

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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July 16, 2020

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Free weekly

KAA announces 2020 Scholarship Recipients: Herrmann & DeLuca

By Clark Judge, KAA

Haddam-Killingworth High-School graduates Olivia Herrmann and Victoria DeLuca are this year's recipients of the Killingworth Ambulance Association scholarships.

The awards are granted annually to Killingworth residents who are graduating high-school seniors planning on continuing their educations at two-or-four-year schools and who maintained GPAs of 3.0 or higher, performed community service and intend

to pursue careers in the medical, emergency services (fire, police, etc.) or other allied fields.

Herrmann and DeLuca checked all those boxes, with each intending to major in nursing ... and no surprise there. Six of the past eight KAA scholarship recipients chose nursing as their fields of study.

"When picking my major," said Herrmann, "I was deciding on nursing or biomedical engineering. I chose to pursue an education in nursing because

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Photo of Herrmann provided by her parents.

Haddam's Unofficial 4th of July Car Parade a success!



By Editorial Staff

A couple people thought that a car parade to celebrate the Fourth of July would be fun, so they told their friends, posted the idea on Facebook/social media, we posted it on our news website July 3, and voila, a parade occurred.

This morning over 70 vehicles of all kinds — jeeps, trucks, antique cars, mo-

torcycles, and SUVs — took part in the parade through Higganum and Haddam. People set up lawn chairs along the route, socially distanced of course, and some waved flags as the parade passed by. The event lasted about 45 minutes.

"It was all a fantastic display of patriotism," said Ed Munster, one of the individuals who promoted the event in Haddam.

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Town of Haddam declares July 6, 2020 Ron Annino Day

By Olivia Drake, HVFC Public Information Officer

During Haddam Volunteer Fire Company's monthly meeting on Monday, July 6, 2020 was declared Ron Annino Day by the Town of Haddam!

Annino, a lifelong Higganum resident, was honored for voluntarily serving with HVFC for 50 years! He joined the company on July 6, 1970. During this time, he was as a Captain and Third-Assistant Chief, and served on multiple HVFC committees including the Grievance Committee, Memorial Day Committee, Haddam Green Committee, and the Water Study Committee. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2012.

Annino served with the U.S. Navy from 1966-70 and was stationed on the USS Kearsarge during the Vietnam



Photos courtesy of Olivia Drake.

War. He has volunteered on the Town of Haddam's Parade Committee and Veterans' Museum Committee for 45 years, of which he's been chairman for the past 25 years.

Annino retired as bridge inspector at State of Connecticut's Department of Transportation.

His brother, Rick Annino, also is a member of the company.

Haddam First Selectman Robert McGarry honored Ron Annino for his service with a proclamation during the company's July 6 meeting.

"I do hereby congratulate Ron Annino on his 50th year of service with the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company and declare July 6, 2020 as 'Ron Annino Day,'" McGarry said.

Congratulations Ron, and thank you for your service to the local community!

HADDAM COMMUNITY

Higganum man completes 5,000 Piece Puzzle during quarantine

By Kathy Brown

Leo Sirois, age 81, of Higganum loves doing jigsaw puzzles, and usually has a 1,000-piece puzzle in progress most of the year. When he and his wife, Claudette, would go to meals at the Haddam Senior Cen-

ter, he would work on the one there as well.

His niece gave him a 5,040 piece puzzle of the Sistine Chapel last year for his birthday, and "with the quarantine, he felt it was a good time to do it," said Claudette. Leo had to purchase a board first because "no table was big enough to hold it." The finished puzzle is 40" x 60"!

Leo started the puzzle March 20, 2020 and just completed it on July 6.

Do you have a picture of a puzzle you completed during the quarantine? Send us a photo at HK-NowEditors@Outlook.com!



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AUTO COLLISIONS:

HOW WILL MY MEDICAL BILLS GET PAID

By Attorney AnnMarie Cienava Rocco

If you were injured in an automobile collision, there are four primary ways for your medical bills to be paid.

Medical Payments ("Med Pay") Coverage on Your Auto Policy

- If you have Med Pay coverage on your auto policy, or were a passenger in a car that had Med Pay coverage, you should use this coverage to pay your bills, even if you have health insurance. You can check the declarations page of your auto policy or call your insurance company or agent to see if you have Med Pay. Med Pay will pay up to the limits stated in the declarations page, after which your bills should be paid through the three remaining sources listed below.
- If you have Med Pay, bring your declarations page to your doctor for processing payment. For reimbursement or emergency treatment, contact your auto insurance directly.

Health Insurance & Medicare/Medicaid/Medicare Advantage

- Generally, your health insurance will not cover your collision-related bills unless you can show that Med Pay has been exhausted, or you do not have Med Pay. If you do not, your auto insurance company will furnish you a "No Med Pay Letter" upon request.
- If you neglect your bills, even if the collision was the fault of someone else, your health care providers may place the bills into collections.

