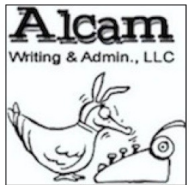




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More of the Best of the Valley

July 17, 2018

Civility: Where hath thou gone?

Social media changes behavior, often for the worse

By Ralph Villers

Today's social media offers us a dichotomy: on one hand, it can be a great means of communication...on the other hand, it has changed the behaviors of many - and not for the better.



Ralph Villers' grandfather in 1948

There are several social media group pages out there where members' behavior is not conducive to civility: a bravado where respect for other opinions is optional; where snark, contempt, outright hostility emerge from some/many members.

To disagree with the collective thought, one or many will be attacked. Thus, bullying has been normalized and you will agree with me...or else.

The particular participants on FB pages are not really important here, but their behavior is. And it seems the younger the instigator, the more morally superior and smarter they are than the rest of us.

So the relative faceless anonymity of Facebook, Twitter, etc. allows for the most annoying species of all, the haughty *Know-it-All*.

It was not always that way.

In days past where modern technology and bullying had not yet intruded, agreements, disagreements, assertions and denials were handled in person. I am taking a look back to a person and an era that has passed but is instructive.

My grandfather, Ralph Villers (1902-1981) was an amazing person in his own right. Growing up in Weirton, W.V., he had only an eighth grade education. That was as much education as most students received in 1916.

Yet, he was the most intelligent person I have ever known. Now how could that be?

He knew what he didn't know.

He would get you the answer.

He would do so with civility and without bravado, snark, contempt or outright hostility.

That is what is missing in today's world - respect for the individual no matter the differences in opinions and points of view, to disagree without being disagreeable.

Such as counting to ten before lighting the fuse. Giving a little thought to what you are about to say and send.

How about using a little discretion before you act? That would be very welcome to me - how about you the reader?

I don't wish to return to a world a century ago - only to more courteous and respectful norms.

Food Truck Fridays in Seymour to benefit Project Purple

SEYMOUR - A total of three Food Truck Fridays will be held Downtown to raise funds for pancreatic cancer research.

Click [here](#) to read a story about the upcoming fundraisers by our friend Jean Falbo-Sosnovich, New Haven Register.



project  purple

FOOD TRUCK
FRIDAYS

7/27 • 8/24 • 9/28



ATTENTION ANSONIA

For this year's Harvest Festival, we decided that we should take things up a notch or two. This years event we decided to put more emphasis on what we have in this great City. We want to show the folks in the region, What Ansonia is all about!



We want to step back to the good ol' days with a good ol' fashioned street festival



We are looking for farm tractors & equipment ,Farm Animals to show along Main Street. Those who do so can sell their crops and other related products and services , FREE of Charge. Vintage cars and Trucks are welcome as well. If you have a business along Main St. We invite you to extend your store out into the Street for the day. We welcome you to step up and participate in any way you can!

For questions or inquiries, Contact Rich DiCarlo at

studiochid@sbcglobal.net or ansoniacultural@gmail.com

We Welcome Team and Organizational Fundraisers

The Ansonia HARVEST FESTIVAL!

It All Happens on Main Street!

September
SAT 29th
11 am to 4 pm

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY

FREE EVENT!
\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION TO CONTINUE CELEBRATE SHELTON'S EFFORTS

CELEBRATE SHELTON
Presents

RAIN DATE
AUGUST 10TH

Downtown Sounds

Summer Concerts & Food Trucks
at Veterans Memorial Park

Kids HOUR!
STARTS AT 5PM

NEW BELGIUM BREWING
BEER GARDEN

Fridays 5-9pm
with Live Music From...

JULY 20TH JULY 27TH AUGUST 3RD