

Brainerd Library launches Kids' Summer Reading Program



Above: Magician Richard Rothstein has no problem holding the attention of youngsters and adults at Brainerd Memorial Library's summer reading program kickoff. Right: Children's Librarian Marissa Lehmacher joins some of the dozens of youngsters who attended the summer reading program kickoff. Photos courtesy of Scott Brinckerhoff.



By Scott Brinckerhoff

Brainerd Memorial Library's summer reading program for youngsters kicked off with a magic show and a look at how becoming an avid reader can lead to a life of magical discoveries.

Dozens of kids and their parents were treated to a magic show provided by Richard Rothstein. His puzzling tricks were punctuated with music and sound effects from deejay Caroljoyce Cannito.

The kids also received a book bag, a coupon for a free book and a "color it in yourself" bookmark. Many kids also signed up for their first library card.

"Reading opens so many doors for all of us," said Marissa Lehmacher, children's librarian. "We hope that young people growing up in the digital age don't step away from books and reading, which is perhaps

Lions, Tigers, and Bears Oh My ... Bear sighting in Haddam Neck

This bear was seen in Haddam Neck on Friday, June 28.

Info below From the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, here is advice on what to do about a bear near your home:

Bears should NEVER be fed, either intentionally or accidentally. Connecticut residents should take the following simple steps to avoid conflicts and problems with black bears: Bears are attracted to garbage, pet food, compost piles, fruit trees, and birdfeeders.

DO remove birdfeeders and bird food from late March through November.

DO eliminate food attractants by placing garbage cans inside a garage or shed. Add ammonia to trash to make it unpalatable.

DO clean and store grills in a garage or shed after use. (Propane cylinders should be stored outside.)



Photos by Deloros Yara.



DON'T add meat or sweets to a compost pile.

If a bear is seen in your town or neighborhood, leave it alone. In most situations, if left alone and given an avenue for escape, the bear will usually wander back into more secluded areas. Keep dogs under control. Stay away from the bear and advise others to do the same. Do not approach the bear so as to take a photo or video. Often a bear will climb a tree to avoid people. A crowd of bystanders will only stress the bear and also add the risk that the bear will be chased into traffic or the crowd of people.

DON'T intentionally feed bears. Bears that become accustomed to finding food near your home may become "problem" bears.

DON'T approach or try to get closer to a bear to get a photo or video.

DON'T leave pet food outside overnight.

If a bear is in a densely populated area, contact the DEEP Wildlife Division (860-424-3011, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM) or DEEP Dispatch (860-424-3333, 24 hours) to report the sighting and obtain advice.

To report a Black Bear sighting, please go to the DEEP website.



HVFCo announces new Line Officers

By Olivia Drake, Public Information Officer, HVFCo.

Congratulations to Haddam Volunteer Fire Company's newly-elected line officers! They were voted in during the July 1 meeting and will serve a two-year term.

In addition, Firefighter Ej Adametz will continue his role as Quartermaster; Support Member Mary Adametz as Company Secretary; Support Member Michelle Lafo as Company Treasurer; Fire Police Member Malcolm

Meyer as Building Engineer; Firefighter Scott Larson as Radio Engineer; and Greg Duval as Mechanical Engineer.

Firefighter Dan Casey was elected to serve as the HVFC Representative to the Board of Directors for Haddam Volunteer Fire Department. Firefighter John Boothroyd; Firefighter Rick Annino; Firefighter Scott Larson; and Firefighter Rich Williams will serve as HVFC's Board of Directors.

Sam, Mary, Ej, and Michelle also will serve on the Board of Directors.

left to right: Chief Sam Baber, who returns for his fourth term; Deputy Chief Peter Brown; Assistant Chief Jamie Kuchyt; Captain Ed Adametz; Captain Tony Lafo; and Lieutenant Richard Zanelli. Photo courtesy of Olivia Drake.

Summer Worship at the Gazebo in Higganum Center

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey you are welcome to join the Haddam and Higganum Congregational Churches for summer worship at the Gazebo in Higganum each Sunday in July and August and September 1st at 8:00 a.m. We will gather, rain or shine, for a contemplative time of prayer, readings from the Psalms and Gospels, and singing hymns. Communion is celebrated every other Sunday. All are welcome, including dogs on leashes. Bring your own chair.

In addition, the usual services at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday will be conducted at the Higganum Congregational Church on all Sundays in July and on August 4 & 11. Services on August 18 & 25 will be at the Haddam Congregational Church.



