

313 Elizabeth Street

Derby, Connecticut 06418

203-736-1482 • 203-736-1419 Fax

www.derbypubliclibrary.org



Family Place Library
Network Member



Harcourt Wood Memorial
Established 1902

Hours:

Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thurs 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Handicap
Accessible

JULY/AUGUST 2009

VOL. 4 ISSUE 4

July



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- 1** WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Teen Game Night** (ages 12-17) Reg. requested.
- 2** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
- 3-4** FRIDAY - SATURDAY
CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY.
- 6** MONDAY
3:30 -4:30 p.m. **Cartoon Demo** w/Rick Stromosk (ages 12-17) Reg. requested.
- 7** TUESDAY
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Tween Game Night** (ages 8-11) Reg. required.*
- 8** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Story Time w/Community Readers** (ages 3-7) Reg. required.*
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Sports Writing** w/Bill Pucci. Program fee: \$25. (ages 12-17) Registration required.*
- 9** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
10:30 a.m. **Craft Times** (ages 4+) Registration required.*
- 10** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
1:00 p.m. Peabody Museum . . . **On the Road** (ages 3+). Reg. required.*
- 13** MONDAY
10:30 a.m. **Rhythm Makers**, ages 3-7. Registration required.*
6:30 p.m. **"Getting to Know Your Knees."** Registration requested.*
- 14** TUESDAY
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Young Adult Advisory Meeting**. (ages 12-17)
6:00 p.m. **Sparkles the Clown**, ages 3+. Registration required.*
- 15** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Story Time w/Community Readers** (ages 3-7) Reg. required.*
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Sports Writing** w/Bill Pucci. Reg. required.*
10:00 a.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
- 16** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
NOON Lunch Buddies (ages 8-11). Registration required.*
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. **Bead Crafting** (ages 12-17) Registration required.*
- 17** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. **Rain Sticks** (Regional Water Authority), (2nd gr.+). Reg. required.*
- 20** MONDAY
6:30 p.m. **Honeybees & Beekeeping** (ages 12+). Registration requested.*
- 21** TUESDAY
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Teen Bingo** (ages 12-17) Registration required.*
- 22** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Story Time w/Community Readers** (ages 3-7) Reg. required.*
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Sports Writing** w/Bill Pucci. Reg. required.*
1:00 p.m. **Magical Wings** (ages 5+). Registration required.*
6:00 p.m. **Adult Wii Game Night**. Registration requested.*
- 23** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
10:30 a.m. **Craft Times** (ages 4+) Registration required.*
4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. **Career Exploration Seminar** (ages 12-17) Reg. required.*
- 24** FRIDAY
10:30 a.m. (weather permitting) **Farm on Wheels** (ages 3+) Reg. required.*
- 27** MONDAY
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. **Rhythm Makers**, ages 3-7. Registration required.*
- 28** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. - Noon **Career Development Workshop**. Reg. requested.*
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Go Fly a Kite**, kite making (12-17). Reg. required.*
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Read to Sandy** (ages 5+). Registration required.*
- 29** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Story Time w/Community Readers** (ages 3-7) Reg. required.*
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Sports Writing** w/Bill Pucci. Reg. required.*
1:00 p.m. **Magic Workshop** (ages 8-11). Registration required.*
- 30** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
NOON Lunch Buddies (ages 8-11). Registration required.*
- 31** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. **Oozing Obleck** (2nd grade+) Reg. required.*