Letter of Protection "LOP"

- Under certain circumstances, when someone else causes the collision, and you do not have Med Pay or health insurance, some doctors will accept a Letter of Protection from an attorney who you engage to represent you. This "LOP" obligates the attorney to reimburse the doctor from the proceeds of your settlement or judgment.

Out-of-Pocket

- The final way to pay is out-of-pocket. Make sure to keep track of everything you paid. If you were not at fault, you will likely be able to claim these expenses through a claim or lawsuit against the at-fault party.

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KL Updates

By Genie Dethloff,
Chair of Publicity, Killingworth Library

Good news from the Connecticut State Library – the REALM (Reopening Archives, Libraries and Museums) Project has released the results of the first round of Battelle’s laboratory testing for COVID-19 on commonly circulated library materials:

“The five materials tested in this round included a hardback book cover (buckram cloth), paperback book cover, plain paper pages inside a book, plastic protective book covering, and a DVD case. Results show that the SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19) was not detectable on the materials after three days of quarantine. The evaluation demonstrates that standard office temperature and relative humidity condi-

tions typically achievable by any air-conditioned office space provide an environment that allows for the natural attenuation of SARS-CoV-2 present on these common materials after three days of quarantine.” Killingworth Library has been quarantining for 4 days (and will continue to do so) – we hope our patrons finds this news reassuring. The REALM project report can be accessed at:

<https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/test1-results.html>

When Will the Killingworth Library Building Reopen to the Public?

As of July 1, 2020, our tentative reopening date for the building is Aug. 1, 2020. The decision on when to open our library building will be based on our ability to meet the detailed guidelines for libraries determined by the State of Connecticut, the char-

acteristics of our building, our staffing levels, and whether or not the virus begins a resurgence within our state. The recent trend for our nation overall is extremely worrisome in this regard, and the spread of the virus is being closely monitored. The limited availability of protective resources (sanitizer, gloves, etc.) also continues to be a significant concern.

The many questions we’ve received about when the Library building will re-open are certainly heart-warming, and we’re glad to be providing a service that the residents of Killingworth would like to see resume, however the safety of our patrons, volunteers, and staff remains our highest priority during these tumultuous times.

In the meantime, we invite our patrons to continue using our curbside service as well as the electronic resources found on our library website: www.killingworthlibrary.org

TO THE EDITOR

Plea for help with Haddam’s feral cat population

Homeowners in Haddam may know we have many feral and stray cats in our area, but “kitten season” is April through September. We’re in peak time now and we have a growing problem. Unchecked breeding contributes to over-population of cats and a variety of negative consequences. Animal Control has no funding in our town budget and does not provide assistance or help with feral, unwanted or abandoned cats and kittens that often turn up in our yards or nearby.

Recently, a stray cat with two babies was caught by “Haddam Animal Rescue,” however that was just the tip of the iceberg! Further information led to the discovery of many more cats/kittens (40-60) in a

nearby location. Many of the mother cats have been on the property for years, as reported by their feeders, and every year many litters of kittens are taken and killed by wildlife and disease. This scenario happens more than one would think in many different places. This one just happened to get noticed by people who are willing to help correct it!

“Haddam Animal Rescue” and “Almost Home for Cats,” another local rescue, are willing to vet and adopt out friendly kittens, and to trap and spay/neuter the feral ones, but only as funds are available from donations for vet care because the towns and state do not fund these situations.

Both “Haddam Animal Rescue” and “Almost Home for Cats” have been in existence for over 16 years and have brought many abandoned animals

back to health and found them loving homes. They are now asking for financial help to address this current, local need and spay/neuter as many cats as possible.

They would greatly appreciate ANY amount of money to help achieve this goal. If you can contribute, funds can be donated directly to “Chester Veterinary Clinic, Attn: Haddam Ferals, 264 Middlesex Turnpike, Chester, CT 06412,” where the cats will be vetted. Thank you in advance for your kind offerings!

And a REMINDER to anyone who has cats that go outside (and can breed) or if you are feeding strays outside, PLEASE help by getting them spayed/neutered so that this scenario is not repeated.

Steve Kitts




Largest Papyrus Card/Gift Store in Middlesex County

Summer Foot Protection

Hiking, sightseeing, and relaxing on the beach, all require following some pretty basic tips to stay healthy and safe:

- 1) Limit walking barefoot. Besides risk of injury, you also create more opportunity for sunburn, plantar warts, and athlete’s foot.
- 2) Stay hydrated. Drinking plenty of water not only helps overall health, it minimizes swelling caused by the heat.
- 3) Apply sunscreen, especially to the tops of feet and ankles.
- 4) When walking, try to pack a second set of sneakers, and make sure to get sneakers that help provide balance.
- 5) Keep blood flowing with periodic ankle flexes, toe wiggles, and calf stretches.

One in five men and one in four women have pain enough to limit exercise or work.

Heel Pain

Plantar fasciitis affects 2.5 million people per year, and is diagnosed when heel pain occurs, typically in the morning, and is worse when first standing after rest. Pain lessens after patient starts walking a little.