Find a Fur Baby: Give Junior a Home!

By Judith Levin

STOP! LOOK NO FURTHER! This Hunk of a guy is Junior....

He looks like a Junior don't ya think? Well, let me tell you about this beauty. He is male, mixed breed, approximately a year old. He weighs about 65 pounds now, is neutered and up to date with shots.

Love bug pretty much says it all for him....He LOVES people, dogs, not too sure about

kitties – still trying to figure out what they are and would be better with older kids. He is the sweetest.

He would love a family where he could run and play as he still is a puppy. A fenced in yard is advisable for this smooch. If you are interested, please call Norwich Animal Control at: 860-887-5747

Let's get this guy a home to call his own.....he deserves it!

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HES update with First Selectwoman Lizz Milardo

By Meghan Peterson, PhD

First Selectwoman Lizz Milardo recently provided an update on Haddam Elementary School (HES) and where Haddam stands with respect to next steps.

Haddam residents voted to purchase HES for \$450,000 from Regional School District 17 (RSD17). The school will be closing, but the building remains. The Haddam Board of Finance (BOF) has allocated three payments in equal amounts (150K each) over the course of three years (beginning in 2020) for this purchase.

Milardo says that Bill Warner, the Haddam Town Planner, will give a presentation before the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) on Thursday, July 18. At that time, Warner will discuss economic development plans for the Higganum Center, including re-location of the Town Garage.

Noting the coverage and passion generated over the past several

months regarding Higganum Center, Milardo says that the Town is "working very hard on revitalization of the Center." She explains that in mid-April research was done on the HES property, and one of the findings was that "very good soil was indicated for implementing a community septic system." Specifically, the soil in the playground and in the field directly behind the school have been

identified as being "very good" for the purpose of a community septic system.

The firm of Fuss & O'Neill had determined earlier that soil on the Town Green was viable, which led Warner to believe that the soils at HES were also viable. Milardo says that based Warner's "experience with septic and sewer systems," she "immediately acted on this important guidance from Warner" and obtained permission from Superintendent Howard Thiery to dig a test hole of the soil during the school's April vacation. The Town coordinat-

ed everything with the Public Works crew and the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD). The health department was on-site during the test dig. The key discovery here was that "the soil was of superior quality." Milardo says that she wanted to get "this information out to the public" prior to the referendum which occurred in June. She continues, "viability of the soils on the HES property allow a more affordable option for economic development in Higganum Center" and that this find is "proving to be a game-changer in terms of bringing infrastructure and an economic revival to the town."

Milardo adds that the "Save HES" movement's message was loud and

clear: transparency and community involvement in the process and decision-making. To these ends, Milardo says that an in-depth community survey to gauge residents' desires for future uses of the HES property is now available at the town website (www.haddam.org). Finally, Milardo concludes that "while I initially had concerns about the townspeople owning another empty building, I am ecstatic at the game-changing find on the HES property."

Residents are encouraged to attend Town Planner Bill Warner's presentation before the Planning & Zoning Commission on Thursday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. (old Town Hall building at 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam).

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Brainerd Memorial Library

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the most useful and rewarding skill anyone can have."

This year's theme is space exploration, but kids are encouraged to read about anything that piques their interest in this world, too.

But for one hour the other evening, the kids were focused on Rothstein's magic. He engaged with his audience and initiated many lively exchanges when he poured water into a pail, only to have it disappear, or magically transferred a knot in one rope to a second one, all in the wink of an eye.

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Bell's Palsy

Bell's Palsy is the most common cause of unilateral facial paralysis worldwide. It is characterized by sudden onset, usually affecting one-side of the face (67% of cases), resulting in facial nerve paralysis, which resolves in 80-90% of the cases.

Patients with Diabetes have a higher risk of developing Bell's Palsy, and are more likely to have only partial recovery. At the time of diagnosis of Bell's Palsy, many find undiagnosed Diabetes. Bell's Palsy affects men and women almost equally, and it is more common in adults, and slightly higher incidence in people over 65 years of age.

Bilateral Palsy can occur, but does so only 23% of the time, and usually occurs along with Guillain-Barre syndrome and/or Lyme Disease, along with a few other diseases.

Facial spasms are rare, and more likely occur with people in their 50's or 60's, along with periods of stress and fatigue.