August

- 3** MONDAY
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Girls Day Out** (girls gr. 4-6) Reg. required.*
- 4** TUESDAY
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Teen Tie-Dye** (ages 12-17) Registration required.*
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Tween Game Night** (ages 8-11) Reg. requested.*
- 5** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Story Time w/Community Readers** (ages 3-7) Reg. required.*
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Sports Writing** w/Bill Pucci. Reg. required.*
1:00 p.m. **Magic Workshop** (ages 8-11). Registration required.*
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Teen Game Night** (Young Adults ages 12-17) Registration requested.*
- 6** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
10:30 a.m. **Craft Times** (ages 4+) Registration required.*
- 7** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Water Art** (1st grade+) Registration required.*
- 11** TUESDAY
1:00 p.m. **Interactive Musical Program**, presented by Al deCant (ages 3+) Registration required.*
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Young Adult Advisory Meeting**. (ages 12-17)
6:30 p.m. **Stereoscopes & Stereoscopic Photography**, presented by Mary Bisaccia, our Library Local History Coordinator. Reg. requested.*
- 12** WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. **Story Time w/Community Readers** (ages 3-7) Reg. required.*
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Sports Writing** w/Bill Pucci. Reg. required.*
- 13** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
NOON Lunch Buddies (ages 8-11). Registration required.*
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **"Express Yourself" Pizza Bash Program Wrap** (ages 12-17). Celebrate end of Summer Programs. Reg. required.*
- 14** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
1:00 p.m. **Ice Cream Party** for everyone completing Summer Reading Program requirements. Registraton required.*
- 17** MONDAY
6:30 p.m. **Cooking Demonstration** (Adults 18 & over) with Cynthia Oppen. Simple and creative appetizers. Registration required.*
- 19** WEDNESDAY
11:00 a.m. **Kindergarten Day** (Children's Room) Registration required.*
6:30 p.m. **Free Basic PC Class** offered on walk-in basis.
- 20** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Career Exploration Seminar** (ages 12-17) presented by John Saccu, Derby Youth Bureau. Registration required.*
- 21** FRIDAY
10:00 a.m. - Noon **Career Development Workshop**, *Believe in Yourself*. Registration requested.*
- 25** TUESDAY
10:00 a.m. - Noon & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **CT Works Career Coach** presents *Job Search Assistance*. Registration requested.*
- 26** WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m. **Adult Wii Game Night**. Registration requested.*
- 27** THURSDAY
10:00 a.m. **Sports Talk** with Rich Marazzi.

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



A gift from
Frank and Fran Pepe

OF THE DIRECTOR

Cathy Williams



The summer night is like a perfection of thought.

— Wallace Stevens

This past spring brought with it many special events and newsworthy items here at the Derby Public Library.

A special thanks to the Irving School Student Council for their wonderful poetry reading at our Spring Open House. Their selection of spring verses was most inspiring.

On a somewhat damp and cloudy day, spirits were warm as family and friends gathered at the Library to celebrate some special individuals at our Donor Recognition Reception. The new portraits of Harold B. Yudkin, Sadie Dziadik and Frances Fallon were presented. The contributions that all three of these amazing individuals made to their community and in particular, the Derby Public Library, was recognized. Be sure to visit our Local History Room to view these beautiful portraits and learn more about these generous benefactors. Also recognized that day was the Pepe family for their gift of the two benches at our Elizabeth St. entrance in memory of Ryan J. Pepe and Frank A. Pepe Sr. In addition, the Cecarelli family and the Cohen family were honored for their continued support of the Derby Public Library, as well as the Palazzi family for their contribution to Library programming this past year. Acknowledgement needs to be given to portrait artist, Jeanne Ciravolo of Hamden and Amy Battaglia of Derby for providing us with her stunning flower arrangements for this eventful day. It was truly a special day, honoring some special people.

The generosity from community friends continued during May and June. The Derby Wal-Mart presented the Library with a \$250 grant check to be used to promote literacy. In the past, Wal-Mart had also helped to fund our summer reading programs and informational parent workshops. The Lion's Club also made their annual donation to the Library recently. All funds will be used to purchase large print books. In addition, the Library received a grant from The Valley Neighborhood Grants Program in partnership between The Valley Community Foundation and The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven to be used for hands-on health programs for children. Yoga classes, along with aerobic movement workshops and an interactive nutrition presentation will be scheduled for children ages 5-11 this coming fall. This was 1 of 61 grants given that will support civic leadership and enhance the quality of life in the Naugatuck Valley area. Thank you everyone for your continued support of the Derby Public Library and for your commitment to the community.

Another special individual was honored this past May for her work. Derby Public Library volunteer, Phyllis Kosar, received the Valley United Way's Living Treasure Award at their Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony at John J. Sullivan's. "Miss Phyllis" teaches knitting to our young adults as the different generations share stories and experiences. Two of her students, Vi Phan and Lisa Fish, along with Tony DeLos, Young Adult Reference Librarian and myself were honored to present her with the award. Congratulations, "Miss Phyllis" on receiving this most deserved award.

June brought the announcement of this year's recipient of the Derby Public Library Scholarship Prize, Carmela D'Onofrio. A 2009 graduate of Derby High School, Carmela will attend Southern Connecticut State University in the fall and major in education. She also has a special interest in writing and aspires someday to be a school superintendent. Carmela is a very focused young lady, holding a first degree black belt in American Hapkido and bronze and silver awards in girl scouting. Being the granddaughter of a librarian, she was introduced to libraries and the Derby Public Library in particular, at a very young age. Carmela and her family have been frequent visitors to the Library throughout the years, participating in story times, summer reading clubs and holiday parties. 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.

