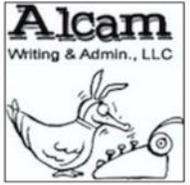


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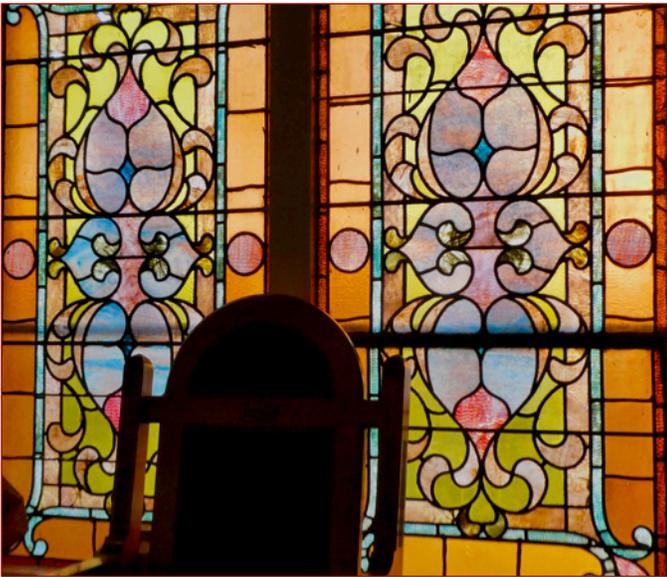
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More of the Best of the Valley

April 6, 2018

Windows at Derby church offer glimpse into history



Photos by Patricia Villers

DERBY - The stately Derby United Methodist Church on the Green was completed in 1894, replacing the original Methodist church built in 1837.

The architectural style is Romanesque Revival that was used in the United States in the 19th century and features many round arches and towers.

The early evening sunlight added a colorful glow to the window with the oil lamp. The lamp is referenced on many occasions in both the Old and New Testaments, from Proverbs and Psalms to the Apostles.

A stained-glass window in the sanctuary shows angels near Calvary. Are the angels guiding our eyes toward the crosses?



Derby announces Connecticut High School Scholar-Athlete Awards



DERBY - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Matthew Conway Jr. has announced The Connecticut Association of Schools and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference has selected Derby High School seniors Joshua Dana and Nicole Rizzo to receive the 2018 Connecticut High School Scholar-Athlete Award.



According to CAS each year the Scholar-Athlete Program recognizes two high school seniors, whose academic and athletic careers have been exemplary, whose personal standards and achievements are a model to others, and who possess high levels of integrity, self-discipline and courage.

Principal, Martin Pascale stated, "Both Josh and Nicole are outstanding student athletes and I am extremely proud of their accomplishments."

The *Valley-Voice* congratulates Josh and Nicole as they continue in their educational and athletic endeavors. Thanks go to Derby Public Schools for showcasing these accomplished students.

Josh Dana

Wrestling

Achievements:

- He has earned a GPA of 3.83
- A four-year member of the Derby High School Wrestling Team.
- Plans to attend the University of New Haven in the fall majoring in criminal justice.



Nicole Rizzo

Cross Country / Track

Achievements:

- She has earned a GPA of 4.33
- A four-year member of the Derby High School Cross-Country, Girls Indoor and Outdoor Track teams.
- Plans to attend Southern Connecticut State University in the fall majoring in psychology.

The Art of Aging

May 17, 2018



The Art of Aging opening reception is being held May 17 from 4-7 p.m. at the Agency of Aging, 1 Long Wharf Drive, Suite 1L, New Haven. It is open to the public.

Artists 60 and over are encouraged to show their photography or paintings during this exhibition to be held May 17th-June 21st. There is no entry fee and prizes are awarded. Artwork must be dropped off at the office between April 23 and May 1.

Any questions, please contact Sue Hamilton, 203-785-8533x3166 or shamilton@aoascc.org



Register Here!

DiMatteo Group in Shelton receives family-owned business award

SHELTON - The DiMatteo Group in Shelton was named one of 22 outstanding family-owned businesses in Fairfield and Westchester County by Westfair Inc., publishers of The Fairfield County Business Journal and The Westchester County Business Journal, at a recent awards ceremony.

Family owned businesses account for 50 percent of U.S. gross domestic product and generate 60 percent of the country's employment.

