



Pat Miller retires from KAA after 15 years

By Clark Judge

Every December the Killingworth Ambulance Association holds its annual Christmas party at the home of a board member, and this year was supposed to be no different.

And it wasn't.

Except it was, too.

Yes, a board member hosted it. And, yes, EMTs and directors attended, as they have been for years. But it was more than a Christmas party. It was also a retirement party for former board member Pat Miller.

Miller announced that she is quitting as an EMT after serving Killingworth the past 15 years – many of which were spent on call Tuesday evenings, with Miller sleeping on an air mattress at the association's Route 81 headquarters.

"There are a lot of factors," she said, "that came together that makes this the right time."

One is that she must renew her certification at the end of the calendar year. Another is that, since moving to Madison several years ago, it's become increasingly difficult for her to spend weekday evenings at the KAA building. And, third, she's more focused on life after retirement from her job as a pharmacist – something she envisions happening within the next two years.

"I feel I've done my time," said Miller. "I'm getting older, and it's time for newer blood to come along and step up to the plate ... Patients are getting larger and larger, and my back is getting older and older. I don't want to start my retirement with a major back injury."

But that doesn't mean that Miller is leaving the KAA or Killingworth. She is not. She intends to continue teaching CPR courses and monitoring ambulance inventory for the association. She simply is retiring as an EMT – unfortunately, at a time when the KAA is in need of volunteers.

"What am I going to miss?" she said. "Certainly the people. People ask if you like what you do as an EMT, and I don't like seeing people in pain and suffering. But it gives you great satisfaction to know that you might be able to help them on their worst day and make it a little easier on them and their families."

"I'll miss that because Killingworth is such a big-hearted community. It makes it easy to want to give."

And Miller has given a consid-

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HKHS Honor Roll 2018-19 Quarter 1

By Christine Smith, HKHS

Editors Note: 9th Grade High Honors information is missing at publication time. When it becomes available, we will print it.

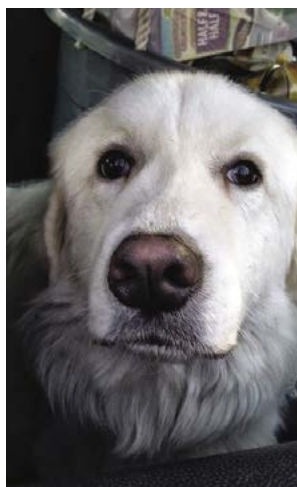
High honors is awarded to students with a quarter Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.7 or higher; Honors is awarded to students with a quarter GPA of 3.3 or higher (both refer to weighted GPAs, where AP/Honors level courses have an added point value over college prep courses).

GRADE 12 ~ HIGH HONORS

Bagnoli, Abigail Davis Blodgett, Sally Elizabeth Botteon, Troy William Brown, Dalton Edward Bruder, James Joseph Carlson, Nate Richard Celano, Catherine Mary Chan, Esmee Lin Chute, Connor Anthony Civiello, Devin Michael Civiello, Jonathan Daniel Conti, Rebecca Catherine Criscuolo, Kyle J Duval, Matthew Scott Ferguson, Trent Erik Figurelli, Erin Rae Flaherty, Michaela Elizabeth Freeman, Jonah Ram Giambanis, Dimitrios Georgios Goosen, Jacques Maurice Herbst, Marianne K. Hinds, Eleanor Rebecca Insall, Emily Jane Izzo, Griffin Alexander

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A DOG'S LIFE: TRANSFER STATION EDITION PART VI



By Editorial Staff

Apparently the folks around town like a little company when they head off to the Haddam Transfer Sta-

tion to drop off their weekly garbage and dispose of their recyclables. Many folks choose a dog to accompany them. Transfer station worker, Sabine, kindly

takes photos of some of those companions. Does your dog enjoy the weekly transfer station run?

Pat Miller retires from KAA after 15 years of service

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erable amount of her adult life to Killingworth. A member of the KAA's board of directors for over two decades, she was a past president, vice president and secretary. After moving to Madison, she resigned from the board but continued as an EMT – an experience she said she won't forget.

Apparently, neither will others.

