

## Rain fails to dampen spirits at Soupstock VII

**By Patricia Villers**  
SHELTON - Two fun-filled days featuring local bands, children's activities, art demonstrations, craft vendors, food trucks, and soup: that sums up Soupstock VII.

The seventh annual art and music festival rocked Veterans Memorial Park on Canal Street this past weekend, despite some clouds and rain.



Proceeds benefit the [Mary A. Schmecker Turtle Shell Fund](#).

According to information on the Turtle Shell Fund's site, it awards thousands of dollars to fill gaps in arts education in the Lower Naugatuck Valley. In recent years it has:

- Provided art supplies in Shelton's elementary, intermediate and high schools;
- Purchased a tent for the Shelton High School Robotics Club's event appearances;
- Funded a district-wide art competition in the Derby School District;
- Enabled the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley to initiate programs in robotics, art, and photography.

Each year the Turtle Shell Fund provides \$1,000 grants to two Shelton High School seniors with a passion for the arts to continue their art education.

The school's arts department selects one female and one male student for this award.



Valley Arts Council President Rich DiCarlo of Derby demonstrated his artistic talent, standing at an easel and creating paintings on both days.



"Soupstock was a wonderful event," he said. "It was a nice crowd, and a good party. The rain didn't put a damper on things."

DiCarlo was joined by Valley Arts Council Vice President Steve DiRienzo of Derby who also displayed his artwork as did several other artists who belong to the Council.

**See more event pictures on Page 2**

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### Blacksmith artisan Chris Doherty at Soupstock VII

At Soupstock VII, there were artists of many disciplines, and the most unique of these was blacksmith Chris Doherty of Brookfield.

An instructor at the Brookfield Craft Center, he employed an artistry in creating delicate metal-work treasures - the delicacy in the art seems to belie the brute strength needed in shaping metal with fire, anvil and sledge hammer.



See more about the artist and the Brookfield Craft Center at: <http://www.brookfieldcraft.org>



More from Soupstock



### Can you guess where this photo was taken?



We can tell you that these beautiful cucumbers and leafy herbs were picked, packed, seen and photographed somewhere in the Valley.

We dream of these cukes being processed into delicious briny pickles for alfresco dining on our patio.

We will reveal the location next Monday in The Valley-Voice Newsletter...

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