



News, Views & Entertainment

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Chinese New Year **Dragon** in Shelton
A **Legendary** Event in Ansonia in August
The Valley Arts Council show **Imagine** continues

“More of the best of the Valley”

Issue 4

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Marisa Panuczak strikes a pose with Ansonia fifth grader Rhianen

Skaters enjoy new ice rink in Ansonia

Article and Photos by Patricia Villers
The Valley-Voice CT

ANSONIA - After three postponements due to inclement conditions the weather finally cooperated Wednesday and the city was able to hold a grand opening for a portable ice rink at Nolan Field.

More than 50 people enjoyed the skate opportunity during the evening.

Figure skater Marisa Panuczak, 15, of Seymour said the condition of the ice prevented her from performing her complete routine.

But she did skate for the crowd, and showed off her graceful style.

Marisa is a sophomore at Notre Dame High School of Fairfield.

She won gold medals in January during International Skating Institute championship competitions at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Marisa called skating her "passion." She laced up her skates for the first time at age 4.

Mayor David S. Casseti said he came up with the idea to give kids — and their parents — something to do in the winter.

“I wanted to do something because there’s not as much activity in the winter due to the cold,” Casseti said.

“I thought ice skating would be a good sport to offer the residents.”

The rink will be open to city residents and guests.



Gold medal-winning figure skater Marisa Panuczak, 15, of Seymour poses at the ice rink with Mayor Casseti.



Getting a feel for the slippery stuff.



Above: A DJ provided music



Left: Have a pair of skates that don't fit any more? Consider donating them so someone else can enjoy the sport



Right: The community responded to the invitation

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Chinese New Year Celebrated in Shelton

SHELTON - Enthusiasm abounded as children and adults welcomed in the Chinese New Year earlier this month at an educational program sponsored by Written Words Bookstore.

The store is located in the Conti Building, 415 Howe Ave. Owner Dorothy Sim-Broder said eight children enjoyed making crafts, eating snacks, and hearing stories read by Shapels creator Evie North of Derby.

A highlight of the celebration was when the children got “inside” a dragon created by craftsman Ron Baldwin, a city resident whose grandchildren attended the program. Two girls from China described what it was like celebrating the new year when they were growing up, and the traditions and legends that were passed on from generation to generation.

The dragon, a symbol of Chinese New Year’s celebrations since ancient times, "danced" inside the Conti building and through the parking lot.



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Are You Ready?

ONE WORD SUMS UP THIS YEARS EVENT

LEGENDARY

www.cityofansoniam.com

AUG 20th, Nolan Field Ansonia



More Art at the E-Street Gallery

The Imagine exhibit continues at the E-Street Gallery, 35 Elizabeth Street in Derby.

Here are two pieces in the exhibit, by local artists and Valley Arts Council members David Lyman (L) and Floatin' Fred.

These are just two of the amazing pieces from the exhibit. Visit the Gallery through March 1 to see more art in Imagine.

The Show Hours are: Tuesdays through Fridays, 4pm-8pm, Saturdays, 12pm-3pm and Sundays, 4pm-6pm



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