"When my retirement was announced," Miller said, "one of the soon-to-be EMTs, someone who's taking the (current EMT) course, Mary Robbenhaar-Fretz (a board member) came up to me and said, 'Wow, Pat, you've been doing Tuesday nights here for a long time.' And I said, 'Yeah, I have. But what made you remember that?' And she said, 'Be-

cause you transported my father on a Tuesday night. And he passed away three-to-four days later. You were such a comfort to us then.'"

Miller's last day as an EMT is Monday, Dec. 31, 2018. And while she's not sure how she will recognize the event she is certain that with a New Year she begins a new life.

"Being an EMT certainly is a meaningful way to give back to your community," she said, "which I think everyone has an obligation to do in one form or another. Certainly, it has its downsides. Nobody wants to be called out of bed at 2 in the morning. But you do it because you know one of your peers – one of your colleagues, perhaps – needs help.

"Am I glad I did it? I don't have to think a second

about that. It's an unqualified yes. I have no regrets at all. And I do feel I've helped a lot of people over the years, which gives you a great deal of satisfaction. It's been a wonderful experience."

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Silver Springs/Chatham Lake information

By Meghan Peterson, PhD

Questions have arisen regarding the Silver Springs development/Chatham Lake in Higganum. The original residential, 73-lot subdivision was initially begun and owned by the now-defunct Nason Group, LLC.

Haddam News and *Haddam-KillingworthNow.com*, along with other publications, such as *Haddam Bulletin* and *The Hartford Courant* have covered this story in its multiple iterations.

The decades-long saga (marked by various court hearings and Haddam Board of Selectmen (BOS) administrations attempting to come to grips with the situation) saw the beginnings to a conclusion in 2017. On July 20 of that year, the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) commission held a meeting to review Town acquisition of the remaining vacant land parcels (that is, no homes have been built on those properties) at the Chatham Lake subdivision (part of Silver Springs) owned by the Nason Group. Such a review is required under Connecticut General Statute (CGS) Chapter 126 Section 8-24, which provides that:

No municipal agency or legislative body shall... locate, relocate, substantially improve, acquire land for, abandon, sell or lease...until the proposal to take such action has been referred to the commission for a report.

In short, per state law, the acquisition of the remaining Nason Group lands was required to go before P&Z "for a report" that would subsequently be sent to the Board of Selectmen, under Article VI, Section 6.3(b) of the Haddam Town Charter, would exercise the power "to take, purchase, lease, sell or convey real or personal property of or for the Town." In effect, the Town of Haddam was required by State law to pursue this process by taking the matter before P&Z, then before the BOS, and finally before the townspeople.

The Town Charter further specifies that sale or purchase of real estate by the Town "shall require approval of a Town Meeting." To that end, a Town Meeting was held on October 19, 2017. During the Meeting, the people of Haddam voted for the Town to accept and take receivership over, the remaining Nason Group properties. Receivership means that the Town of Haddam "assumes ownership of the debtor's property" (in this case, properties held by the Nason Group at Silver Springs) and as a result "is

given the right to maximize its value, arrange a sale/acquisition, or collect rents in order to recoup debts for the lender." Kristin Battistoni, Haddam's Tax Collector, explained that when taxes go unpaid (as in Nason Group's case), her office is required to take action. That said, it is illegal for a municipality or town to put up property(ies) for a tax sale if it is intended that the city/town get it. The Town held two tax sales for the remaining properties, at which no there were no other bidders. Consequently, the Town was able to retain the remaining properties for now. One lot of the remaining properties, however, has been sold to a private individual for \$42,500.

At each step of the process involving lands formerly held by the Nason Group, various elected Town officials played a role, as did the townspeople – including Chatham Lake homeowners.

Recently, discussion among Town officials and residents has centered on the future of the remaining properties over which the Town has taken receivership. A core issue appears to be whether the lands and lake should be made publicly-accessible or returned to the homeowners association there (known as the Chatham Lake Homeowners Association).

A close reading of the Silver Springs/Chatham Lake legal documents indicates that such discussion may not be germane to the issue at hand after all. For starters, it happens that there is indeed legal construction and foundation of a private homeowners association for the Silver Springs properties. In the "Declaration of Chatham Lake," for example, Section 2.01 specifies that "Chatham Lake" is the "Common Interest Community" and that Chatham Lake is a "planned community." Moreover, Section 2.02 stipulates that the name of the Association is the "Chatham Lake Homeowners Association" and that the Association is located within the Town of Haddam. Next, the "Association" is given legal structure in Sections 3.01-3.02 of Article III. To quote them at length, the relevant Sections read:

The business affairs of the Common Interest Community shall be managed by the Association... The Association shall have all of the powers, authority and duties permitted pursuant to the Act necessary and proper to manage the business and affairs of the Common Interest Community.

