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JULY/AUGUST 2010

VOL. 5 ISSUE 4

July

Happy July 4th!



- 1** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
10:30 a.m. **Story Times** (ages 3-6) Registration requested.*
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Comic Strip Drawing Classes** (ages 12-17). Reg. required.*
- 3, 5** SATURDAY & MONDAY
Closed in Observance of July 4th Holiday.
- 6** TUESDAY
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Social Skills Series** (ages 12-17) Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Cruising CT with a Picnic Basket** w/Jan Mann. Reg. requested.*
- 7** WEDNESDAY
10:30 a.m. **Under the Sea** w/ Science Snoopers (ages 4-7) Registration req.*
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Buddies** (ages 8-11) Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **"Beach Blanket" Bingo** (ages 12-17). Registration required.*
- 8** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
10:30 a.m. **Story Times** (ages 3-6) Registration requested.*
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Girl Scout Program** (girls grades 4-5) Reg. requested.*
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Comic Strip Drawing Classes** (ages 12-17). Reg. required.*
- 9** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
10:30 a.m. **Craft Time** (ages 5-9) Registration required.*
- 12** MONDAY
1:00 p.m. **Bubbleology** w/Regional Water Authority. (ages 5+) Reg. requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
- 13** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. - Noon **Career Development Workshop, Resume Basics.** Reg. req.*
10:00 a.m. **Social Security Information Specialist**, Maria Grice. Walk-in basis.
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Tide-Eye** w/Laurie Lynne. (ages 12-17) Reg. required.*
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Young Adult Advisory Meeting.** (ages 12-17)
6:30 p.m. **Sheldon Zab the Crab** w/author, Kristine Kucej. (ages 3+) Reg. req.*
- 14** WEDNESDAY
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Buddies** (ages 8-11) Registration requested.*
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Beanbag Playhouse, Splash.** (ages 12-17) Reg. required.*
- 15** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
10:30 a.m. **Story Times** (ages 3-6) Registration requested.*
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Girl Scout Program** (girls grades 4-5) Reg. requested.*
1:30 p.m. **H2O Olympics** w/Kellogg Environmental Center (ages 9-17) Reg. req.*
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Comic Strip Drawing Classes** (ages 12-17). Reg. required.*
- 16** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. - Noon & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **CT Works Career Coach** presents *Job Search Assistance.* Registration requested.*
10:30 a.m. **Creature Feature** w/ Science Snoopers (ages 4-7) Registration req.*
- 19** MONDAY
1:00 p.m. **Rainstick** w/Regional Water Authority. (ages 5+) Reg. requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. Cooking Demo, **Seafood Appetizers.** (ages 18+) Reg. required.*
- 20** TUESDAY
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Social Skills Series** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Read to Sandy** (ages 5-11). Registration required.*
- 21** WEDNESDAY
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Buddies** (ages 8-11) Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Teens in Dreamland** (ages 12-17). Registration required.*
- 22** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
10:30 a.m. **Story Times** (ages 3-6) Registration requested.*
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Girl Scout Program** (girls grades 4-5) Reg. requested.*
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Comic Strip Drawing Classes** (ages 12-17). Reg. required.*
- 23** FRIDAY
1:00 p.m. **Mystic Aquarium Touch Tank** (ages 4+). Registration requested.*
2:00 p.m. **Mystic Aquarium Touch Tank** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
- 26** MONDAY
11:00 a.m. **Sparky's Adventures** w/Rick Arruzza (ages 4+). Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
- 27** TUESDAY
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Social Skills Series** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Deep Sea Treasure Hunt** (ages 4-11). Registration requested.*
- 28** WEDNESDAY
10:30 a.m. **Sea Mammals** w/ Science Snoopers (ages 4-7) Registration req.*
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Buddies** (ages 8-11) Registration requested.*
12:30 p.m. **Lunchtime Book Discussion** *That Old Cape Magic.* Reg. requested.*
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Beanbag Playhouse, Jaws.** (ages 12-17) Reg. required.*
- 29** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
10:30 a.m. **Story Times** (ages 3-6) Registration requested.*
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Comic Strip Drawing Classes** (ages 12-17). Reg. required.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August



