

# Haddam Killingworth News

AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COVERING HADDAM, HIGGANUM, HADDAM NECK AND KILLINGWORTH

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August 13, 2020

For breaking news go to [HK-Now.com](http://HK-Now.com) every day

Free weekly



## HVFC responds in wake of storm

Photos courtesy of Olivia Drake.

By Olivia Drake, Public Information Officer, HVFC

Members of Haddam Volunteer Fire Company responded to more than 20 calls during and following Tropical Storm Isaias on Aug. 4. Due to strong winds, several trees fell across roads, onto structures, and knocked down power lines.

Firefighters worked throughout the day to block dangerous road hazards and help clear tree debris from roads.

In between calls, members also collected seven American flags that had fallen during the storm along Saybrook Road.



## Haddam-Killingworth Little League awards 2020 Scholarships

By Sal Lena, Chairman,  
Haddam Killingworth Little League Scholarship Fund

Haddam Killingworth Little League is proud to announce that Evan Fleig and Dominic Lena (both Seniors at Haddam Killingworth High School) have been named the winners of the 2020 Haddam Killingworth Little League Scholarship. Each student will receive \$1,000. The awards were announced virtually as a part of Haddam Killingworth High School's scholarship presentation on June 9, 2020.

Both Evan and Dominic played many years in Haddam Little League, served as youth umpires after their playing careers were over and continue to support Little League activities on a volunteer basis. Evan will be attending Florida Gulf Coast University this fall majoring in Mathematics, while Dominic is



Photo by Sal Lena.

heading to the University of Kentucky to study Architecture.

This is the eighteenth year Haddam Killingworth

Little League has awarded scholarships to students whose high school career reflects the values of good sportsmanship, loyalty, courage, teamwork and respect. These qualities represent the core values of Little League baseball. Recipients must be a resident of Haddam or Killingworth; have played at least 1 year in either town's Little League program; perform community service and successfully complete his/her high school career in good standing. At present the Haddam Killingworth Little League Scholarship has awarded over \$39,000 to worthy high school seniors since its inception.

Haddam Killingworth Little League wishes to congratulate both Evan and Dominic on their awards, and wishes them the best of luck as they pursue their college education.

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# A School Year Unlike Any in History

By Jennifer Favalora,  
RSD #17 Board of Education

At press time, RSD #17 had decided to move to a hybrid model, combining in-classroom instruction and distance learning for the first few weeks.

On Saturday, March 7, thirty-nine HKIS Select Chorus students walked on the ice at the XL Center to sing the National Anthem to a filled stadium.

Little did they know that within one week, their classrooms, art rooms, playgrounds, libraries and cafeterias would be closed, and everything that had traditionally defined school would

not exist for the next five months.

Connecticut's first Coronavirus (COVID-19) case was confirmed the next day.

## Impact on Education: The COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020

Never before has our school district (or any school system in America) been as challenged to continue educating every student in an environment so different from the traditional classroom. What follows is a brief story of how our school district responded to



the most unique disruption in its 47 year history.

While news and discussions about COVID-19 began much earlier than March 8, that date triggered the beginning of a new reality for RSD17. Dr. Holly Hageman - RSD17's School Superintendent - was in frequent contact with the state's Department of Education, RSD 17 Board of Education, Haddam and Killingworth's First Selectman, Departments of Health and Emergency Management, fellow Superintendents, Union heads, and parents.

Monitoring daily data became crucial as the State was expecting school districts to use their own judgment on whether or not to close. On Wednesday March 11, school districts in Fairfield County began closing.

As the potential severity of the virus became apparent, the guidance from the State Department of Education changed from "make a local decision" to "take a two week break or longer in education" to "an all out effort to facilitate Distance Learning for

all students in their homes."

While the State Department of Education initially discouraged online teaching (because of concerns for consistency and equity) it became clear that this was a health crisis that was not going to be solved quickly. This 180 degree pivot left school districts across the state scrambling to respond appropriately to the changing guidance. "We were running two plans." HKIS Principal, Eric Larson explained, "That week I was simultaneously planning incoming fourth grade visits, state testing, and a cultural-diversity celebration, while also considering this might be the last week of classroom teaching."