Family businesses represent 78 percent of all new job creation and comprise 80 to 90 percent of all business enterprises in North America.



John DiMatteo, President of DiMatteo said, "Through the years our business has grown in proportion to our family. We were extremely honored to receive this prestigious recognition as we approach our 58th anniversary. We continue to expand and keep current with the latest business practices by maintaining an excellent work-life balance."

Originally called the A.A. DiMatteo Insurance Service Center, the late Anthony DiMatteo founded the agency in Bridgeport in 1959. They later moved to Trumbull and to their current Bridgeport Avenue offices in 2003. They now employ a staff of 26.

The DiMatteo children took over the business in 1993 and "earned the right to own this business through hard work," said Adeline DiMatteo of Shelton, Anthony's widow.

DiMatteo Group specializes in insurance, employee benefits, income tax and financial services.

Five family members hold leadership positions at the company, including: John and Kim DiMatteo of Bethany, Robert and Loretta Lesko of Shelton, and Rosemarie Esposito of Shelton.

"We have successfully transitioned the business from our parents and founders to the second and now third generation," John DiMatteo said. "Overall, we are growing within the various industries and have become a desirable place to work."

Throughout the year the company and family foundation are involved in a variety of philanthropic projects.

"Twelve years ago we established the DiMatteo Family Charitable Foundation and an annual golf tournament," said John DiMatteo. "The foundation was established as a tribute to our late father who was battling cancer at the time. Since then, we have contributed over \$304,000 for various well-known local and national charities that fund research, education, and finding a cure for diseases."



DiMatteo Group, front L-R: John DiMatteo, Bethany, and Loretta Lesko, Shelton; Middle, L-R: Kim DiMatteo, Bethany, and Robert Lesko, Shelton; Back: Rosemarie Esposito of Shelton.

About the DiMatteo Group

Founded over 57 years ago, the family-owned and operated DiMatteo Group business specializes in insurance, employee benefits, income tax and financial services.

Giving back to the community is part of the company's mission. They continue to maintain its foundation of integrity, personalized service and treating others as an extension of the family.

Learn more at <http://www.dimatteogrp.com>



Guest Bartender Mayor Rich Dziekan

WED. APRIL 11th 5:30-7:30PM

All of the Mayor's tips and 25% of all sales will be donated to the Valley Community Foundation!!

BAD SONS Beer Co. 251 Roosevelt Dr. Derby
203-308-2654 - badsons.com - FB/IG @badsonsbeer



NCAA Div. 1 Baseball game scheduled for Ansonia's Nolan Field

ANSONIA – Mayor David S. Casseti, in conjunction with the Sacred Heart University Department of Athletics is pleased to announce that the City of Ansonia will host a regular season Division I college baseball game this spring at Nolan Field. This is the first-ever event of its kind at Nolan Field.



The game will feature the Sacred Heart University Pioneers vs. University at Albany Great Danes and is scheduled for May 15, 2018 with a May 16 rain date. Game time is to be determined.

“This is an original idea developed by my Constituent Services Director Greg Martin,” said Mayor Casseti. “It certainly has the potential of becoming a signature event for Ansonia. We plan to offer up our finest hospitality to both teams.”



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

This inaugural game will be treated as a “pilot” and based on its success, SHU is considering making it an annual “home” game tradition here that could bring in other marquee opponents such as Yale or UCONN to the Copper City.

A nominal admission will be charged for the game.



SHU is a member of the Northeast Conference and Albany is a member of the America East Conference. Both clubs have qualified for NCAA national tournaments over the past 10 years, with the Pioneers making four trips and the most recent in 2015.

Nolan Field has previously hosted a Philadelphia Phillies tryout camp in 1948, and even a Major League exhibition game in 1922 featuring the National League St. Louis Cardinals against an Ansonia amateur team that attracted 4,000.



In 2014, as part of the Ansonia's 125th anniversary celebration, Martin produced a vintage baseball game set in the 1880's between the mythical Derby Osbornedales and Ansonia Coppermen played by era rules, uniforms and equipment. The game attracted 1,200 fans.

Nolan Field's baseball capacity can accommodate up to 5,000 fans.



For more info, contact Greg Martin, Director of Constituent Services, at 203-736-5963 or gmartin@ansoniacct.org