Gone Fishin'

- 2** MONDAY
11:00 a.m. **Teddy Bear Picnic** (ages 4-7). Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
- 4** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Farm on Wheels** (3+) Registration requested.*
- 5** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
10:30 a.m. **Story Times** (ages 3-6) Registration requested.*
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Comic Strip Drawing Classes** (ages 12-17). Reg. required.*
- 6** FRIDAY
10:30 a.m. **Craft Time** (ages 5-9) Registration required.*
- 9** MONDAY
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Yesterday's Headlines** presented by Rob Novak. Reg. requested.*
- 10** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Social Security Information Specialist**, Maria Grice. Walk-in basis.
10:00 a.m. - Noon **Career Development Workshop. Where Are All the Jobs?** Registration requested.*
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Young Adult Advisory Meeting.** (ages 12-17)
- 11** WEDNESDAY
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Beanbag Playhouse, Moby Dick.** (ages 12-17) Reg. required.*
- 12** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
1:30 p.m. **Water Wonderland Magic Show** presented by Steve Wronker. (End of Summer Reading Program) Registration required.*
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **YA Bon Voyage Party.** (YA Summer Reading Program wrap-up) Registration required.*
- 13** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
- 16** MONDAY
6:00 p.m. **Seaside Summer Salad Celebration** for all adult reading club members. Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
- 18** WEDNESDAY
6:30 p.m. **Teen Psychic** (ages 12-17). Registration requested.*
6:30 p.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
- 19** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
- 20** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. - Noon & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **CT Works Career Coach** presents *Job Search Assistance.* Registration requested.*
11:00 a.m. - Noon. **Kindergarten Day** (all Kindergarten students entering Derby Public Schools this fall). Registration requested.*
- 23** MONDAY
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration req.*
6:30 p.m. **De-Clutter!** presented by Ned Farrell. Registration requested.*
- 25** WEDNESDAY
12:30 p.m. **Lunchtime Book Discussion** *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. Reg. requested.*
- 26** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
- 30** MONDAY
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **YA Chess Club** (ages 12-17). Registration req.*

*For more information call (203) 736-1482 or go to www.derbypubliclibrary.org and click on EventKeeper.

Summer Reading Club for Adults *Water Your Mind - Read*



This summer, for the first time, the Library will be running a Summer Reading Club for ages 18 and over. Adults are invited to *Water Your Mind - Read*. The club will begin on June 21 and run through August 16. Participants will receive a summer incentive prize upon joining. As they read books of their choice, they will be asked to anonymously complete a very brief written questionnaire to share with fellow readers. These will be posted. Weekly raffles for summer surprise bags will be held for all participants sharing for each particular week. A Seaside Summer Salad Celebration for all reading club members will take place on Monday, August 16 at 6:00 PM. It will be catered by Stacey Ferenc of Savour. Additional raffle prizes will be awarded at this time.

You can register for this first time ever program by signing up at the adult circulation desk. Experience the fun that the children have had for years!

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Cathy Williams

Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you.
— Langston Hughes

As we roll out these days of summer, we admit that while things sometimes get “crazy” here at the Derby Public Library, we hope they are never “hazy”, and we can guarantee that they will never be “lazy!” During the months of July and August, numerous programs and activities will be held for all ages. Check the front calendar and join in the fun!

Thank You’s...

During the past several weeks, Derby resident, Barbara Dorso, has generously allowed the Library to exhibit her beautiful paintings in our main display case. Her pieces have been viewed and enjoyed by many. Thank you, Barbara, for sharing your talents with us once again!

Derby resident, Daniel Waleski, often visits the Library “bearing gifts.” While his donations are always wonderful additions to our collection, last month he presented the Library with a true “treasure.” After learning that a 1935 Derby High School *LookOut* yearbook was being sold, Mr. Waleski sought it out and purchased it. And now, through his generosity, it has been added to the Library’s local history collection. Thank you, Mr. Waleski for your continued support!



Winner Announced...