Notably, the above legal language is part of each property owners' deed, which constitutes "a written document that shows who owns a particular property" and "provides proof of property ownership."

In this context, the idea that private property and home owners at Silver Springs can organize a homeowners association has a clear, legal basis. On the other hand, the idea that the Town of Haddam could make these lands publicly-accessible becomes far less certain – and one that may entail a potentially complicated constitutional issue of taking private lands and subjecting the Town to lawsuits. Furthermore, the organizational documents for Chatham Lake stipulate that "The Homeowners Association will have the ultimate responsibility for the viability of the open space area" and that the "Association will be the owner of and responsible for maintaining the open space areas."

Haddam News reached out to all BOS members for comment on the Silver Springs/Chatham Lake topic. According to First Selectwoman Lizz Milardo, "the truth of the matter is that it is not as simple as the Town taking over as open space, as we did with the Higganum Cove. In this instance, there are legal ramifications with easements and covenants on this issue. There are 30 property owners whose deeds state that the Chatham Lake Association exists."

Selectman Larry Maggi concurred, saying that "I'm looking at it from a layman's perspective. My concern is that if this were my property, would I want the public walking on my property. What if they get injured and then I'm liable?" He continued, "If we were to convert this land to Town property, would this be another Miller's Pond situation? I don't want to see another situation like that. There are just those two small corners together that we are talking about here that could be public; and even to access

Continued on page H5

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Continued from page H1

Knapp, Tyler David
Kuehn, Andrew Jonathan
Lavoie, Colton Clay
Martone, Daniel Martin
McManus, Elizabeth Anne
Murray, Carter Lee
Nelson, Kyle Christopher
Nuhn, Mikayla Elisabeth
Ouellette, Nicholas Ryan
Peoples, Kerri Grace
Sleight, Alicia Rose
Snyder, Noah Andrew
Therrien, Sydni Grace
Tucker, Erin Kathleen
Tupay, Jordan Kayla
Wettemann, Karina Marie
Williamson, Spencer James
Wills, Matthew David
Wright, Owen Thomas
Yantosh, Grace Catherine

GRADE 11 ~ HIGH HONORS

Adelberg, Jasmine Skyler
Andrews, Michelle Jeanne
Badami, Arjun Vikram
Barrueta Azaola, Gorka
Biondi, Adelle Marie
Bobbi, James Peter
Bredfeld, Nicole Marie
Bucko, Lily Yates
Callis, Julia Elizabeth
Carini, Benjamin T
Carini, Isabelle L.
Champagne, Dylan Thomas
Chase, Carter Jonathan
Clemente, James John
Corey, Phoebe Ngoc Thao
Crandall, Kaitlin Gillespie
Danaher, Nicholas John
Dragoo, Schuyler Rae

Duncanson, Ashley E
Elkin, Matilyn Sage
Ellex, Jenna Marie
Frohlich, Peyton Richard
Giblin, Alexander Chi-Hoon
Giulini, Kevin Michael
Herrmann, Olivia Christine
Houlton, Elijah Henry
Houlton, Zachary Hobson
Jenkins, Reilly Margaret
Lamb, Tara Anne
Lamontagne, Luke Jacob
Lamoureux, Jordan Danielle
Lena, Dominic Anthony
Lentz, Crystal Marie
Lindell, Ava Deanna
Miller, Lauren Alexander
O'Toole, Michael Patton
Pattavina, Lillian Rose
Petras, Nathan Henry
Phelps, Haley Margaret
Plous, Fijare
Pontbriand, Natalie Joan
Regan, Seth Kyle
Robinson, Griffin Ellis
Ruocco, Corinne Marie
Sacchi, Julia Grace
Sevigny, Saige Emily
Tinker, David Taylor Hansen
West, Brian Thomas
Whitehead, Shelby Grace

