

Big Y supermarket taking shape in Derby



Construction is moving along at the new Big Y Supermarket in Derby. Compare the top photo that was taken Friday Aug. 9 with the photo to the left that was taken a year ago on August 4, 2018.

Last year it looked like the previous retailer Wal-Mart; now it looks and feels like a modern Big Y it is being transformed into. The new store is expected to open in November.

- Photo by Patricia Villers

Ansonia educators visit incoming kindergartners

ANSONIA – The first Ansonia Kindergarten Canvass book drop-off was held earlier this month.

More than 150 incoming kindergartners were visited last week by teams of school staff and volunteers, who welcomed the students and their families to the district.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our Ansonia faculty to meet our new kindergarten families by going to their homes to drop off a book,”

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph DiBacco said. He participated in a similar event in Hamden, his previous school district.

Staff and volunteers met prior to the home visits, writing personal messages in each book and getting the names and addresses of their assigned students to visit.

A total of eight teams spent the morning knocking on doors and meeting children who will be starting their educational journey Aug. 28.

“This initiative is an important step in forging a positive relationship with families,” DiBacco said.

John LaRovera, the district’s math administrator, said one of the district’s goals is to increase family engagement. “Why not start, then, with our families who may be with us for another 12 years?” he said.

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DiBacco, Len Duffus, Steve Bergin and Amanda Bartone meet a new student on her front porch.



Mead Principal Amy Cosciello (center) and Teacher Patti Biga meet a new student.



(From left) John LaRovera, Joanne Wiacek, Deborah Ruderman and Joanne’s daughter pose with one of Ansonia’s new students.



DiBacco, teacher Amanda Bartone, Asst. Superintendent Steve Bergin and Community volunteer Leonard Duffus greet an incoming kindergarten student and her sister during the Kindergarten Canvas book drop-off.

Ansonia educators visit incoming kindergartners

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Amy Cosciello, principal of Mead School, said it was “a great community feeling.” She said some children were waiting for them to arrive. “The kids were so excited. We could hear them yelling, ‘Our teachers are here.’”

Families received prior notification of the visit through the use of the district’s automated calling system. All staff and volunteers wore light green T-shirts, with “Ansonia Kindergarten Canvass” written on them.

In addition to DiBacco, 24 staff members and community volunteers participated.

Staff included 12 teachers, of which five were kindergarten teachers; 10 administrators, and three community volunteers. DiBacco said he plans to make this an annual event.

“Being a product of Ansonia, it touched my heart to see these families and the smiles on the faces of their children,” LaRovera said. “It also brought our teachers together; they had fun! The Kindergarten Canvass was a creative way of saying, ‘Welcome to Ansonia.’”

This is from a press release from Ansonia Public Schools



Seymour Historical Society Presents: *Crossing the Connecticut*



For over 350 years, ferry boats and their colorful crews have carried passengers across the Connecticut River

Sunday, Aug. 25 at 2 p.m.

**Seymour Historical Society,
59 West Street**

Perhaps nothing is more quintessentially Connecticut than the ferry boats that have operated on the state’s biggest river since 1655.

In this program, Connecticut historian Wick Griswold – co-author of the book “Connecticut River Ferries” -- will tell tales of captains, crews and well-known passengers. Learn how Captain Ham Sandwich got his name and how a female captain bonded with a famous actress who was a frequent rider. And finally, learn how the historic boats have survived in a modern world where, after all, the river can be easily crossed on any number of concrete and steel bridges.

**PROGRAMS ARE FREE FOR SEYMOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS
AND \$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS. DOORS OPEN AT 1 P.M.**

For information: 203-881-2156/psussman@snet.net/

www.seymourhistoricalsociety.org



CHOICES available to area Medicare recipients

Assistance offered at Center for Disability Rights, Agency on Aging

WEST HAVEN - The CHOICES program helps older adults and other people with Medicare coverage understand their Medicare coverage and healthcare options.

CHOICES offers a number of free programs, as well as community outreach, and information and referral services on a wide variety of topics.

Carmen Correa-Rios is a certified CHOICES counselor at the Center For Disability Rights. She can be reached at **(203)-934-7077 Ext. 14**. Please schedule an appointment with her if you need assistance.

You can also contact the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut which administers the CHOICES program in the south central region of Connecticut. Appointments are highly recommended so that dedicated time can be set aside



The **CHOICES** program is available for the Valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton along with 15 other towns in southern Connecticut.