The 2010 recipient of the Derby Public Library Scholarship Prize is Derby High School graduate, Vi Phan. While the Library Board of Directors was highly impressed with all the essays submitted, Vi’s essay most profoundly conveyed the great impact that libraries and reading have had on her life. As she stated, “My life would be completely different.” Vi has been very active in both her school and community throughout her high school years. She was ranked third in her graduating class, was a member and secretary of the National Honor Society, and she was also a member of the Spanish Honor Society. She was a member of the DHS track team for four years and was a captain during both her junior and senior years. She was president of the Derby Historical Society Venture Crew and a member of the Valley United Way Youth Leadership Group. Vi will attend Boston College where she will major in biology. The Derby Public Library is proud to add her name to the scholarship recipient plaque located in the young adult area. We wish her continued success as she begins this new chapter in her life.



Circulation Changes...

Bibliomation, Inc., the automation consortium that the Library belongs to, has been working with all its member libraries to provide the best service possible to patrons. As you are aware, some circulation changes have already been made to achieve this goal. Beginning July 1 another change goes into effect when all *new* DVDs will have a loan period of three days, while all others will remain at a seven day loan period. There will still be no renewals or reserves allowed for these items. The four DVD limit per card will also remain. We anticipate a few more overall circulation changes coming in September and will let you know when they happen. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation.

Reminders.....

As you are planning your summer activities, keep in mind the many Museum/Recreation passes that are available to you by using your library card. These passes provide you with free or reduced admissions to the Beardsley Zoo, the Barnum Museum, Stepping Stones Museum, Mystic Aquarium, CT State Parks & Forests and more. Pick up a brochure at the circulation desks for a complete listing.

With the exception of the July Fourth and Labor Day holiday week ends, the Library will once again be open on Saturdays throughout the summer. So whether you are taking a Vacation, a Staycation or a Nearcation, we hope you take advantage of all the Library has to offer. See you soon!

Closing Thought:

Someone’s sitting in the shade today, because someone planted a tree a long time ago.
— Warren Buffett

Cruising Connecticut with a Picnic Basket

The Library welcomes Jan Mann, author of *Cruising Connecticut with a Picnic Basket*, on Tuesday, July 6 at 6:30 PM. This book contains forty-two day trips across the state. All of the destinations have picnicking facilities which are described, followed by a suggested menu and one or two recipes. Ms. Mann will discuss her writing process, share favorite stories about both the places and recipes, then take questions from the audience. There will be books available to purchase. There will also be a picnic basket raffle! Registration is requested.



Tech Corner

Bernadette Bahner

Road Trip 101

Plan a budget vacation, affordable day trip or sit back and relax with the following great websites this summer:

Information on road trips, road trip planning, maps, books, resources, advice, links and more can be found at www.roadtripamerica.com. This site also includes ten tips for choosing pet friendly lodging.

Discover 50 great things to do in Connecticut at www.visitConnecticut.com. There is also a link to www.visitNewEngland.com that offers digital discount coupons.

Google *New England’s 10 Best Free Attractions*. These attractions truly are free of charge and sure to have something for everyone.

Know where to stop before you stop by visiting www.travmatrix.com. It provides unique, detailed highway travel information for every exit of every interstate in the USA. Use this site to find food, fuel and hotel options at every exit along your route. Find out what is available at upcoming exits. Never again will you get off an exit and not find what you are looking for. This website is a great year round resource.

Go to www.roadfood.com to find the most memorable local eateries along the highways and back roads of America. The site offers great regional meals that are from non-franchised menus. Roadfood is almost always informal and inexpensive. The restaurants according to the site are colorful places enjoyed by locals.

How much will the gas cost for your trip? The answer can be found at www.fuelcostcalculator.com. This website estimates the amount and cost of gasoline needed to complete a vacation trip.

Get tips on how to prepare your car for a warm weather trip at www.autorepair.about.com. All it takes is a few minutes of preventive maintenance in your driveway and you can help eliminate hours of costly on-the-road problems. Scroll down for a list of things to check.

Travelling with kids? Get more than 101 car travel games, fun, road trip activities and printable car games at www.momsmininiv.com. They are organized by age group.