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Berardino, Katja Haley
Blair, Alexander J
Bodak, Meara Shea
Boots, Patrick Lawrence
Bosco, John Thomas
Braren, Cal David
Bruder, John Albert
Byrne, Jasmine Ann

Carter, Timothy John
Celano, Elizabeth Dwyere
Chester, Ethan Jay
Chute, Jonathan Gary
Cozean, Maxwell
Daley, Kristen Carol
DiMauro, Luke Edward
Dinsmore, Tiel Shanning
Doxsee, Meghan Christine
Dragoo, Sidney Paul
Duffield, Jessica Elizabeth
Esposito, Caitlyn Rose
Flaherty, Gabrielle Mae
Giambanis, Antonios Georgios
Gromala, Sophie Rose
Harris, Fisher Walker
Huebner, Etienne TC
Jennings, Matthew Jonathan
Jensen, Julia Rose
Kelsey, Spencer William
Klein, Abigail Elizabeth
Laird-Hoover, Hannah Maureen
Lawrence, Hayley
Lester, Gabrielle
Lonergan, Kelsey Faith
Luther, Ryan Christopher
Luther, Samuel Christopher
Lynskey, Gregory Charles
Mack, Jaden Alistair
Mazziotti, Kyle Joseph
McGoey, James Francis
Mercier, Anna Sterling
Murray, Hunter James
Nystrom, Malin Claire
O'Linn, Chase Alexander
O'Linn, Jordan Taylor
Parri, Kaitlyn Quinn
Pascucci, Michael Anthony
Perry, Thomas Edward
Petrus-Chapman, Hannah Paige
Pizzuto, Sally Kathryn
Pray, Matthew Joseph
Reinhardt, Sophie
Rubino, Mia Angelina
Rutledge, Sean Edward
Seward, Jenna Michelle
Spector, Julian Kyan
Thiel, Matthew Preston
Tucker, Emma Rose
Walton, Autumn Marie
Williams, Kaylee Reese
Wills, Tessa Ann

GRADE 12 ~ HONORS

Anziano, Emma Katherina
Averill, Hannah Rose

Barile, Michael Keith
Barragan, Cristina
Beecher, Caleigh
Bowles, Morgan Leigh
Boyington, Elena Grace
Bragdon, Kiera Grace
Cassidy, Hailey Elizabeth
Chapman, Gracy Raye
Coady, Autumn Nettleton
Dansereau, Kristen Julia
Diotaiuto, Ryan Michael
DiStasio, Chloe Louise
Eckert, Jack William
Figurelli, Kyra Lynn
Forte, Leah Marie
Freeman, Seth Lakhan
Hamilton, Ashley Rose
Hansen, Christian David
Harry, Bridget Elizabeth
Hunt, Sean Douglas
Jennings, Emily Patricia
Johnson, Lindsey Anne
Karam, Paul Robert
Kim, Kevin S.
Kubacka, Curtis J
Kulmacz, Gabriella L
Liptak, Jhenna Drew
Mack, Chase
Maggi, Nicholas Joseph
Maher, Aiden Burke
Manley, Abigail Marie
Marciniec, Zachary Robert
Martino, James Robert
McGoey, Katherine E
McHugh, Ian Michael
McLeod, Hannah Rose
Minervino, Amanda Marie
Murphy, James Patrick
Nuzzo, Sarah Grace
O'Sullivan, Siobhan Caitlin
Rich, Victoria Rose
Rogers, Spencer Michael
Sabovic, Fatima
Sample, Bryan Wallace
Santopietro, Andrew Michael
Sasso, Juliette Anastasia
Sisti, Joseph Michael
Smith, Zoe Margaret
Sonski, Michael Peter
Statkiewicz, Sierra Nicole
Strom, Sadie Ann
Teebagy, Juliana Diletta
Williams, Thomas Thesiger
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November report

By Jessica Condil
Director, Haddam Social Services

November has been a very plentiful month. We have been blessed by the graciousness of the community. We would like to thank everyone who helped

support our efforts for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We would also like to thank Cub Scout Pack 40, Girl Scout Troop 60772 & 62749. Keep up the good work! We are collecting new hats, mittens, and gloves for those in need.

The Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank has serviced a total of 11 families: oil – 6 families, wood – 3 families, and electric – 2 families.