As you can see by our front calendar, July and August promise to be just as exciting and busy as the previous two months. I urge everyone to take advantage of all that is offered, including our state park pass and fourteen other recreation passes. These passes give you free or discounted admission to some of the most interesting destinations throughout this great state of Connecticut. All you need is a library card – a deal too good to "pass" up!

As our very popular Sports Talk series continues this summer, I chose this month's closing thought with our enthusiastic "Silver Sluggers" in mind.

It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything is new again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops, leaving you to face the fall alone.

— A. Bartlett Giamatti

STAFF BOOK PICKS

- Cathy Williams: *If I Stay* by Gayle Foreman (Young Adult)
 Sue Sherman: *Yours Truly, Louisa* by Simon Puttock (Children's Room)
 Kathy Wilson: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
 Ann Mirisola: *Mercy* by Julie Garwood
 Carol Wiencko: *A Slobbering Love Affair* by Bernard Goldberg
 Bernadette Bahner: *Can I wear My Nose Ring to the Interview?* by Ellen Gordon Reeves
 Tony DeLos: *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman (Young Adult)
 Mary Bisaccia: *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
 Lorraine Piazza: *A Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick
 Grisela Dzewit: *My Mom is Trying to Ruin My Life* by Kate Feiffer (Children's Room)
 Brian Karkut: *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper (Children's Room)

Bernadette Bahner

Planning summer fun has never been easier. Ideas and destinations, download coupons and discount codes, are just a click away. Finding the perfect outing is right at your finger tips!

To begin preparing for your summer vacation, at home or on the road, type in www.couponcabin.com. This Website has 200 plus free codes and is updated daily. Currently they have 7,681 total active coupons and deals including free sample offers.

Have you ever tried a "staycation" or home vacation? This type of holiday requires extra planning because no work around the house is allowed! You should schedule a start and stop date so it feels like a vacation and plan your events ahead. Don't forget to take pictures! In our busy lives a staycation gives a family the time to reconnect and have fun. Play Wii, Xbox or hop scotch; pitch a tent in the back yard, sleep outside, catch fireflies, build a campfire (no gas grills) to cook dinner and toast marshmallows. You might plant a family garden, have a Hawaiian luau, make your own pizza or reconnect with the neighbors by organizing a block party. Helpful hints to plan a staycation sensation can be found at the following website: www.bhg.com/health-family/activities/seasonal/staycation.

This year's newest travel concept is called a "daycation". It's a new trend of taking more frequent, but shorter vacations. They are a day to get away from it all or a one-day adventure. You leave in the morning and return at night. Daycations can provide fast relief from everyday stresses and add enjoyment and memories to life.

Some ideas are listed below:

www.ctfairs.org: offers a complete guide to dates, times and locations of statewide fairs, district fairs and 4-H fairs.



www.stateparks.com/ct: click on an individual park for an overview. Remember the Library has a State Park Pass that you may borrow with your library card. It provides free admission and parking for all Connecticut State Parks and Forests.

www.visitNewHaven.com: listing for the Greater New Haven Visitors Guide.

www.ctvisit.com: official Connecticut State Vacation Guide. Enjoy free or discounted admission and other special incentives just for Connecticut residents. Click on the blue square, *Connecticut Staycation*, and review the participating locations. Discounts are from A-Z on hotels, museums, shops, restaurants, attractions and much more. When you visit the location mention staycation discount and show proof of Connecticut residency. If you click on the CT-Resources & Links for Specials (same site), there is a custom package for everyone: a Girlfriends Getaway Package, a Gone Fishin Package, a Family Adventure Package, a Shop, Sip and Stay Package, a Scrap Booking Package, a Connecticut Wine Country Experience and a Pet-Away Package at the Interlaaken Inn (take pets with you).



Now you're off! Have a summer filled with fun and adventure!

FREE BASIC PC CLASSES

Friday, July 10 - 10:00 AM

Wednesday, July 15 - 6:30 PM

Friday, August 14 - 10:00 AM

Wednesday, August 19 - 6:30 PM



CT Works Career Coach

Job Search Assistance

Monday, July 27

10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON & 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Job Search Assistance

Tuesday, August 25

10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON & 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Career Development Workshop

Job Search Strategies

Tuesday, July 28

10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

Believe in Yourself

Friday, August 21

10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON



Viewing the World through Stereoscopic Imaging

The Library has scheduled a program for Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 PM which will demonstrate the use of stereoscopes and stereoscopic photography. This late 19th century technology often showed photos in a narrative sequence, and because of this it is considered a

precursor to modern motion pictures. Mary Bisaccia, Library Local History Coordinator will guide participants in looking at

photos from the late 1800s through the early 1900s,

including images from the Naugatuck Valley as well as views depicting the United States, Europe and Asia. Registration is requested.