Happy Birthday YouTube:

YouTube is celebrating its fifth birthday. Three former PayPal employees created YouTube in 2005. Their early headquarters were situated above a pizza and Japanese restaurant in California. In 2006 YouTube was bought by Google for 1.65 billion in stock. YouTube has made it possible for anyone with an internet connection to post a video that audiences could watch within a few minutes.

According to Wired.com “viewership now exceeds that of all three networks combined during their primetime evening time slots”. Over 3.5 million people visit the site every single day. People upload over a day’s worth of video to YouTube every minute and YouTube has broadcast live sports to more than 200 countries. There were more than six billion videos viewed last year and more than two billion views per day.



FREE BASIC PC CLASSES

Friday, July 9 - 10:00 AM

Wednesday, July 21 - 6:30 PM

Friday, August 13 - 10:00 AM

Wednesday, August 18 - 6:30 PM

De-Clutter!

A How-To on Getting Your Breathing Space Back

The Library invites everyone to *De-Clutter! A How-To on Getting Your Breathing Space Back*, on Monday, August 23 at 6:30 PM. Presenter, Ned Farrell, will help participants discover what clutter really is, what it’s doing, and how you can purge it from your life. The good news is, the more clutter you have, the more breathing space you can get back! After the talk there will be time for questions and answers. Registration is requested.

Lunchtime Book Discussions



That Old Cape Magic by Richard Russo

The July Lunchtime Book Discussion is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28 at 12:30 PM. Pulitzer Prize winning author, Richard Russo's newest novel, *That Old Cape Magic*, is the selected title. This is a story of deep introspection and every family feeling imaginable, with a middle-aged man confronting his parents and their failed marriage, his own troubled one, his daughter's new one, and finally, what it was he thought he wanted and what in fact he has. Crafting a dense flashback-filled narrative that spans across two summer outings to New England, Russo combines moments of great comedy, rueful understanding and heart-stopping sadness to depict a life coming apart at the seams.

Still Alice by Lisa Genova

The Library has scheduled its August Lunchtime Book Discussion for Wednesday, August 25 at 12:30 PM. Lisa Genova's debut novel, *Still Alice*, is the selected title. This is a moving portrayal of fifty-year-old Alice Howard, a highly respected linguistics professor, who suddenly begins feeling disoriented and confused.

Her diagnosis, early-onset Alzheimer's, irrevocably changes her life as well as the lives of her husband and three grown children. Author Genova holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Harvard University and writes an on-line column for the National Alzheimer's Association. These qualifications help to make her story both realistic and compelling.

Multiple copies of these books are available at the circulation desk. Participants are encouraged to bring a sandwich and a friend and join in this relaxing hour as they "chat and chew." Dessert and beverages will be provided. Registration is requested.



Cooking Demo: Simple Summer Seafood Appetizers

A cooking demonstration has been scheduled on Monday, July 19 at 6:30 PM. Stacey Ference, local professional chef, will once again be the presenter. The topic of the evening will be *Simple Summer Seafood Appetizers*.

Crab, shrimp, salmon and tilapia will be used to create toasts, cakes and quesadillas. There will be samples of all demonstrated foods. The class is for ages eighteen and over. Registration is required.

Social Security Information Session



Social Security Specialist, Maria Grice, will be at the Library on Tuesday, July 13 at 10:00 AM and Tuesday, August 10 at 10:00 AM for an informal information sessions. (Both sessions will cover the same topics.) Find out how to apply for benefits, what benefits are available, on-line services, Medicare, COLA increases, the future of Social Security, and more. This is an opportunity to have all your questions answered.

A Message from Miss Sue

Make a Splash Read!



Sue Sherman

One of the first things you will notice upon entering the Children's Room this summer is our ocean mural featuring the artistic talents of our young patrons. It has been an ongoing project with involvement from our reading program participants, children from community daycare centers and the Derby summer school students visiting us throughout the summer. Take a moment to check out this wonderful work of art!

Our **Make a Splash-Read** water-themed reading program is underway, but there is still time left to register! Guidelines for the program and an events schedule are available in the Children's Room.