As the situation and guidance unfolded, Dr. Hageman led RSD 17's administration team to launch a plan to keep students engaged in learning during a major disruption caused by a national pandemic. Teachers were instructed to identify on-line opportunities for continuous learning, bring

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# A School Year Unlike Any in History

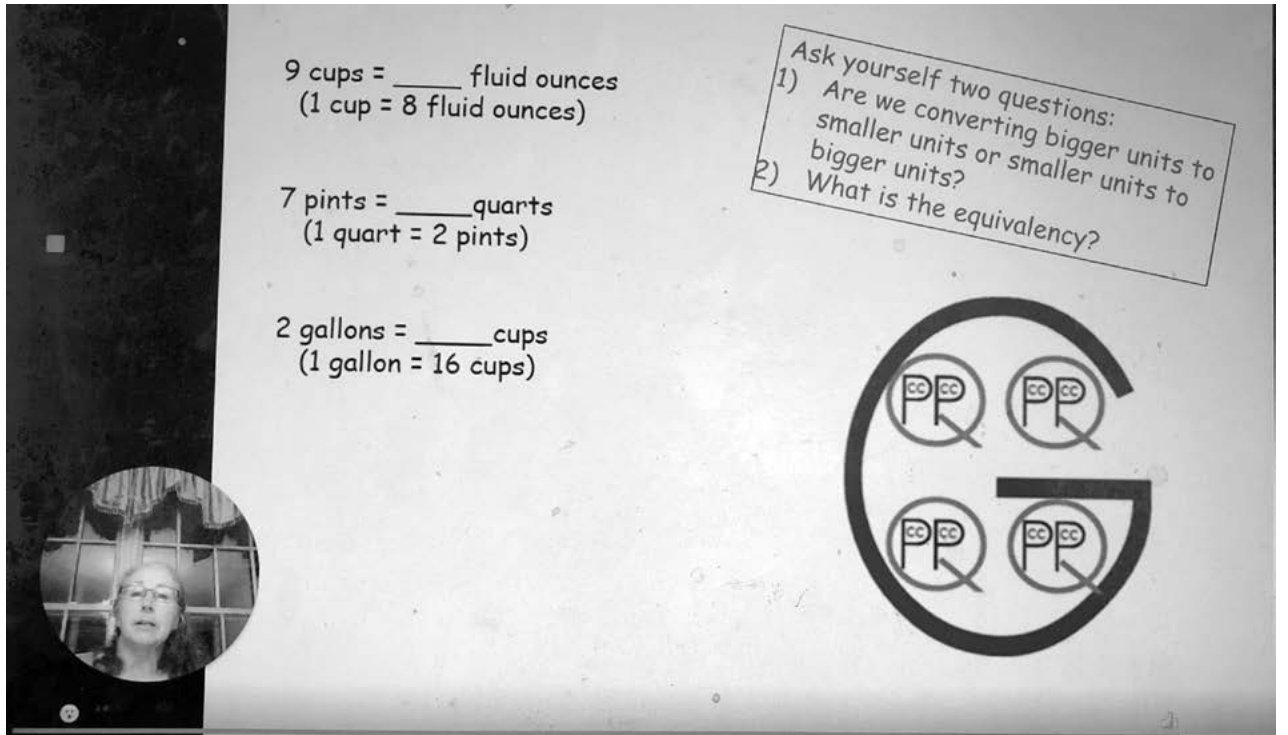
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their laptops home every evening in case a closure came with no warning, and to identify any students with home technology issues. The school district's website was updated with a web page for updates and guidance from the state. In addition, another page entitled At Home Learning Connections was launched and filled with relevant, grade level instructional materials and activities for students to access to stay on top of the material and skills they were learning in the classroom.