“Getting Hip to Your Kneeds”

An informational presentation, *Getting to Know Your Kneeds*, has been scheduled for Monday, July 13 at 6:30 PM. Mark Weissman, Derby resident, will give an overview of joint replacement surgery. Mark's resume includes engineering and consulting work with Stryker, Surgical Dynamics and DePuy. Reasons for surgery, types of implants, recovery and rehabilitation, and success rates will be discussed. Registration is requested.

Cooking Demonstration – Appetizers

Cynthia Oppen, area professional chef, returns to the Library on Monday, August 17 at 6:30 PM to show participants how to make some simple yet creative and delicious appetizers. There will be samples of all demonstrated foods. The class is for ages eighteen and over. Registration is required.

Honeybees and Beekeeping Fun for All!

A very unique summer program will be held on Monday, July 20 at 6:30 PM.

Ned Farrell, will present *Honeybees and Beekeeping – Fun for All!* Farrell, a local backyard beekeeper for over twenty years, spent two years in Paraguay, South America as an Apiculture Extensionist for the Peace Corps. Participants will learn how to recognize honeybees, how honeybees pollinate flowers and how to start their own beehive. There will also be an opportunity to taste some local honey. This program is suitable for ages 12 and up. Registration is requested.



REMINDER:

The Library will remain open on Saturdays from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM throughout the months of July and August.

A Message from Miss Sue



Sue Sherman

Our carnival-themed summer reading program *Reading is a Thrill!* is underway and in case you haven't had the opportunity to visit the Library yet this summer, it's not too late to register. Stop by the Children's Room to sign up and pick up a copy of the reading program guidelines and children's summer events sheet. Everyone who completes the reading program is invited to attend an **ice cream party on Friday, August 14!**

The books on the Derby public schools suggested reading lists are on display by grade in the Children's Room along with staff picks for the preschoolers located in the picture book area. Keep in mind that while the school reading lists are a great guide for your child's reading this summer, browsing through the non-fiction collection will also offer some great selection choices.

The months of July and August abound with activities and programs for the whole family. On **Tuesday, July 14 at 6:00 PM, Sparkles the Clown** brings her fun and magic to us along with balloon sculpting. The **Yale Peabody Museum... On the Road** program takes place on **Friday, July 10 at 1:00 PM** and **Farm on Wheels** stops by on **Friday, July 24 at 10:30 AM** to bring some farm friends for this outdoor program. Let's hope the weather cooperates! The **Regional Water Authority** will sponsor three different educational and interactive art programs during July and August. Please see the calendar for specific classes. These are just a few of the events taking place along with our ongoing programs which include **Tween Game Night** and **Read to Sandy**. All programs do require registration. For a complete listing of children's programs, please check the newsletter calendar or visit the Library website at www.derbypubliclibrary.org.

The Library will host a **Kindergarten Day** this summer on August 19 at 11:00 AM in the Children's Room for children entering kindergarten in the Derby Public School system this fall. The children will have the opportunity to apply for their own library card and meet their perspective classmates and teacher.

The kindergarten teachers will share a story and talk a little about the transition into kindergarten. Registration is requested.

Be on the lookout ...our fall schedule of story times, Family Place workshops and other children's events will be available in mid-August!

We hope to see everyone throughout the summer. Happy reading!



Children's Creative

Corner

Popcorn Balls

In keeping with our carnival-themed summer reading program *Reading is a Thrill*, this is a fun treat to make with the kids this summer. It is healthier than traditional popcorn balls.

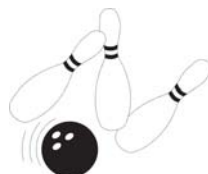
½ cup honey	½ cup water
1/3 cup butter	2 tbsp. vanilla
½ tsp. salt	1 tbsp. wheat germ (optional)
5 cups popped popcorn	1 cup sunflower seeds
1 cup chopped nuts	1 cup raisins



Cook water and honey over medium heat for 8-12 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Add butter, vanilla, salt and wheat germ to the mixture and stir.