Non-operative treatment usually involves: 1) anti-inflammatories, i.e., ibuprofen or naproxen for 2-3 weeks; 2) stretching exercises for plantar fasciitis; 3) OTC foot inserts; and 4) changing shoes to those with more cushioning. OTC foot inserts usually should be full-soled versus 3/4 soled because it provides full comfort versus putting pressure on the front of foot.

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HADDAM / KILLINGWORTH CALENDAR

Please visit www.haddam.org, www.townofkillingworth.com or haddam-killingworthnow.com for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes.

Thursday, July 16

Haddam P&Z meeting, remote access only, 7:00 p.m.

Build Your Own Phone Speakers, Killingworth Library, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Session 2 of 2. To register call 860-663-2000 or register online <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

Turn up the volume with our Summer Science program as we learn to make our own portable phone speakers! Join us as we experiment with designs and learn about acoustics. Appropriate for ages 8+.

PLEASE NOTE: All of our summer programs will be held outside on the library's grounds. We will be observing social distancing and all attending will be required to wear masks. Multiple sessions are being held for each activity to allow for increased participation, and each registration space allows for multiple family members (adults and children). The library building is closed to the public and restrooms will not be available.

Friday, July 17

Higganum Farmer's Market, HES 3:30-6:30 p.m.

The market will be hosted every Friday at the Haddam Elementary School grounds, rain** or shine. (**May be cancelled if weather predictions call for severe conditions)

A variety of vendors will be available every week. This is the perfect opportunity to stock up on fresh produce, tasty dinner foods, homemade goods, and other treats! Regular vendors will include Bittersweet Farm, Wellstone Farm, Biscotti and Beyond, bread from the Bread Ministry at the First Congregational Church of Haddam, Cold Goats Farm, Auntie Arwen's Spices, MJ Jewelry, Yalla Organic, Oh, Fudge! and more, Hackmatack Maple Syrup, and 7 Falls Mushrooms. Pizzeria Da Vinci will be on-site every week, and food trucks such as Rogue Coffee, G-Monkey, and Flaco's Tacos will join us throughout the season.

Outdoor Summer Concert, Parmelee Farm, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Free Outdoor Summer Concerts! Bring a blanket or a chair to enjoy an evening of live entertainment at our local town green. Fun for the whole family! In the event of rain, shows will be cancelled. Call the HK

Recreation Hotline at 860-345-8334 in case of inclement weather or visit www.hkrec.com.

COVID-19 Update: We ask that patrons adhere to the following COVID-19 protocols to keep everyone safe so that we can offer a free evening of music:

- Families must practice social distancing with other families.
- Please set up your chairs or blanket at least 15 feet apart from other parties.
- Patrons must wear a mask if they are walking around.
- Please do not attend if you feel ill or have been around others that have shown any symptoms in the last 14 days.

Saturday, July 18

Hop Into Frog Week, Killingworth Library, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Session 2 of 2. To register call 860-663-2000 or register online <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

Hop on down to the library for a special frog themed week of outdoor storytime!

Join us for froggy songs, crafts, and stories. Real tadpoles will be attending as well!

Appropriate for ages 3 – 7.

Virtual Super Saturday Storytime, Killingworth Library, 10:30-11:00 a.m.

While the library remains closed, we will now be holding our Saturday Storytimes on our new YouTube channel! Virtual Storytime will go live at 10:30am every Saturday! Join us!

Monday, July 20

Killingworth Charter Revision Committee meeting, remote access only, 7:00 p.m.

Haddam BOF meeting, remote access only, 6:30 p.m.

Haddam Wetlands Commission meeting (remote access only) 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Tuesday, July 21

Killingworth P & Z meeting, remote access only, 7:00 p.m.

RSD17 BOE meeting, remote access only, 7:00 p.m.

Summer Science Balloon Race Car Derby, Killingworth Library, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Session 1 of 2. To register call 860 663-2000 or register online. Summer Science has the need for

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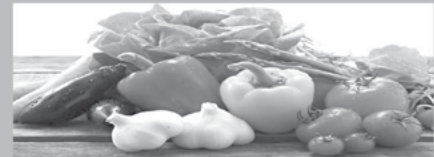
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Voting, Pandemics, and Looking to 2020 Elections: Part 1

By Meghan Peterson, Ph.D.

Editor's Note: This is Part 1 of a two-part series seeking to understand what voting will look like in the upcoming 2020 primary and general elections in Connecticut broadly, Haddam & Killingworth specifically.

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." United States Constitution, 15th Amendment

We are entering the hot, hazy days of summer. This has not been an ordinary summer for the United States, Connecticut, or Haddam: COVID-19. Racial protests. Economic and financial rollercoasters. Oh, and four months 'til the presidential election.

Americans typically vote in higher numbers in presidential elections than local, state, and midterm elections. For example, in U.S. presidential elections turnout has peaked as high as 81% in 1876 and dropped to its zenith at 48% in 1924.