On Friday, March 13, LEARN region school districts, including RSD 17, simultaneously announced school buildings would close the following day for at least two weeks. Dr. Hageman and her team immediately informed staff and parents. Teachers encouraged students to take home textbooks, schoolwork, and library books that could be helpful during the closure; computers were lent out, and the Learning Connections web page went live.

Director of Food Services, Sharon Shettleworth, immediately applied to the State for a special exemption to remain open throughout the closure and provide breakfast and lunch for any child in town under the age of 18 who needed meals. Over the course of the next three months, Sharon and her staff provided 90-120 HK children with two meals a day, five days a week.

The following Monday, when the CT Commissioner of Education pivoted on previous guidance and encouraged districts to begin providing continuity of learning for students indefinitely, the administration immediately began to develop guidelines for teacher-directed online learning. Through that week and the months that followed, collaboration would be one of the most essential elements for success. Staff relied on connections with each other and educators throughout the state to design guide-



lines, collaborate on objectives, and share ideas and resources. "Phase One" of Distance Learning was underway.

## Distance Learning – Phase One



RSD 17 had recently begun to use Google Classroom so that computer platform was familiar to educators and many students, but flipping classrooms from in-person to online required intensive training. Each school held ongoing virtual faculty meetings followed by small group meetings with coaches, library media specialists or tech team members to discuss where to begin, methods to deliver lessons and strategies to teach in this new way. Teachers set up classrooms through Google for each class they taught, and students were expected to check for their

assignments each day.

On Monday, March 23, school was "back in session," but it looked nothing like it had before. Principals recorded morning announcements and teachers posted daily assignments to their Google Classrooms by 9:00 a.m. every day. Students navigated classrooms not through hallways, but through websites and teacher's recorded and live lessons. Working from home in a new world of education meant a challenge for everyone. Teachers were providing instructional assignments while learning new platforms, collaborating with each other and helping parents and students navigate this new domain.

Parents found themselves in the role of assisting their children, organizing, managing and navigating

*Continued on page H4*

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**Anemia- It's not about your skin being pale!**  
 Anemia is caused by a decrease in the number of Red Blood Cells (RBC) that carry oxygen to cells in your body and carry carbon dioxide to your lungs to have it leave your body. This decrease occurs due to: increased blood loss, internal destruction of RBC's, or decreased production.

There are many diseases including infection, inflammation, or cancers that have an association with anemia. Anemia is one of those conditions, much like a fever, that your doctor may want to investigate further. Albeit mild anemia may just be watched versus treated, your doctor must be the professional to combine their knowledge and experience to make this decision.


Nutritional causes for anemia include iron deficiency, vitamin B-12 deficiency, and folic acid deficiency, along with starvation and general malnutrition.

One external skin indicator your doctor will consider is the color of the creases in your palm, and if they are as pale as the surrounding skin, as this may indicate a drop in your hemoglobin concentration, which is one measure of anemia. Hemoglobin is the component of the blood that binds to oxygen. Other laboratory tests the doctor may order include: Hematocrit- which is the amount of RBC's; Mean Corpuscular Volume (MCV)-which measures the average volume of RBC's; and Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin (MCH)- which measures the amount of hemoglobin per RBC. There are other lab tests as well.

Iron, Folic Acid, and B-12 deficiencies are diagnosed by lab tests, but a thorough physician exam will highlight the patient fatigue. All adult men and post-menopausal women with low iron should also be screened for GI issues as well.

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- Newly widowed/loss of spouse
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- Contemplation of re-marriage
- Death or incapacity of your designated executor, health care or financial agent
- Purchase of real estate with an unmarried partner
- Beneficiary going through a divorce, bankruptcy, creditor problems
- Disabled child, grandchild or beneficiary
- Substantial change in wealth (up or down)
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- Purchase or formation of a new business

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## A School Year Unlike Any in History

Continued from page H3

the platforms for younger students. Older students were better able to self-navigate. As it became apparent this teaching method would continue for longer than a few weeks, more computers were loaned out as families working from home at the same time realized they could no longer share computers throughout the household. The District ended up lending out 289 computers to HK families.