Let the kids mix the popcorn, sunflower seeds and nuts together in a large bowl. Pour in the first mixture and mix well.

Spread mixture on a baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until golden. Add the raisins. While warm, kids can roll into small balls or cool and serve as is. Makes 45 one-inch balls. Enjoy!



Adult Wii Game Nights

Wednesday, July 22 @ 6:00 PM

Wednesday, August 26 @ 6:00 PM

Sports Talk

This group of sports enthusiasts will continue to meet every Thursday at 10:00 AM throughout July and August.



Local History

Mary A. Bisaccia

It was our special spot — a picnic table on a little knoll of grass, surrounded on all sides by oak and maple trees. Just a few steps away was an open field to play wiffle ball or Frisbee or just work on our tans. Beyond the trees was a view that not only took your breath away, but allowed you to pick out favorite landmarks like churches, schools and even that really big pine tree that grew out of our own back yard. This little bit of paradise was literally only two minutes from home, at Osbornedale State Park, and my family spent many lazy Sunday afternoons there when I was growing up. That special spot is still there, nestled among the 350 acres of parkland that was willed to the State of Connecticut by local philanthropist Frances Osborn Kellogg after she died in 1956. Before its designation as a public park, the land was used as the hunting grounds of the Paugussett Indians, prime trapping land for the first settlers of European descent establishing themselves as fur traders, and it was even mined for silver for a short period after the Revolutionary War. The park was also used as farmland by Kellogg's family and others that she gradually bought out because Mrs. Kellogg believed in the adage that one should always buy land but never sell it as the City of Derby was growing into a thriving industrial center.

Osbornedale State Park is still a bucolic getaway for State residents looking for a place to drop a fishing line, hike through forested hills, or to have a family picnic. Students of history and environmental science can participate in the activities of the Osborn Homestead Museum and Environmental Center. If one wants a change of pace, the City of Derby is home to several other parks that are literally just a stone's throw away.

Across the street from Osbornedale is the Leo F. Ryan Sports Complex, featuring Lou DeFilippo Field which is the home territory of various teams of Derby High School's Red Raiders. This well maintained group of fields has been named in honor of two of Derby's most beloved teachers and coaches. Right up the hill from the football field is Coon Hollow Park, also known as "the picnic grove," featuring a large pavilion, open field, tennis and basketball courts which has been the center of many memorable community events. Across the street from this park is the Derby Little League/Pop Warner Football complex, where hundreds of boys and girls learn sportsmanship and the camaraderie that youth sports develops with lessons and memories that will last a lifetime. Lucky athletes are reminded of their park's origins by finding an errant arrowhead in search of a foul ball.



A mile away, the heart of Derby throbs with the activities of local business and industry. For those who want a break from the "hustle and bustle" of the Court House, retail shops and professional offices, there is the Birmingham Green Historic District, one of Derby's six national historic registry sites. Most of us refer to it as simply, "The Green." One of the first areas created for recreational use of Derby residents, the Green was once known as the Derby Commons. This park hails back to 1836 when prominent local industrialist Sheldon Smith set aside a rectangle of open space bordered by Elizabeth, Minerva, Fourth and Fifth Streets. Smith later donated land on the north and east sides of this public square for the Methodist and Episcopal churches. His contemporary, Anson Phelps donated land to the west of the green for the Second Congregational Church. The beauty of the Green was enhanced by the addition of these three lovely churches framing its perimeter. In a deed dated April 25, 1845, public ownership of the Green was formalized. The Commons was designated to remain forever a 'Public Green' on the condition that the citizens of the town build a fence to keep sheep and residents off the grass. On October 4, 1852, a second document transferred ownership to the town for the sum of one dollar, forbidding any buildings to be placed on the land and restricting its use to military or public activities. Today, in addition to providing a respite to busy townspeople, it is used for a variety of special events such as a summer concert series centered around the gazebo, and the Olde Derby Day Festival held every June.

Moving eastward, Derby has recently added a public "Greenway." Officially opening on June 25, 2006, the 1.7 mile paved trail that runs along the Naugatuck River behind BJ's to the Derby-Shelton Bridge over the Housatonic River, the Greenway offers scenic vistas to the thousands of people who walk, bike or skate along its path. Plans are underway to expand the Greenway along the east bank of the Housatonic River to Orange in 2010.