In the presidential contest of 2016 between Democratic candidate Hillary R. Clinton and Republican candidate Donald J. Trump, approximately 139 million Americans voted, putting the turnout at 60.2% of the voting eligible population. In the 2012 presidential election between incumbent Democratic candidate Barack H. Obama and Republican candidate Mitt Romney, turnout was an estimated 57.5%.

According to Connecticut's Secretary of State Denise Merrill, voter turnout for presidential elections is between 75-80% - well above the national average range of 55-60%. Voter turnout in Haddam during the 2016 presidential election, for example, was about 82%. During the 2018 midterms, it was approximately 71%,

according to data provided by Haddam Town Clerk Scott Brookes. Information on voter turnout can also be found at the Connecticut Secretary of State's Election Center website. Voter turnout in Killingworth during the 2016 presidential election was approximately 87%.

Now, what about voting during a time some have dubbed the "era of COVID-19"? Some have wondered about a postponement or cancellation of the elections until a coronavirus vaccine is widely available. Others have called for all eligible voters to vote by absentee or mail-in ballot.

Through it all - war, peace, pandemic - the United States has never postponed, canceled or declared wholesale voting by absentee during any election cycle.

So, what will voting look like on the Aug. 11 Connecticut primary or Nov. 3, 2020 general elections?

Whether we are talking about voting on a national, state, or local level, the answer has become complicated. For our purposes, let us take a look at Connecticut and then examine our towns of Haddam and Killingworth more closely.

At the beginning of May, CT Secretary of State Denise Merrill released plans for voting in the Aug. 11 primaries and Nov. 3 general elections. The plans were specifically made for the coronavirus context.

The nuts and bolts of Merrill's approach includes measures such as implementing heightened sanitation procedures at polling places, adding internet connectivity for towns where it is currently lacking, increasing availability of absentee ballots. According to Merrill, "there is no cost implication of the 2020 election plan to the state budget. The plan is 100% paid for by the three tranches of federal funding

we have received for both cybersecurity and COVID 19 relief." There is, however, a 20% state match that must be met within two years' time; Merrill has stated that she has reached out to Connecticut congressional delegations to ask that the match either be lowered or eliminated altogether.

This series examines the latter component of the plans: absentee ballots and their expansion in Connecticut.

Connecticut: Aug. 11, 2020 Primary and Nov. 3, 2020 General Election

In response to questions from Connecticut State Representative and House Minority Leader Themis Klarides (who announced in the spring that she would not seek re-election after serving 22 years in the CT General Assembly) and State Rep. Vincent Candelora about the Secretary of State's 2020 election plans, Merrill penned a letter.

In the letter, Merrill explains that the state has chosen American Security Cabinets as the vendor for the new ballot boxes, which will be used both for the primary and general elections. She writes, "...American Security Cabinets is an existing provider of secure dropboxes for elections with several California counties and other states." In terms of security, the dropboxes are "permanently installed, just like a USPS mailbox, or a UPS/FedEx drop-

box."

Why use the ballot boxes from American Security Cabinets when the United States Postal Service is available and has boxes? Merrill answers, "Many voters who have voted by absentee ballot in the past have done so by physically dropping their ballots off in the Town Clerks' office in their town. Unfortunately, Town Clerks' offices are currently largely closed, we do not yet know when they will reopen, and even when they do, some voters may feel trepidation at entering their town hall to deliver their ballots. The secure dropboxes will allow a contactless delivery of absentee ballots at town hall for those voters who would feel more comfortable delivering their absentee ballots by that method."

Finally, Merrill goes on to assure Klarides and Candelora that:

- absentee ballot applications will only be sent to active voters, not inactive voters
- absentee ballot applications will be sent to all active, eligible voters
- absentee ballots received after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day will not be counted
- absentee ballots will be counted on Election Day (Aug. 11, Nov. 3)
- the Election Day checklist will be pre-marked with voters whose absentee ballot is received before Elec-

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Voting, Pandemics, and Looking to 2020 Elections: Part 1

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tion Day; absentee ballots received on Election Day will be held until after 8:00 p.m. (when polling places close), compared to the checklist, and will be rejected if voter has appeared in person

The above reassurances may spawn additional questions. For instance, what is an “inactive voter” in Connecticut? When an individual does not vote in four years, or when data indicate that the individual may have moved out of Connecticut, the registrar of voters of the individual’s town sends a canvass postcard to that person. If the voters does not return the postcard within 30 days (or the postcard is returned as undeliverable) they are moved off the active voter list and onto the inactive voter list. After four years of being on the inactive list, if the person has not done anything that resulted “in them filling out a new voter registration form...the voter is removed from voter registry.”

What if an inactive voter decides to appear at a polling place on Election Day? He must first fill out a new voter registration form. What if an inactive voter decides to send in an absentee ballot application? She must first fill out a new voter registration form. Yet, this latter scenario should not be much of a concern, correct? After all, Merrill just explained in her letter that absentee ballot applications will only be sent to active voters. Right?

