

## Seasonal scarecrow tradition continues in Seymour

*Photos by Patricia Villers*

SEYMOUR - The seasonal Seymour Scarecrow Trail enlivens downtown with autumnal characters.

This winsome couple was spotted on a sunny autumn afternoon at Broad Street Park while the farmer lady is seen on Bank Street.

Kudos go to the [\*Seymour Culture and Arts Commission\*](#) for continuing this fun tradition.



## Ansonia Middle School's Rubin Little brings financial literacy to class

ANSONIA - A year ago, Rubin Little joined the staff at Ansonia Middle School, and he knew he was finally home.

Little has brought something extra to teaching - a wealth of experience as an advisor and consultant in financial planning.

He also has experience in law enforcement as a State Trooper.

This summer, he used his knowledge of finances, and with a little help, completed a state grant application for a new Personal Finance program at AMS. The grant, totaling \$15,000, has been approved.

"I'm about 30 years late to the game," he said, explaining that he was told many years ago he was in the wrong field, that he was born to be a teacher.



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# Ansonia Middle School's Rubin Little brings financial literacy to class

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At the time, Little had already left the State Police and was working at Yale as an accountant in the Department of Pediatrics. "I was teaching [the staff] how to do something," he said.

"I used the story of Alice in Wonderland to teach the class. Then everyone stopped going to the other teachers and wanted to be in my class."

He then became an assistant teacher at Career High School in New Haven for a year, teaching conflict resolution to teens, under the tutelage of Dr. Charles Williams.

Little told Williams he wanted to apply his interest in business to teach Career students how to trade live stocks. "I told him that I wanted to use real money," he recalled.

He explained that he would get a sponsor and began interviewing investment firms, such as Merrill Lynch, Charles Schwab, and American Express. After a second

meeting with American Express, he they "slid a piece of paper across the table, and it was an offer to hire me."

"It derailed me," he said, as he became an American Express franchisee. "But I always thought about finishing my working years in a classroom."

Then in a random occurrence two years ago, Little's wife met Dr. Joseph DiBacco, now Ansonia's Superintendent of Schools. As they talked, Mrs. Little spoke about her husband who always wanted to go into education.

She gave her husband's phone number to DiBacco, who made the call.

"After we talked for a while, he told me he agreed with my wife, that I belonged in the classroom," Little recalled. "He said he would be happy to help me any way he could."

Several months later, Little enrolled in the Alternate Route to Teacher Certification (ARC) program, and he met with a panel of people. "I was told that there were 10 schools that would want to hire me. I told them, I already have a school to go to. I am going to go with Joe DiBacco."

Little was interviewed by Pete Colaccino, principal of Ansonia Middle School, Assistant Principal Steve Marchetti, and former math specialist Jess Bedosky. "You don't find teachers with this type of experience," Colaccino said of Little's business background. "It's a total win. I just love the work he is doing."

Little's smiles when he talks about his students. "We have some beautiful kids here in Ansonia," he said, noting that he wants to open the world to them.

He will start with the new personal finance class, with chromebooks, textbooks and other educational material. Little recently completed his ARC course work and is working under a 90-day certificate.

"I'm part of the dream team," he said of his supervisors and Dr. DiBacco. "Where they go, I follow."

DiBacco said Little is the type of person who brings a great skillset to the classroom from a non-traditional field. "We look for unique talents, and Rubin fits the bill. We are grateful that he has chosen Ansonia Public Schools."