Further east is another relatively new addition to Derby's open space. Witek Park, a 144 acre plot of land that was once a reservoir preserve owned by the Birmingham Water Company was completed in 1999. Named in honor of PFC Frank P. Witek, a Medal of Honor recipient and World War II hero, Witek Park is in a part of Derby that was first settled in the 1600s. In 1859 the growing industrial borough of Birmingham was in need of a clean water source. The land consisted of mostly farmland and meadows with plentiful brooks running through the area. The Water Company dammed the brooks to form two reservoirs and controlled the property until it was sold to the City of Derby in 1997. In 2006, two soccer fields were completed to accommodate Derby's recreational needs, along with areas for hiking, picnicking and fishing. Nearby behind Bradley School, the City has several more recreational fields that serve the needs of the public.

Derby, a city that's only five square miles, is very fortunate to have such a large amount of parkland open to the public. No matter where you are in the city, you're always within walking distance of a park.

TEEN ZONE

Tony DeLos

Greetings Teen Zone fans and *Happy Summer* to all! First I would like to congratulate our recently graduated young adults and bid you continued success in your academic careers. Keep up the good work and remember the Library is here to help in *whatever* learning capacity and capability we have at our disposal. If there's one important fact of life I've come to understand over the years it's the realization that we are all in "learning mode" every single day of our lives, whether we're learning about ourselves or the world around us...yup, even while we're on vacation! That's a pretty exciting prospect when considering the world of possibilities available at our fingertips these days, especially when it comes to the treasure trove offered by your local Library - the DPL. But we also understand that the high level of concentration and energy required to finish out the school year may have you looking for activities where a "final grade" is not your ultimate goal (at least not for the time being). Instead, you might be seeking some sense of satisfaction through *other* avenues, which may include: doing stuff, reading stuff, and creating stuff...you know, just for **the fun** of it! Enter our 2009 Summer Reading Program, *Express Yourself*.

There are tons of exciting and innovative avenues for young folks to *express* themselves! If you didn't make it to our Afternoon Karaoke program last month, you really missed out! Talk about *expressing yourself* musically and having an impact on the people around you...the only thing missing was Alice Cooper singing *School's Out*. Needless to say, a good time was had by all. Some other ways the DPL can help you *Express Yourself* this summer: on Monday after the July 4 weekend we're calling upon a nationally syndicated cartoonist to give **drawing** lessons! Rick Stromski will share the secrets of success in his *Soup to Nutz* comic strip as well as his process for humor writing. While we're on the subject of the **written word**, do you think you might be interested in sports, and more specifically, writing about them? We have another professional coming in to mentor young, aspiring sports writers - Bill Pucci of the Valley Times will be here conducting 90-minute sessions for six consecutive Wednesday mornings starting July 8, providing the fundamentals of sports journalism. The program fee is \$25. Now, when it comes to **visual**



arts, there's something special about tie-dyeing T-shirts that gets the artistic juices flowing in the truly creative. Laurie Lynn will join us August 4 with all the expertise and material (shirts, dyes, etc.) needed to fashion your personal commemoration to this summer's 40th anniversary of the Woodstock Concert. But what would a tie-dye shirt be without some cool-funky beaded jewelry to authenticate the look? Kristen LaViola from Manifest Beads in Milford can help turn your ideas into reality July 16. This just leaves the **design and construction** aspect of your personal *expression*. So let's all hope for some soft summer breezes on July 28 because we're looking for weather conditions suitable for flying the kites we will be building and decorating that afternoon.

Now, do you think there could be such a thing as a summer reading program that doesn't have some sort of...dare I say, reading involved? What would you say about a program that asks you to read books, then write *short* reviews, and as an added incentive (as if reading a book *in itself* isn't reward enough) present you with a chance to win a **brand new laptop** computer for your effort? You'll be awarded a ticket for every review you turn in! But that's not all...you can also review websites for tickets. Just complete a checklist that rates the effectiveness of age-appropriate web pages and we'll present a ticket for each evaluation you accomplish. Oh, and I neglected to mention that attending our programs described earlier will earn you a ticket each, as well. There'll be weekly drawings too!

Those events are all in addition to our regularly scheduled monthly programs which will continue through summer vacation, Teen Game Night and Young Adult Advisory Board, major opportunities for you to *express yourself* (and you'll receive a ticket for each gathering). But that's *still* not all we have in store, because a fun-packed summer like this wouldn't be complete without some kind of **wrap-up party!** We'll be ordering in pizza and drawing for the laptop August 13, bringing our summer program to a proper close!

Finally, here's a trivia challenge - name the band responsible for the 1970 pop hit *Express Yourself*. See me in the Teen Zone for the answer!