### Distance Learning – Phase Two

By mid-April, RSD 17 had entered “Phase Two” of Distance Learning from online assignments to teacher-directed learning through increased live interactions and refined recorded lessons. Teachers scheduled daily or weekly video conferences for small groups or whole classes to meet and learn together. Connecting again with their friends and teachers helped students socially, emotionally, and cognitively. Curriculum Coordinator Heather Rigatti remembers, “During this time, educators worked hard to build community whether gathering for a morning meeting, having small group office hours, participating in the Principal’s Google Classroom or connecting one-on-one for a counseling session.”

Throughout the fourteen weeks of Distance Learning, the well-being of all students was on everybody’s mind. Starting the first day of closure, KES Principal Dennis Reed sent recordings of himself reading books to the students. HKMS Principal Dolores Bates and BES Principal Brienne Whidden wrote personalized postcards to each of their students. Principal Larson completed challenges sent in from his students from drawing a pug to performing trick basketball shots. Schools held “Spirit Weeks” encouraging students to dress to the theme and share pictures of themselves with their classes. Physically-distanced home visits from teachers included book drops in mailboxes, computer deliveries, and prize pizzas left on porches. Teachers orchestrated scavenger hunts through video conferences with candy prizes delivered to mailboxes. Younger students had the day off to participate in an at-home Field Day



with their families. Food Services staff included special treats such as cookies, stickers, and frisbees in the meals they handed out. And teachers and students sent digital letters back and forth to each other through video compilations sharing pictures of themselves holding signs with positive messages. HKMS & HKIS staff even recorded a performance of the dance from High School Musical’s “We’re All In This Together” which was shared to students on the first day back from April vacation

The school year ended on June 15, and schools found ways to celebrate the milestones together, if still apart, including Ringing Out ceremonies (virtually) and “Reverse Parades”. HKMS 8th graders were driven through a balloon arch to receive their promotion certificate as teachers in the parking lot cheered them on. And the HKHS Class of 2020 celebrated their Diploma Day unlike any in history, with

a drive through ceremony. With teachers cheering, a DJ, and signs for each Senior lining the drive, the Seniors exited their cars dressed in their caps, gowns and HK facemasks, to cross the stage as their name was announced to receive their diploma and turn their tassel. Principal Hayward and her team worked with students to plan an in-person Graduation Ceremony, meeting all social distancing and group size parameters, on July 17.

Suzanne Sack, RSD 17 Board of Education Chair, said “it was the talent and commitment of our entire staff and community that allowed us to provide learning opportunities for kids these last months. Without exception, everyone was pushed from their comfort zone and asked to do what they have never done before. We are so very grateful for everyone’s efforts, patience and commitment to our community’s children.”

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# Addressing the issue of feral cats in Haddam

By Austin Mirmina

Sue Kautz thought Rooney, an eight-week-old orange tabby cat, was going to be a lifer.

After trapping and rescuing Rooney four years ago, Kautz, 67, who runs a private charity called "Haddam Animal Rescue", considered putting the kitten in a barn to provide pest control, eventually deciding against it.

"This guy's got potential," Kautz remembered thinking. "I'd hate to put him in a barn when he could be a loving house cat."

Rooney, though, had a feral streak; he lacked the tenderness shown by ordinary house cats and wanted nothing to do with his potential adopters.

"He always did have that edge," Kautz said. "Anybody that would ever come look at him ... he would just run and hide. He didn't present well."

Kautz saw the kitty tealeaves, saying she was doubtful that Rooney would ever be adopted. But then the unthinkable happened – a nationwide pandemic struck, closing animal shelters and flooding Kautz with calls from people trying to adopt. Rooney finally found a home.

Rooney is one of Kautz's more memorable moments in a hobby that rewards very little. She's single-handedly run her private charity for 18 years; most of her work involves trapping feral cats and paying out of pocket to get them neutered. It was a hobby born out of love for animals. But the financial strain coupled with dwindling energy has left her feeling unsure of how much longer she can continue.