Early Symptoms include: Weakness of facial muscles, poor eyelid closure, aching of ear, alteration of taste, tingling of cheek and mouth, eye pain, and blurred vision.

Remember that it takes more than one of these symptoms to cause concern, but if you notice a few, see your doctor immediately!

Treatment includes: Oral Steroids are the first line of treatment in a patient greater than 16 years of age, if a doctor is seen within 72 hours of onset of symptoms. Anti-virals may be added based on the doctor's determination. You can also use topical eye drops or ointment during the day and evening to prevent corneal dryness.

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Of Tag Sales & the Declaration of Independence

By Philip R. Devlin

Like tag sales, thrift stores, and flea markets? You'd like them even more if you stumbled across an original copy of the Declaration of Independence; in fact, it could be a life-changing experience. Two early copies of the Declaration have been found and sold in the past 30 years for an enormous amount of money. One was found in a flea market in Pennsylvania; the other was found in a thrift store in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Declaration, of course, was approved by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, but was not signed immediately. The Congress contracted with a well-known Philadelphia printer named John Dunlap to print 200 copies of the document as a broadside. The printed copies were then distributed via courier to prominent people and organizations in the 13 colonies. Many of these copies were read aloud in public places; others were probably posted for the public to read. As possessing a copy or printing one

might be considered an act of sedition, many of the original Dunlap copies were probably hidden or destroyed.

One hidden copy surfaced at a flea market in Pennsylvania in 1989 quite by accident. A flea market customer spied a painting in a frame that he liked. Thinking that the frame would be suitable for something else he had in mind, the man purchased the painting for \$4. He then took it home and cut out the original painting. Out fell one of the Dunlap printings of the Declaration! In June 1991, that copy sold for \$2.42 million. Nine years later the Dunlap copy resold for \$8.1 million!

A non-Dunlap copy from 1823 sold in March 2007 for \$477,650. This particular copy was purchased from a Knoxville, Tennessee thrift store for \$2.49! The man who donated it to the thrift store had previously had it hanging in his workshop. Claiming to be under pressure from his wife to clean up his shop, the guy donated it to the store in Nashville, where it was later

purchased. Later printings of the Declaration of Independence have good value, but clearly the non-signed Dunlaps carry the best value.

John Dunlap was born in Ireland in 1747. Apprenticed to his uncle, William Dunlap, a well-established printer in Philly, John moved to Philadelphia at age 10. In 1766, John took over his uncle's business. He was friendly with Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration. Contracted by the Continental Congress to print the Declaration, Dunlap did not put his printer's seal upon the copies, probably for security reasons. There are 25 known copies of the Dunlap document known to exist. Only 4 of the 25 known copies are in private hands; most are held by institutions. Where are the other 175? Are there other copies of the Dunlap printings out there? How about the 1823 printing? Probably, so keep a sharp eye out when you go tagging and when you visit flea markets and thrift stores!

TOWN & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Sunday, July 14

Rock & Ride

"ROCK & RIDE" REVS UP FOR 5TH ANNUAL MDA BENEFIT RIDE & CONCERT

On Sunday, July 14, 2019, Connecticut's largest one-day charity motorcycle ride raises their kickstands for the 5th Annual MDA Benefit Ride & Concert, presented by Trantolo & Trantolo. Connecticut's largest one-day charity motorcycle ride returns to Sun Valley Beach Resort in Stafford Springs, Conn. and this year will headline rock icons BRET MICHAELS AND GRAND FUNK RAILROAD. All proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Connecticut.

More than 1,000 motorcycle riders from Connecticut and Massachusetts are expected.

"The MDA Benefit Ride & Concert

is a summer event destination for motorcyclists and music fans from across the region. But most importantly, it is one of our largest annual fundraisers so we appreciate both the financial support and event organization from Trantolo & Trantolo," said Connecticut MDA Executive Director, Kevin Cassesse.

"New this year we are also selling reserved tent seating tickets at \$50 per person. These seats will be under a big tent which will provide welcomed shade," said event coordinator, Norm LeBlanc. These tickets can be purchased at Old School Harley-Davidson in Ellington (formerly TSI Harley-Davidson) or Yankee Harley-Davidson in Bristol. Before the entertainment begins, enter to win amazing raffles prizes, including a brand-new Harley-Davidson Motorcycle. The lucky winner will be selected on stage at the concert!

"We look forward to seeing you on July 14th for the MDA Benefit Ride & Concert. Let's RIDE, ROCK AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE," said Scott Trantolo, Executive Director at Trantolo & Trantolo, a Connecticut personal

injury law firm.