For parents looking for a "suggested summer reading list" from the Derby elementary schools **don't panic!** In previous years many parents have relied on this list to guide them. To assist you this year in the selection process of appropriate books for your child, we have several displays. They include favorite picks from Derby elementary school teachers, titles by CT authors and titles with CT settings (as recommended by the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge), and water themed books (to coincide with our **Make a Splash-Read** program), along with other suggested grade/reading level books. This year you will also notice we have designated these books with a "summer" spine label. Don't hesitate to ask the Children's staff for any assistance.



The months of July and August feature a variety of programs for children of all ages. There are weekly story times, a book club for "tweens", science programs presented by the **Regional Water Authority's Whitney Water Center, Science Snoopers and the H2O Olympics** facilitated by the **Kellogg Environmental Center**. We welcome back **Farm on Wheels** and children's author **Rick Arruzza** this summer. Kids can join in the adventure during our **Deep Sea Treasure Hunt** or get up close with sea creatures during a visit from the **Mystic Aquarium Touch Tank**. These are just highlights of what is in store for families this summer. Check the newsletter calendar for specific program information.

If you are looking to make computer time more beneficial for your child this summer, check out our website and click on **TumbleBooks Library**. This is an interactive, literacy-based program featuring games, puzzles, read-alongs and more. It is a great tool for enhancing reading skills. In corresponding with our **Make a Splash-Read** reading program, we have a link to access the collaborative summer library program website which includes suggested reading, games and other activities in keeping with the water theme. You will also notice a link to the **Governor's Reading Challenge** also themed **Make Waves at Your Library**. At the site you will be able to access the guidelines and reading journals to participate in the Governor's program. All of this information can be accessed from the Library computers or from your home computer.

The Library will once again host its annual **Kindergarten Day** for children entering kindergarten in the Derby public school system this fall. On Friday, August 20 at 11:00 AM in the Children's Room, the children will have the opportunity to apply for their own library card and meet their perspective classmates and teacher. The kindergarten teachers will also read a story and talk a little about the transition into kindergarten. Registration is requested.

Looking Ahead...

Registration begins August 23 for **Fall Story Times** and **Family Place Parent Child Workshops**. Classes resume in September. Stop by the Children's Room or check the library website for further details available in mid-August.

STAFF BOOK PICKS

Cathy Williams	<i>Cruising Connecticut with a Picnic Basket</i> by Jan Mann
Sue Sherman	<i>Sue MacDonald had a Book AEIOU</i> by Jim Tobin (Children's Room)
Kathy Wilson	<i>Big Book of BBQ</i> by Southern Life
Ann Mirisola	<i>The Walk</i> by Richard Paul Evans
Carol Wiencko	<i>Start Over, Finish Rich: 10 Steps to Get You Back on Track for 2010</i> by David Bach
Mary Bisaccia	<i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i> by Junot Diaz
Bernadette Bahner	<i>Baseball Americana: Treasures From the Library of Congress</i> by Harry Katz
Lorraine Piazza	<i>Split Image</i> by Robert B. Parker
Cindy Billingslea	<i>Caps for Sale</i> by Esphyr Slobodkina (Children's Room)
Tony Delos	<i>Moby Dick</i> by Herman Melville (Young Adult)
Brian Karkut	<i>Yucka Drucka Droni</i> by Eugenia Radunsky (Children's Room)



CT Works Career Coach

Job Search Assistance

Friday, July 16, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon & 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Friday, August 20, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon & 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Career Development Workshop:

Resume Basics

Tuesday, July 13, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Where Are All the Jobs?

Tuesday, August 10, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Sports Talk Series

The fifth season of the very popular Sports Talk series continues at the Library every Thursday morning at 10:00 AM in July and August. These informal sessions will meet throughout the baseball season. Rich Marazzi, radio talk show host, author, and Major League Baseball Rules consultant facilitates. Each session includes trivia contests, videos, lively conversation and more. Refreshments are always on hand. No registration is necessary.