Kautz has filled a void in the community since her retirement as a hospice home care nurse in 2011: Haddam Animal Control doesn't deal with feral cats, and only Killingworth resident Francine Pelegano, who also runs a private charity called "Almost Home for Cats", does similar work.

In addition to fielding more adoption calls because of Covid-19, Kautz has been working hard this

summer to trap and neuter feral cats during "mating season", a time when feral cat reproduction is at its peak. After identifying the location of a colony of stray cats, Kautz said she lays a trap using different sized cages loaded with cat food as bait.

Occasionally Kautz captures friendly cats and lists them on pet finder websites to be adopted. But most of the time her traps are filled with frantic feral cats that are brought to the veterinarian to be neutered, a process that aims to break the mating cycle and stabilize feral cat populations.

Daun Kowalski, who is Haddam's animal control officer, called Kautz an "invaluable resource" for Haddam because, without her effort, the feral cat situation could escalate into a public health issue.

Kautz said a main source of the problem is irresponsible owners who abandon their cats once they no longer want to take care of them, something she's noticed people doing near exit 8 off Route 9.

Janice Cavanaugh, 63, is a volunteer worker for Cat Tales, a non-profit organization that rescues stray and feral cats in Middletown and Portland. Cavanaugh also pointed to the negligence of owners as a big reason for the feral cat problem, saying people frequently dump their animals at feeding stations maintained by Cat Tales.

"I have come in to find on top of our feeding station an animal – a cat in a carrier that someone has left there," Cavanaugh said. "Most of the time [owners] are desperate."

That desperation from owners might be the result of increasing veterinarian costs, Kautz said. The average cost of a neutering surgery in Middlesex County ranges from \$175 to \$695 for a male cat, and from \$285 to \$800 for a female cat, according to Cavanaugh.

"[People] take a free kitten with the best intention," Cavanaugh said, stressing that owners need to take more responsibility for getting their cats neutered to help break the cycle of feral cat reproduction.

Some low-cost neutering services are available; one mobile clinic, called TEAM, charges \$135 for a neuter surgery, including certain vaccinations like rabies. Kautz said she takes her cats to the Chester Veterinary Clinic, which offers her a discounted rate for its neutering service.

But because feral cats are returned back to their colonies after getting neutered, Kautz said she doesn't recoup any of the money she spends getting them fixed. And her private charity doesn't receive government funding, like other non-profits such as Cat Tales, so she relies heavily on donations and adoption fees from non-feral cats to stay afloat.

Her expenses accumulate quickly; between the cost of heat and air conditioning for her cat storage outbuilding, litter, food, and medication, Kautz usually pays out-of-pocket to keep things going. She called it "a labor of love."

Kautz said she wants to move on from rescuing cats within the next couple of years. She said she's tired of caring after so many cats; right now she can't leave her house or go on vacation without hiring someone to look after them. And she'd like to spend more time doing activities she enjoys, like gardening and yoga.

"It feels like I'm never done – there's always more I could be doing," Kautz said.

Although Kautz is rarely satisfied with her work, one could hear the joy and delight in her voice while discussing Rooney, the orange tabby cat, who serves as an example of her legacy.

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# The 2020 5K Pumpkin Run and Kid's Run ARE coming!

By Carol Dupuis

For all of you who enjoy running or walking and especially those who have been anxiously awaiting a good road race; Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth annual Pumpkin Run, our most important fundraiser, is going to be held this year on October 25, 2020.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we weren't sure it could happen. A number of things will be different. This year JB Sports will be the company in charge. We have been working very closely with John Bysiewicz, owner of JB Sports. He has kept us apprised of everything we need to know from the State. Now that the final regulations have been released, we are full force ahead to make this a great event for runners; adults and kids. It will meet all regulations for road races up to 500. So, what's different?

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Start Time 2 – 9:45 a.m.

Kids Fun Run Start 11:30 a.m.