Tickets purchased in advanced starting at \$30 per person and include the motorcycle ride and concert. To purchase general admission tickets online visit www.MDARideCT.com. Both general admission and reserved tent seating tickets can be purchased in-person at the Trantolo & Trantolo offices, Old School Harley-Davidson in Ellington (formerly TSI Harley-Davidson), Yankee Harley-Davidson in Bristol, Sheldon's Harley-Davidson in Auburn, MA or the law offices of Trantolo & Trantolo and Four Seasons By the Lake at Sun Valley. This event will take place rain or shine. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ride Coordinator Norm LeBlanc at (860) 830-1256.

Monday, July 15

Tax Office Closed

Board of Finance Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 17

Registrar of Voters Office Closed

Thursday, July 18

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Enid Rigby Sherman

According to Legacy.com and The Norwich Bulletin, Enid Rigby Sherman passed away on June 16, 2019.

Classified ads

Haddam News will print free classified ads for individuals and non-profit organizations. These must be 25 words or less and written in a publish-ready form. Publication is subject to space availability.



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Five CT signers of the Declaration of Independence

By Philip R. Devlin

Connecticut sent four delegates to the Second Continental Congress: Samuel Huntington, Roger Sherman, Oliver Wolcott, and William Williams. Only two were present and voted for the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776; all eventually signed it, though it took nearly six months for all 56 signers of the Declaration to put pen and ink to the document. Another signer, Lyman Hall, represented Georgia at the Continental Congress but was born and raised in Wallingford, and had studied medicine at Yale.

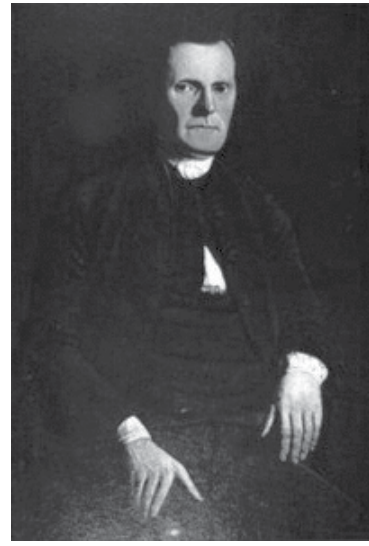
Samuel Huntington was born in Windham on July 3, 1731; studied law as a young man, and eventually became a lawyer in Norwich. Quiet by nature, Huntington distinguished himself through his hard work and sense of integrity. Eventually, he was elected to the state legislature, later became a judge, and was also called upon to represent Connecticut at the Second Continental Congress. In fact, his fellow delegates in Philadelphia thought so well of Samuel Huntington that they elected him president of the congress at the time of the adoption of the Articles of Confederation on March 1, 1781. Technically, therefore, many regard Samuel Huntington as the first true President of the United States! Later appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court in Connecticut, Samuel Huntington soon was elected governor in 1786, a position he held for the next 10 years. Huntington died while still governor at the age of 65 on January 5, 1796. Governor Huntington and his wife, Martha, were buried in Norwich.

The oldest of the four Connecticut delegates was Roger Sherman of New Haven. Sherman was born on April 19, 1721. He is the only American to have signed all four founding documents of the young republic: the Articles of Association (1774); the Declaration of Independence (1776); the Articles of Confederation (1781); and the Constitution (1787).

The father of 15 children, Sherman began his adult life as a shoemaker and farmer. Later, he studied law and was elected to the state legislature. Sherman also served as judge in the Connecticut Superior Court for 23 years from 1766-1789. He served on the committee charged with drafting the Declaration and was well regarded by his peers. John Adams said of him: "Sherman is as firm in the cause of American independence as Mount Atlas." He later played a key role at



Lyman Hall.



Roger Sherman.



William Williams.

the Constitutional Convention, as he was the moving force behind what has come to be known as the "Connecticut Compromise," the key to breaking a deadlock at the convention and enabling its adoption.

Ever wonder why a Connecticut license plate says "Constitution State" on it? Thank Roger Sherman for that. Sherman died on July 23, 1793, at the age of 72. He is buried in the famous Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven.