What if an inactive voter shows up at a polling place at 7:59 p.m. on Election Day? Will that individual be able to fill out a new voter registration form and vote within the minute until closing time?

Who is responsible for handling the absentee ballots in those dropboxes?

Who opens and counts them? Only the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk can handle the absentee ballots. In Haddam, that means Town Clerk Scott Brookes and Assistant Town Clerk Ann Riebold. In Killingworth, that means Town Clerk Dawn Mooney and Assistant Town Clerks Ellen Nixon and Michele O’Toole.

Haddam: what will elections look like this year?

Under ordinary circumstances, Haddam Town Clerk Scott Brookes says that approximately 400 absentee ballots are received. How many absentee ballots are expected for the upcoming primary and general election cycle? Brookes says that he did not think “there would be a lot of interest in August [primaries] because those races really have already been decided, but interest seems to be very strong.”

There are 6,140 voters in Haddam. Let us imagine a situation in which 10% of those voters make use of the expanded absentee ballot provision under Merrill’s plan. Will two individuals at town hall be able to process 614 ballots? What if 20% of Haddam voters complete absentee ballot applications and send in absentee ballots? Now we are looking at over 1200 ballots to handle? What happens if 30%, 40%, or 50% send in absentee ballots?

Will we know the winner of the election on Election Night? A week from that time? A month from that time?

Killingworth: what will elections look like?

Killingworth Town Clerk Dawn Reese Mooney says that she “absolutely” an-

icipates receiving a higher volume of absentee ballots for both the August and November contests. She explains that she expects “an unprecedented number of absentee ballot applications to be submitted” to her office, “which will result in hundreds, if not thousands, of absentee ballots for the August primaries.” As an example, Mooney pointed out that on July 9, her office “received over 200 absentee ballot applications in the mail!”

There are 4,691 voters in Killingworth. Let us imagine a situation in which 10% of those voters make use of the expanded absentee ballot provision under Merrill’s plan. Will three individuals at town hall be able to process 469 ballots? What if 20% of Killingworth voters complete absentee ballot

applications and send in absentee ballots? Now we are looking at more 938 ballots to handle? What happens if 30%, 40%, or 50% send in absentee ballots?

Again, will we know the winner of the election on Election Night? A week from that time? A month from that time?

These are just some questions to consider. In our July 30 edition, Part 2 will center on the topic of voter fraud and a legal challenge to CT Secretary of State Denise Merrill’s elections plans recently filed in the Connecticut Supreme Court. We will also feature conversations with both Haddam and Killingworth Town Clerks and Registrars of Voters to get their take on the upcoming election process.

KILLINGWORTH COMMUNITY

KWO Virtual Exhibit of Artwork from the Women of Killingworth – Call for Artwork

*By Genie Dethloff,
Chair of Publicity, KWO*

In honor of the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote, the Killingworth Women’s Organization (KWO) is presenting an online exhibit of local artwork from the women of Killingworth. Because we can’t celebrate women’s suffrage together in person with a live art exhibition, we will recognize this milestone digitally online.

All original art is welcome including but not limited to painting, photography, textile art, pottery, sculpture and jewelry. Artists are encouraged to sub-

mit photos of up to three pieces of their work. Art will be displayed on the KWO website’s Honoring Suffrage Project, its Facebook page, and Instagram as submitted until September 14th, the anniversary of Connecticut’s ratification of the 19th amendment. For more information on how to participate and to submit artwork, visit at www.KWOCT.org/honoring-suffrage-gallery/. Questions, email info@kwoct.org.

In recognition of women’s suffrage, the women of KWO encourage all women to use this right and get out to vote.

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Fight Voter Fraud Inc. files lawsuit challenging CT Secretary of The State's expansion of Absentee Ballots

Press release submitted by Linda Szykowitz, Founder/CEO, Fight Voter Fraud, Inc.

Fight Voter Fraud Inc. filed a lawsuit contending that the Secretary of the State is using the COVID-19 pandemic to unlawfully shift the state to no-excuse absentee ballot voting. The Connecticut Constitution limits the use of absentee ballots to those who genuinely cannot appear at the polls on election day. In 2014, the electorate voted down a proposal to amend the Constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting. The Secretary of the State cannot unilaterally amend our Constitution. Only Connecticut's electorate can. Nonetheless, the Secretary of the State is currently mailing out applications for absentee ballots to all Connecticut voters and encouraging them to vote

by mail, regardless of whether they are able to appear in person to vote at the polls on election day. This is unconstitutional.

Fight Voter Fraud Inc. filed a lawsuit with the Connecticut Supreme Court on behalf of candidates on the August 11, 2020 ballot who wish to have a fair, honest, and constitutional election. The lawsuit asks the Court to order SOTS Denise Merrill to stop sending voters applications that misinform about the true legal requirements for voting by absentee ballot.