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Money raised from this event, and other donations, provides for many prevention activities at all levels in our schools, Juvenile Review Board (to keep students from having to go to Court, when an infraction has occurred), summer activities (when possible, i.e., health concerns), various kinds of assistance to families in need, many other projects and educational programs. We also provide counseling services by licensed staff,

There are opportunities for High School students to earn Community Service Hours, among many other things.

If you have any questions, call YFSHK at 860-345-7498 or email Laura Shipman at [office@hkyfs.org](mailto:office@hkyfs.org).

## July update on masks for RSD #17 Students & Staff

By Kathy Brown

In June, we shared an article about a couple women spearheading an effort to make masks for all of the students and staff in Regional School District #17. Connecticut put out its requirements and guidance for schools to reopen and directed each district to submit their plan by July 24. RSD #17 submitted their plan, and one of the requirements was that everyone must wear a mask while in school: Pre-K to Grade 12, teachers, staff, and bus drivers.

Amy Perry, of Killingworth, spearheaded an effort to make 2400 masks in blue and gold (school colors) so that there would be one for everyone. 1100 of those have been completed. Along the way, Amy thought they should make some with kid-friendly prints as well, another 1900 of them.

They plan to be ready to distribute the masks around Aug. 15. If the kid-friendly prints are not finished by that date, those will be handed out in class.

They have had just under 50 people volunteer to

help make the masks. "Some have taken more than one tote," explained Amy. "Each tote has supplies for 50 masks. We could use a few more to get the kid prints done by mid-August."

Amy, along with Sharon Timek, put together tote bags which include supplies to make 50 masks (fabric, elastic, metal nose guard, thread) as well as instructions. Amy estimates that it will take 10-15 hours to sew 50 masks from start to finish.

Because they have increased the mask count, they have also increased the cost of fabric and supplies (thread, elastic). If anyone is willing to donate to the project, funds can be sent to Haddam Killingworth Youth & Family Services (P. O. Box 432, Higganum, CT 06441); please put "Mask Project 2020" in the memo so that it is funneled to the correct project. Because the donation will be going through HKYFS, the donation will be tax deductible.

If you are willing to help in this effort, please call Amy at 860-398-0215 or email her at [Yourpersonal-seamstress@gmail.com](mailto:Yourpersonal-seamstress@gmail.com)

## Haddam Killingworth News

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# Haddam First Selectman provides COVID-19 update

By Bob McGarry, First Selectman, Haddam

I want to provide you with an update on where we stand with the pandemic. We now have 43 cases in town; still only one fatality. I'm a little concerned about a possible trend that's developing with our cases. They appear to be occurring more frequently. On June 9th, we had the 37th case reported. We had no more cases until July 7th when cases 38 and 39 were reported, followed by cases 40 and 41 on July 25th, and cases 42 and 43 on July 28th.

Given our low number of cases, this may just be a statistical abnormality or skewed by the timeliness of reporting. However, the infection rate in Connecticut which measures how quickly or slowly the virus is spreading in the state, has also started to increase.

(For more information on the infection rate see Rt Live.) My take away from this is the virus is still here and we still need to do what we can to contain its spread – wear a face mask or covering, maintain social distance, wash your hands and avoid crowds. Business owners please encourage your patrons to wear masks. You can see what's happening in most of the rest of the country with spikes and increases in cases. We don't want that to happen here.

The Governor has issued nine Executive Orders (EO) since my last update. The ones that are either the most widely applicable or of particular interest to us are:

EO 7CCC – Issuance of duplicate licenses and ID cards

EO 7DDD – Extended protection for residential renters

EO 7GGG – Temporary mortgage relief

EO 7III – Mandatory quarantine for travelers from certain states (the list of states continues to expand)

On the good news side, it appears we'll have enough workers to staff our three polling places for the Presidential Primary. Thanks to all who have volunteered to work the polls.

The town office building is back to normal operations and open during our normal hours. I still recommend doing business with us remotely but we're here if you need to come in.