Local History

Mary A. Bisaccia

The History Behind Silver Hill Road

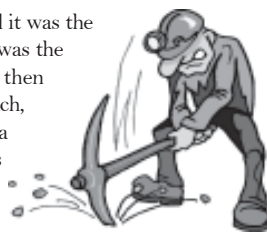
We're all familiar with the gently rising and meandering Silver Hill Road in Derby, adjacent to the back of Osbornedale State Park. It's an area of well-kept modest homes nestled among patches of mature forest. However, it wasn't always a quiet residential area.

Silver Hill Road was once known as East Hill, and it was the site of several taverns. There was a time that the road was the only direct route from Woodbury (to which Derby then extended) to New Haven. According to Frederic D. Beach, who gave a speech on the subject in 1894, there was a tavern kept for years by Freegift Wakelee which was heavily patronized. It was up the hill from Henry Bassett's house and next to a house built by Watrous Wakelee. There was also a tavern kept by John Prindle dating back to the time of the first settlements in Derby. At the end of the road was a large tavern kept by Major Smith, who was a commissioned officer in the Revolutionary War. There was also a tannery and a shoemaker's shop along East Hill.

East Hill underwent a transformation after the Revolutionary War. A prospecting party found specimens in the area that led them to believe that a rich vein of silver ran through the hill. There were excavations in the area, particularly on land at one time owned by Henry Bassett. Bassett's farm was sold to Frances O. Kellogg in the late 1920's and is now part of Osbornedale State Park, which Mrs. Kellogg willed to the people of Connecticut in 1956.

As the excavations continued, East Hill became known as Silver Hill Road. There is evidence of the mines still evident in Osbornedale. There is a mine that extends 20 to 25 feet horizontally into the hill, with a side excavation of 10 to 12 feet at its terminus. Several more digging sites were also noted. The stone removed from the site was carried away to the area once known as Derby Narrows (now the Commerce Street neighborhood), where it was loaded on ships and sent to France. There are no records that prove whether or not the stone was ever smelted into silver.

In 1844, a Mr. Stiles and a party of workers began digging on what was then the Durand property. They built a crude smelting furnace to burn the ore they found in the cellar of the Wakelee Tavern. The ore, when hot, exuded



arsenic as a by-product, and the Stiles party soon abandoned their efforts before they could poison themselves.

Arsenic was not without its uses. Arsenic occurs as one of the elements in an ore called arsenopyrite or "mispikel." The Bassett mine had enough arsenopyrite to render it of economic value. The proprietors of this mine developed an ingenious use for it – expelling crows from corn fields. Fires were kindled on the windward side of the field, and fragments of the ore were thrown on them. Either the odor (said to be like garlic) or relative poisoning of the atmosphere with arsenic were an effective deterrent to the birds.

Around the same time, a Mr. Atwood came and took some assorted samples of ore from the area and had them analyzed scientifically for the presence of silver. The analysis must have been encouraging, because Atwood tried to mine silver for some time, but eventually he abandoned his efforts because he failed to secure the "necessary financial stimulus."

Bassett's mine in Derby also held limestone. When dolomite is "burned," magnesium lime is produced. The Derby mine was said to have held 270 bushels, and it was burnt once a fortnight during several months during the year. The burning was kept up for five or six days and consumed eight to ten cords of wood. The resulting lime was sold at 45cents per bushel.

The heavy presence of various minerals in the Silver Hill area also gave rise to an interesting phenomenon on the former Durand land. It was said that on a warm summer's day a person standing there would receive an impression of being surrounded by a swarm of bees because of the buzzing and humming sounds in the area. This was attributed to the large quantity of sulfur combined with other minerals abundant in the land. Whether this curious noise is still heard on occasion today remains a mystery.

As in many streets in Derby, the quiet neighborhoods that we see now were once bustling with all sorts of commercial activities. Today's busy industrial and marketing districts were once quiet countryside. It will be interesting to see what Derby streets will look like in another hundred years.



Yesterday's Headlines

The Library welcomes Rob Novak, Executive Director of the Derby Historical Society, on Monday, August 9 at 6:30 PM for another session of *Yesterday's Headlines*. This popular program has grown into a quarterly series at the Library.