**AMS Principal Pete Colaccino (left) and Business teacher Rubin Little in front of Ansonia Middle School.**

***This is taken from a press release from Ansonia Public Schools***

# Derby Historical Society hosts historic grave marking ceremony

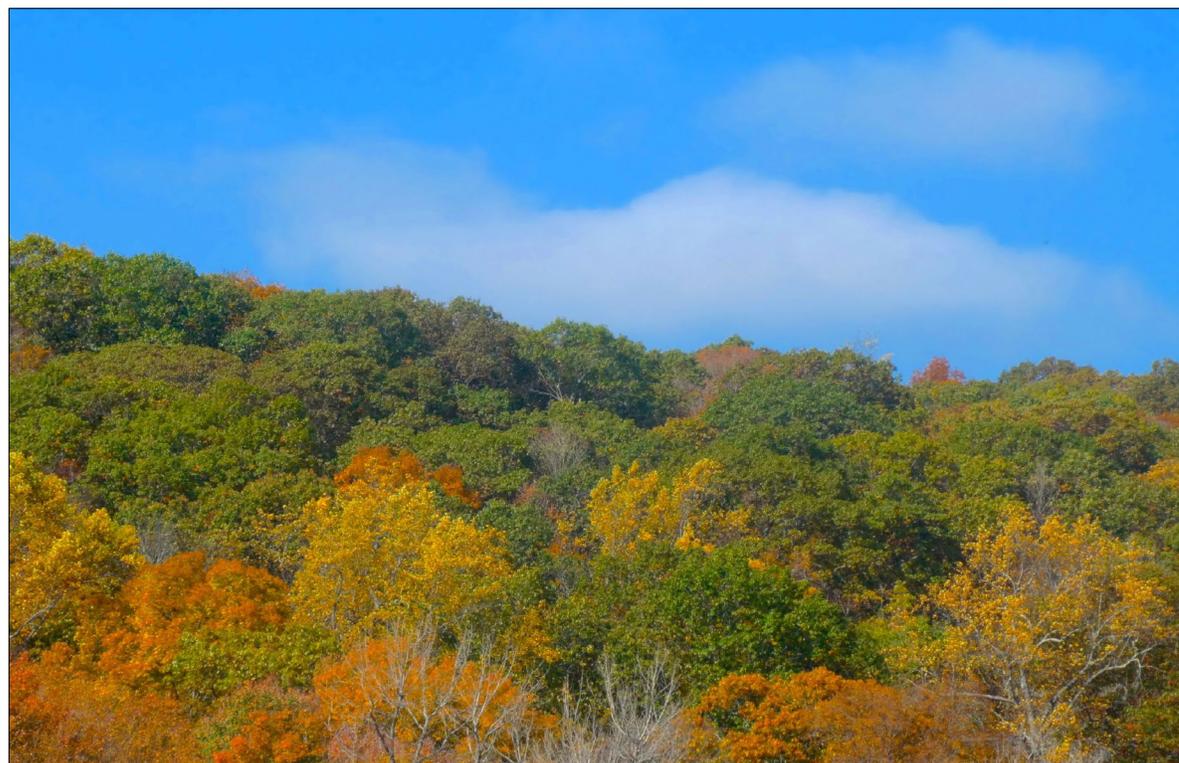
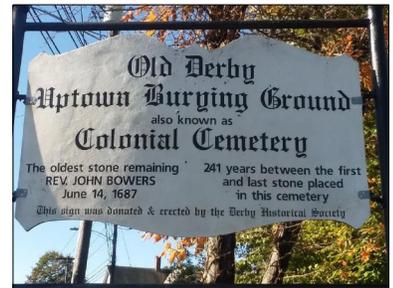
## Story and photos from the City of Ansonia

DERBY - Saturday, a Revolutionary War grave marking ceremony was held at the Old Colonial Burying Ground on Derby Ave.

Hosted by Derby Historical Society and the *General David Humphreys Branch of the Sons of the American Revolution*, the event commemorated the 54 Revolutionary War patriots buried there.

This is the oldest public burying ground in the country, the oldest stone dating back to 1687. The last burial there was in 1928.

Board member and Ansonia Mayor David S. Casseti noted many familiar names on grave stones that link to several street names throughout Ansonia and Derby. "This site is certainly rich with Ansonia-Derby and American history," he said.



It was 72 degrees when this photo was taken at Osbornedale State Park in Derby. Although here was little foliage to capture, it was a beautiful fall day.  
*- Photo by Patricia Villers*

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Paid for by DeBarba for State Rep. Treasurer, Judy Szewczyk. Approved by Dan DeBarba.



The Derby-Shelton Bridge connects the two towns. This photo, was likely taken prior to 1898.

*Thanks to the Derby Public Library staff for sharing interesting local history each week.*