## HADDAM SOCIAL SERVICES

### July report

By Jessica Condil, Director of Haddam Senior & Social Services

\*please note Social Services report includes totals for Municipal Agent

A big THANK YOU to HK Dairy Barn for donating gift cards to Haddam Emergency Food Bank. We are so grateful for the support!

We also would like to thank everyone in the community who has been sharing their fresh garden goodies with the Food Bank. Many have benefited from the garden sharing.

#### Senior & Social Services

The following programs have serviced the community:

Haddam Emergency Food Bank has serviced a total of 46 Adults & 15 Children, in addition to food, Haddam

Emergency Food Banks has serviced 6 families with gifts cards to local restaurants and grocery stores in town.

Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank has serviced a total of 1 family for electric assistance.

Haddam Senior & Social Services has serviced 5 individuals with paperwork assistance.

Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank has serviced 9 families with clothing.

Haddam Social Services has done 0 wellness checks for May of 2020.

Social Services has assigned 9 Farmers Market Coupon Booklets out to seniors.

#### Senior Van

The Senior Van has serviced a total of 3 medical appointments for the month of June 2020 and 6 have attended the weekly shopping trip for July.

#### Haddam Senior Center

As of March 16, all CRT meals have been a grab and go or frozen meal due to COVID-19. Meals are distributed on Mondays for the week and are available for pick up Mondays at noon. The Haddam Senior Center has distributed 171 CRT meals for the month of July and a total of 41 visitors for July 2020.





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## AT HOME

### Ask an interior designer!

By Editorial Staff

How often are you faced with a design conundrum and thought, "I wish I knew a professional designer that I could ask?"

Now you do! Local Interior Designer Rachel Schemmerling is here to help solve those design dilemmas. Each month she will select one question from a reader and take on your challenge. She'll also include a 10% coupon code to use at her on-line store.

Whether you're tackling a kitchen design decision during a major renovation, need advice on arranging your living room furniture, or anything in between, she's got the sound advice you need to help resolve tricky design challenges.

To provide the best solutions for your dilemma and to increase the likelihood that your question is selected, please read and follow these guidelines carefully:

*Continued on page H9*



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## LEGAL NOTICES

### PLANNING AND ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing at the Haddam Elementary School Higganum CT on September 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item(s):

1. Request for a special permit to allow for demolition of residential structure listed on Haddam Survey of Historical and Architectural Resources.  
140 Dublin Hill Rd. Map 06/ Lot 042. Applicant: Tim Brewer

Said applications are on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam.

Planning and Zoning Commission, Haddam CT

The Town of Haddam shall endeavor to post its Legal Notices with the Haddam News publication. In the event that the weekly publication cannot meet the Town's statutory requirements, the Middletown Press or Hartford Courant shall be utilized to meet said statutory deadlines. Courtesy copies will be published to Haddam News that may or may not be timely. The Town's website is: [www.haddam.org](http://www.haddam.org).

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# Free Haircuts & School Supply Drive: August 23

By Kathy Brown

On Sunday, August 23, there will be three barbers giving free haircuts\* for students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade at the Haddam Firehouse (439 Saybrook Road, Higganum) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They are looking for donations of school supplies and/or gift cards for school supplies for Youth & Family Services of Haddam Killingworth.

Last year, Dillon Zak called the HKYFS office and said he had an idea but he wasn't sure how to get

started. Executive Director of HKYFS Laurie Ruderfer and Dillon worked together to organize the first annual event last August 18. At last year's event, four barbers gave 35 haircuts.

School supplies needed: rulers, #2 pencils, pens, highlighters, scissors, notebooks, pencil boxes, post its, colored pencils, folders, backpacks, magic markers, erasers, 3-ring binders, filler paper for binders, flash-drives, hand sanitizer, masks, and gift cards for Staples or Amazon.

Along with free haircuts, there will also be a bake

sale and raffle. All proceeds will be donated to HK Youth & Family Services.