Participants will be taken back to 1910, 1935, and 1960 to see what was happening locally 100, 75, and 50 years ago. Registration is requested.

TEEN ZONE

Tony DeLos

Hail Graduates, Class of 2010! Well done and continued success as you embark on your respective journeys! Remember the Library is always here to help you realize your academic dreams for the future through SAT study tools, college and university information, scholarship and financial aid information, as well as career direction finders.

One way the DPL contributes to establishing your personal "GPS" is by coordinating young adult programs that address a variety of important and current concerns that may impact your daily lives. We've assembled our **2010 Young Adult Summer Reading Club** with a few new, exciting, and fun events as well. This summer's theme is **Make Waves at Your Library**. Some of the upcoming and appropriately themed young adult programs include: **Beach Blanket BINGO** on



Wednesday, July 7 (bring your own blanket, we'll supply refreshments); Teen **Tide-Eye** on Tuesday, July 13 (how's that for a play on words) with a return engagement by craft maven Laurie Lynne and her "sea bag" full of shirts and dyes to unleash your creative tie-dyeing skills; the folks from Kellogg Environmental Center will present **H2O Olympics** on Thursday, July 15 where you'll engage some water challenges certain to cool you off while you learn about current issues concerning our wild wonderlands of wetness; **Mystic Seaport** will be sending their experts and "touch tanks" for your up-close and personal interface with live seafaring creatures on Friday, July 23. And the reviews received at last month's **Beanbag Playhouse** "opening night" have prompted us to offer three feature film screenings, on Wednesdays, July 14, July 28 and August 11. Each one has a connection to the deep blue sea.

Along with those "themed" programs we're also offering various other outlets for your robust and creative inclinations! Develop your own ideas for comic strip characters and storylines as Richard "ChiD" DiCarlo, director of the Valley Arts Council, teaches you the **Art of the Comic Strip** on Thursday afternoons July 1 through August 5. Interested in learning the game of Chess? Mr. Julio Maldonado will continue arming **Chess Club** members with new tactics and strategies every Monday throughout the summer. And we're



always happy to provide the Derby Youth Bureau a venue for important programs offered to our young adults. On three Tuesdays in July we'll welcome back Mr. John Saccu as he guides participants through current, reality-based scenarios in his **Social Skills Series**, that will explore some cool, calm, and collected skill sets, useful for ensuring safer and happier home, school, and community experiences. We'll temper reality with a journey through your dreams in a program we're calling **Teens in Dreamland**. The experts from the Smoking Gun Research Agency (SGRA) will enlighten you to some history behind dream interpretation, as well as possible hidden meanings in your dreams and ways you might better control and remember dreams. In August, SGRA presents their **Teen Psychic** program, certain to draw a large young adult audience, so sign up early at the DPL webpage (*click "Eventkeeper"*) for this and all special programs! You'll also receive a ticket toward **weekly prize drawings** for every program you attend during the summer. But if *all that* just doesn't seem like enough to make you a regular visitor to DPL's Teen Zone, you're always invited and *encouraged* to contribute your ideas and suggestions for programming at our **Young Adult Advisory Board** taking place on second Tuesdays of every month.



Now remember, this *is* a reading club and in order to maximize your enjoyment we've recently added some 150 award-nominated titles to the young adult collection, all in anticipation of your requests for the most exciting YA materials available. You can read the latest arrivals (or any books that interest you), then fill out our short review forms. Summer Reading Club members will receive a ticket for every review they submit. But that's not all...you can also review websites for tickets. Complete a brief checklist that rates the effectiveness of age-appropriate web pages and you'll receive a ticket for each one you review. Along with weekly drawings, we'll draw tickets for door prizes as well as a **grand prize** winner during our **Bon Voyage Party** at the summer reading program's end on Thursday, August 12!

Remember, we are also here to help you with any required summer school reading you may have been assigned. Just bring in your list and we'll help you find the titles!

This is going to be an exciting season at DPL and I look forward to your "diving into" the Teen Zone and discovering different ways to **Make Waves at Your Library** with our boat-load of events and new books, all with you in mind. See you soon!