The Haddam Emergency Food Bank has provided a total of 42 families with Thanksgiving baskets.

The Haddam Emergency Clothing Closet has serviced 18 adults & 16 children. Three emergency kits went out this month and 6 blankets to families in need.

Needs: pasta, sauce, tuna fish, peanut butter, and school snacks for kids.

CONTINUED FROM H1

HKHS honor roll

Continued from page H1

GRADE 11 ~ HONORS

Biondi, Anna Marie
Bounphakdy, Kaisone Toby
Burley, Lauren Elizabeth
Chrzanowski, Teagan Murphy
Cole, Michela Rose
Conklin, Emersyn Patricia
Coon, Devin Daniel
D'Ambra, William Anthony
D'Amico, Lauren Mitchell
Erskine, Samuel James
Fisher, Rebecca Ashley
Fleig, Evan James
Formica, Joseph Celestino
Gagliardi, Alyssa Ruth-Elyana
Gallant, Devin Elise
Gyorog, Catalina Grace
Hazlett, Colton Jeffrey
Hill, Andrew Warner
Hines, Zachary David
Howes, Owen C
Johnson, Harrison Doan
Kaimoto, Hiroko
Kiely, Madalyn Rose
Leavitt, Hanna Rose
LiDonni, Kaylie Nicole
LiPuma, Maxwell Joseph
Luneau, Evelyn Ann
Luneau, Nicholas Avery
Mallon, Dmytri
Marinaro, Tea' Francesca
Modehn, Dalton Emil
Moore, Christopher Ryan
Morman, Brooke Frances
Morrell, Maranda Elizabeth

Overchuk, Elizabeth Leia
Purcell, Grace-Anne Elizabeth
Reinhardt, Lauryn
Sutton, Mackenzie Nicole
Talbot, Maisy Alanah
Thomas, Robert James
Trahan, Samuel Gabriel
Walczak, Cody Robert
Williams, Damaris Victoria
Zupan, Alexandra Elizabeth

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Barile, Gavin Stone
Bernier, Brandon William
Brown, Rory John
Coleman, Aidan D
Criscuolo, Mai-Ly Minh
Danaher, Kayla Elizabeth
DelVecchio, Rachel Elizabeth
Duquette, Addison Rose
Fialkoff, Spencer F.
Garrelts, Christopher Matthew
Grasso, Ashley Kate
Griffith, Jenna Rose
Guarino, Sofia Rose
Hall, Kaitlin Elizabeth
Hawkins, Adelaide Lennon
Henry, Jillian Mary
Hesselberg, Tristan Alexander
Houde, Jackson David
Leathers, Hunter Tylor
Lewis, Kedarjah
Madore, Morgan G.
Martino, Charles Matthew
Maziarz, John Patrick
McGlynn, Ella Rose

Nielsen, Brett William
Pach, Nicholas Anthony
Perras, Marc Brendan
Pitts, Jackson William
Rakowski, Kaleigh Ann
Revis, Malone Jacob Lee
Rice, James Dyson
Scarpa, Ronald John
Schultz, Morgan Elizabeth
Singer, Maxwell Brennan
Sodergren, Audrey Mae
Stone, Grace Marie
Williams, Candace Elizabeth
Yazmer, Morgan Olivia
Yepes, Nicholas Frank

GRADE 9 ~ HONORS

Beauchamp, Duncan Paul
Bredfeld, Alyssa Rose
Byrum, Kaitlyn Nicole
Cardarelli, Michael Joseph
Carlson, Tori Lynn
Ceplenski, Eve Elizabeth
Conti, Andrew Thomas
Duncanson, Ryan Scott
Flaherty, Jacqueline Grace
Freibauer, Valleri Elizabeth
Frith, Jared Thomas
Glynn, Nicholas Michael

Goosen, Nicole Ann
Haase, Megan Elizabeth
Hedges, Andrew Vincent
Imai, Yumiko Lillian
Izzo, Trevor Anthony
Keithan-Resnick, Madeline May
Ketchedjian, Tobias Nathaniel
Kowalski, Andrea
Lamy, Caitlin Elizabeth
Manley, Melissa Lynn
Mazzotta, Kyla Reese
McCarthy, James Walker
Merola, Greyson Matthew
Minervino, Brianna Marie
Norman, Grayson William
Pacyna, Izabela Marta
Riggs, Libby
Smith, Hayden Phoenix
Snyder, Audrey Catherine
Studzinski, Kylie Ann
Swanson, Olivia Lee
Tassmer, Ava Rose
Thelen, Julia Florence
Vaughn, Michael Francesco
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	Requirements	Upper Limit
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Silver Springs/Chatham Lake information

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those, you would have to traipse across people's private lands. There are plenty of other beautiful places to hike and walk in this great Town. We are talking about people's homes and properties here."

