, Kurt Miller; Hot Tamale owner Robert Volpacchio; Seymour Land Trust President Alex Danka; Seymour Land Trust President Alex Danka, left, reigning taco-eating champ

**Lizzie's Corner**  
Home Consignment & Gifts  
19 Bank Street  
Seymour, CT 06483  
203-888-1030  
[lizziescornerconsignment@gmail.com](mailto:lizziescornerconsignment@gmail.com)



**Victor the Valley Voice is here!**

Our Town Grier is ready to show you  
more of the best of the Valley...

[www.thevalley-voicect.com](http://www.thevalley-voicect.com)

For submittals, ad rates and more, contact:

Patricia Villers 203-893-8623

Ralph Villers 203-308-9255

[alcamwriting@yahoo.com](mailto:alcamwriting@yahoo.com)

Alcam Writing & Admin LLC, Derby, CT

## Parish Nurses at Griffin Hospital offer safety tips for kids

DERBY - The Safe Kids Greater Naugatuck Valley coalition recently sponsored an informational event at Griffin Hospital.

Coordinator Cathi Kellett, a Valley Parish Nurse, spoke to visitors about how to keep children safe. Helping her was parish nurse Deborah Nicolson. The nurses are based at Griffin Hospital.

"We're showcasing five preventable injuries today," Kellett said. They are:

- Home safety - fire escape plans, smoke detectors, and keeping poisons in locked cabinets;
- Pool and water safety;
- Child passenger safety including car seat demonstrations;
- Teen driving distractions;
- Pedestrian safety.

Kellett and Nicolson spoke with visitors and distributed educational materials to adults and firefighter hats for children.

Safe Kids Greater Naugatuck Valley provides a variety of programs for the community, including car-seat checkups, safety workshops, and sports clinics.



## Bike Night planned at Valley Diner in Derby to benefit child

By Patricia Villers

DERBY - This bike night event at the Valley Diner will help support Eva (the Diva) Grace Kelly, 5, of West Haven who lives with SMA, spinal muscular atrophy.

It will also help raise awareness for the rare genetic disorder for which there is no treatment or cure.

Below is part of my article published in 2013 in the *New Haven Register* which allows insight into the challenges faced by by Eva and her family caregivers too.

Learn more

Website:

<http://evasmiracle.com/index.html>

Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EvasMiracle/>

## Derby diner holding fund-raiser to buy van for 'happy little soul'

By Patricia Villers  
07/28/13

DERBY - The Valley Diner will be the place to be Aug. 19 as the restaurant hosts Eva's Miracle Bike Night to raise money for a handicapped-accessible van for Eva Grace Kelly and her family. The West Haven toddler, who just turned 2½, was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy at 5 months old.

The incurable disease causes muscular wasting and weakness. "We want to raise awareness (of SMA)," said Melissa Kelly, Eva's mother. The genetic disease affects one in every 40 children, she said.

Eva's father, John Kelly, said, "Most kids who have this don't live to age 2." But both parents said their daughter is a fighter. Eva has round-the-clock nursing care. She is on a ventilator and has a feeding tube.

Melissa Kelly said although Eva is non-verbal, her brain is normal for her age and she understands what is said to her.

Kelly gives her a choice of outfit to wear and Eva selects the one she wants by looking at it, Kelly said. She does the same with movie choices. Eva is almost always smiling, Melissa Kelly said.

She calls her daughter "Eva the Diva" because she manages to get what she wants. It's her personality that shines through, she said.

"It's a lot of work but it's all worth it," Kelly said. "She's a happy little soul." The Kellys have an older child, Noah, almost 8. "He's a wonderful older brother," Kelly said.

Last month the family went to Walt Disney World, where they met other extended family members. "The trip was amazing," Kelly said. "Eva smiled for six straight days." It was paid for by Baking Memories 4 Kids, a foundation started by cancer survivor Frank Squeo to send children with life-threatening illnesses on vacations.

West Haven resident Karen Adamo Laudano recently met the Kelly family through mutual friends. Two weeks ago Laudano held a pasta dinner at the Elks lodge in West Haven for the family. "We want to raise enough money to get them a van," Laudano said.

She said she reached out to Derby resident Dick Lupkas to coordinate the Valley Diner event. Lupkas coordinates bike nights and other biker fund-raisers in the area.

Kelly said they are grateful to their loyal supporters. "There are so many people out there with good hearts. They're so generous and kind."

The Valley-Voice CT Newsletter  
©2016 by Alcam Writing & Admin LLC. All rights reserved.

The Valley-Voice is published by:

Alcam Writing & Admin LLC, Derby, CT  
203-305-9255, 293-893-8623  
[thevalleyvoice@gmail.com](mailto:thevalleyvoice@gmail.com).

Blog: <http://thevalley-voice.ct.blogspot.com>  
Web: <http://www.thevalley-voice.ct.net>