Fight Voter Fraud, Inc. believes that the use of absentee ballots is well defined and has been enshrined in Connecticut's Constitution as a rare and privileged way to vote in our elections. We believe our elected officials must trust voters to make their own decisions

on how to vote. "This should not be a partisan issue. It is about the Constitution and preserving the separation of powers. Only the Legislature can make the changes to the Constitution and only after the legal process and Citizens have voted to amend the Constitution," says Fight Voter Fraud Inc. Founder and CEO Linda Szykowitz.

"It is important that the rule of law be upheld to promote confidence in the electoral process. SOTS Merrill's attempt to bypass the legal process and shred the Connecticut Constitution serves to undermine the integrity of our elections and endangers the electorate's faith in the time-honored process of voting for change," according to Fight Voter Fraud Inc. Board Chair Dominic Rapini.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE H1

KAA 2020 scholarship recipients: Herrmann and DeLuca

Continued from page H1

I have a lot of close family members who were nurses, and that is something I wanted to emulate."

DeLuca said she hopes to become a registered nurse before returning to school to pursue a doctorate in nursing.

"Becoming a nurse is the most rewarding job I can think of," she said. "Whenever I was sick as a child and had to go to the hospital I always re-

membered how compassionate the nurses were to me with whatever I needed."

Here's a quick look at this year's winners:

OLIVIA HERRMANN – Ranked eighth in the HKHS senior class, Herrmann was a member of the school's field hockey and lacrosse teams. Among her 51 hours of community service, she volunteered for the annual Hartford Kids' Holiday Service, served

as a coach for the HK Youth Lacrosse Girls' Instructional team and was a referee for the youth lacrosse program. She will attend Clemson University and said she hopes to continue her education by gaining a graduate degree in nursing.

VICTORIA DeLUCA – She completed 175 hours of community service, including roles as a four-year brand ambassador for the high school and student teacher at the Dance Corner

in Killingworth for four years. DeLuca will attend Southern Connecticut State University and hopes to focus her studies on pediatrics. "As long as I am helping people," she said, "that's all that matters."

Herrmann and DeLuca continue a run of young women as KAA scholarship recipients. Over the past two years, the KAA has awarded eight scholarships — including six last year — and all have been to females.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE H4

Community calendar

Continued from page H4

speed! Join us as we create our own balloon-powered race cars and pit them

against each other in our Balloon Race Car Derby. Appropriate for ages 8+.

Wednesday, July 22

Awesome Moss, Killingworth Library, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Session 1 of 2. To register call 860 663-2000 or register online <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Party will be held on August 11, 2020, in each town.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:

Democrats

Name and Address:

Joe Biden, Wilmington, DE
Bernie Sanders, Burlington, VT
Tulsi Gabbard, Kapolei, HI
Uncommitted

Republicans

Name and Address:

Donald J. Trump, Palm Beach, FL
Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente, San Diego, CA
Uncommitted

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 30th Day of June, 2020.
Denise Merrill
Secretary of the State

The foregoing is a copy of the notice which I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will be held on August 11, 2020. The hours of voting at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:

Hours of Voting: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location of Polling Place

Higganum Firehouse Complex, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum
Central Office, 57 Little City Road, Higganum
Haddam Neck Firehouse, 50 Rock Landing Road, Haddam Neck

Voting District

1st District
2nd District
3rd District

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following central location:
Higganum Firehouse Complex, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum

Dated at Haddam, Connecticut, this 8th day of July, 2020.
Scott R. Brookes, CCTC, Town Clerk
Town of Haddam

LEGAL NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 27, 2020
TOWN OF HADDAM**

Notice is hereby given there will be a Public Hearing on July 27, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. at the Haddam Killingworth High School Auditorium, 95 Little City Road, Higganum, 06441 for the following purpose.

To discuss Town Charter proposed revisions for the community to come and give their input. The recommended Charter revisions are available online at www.haddam.org.

To discuss establishing a Water Pollution Control Authority.

Dated in Haddam, Connecticut this 16th day of July.

Board of Selectmen, Bob McGarry, Kate Anderson and Sean Moriarty

Charter Revision Commission: Mike Battistoni

**LEGAL NOTICE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF HADDAM**

All electors and citizens qualified to vote at Town Meetings of the Town of Haddam, Connecticut are hereby warned and notified that there will be a Special Town Meeting on July 27, 2020 at 7:00 pm at Haddam-Killingworth High School Auditorium, 95 Little City Road, Higganum CT 06441 for the following purposes:

1. To elect a moderator.
2. To appoint the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority (H-K Rec Auth'y) for the fiscal year 2020-2021: Jason Lonergan, Jennifer O'Neal, Peter Christopher, and David Law.
3. To fill the vacancy for a board member of Regional District # 17 - Board of Education.

Dated in Haddam, Connecticut this 16th day of July 2020.