Selectwoman Melissa Schlag said, "First, the dam is a safety issue and must be repaired. Second, I believe the small building lots should be put on the open market with the help of a real estate agency and listed for at least the town's appraised value, not significantly less. Third, the open space and lake must remain open for all residents. Over the past two decades, the Silver Springs subdivision residents neither set up a homeowner's association nor put away any money for insurance, repairs, etc. It is not the function of a municipality to assist or finance individual homeowners on legal issues or personal deed problems. Furthermore, the property has cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in repairs (including the current \$140K dam repair and the bankrupt

developer's Nason Rd. intersection repairs), back taxes, liability, and upkeep and must remain with the people of Haddam for all to use. We, the residents of Haddam, already own this property and there should be no effort to give it away free and clear. However, [First Selectwoman] Milardo and Selectman Maggi have stated at public meetings that they are working to give this taxpayer-financed and owned property to a small group of residents free of charge. If they succeed, it will be one of - if not the - largest public land giveaways to a very small private special interest group in Connecticut history."

Milardo continued, "It is not surprising that Melissa Schlag is attempting to politicize this, as she did with [former Haddam First Selectman] Paul DeStefano in office and claimed that there was a "backroom" deal regarding the Center Plan property. I find it interesting that Schlag is taking credit for the Nason Group bankruptcy conclusion, as we have no record or information of the hiring (and any formal

bills) of a bankruptcy attorney due to e-mails having been deleted by then-First Selectwoman Melissa Schlag during her administration.

I am doing my job as the leader of this community taking care of a severe, serious public safety issue that has been ignored for decades and pursuing leadership to fix the error. I must emphasize that I am not happy about the lost revenue. However, there are legal ramifications to this and the Town of Haddam should not be liable for the cost of future lawsuits. It clearly states in Article 6, Section 6.3(c) of the Haddam Town Charter that it is the Board's responsibility "to institute, prosecute, defend or compromise any legal action or proceeding by or against the Town. I need to protect the Town and the townspeople."

At a December 5, 2018 Town Meeting, Haddam residents voted to approve allocation of monies for the Chatham Lake Dam repairs, per DEEP orders. Haddam News will continue to keep readers and residents posted on developments in this ongoing story.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, December 27

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, December 31

Town Office Building OPEN, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Town Office Building CLOSED

First Day Hike, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

The DEEP is offering First Day Hikes at its state parks on New Years Day. The hike, held at Haddam Meadows State Park will be led by Cherry Czuba and David Stiles, CT DEEP Adopt-a-Park Volunteers, as well as Lisa Malloy, Executive Director of the Haddam Historical Society, Rob Mirer, Mattabeseck Audubon and Gail Reynolds, UCONN Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator. The approximately 2 mile hike will include a history of the Meadows, geology and floodplain habitats of the park, the human impact on landscape, birds found along the river, and native plants. Refreshments will be served. Please meet at the park entrance, wear warm clothes (snowshoes or cross country skis, if

the weather warrants it), and bring water. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs must be leashed.

Saturday, January 5

Boy Scout Troop #44 Can & Bottle Drive, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The Haddam Boy Scouts will be holding a Can & Bottle Drive at the Youth Center, in Higganum Center.

*Please visit www.haddam.org or www.haddam-killingworthnow.com for the most current and complete information.

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Letters to the Editor

We encourage Letters to the Editor which foster understanding and awareness through discourse. They should be: civil, knowledgeable, factual, and constructive. The letter must include the writer's name, town, and date, and should not exceed 400 words. The editors reserve the final decision on any letters published; frequency of submissions from a single writer or group will be a factor in deciding whether to publish a letter. The editors may also add a short explanation of the writer's position or credentials.
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