The HKYFS Backpack Program for the 2020-21 school year serves Haddam-Killingworth students who are in need of assistance to obtain the essential tools to learn in the classroom. When students start off the school year prepared, they are more likely to succeed in school. To register for this confidential program, call 860-345-7498 or email office@hkyfs

\*Masks are required for this event.

## FROM PAGE H7

### Interior designer

Continued from page H7

SEND US YOUR PICTURES AND QUESTIONS HERE: HK-NowEditors@Outlook.com

- Include your name, city, state.
- Include floor plans, if available, plus photographs of rooms, furniture, samples of tile, fabric or existing room features (see Photo Tips below). We can receive emails including up to 10 MB in digital attachments.
- Include measurements of rooms and/or furniture you are asking about.
- Include website links to products you might be considering or already own.
- If your question refers to an existing paint color, please include the color name and manufacturer, if available.

#### Photo Tips

The brighter and clearer your photos are, the easier it is to answer your questions more effectively.

Here's how to get great "before" shots so that we can help you get them worthy of "after" shots. Use natural light whenever possible! So turn all the lights off. If you can use a tripod. Try to keep your lines straight. Photographing on an overcast day is the best.

And even if your question is not selected, you can pick up a tip or two that might apply to your design ideas as well. And your question could be answered next month!

## COMICS

Mae O' Moodus by Roger Straub



Cow - moo - flage



Gillian R. Kelly, DMD, MSD  
Michael T. Kelly, DMD, MS

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Photos courtesy of Dave Peterson.

## Rally honors law enforcement, first responders, and military

By Meghan Peterson, Ph.D.

On Saturday, Aug. 1, over two hundred people attended the Haddam Police/Patriots Rally at the Higganum Town Green. According to organizers Dan Luisi and Christopher Page, the event was to “show...support [for] our Law Enforcement and First Responders” as well as to express gratitude for law enforcement, first responders, and military in our towns, state, and nation.

On this typical warm, sunny August day in New England, individuals, couples, and families stood in the shade, with masks on and/or in socially distanced arrangements, as they listened to multiple speakers thank the daily heroes who protect us. Many carried American flags of all sizes, including the Thin Blue Line American flag (which specifically honors American police officers). A couple of military trucks, adorned with flags, formed a sort of procession and then parked near the Green. In addition, local ambulance vehicles, motorcycles, and cars and trucks with flags that traveled on Saybrook Road/Route 154 honked to show support.

Several young members of a fife and drum corps played American

staples, including the Star Spangled Banner. Another young boy recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The speaker roster was varied and extensive, featuring Reverend Ernestine Holloway of Meriden, Republican running for the 82nd District; Bob Siegrist, Republican candidate for the 36th District of Connecticut running against incumbent State Representative Christine Palm (Democrat); Brendan Saunders, Republican candidate for the 33rd District running against incumbent State Senator Norm Needleman (Democrat); Republican State Representative Irene Haines (whose district covers East Haddam, East Hampton, part of Colchester); Matt Corey, Republican candidate who unsuccessfully ran against U.S. Senator Chris Murphy in 2018; Justin Anderson, Republican candidate running for the U.S. Representative seat currently occupied by Democrat Joe Courtney; Linda Stuhlman of Go America Now; and Linda Szyrkowicz of Fight Voter Fraud, Inc.

Both State Representative Christine Palm and State Senator Norm Needleman were invited to speak at the event. Neither attended. Palm cited safety



Brendan Saunders, Republican candidate for 33rd District Senate seat, addresses the gathering.

concerns, saying in a statement that “I am assuming many in this crowd won’t be wearing facemasks. Therefore, for my safety, as well as that of my family, colleagues and community, I will not attend the event.”

Needleman and his office never responded to the organizers’ invitation.

Themes of the speeches centered

on appreciating law enforcement, first responders, and military; defeating the recent movement toward communism and violence as seen in cities like Seattle, Portland, and New York; ensuring that freedoms granted to us by our Constitution are not taken away; and standing up for this country.

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