Board of Selectmen: Robert McGarry, Kate Anderson & Sean Moriarty

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF DECISION**

Zoning Board of Appeals, Haddam, Connecticut special meeting on July 2, 2020 acted upon the following items:

1. To allow for a variance to section-4 table:1, side yard setback to allow a 9' by 21' addition to a single-family home for additional living space on first floor at 553 Candlewood Hill Road in the R-2 zone. Required side yard 20', proposed side yard 11'. Applicant Thomas Worthley

Zoning Board of Appeals, Haddam CT

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In defense of Washington and Jefferson: the foolhardiness of destroying their statues (Part 2)

By Philip R. Devlin

Editor's Note: We ran Part One of this two-part series in the July 2 issue. The first part focused on Jefferson; this part focuses on George Washington.

"His Excellency George Washington"
By Phillis Wheatley

Proceed, great chief, with virtue on thy side,
Thy ev'ry action let the Goddess guide.
A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine,
With gold unfading, WASHINGTON! Be thine.

This stanza by the Black poet Phillis Wheatley amounts to an elegy to George Washington. Wheatley, born in North Africa around 1753, was sold into slavery when she was only 6 or 7 years old and transported to Boston on a slave ship called the Phillis—the source of her first name. Her last name reflected the surname of the family that bought her in Boston. Unlike most slaves, Phillis enjoyed a thorough education in multiple languages and had a gift for writing. Recognizing her talents, the Wheatleys freed her when she was 20. Soon she began to have books of poetry published. In her mind the elegy to Washington was well deserved.

General Washington wrote to her and asked her to meet him. She went to visit Washington in Cambridge, MA, where he thanked her for writing the poem about him and took an interest in her writing ability. Here is what he said in a letter to Wheatley: "I thank you most sincerely for your polite notice of me in the elegant lines you enclosed; and however undeserving I may be of such encomium and panegyric, the style and manner exhibit a striking proof of your great poetical talents."

Let's pause here and ask ourselves the question: How many white men in power in the mid 1770's would take the time not only to write to a Black woman but also to invite her to a meeting with him so that he could praise her writing? Here is another excerpt from a Wheatley poem entitled "On being brought from Africa to America":

Some view our sable race with scornful eye,
"Their colour is a diabolic dye."
Remember, Christians, Negroes, black as Cain,
May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train.

It is very clear that General George Washington did not view her "sable race with scornful eye." Washington's relationship with Phillis Wheatley is one of many uplifting interactions that the General had with people of color in his lifetime. Washington's relationship with another Boston-area slave, Primus Hall, reinforces the point.

Primus Hall was born a slave in Boston in 1756. In 1770, his owner, William Hall, set him free. Shortly after securing his freedom, Hall joined the 5th Massachusetts Regiment and fought in at least 6 battles, including the Battle of Saratoga. By 1781 Hall became a steward for Timothy Pickering of Massachusetts, Quartermaster General during the war and later our third Secretary of State.

Pickering, a close confidante of George Washington, often met with the general during the war. In 1849, the Reverend Henry F. Harrington wrote about an encounter which Hall had with Washington in a magazine called Godey's Lady Book in June 1849. Hall had prepared straw beds in a tent for both Pickering and Washington to sleep in. Washington awakened in

the middle of the night and noticed that Hall had no bed and was attempting to sleep on a stool. According to Rev. Harrington's account of the incident, the following exchange then occurred:

"Washington rose up in his bed. "Primus," said he, "what did you mean by saying that you had blankets and straw enough?"

"It's nothing, General. Don't trouble yourself about me."

"If either is to sit up, I will... The blanket is wide enough for two. Come and lie down here with me."

Harrington goes on to say that though shocked and hesitant about the offer, Primus Hall did, in fact, share the bed with Washington. It should be noted that this story has never been contradicted.

Unlike Jefferson, Washington spent much of his public life on the battlefield, first as a colonel during the French and Indian War and then as the commanding general during the American Revolution; nevertheless, when he did serve in the political arena early on, he often voiced his strong opposition to slavery:

"I can only say that there is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it; but there is only one proper and effectual mode by which it can be accomplished, and that is by legislative authority; and this, as far as my suffrage will go, shall never be wanting." (Letter to Robert Morris, 1786)

On July 18, 1774, a committee which Washington chaired in Fairfax County, Virginia, passed the following act:

Continued on page H10

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Op ed

Continued from page H7

“Resolved, that it is... that during our present difficulties and distress, no slaves ought to be imported into any of the British colonies on this continent; and we take this opportunity of declaring our most earnest wishes to see an entire stop for ever put to such a wicked, cruel, and unnatural trade.”

Though not as prolific a letter writer as Jefferson, Washington’s correspondence, like Jefferson’s, often reveals his anti-slavery sentiments. In a letter to one of his nephews in August of 1797, Washington writes, “I wish from my soul that the legislature of this state could see the policy of a gradual abolition of slavery.”

When I visited Mount Vernon about two years ago, our tour guide made the point that Washington refused to sell any of his slaves because he could not bear to break up families and that he thought the process of selling them to be abominable; furthermore, the guide told us, that Washington had many more slaves than he needed and that economically it would have been far better for him to sell some in order to turn a bigger profit on the farm. He refused. In a letter to a Robert Lewis in August of 1799, he said this:

“To sell the overplus I cannot, because I am principled against this kind of traffic in the human species. To hire them out is almost as bad because they could not be disposed of in families to any advantage, and to disperse the families I have an aversion.”

Visitors at Mount Vernon who view Washington’s grave also learn that for decades after the General had died, groups of ex-slaves that he had manumitted in his will would come back voluntarily to maintain the gravesite properly.

It should be noted, too, that one of the first acts that Washington took as President occurred on August 7, 1789, when he signed into law “An Ordinance of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio,” truly, the first civil rights law ever passed on the federal level; consequently, the states that constituted the Northwest Territory— Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, and Indiana all entered the Union slave free. (Jefferson had proposed such a law 5 years before but the legislation failed to pass by 1 vote.)

Few people realize that one of the most famous cities formed in the new slave-free Northwest Territory—Cincinnati, Ohio—was done so to honor

George Washington. During times of war in the ancient Roman Republic, the Roman senate consolidated power by decree to one man—called a “dictator”—in order to defend the country. The most famous “dictator” was Cincinnatus, a gentleman farmer and very effective field general.

Following war, Cincinnatus always would return his temporary power back to the senate and head back to his farm; thus, Cincinnatus, who could have easily abused his power after the war and become a permanent dictator, did not and has been revered ever since. The parallels with gentleman farmer George Washington returning to Mt. Vernon after the war instead of abusing his power (like his contemporary Napoleon) are obvious. The English poet Byron wrote of Washington that he was “The first—the last—the best—/The Cincinnatus of the West.”

So highly revered was George Washington by his military peers that a fraternal order that exists to this day—“The Society of the Cincinnati”—formed in 1783 at the end of the war. To honor Washington, many of them migrated west to Ohio and began a city named for him—Cincinnati—the genitive or possessive form of the word Cincinnatus, thus translated as “the city of Cincinnatus.”

Context matters. Both Jefferson and Washington grew up in a world where slavery was the norm on most of the planet. Both inherited slaves due to family deaths at an early age—Jefferson at 14 and Washington at 11. What should be strikingly evident is how truly remarkable it was for both of them to articulate ideals of equality in such a context.

Pursuit of ideals, however, can be frustrating and elusive. Both of these men, nevertheless, remained doggedly persistent in trying to achieve racial equity throughout their lives. Both chose to be pragmatic idealists who decided to achieve politically what was possible at the time and to work for more gains in the future as time and circumstances permitted. The circumstances under which further gains could be made were often compromised severely by restrictive state laws, so much so that it would take a bloody Civil War a couple of generations later to bring the issue to a head.

Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were tall men, each about 6 foot 2. Thus, they literally towered over their contemporaries by 6 to 8 inches. Figuratively, they also towered over most of their con-

temporaries by articulating and practicing ideals of racial equality that were far from fully realized in their lives but that were truly remarkable in their time.

Finally, to those who wish to categorize people like Jefferson and Washington solely as slaveholders and refuse to examine the context of their time and their lifelong efforts in pursuing racial equity, let’s remember that future leaders in the Abolitionist movement such as John Quincy Adams (the “Hellhound of Abolition”), Daniel Webster, and Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, all regularly and enthusiastically quoted Thomas Jefferson in their speeches and writings. The fiery Abolitionist senator from Massachusetts, Charles Sumner, was a proud member of the “Society of the Cincinnati.” Care to tear down their statues? How about those of Martin Luther King, Jr.? In his famous “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” and his immortal “I Have a Dream” speech King quotes Thomas Jefferson’s vision of racial equality.

Dr. Martin Luther King also gave a sermon on July 4th of 1965 about the American Dream and what it means. That morning Dr. King and Andrew Young had passed in front of the Jefferson Memorial, in Washington DC, and that incident gave the great orator the topic of the sermon he went on to deliver that same day. It includes these thoughts on Jefferson and the American Dream:

“It wouldn’t take us long to discover the substance of that dream. It is found in those majestic words of the Declaration of Independence, words lifted to cosmic proportions: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by God, Creator, with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.’ This is a dream. It’s a great dream. The first saying we notice in this dream is an amazing universalism. It doesn’t say ‘some men,’ it says ‘all men.’ It doesn’t say ‘all white men,’ it says ‘all men,’ which includes black men... It says that each of us has certain basic rights that are neither derived from nor conferred by the state. In order to discover where they came from, it is necessary to move back behind the dim mist of eternity. They are God-given, gifts from His hands. Never before in the history of the world has a sociopolitical document expressed in such profound, eloquent, and unequivocal language the dignity and the worth of human personality. The American dream reminds us, and we should think about it anew on this Independence Day, that every man is an heir of the legacy of dignity and worth.”

Still want to tear down those statues?

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