Perhaps the least well-known signer from Connecticut was William Williams of Lebanon. Initially a shopkeeper, Williams later became town clerk of Lebanon and a state representative as well as a judge. When Oliver Wolcott became ill at the second Continental Congress, Williams was selected to replace him. He arrived in Philadelphia on July 28, 1776, and signed the Declaration on August 2. Williams later served as a representative to the Connecticut convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution. Sent there to vote against its adoption, Williams decided instead that Connecticut would benefit from it, so he reversed course and voted for its adoption. Married to the daughter of Connecticut's first governor (John Trumbull), William and Mary Williams raised three children. William Williams lived to be the oldest of Connecticut's four delegates, dying at the age of 80 on August 2, 1811, 30 years to the day after he had signed the Declaration for Connecticut. He is buried in the Trumbull Cemetery in Lebanon.

The fourth Connecticut signer of the Declaration

was Oliver Wolcott. Wolcott was born in Windsor on November 26, 1726, and attended Yale, graduating in 1746. After fighting in the French and Indian War, Wolcott moved to Litchfield at the age of 25. He married a woman named Laura Collins with whom he had five children. Wolcott was a state legislator and a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. After getting ill in June of 1776, Wolcott traveled back from Philadelphia to Connecticut. While passing through New York City, Wolcott witnessed the tearing down of a statue of King George III in the city. The head of the statue was sent back to England; Wolcott took the body of the statue back to Litchfield, had it melted down, and reformed the metal into over 42,000 bullets that were used against the British.

After recovering his health, Oliver Wolcott returned to Philadelphia, where he signed the Declaration in October of 1776. Because of his previous military experience, Wolcott was made a brigadier general and placed in command of 14 regiments that defended New York City. He later succeeded Samuel Huntington as governor in 1796 and remained governor until his death on December 1, 1797, at the age of 71. His son, Oliver Wolcott Jr., was Secretary of the Treasury from 1795-1800. A state technical school today bears Wolcott's name. He is buried in East Cemetery in Litchfield.

Born April 12, 1724, Lyman Hall of Wallingford, moved to the South after studying medicine at Yale.

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I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for ... HK Dairy Barn!

On a recent summer evening, we decided to take a little trek to the HK Dairy Barn. We deliberately ate a lighter dinner-than-usual in order to save room for the epic amounts of ice cream we were planning to consume. And we are glad we did.

It is pure serendipity to have HK Dairy Barn in our community. In point of fact, it is beyond wonderful – on many counts.

First, the venue. HK Dairy Barn has a generous swath of parking. Just be careful as you search for a parking spot: children and various canine friends may be toddling and running about enjoying their ice cream! The tables and outdoor seating are MOO-rvelous. Truly. The tables are decorated in festive cow spots of black and white, as are the benches. The atmosphere is immediately inviting and family-friendly, as kind faces gather around the tables or stand in line awaiting their orders, chatting and

laughing amongst themselves.

Second, the people. Although there was quite a line of hungry people waiting for ice cream, the people working behind the counter window greeted each customer warmly, promptly took the order, and provided efficient service. All three of our ice cream orders were filled in less than 2 minutes! Indeed, the line moved quickly.

Third, the ice cream. The all-important ice cream! The three flavors we had that evening were caramel espresso bean, toasted coconut and vanilla soft-serve. There are different ways one can eat the ice cream: kid-size in a cup or cone (soft-serve available – great especially for the little ones!); small and large cups; and they also offer waffle cones! The ice cream was spectacularly tasty. The caramel espresso bean was perfectly espresso-y and flavorful, and the caramel was generous throughout. The toasted coconut tast-

ed like summer: refreshing and tropical. The vanilla soft-serve was just the right amount of sweetness. Of course, these flavors are only the tip of the ice...berg? This ice cream heaven is chock full of other tantalizing flavors and ice cream sundae options as well. In addition, ice cream in various sizes is available to purchase for enjoyment at home; finally, custom cakes are available to order.

So, journey on down to HK Dairy Barn. You will not regret it, neither will your taste buds. Wonderful people. Great town. Happy summer. And yes, deliciously yummy ice cream!

HK Dairy Barn is located at 986 Killingworth Road, Higganum. Check them out on Facebook for the most update-to-date hours (during summer, they are open daily 12-9pm) or give them a call at 860.554.5048.

CAMPUS CORNER

Haddam & Killingworth students continue to shine at colleges

ROCHESTER, NY (07/01/2019) – The following local residents made the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2019 spring semester. Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete", "D" or "F"; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Benjamin Blair of Higganum, who is in the computing and information technologies program.

Wyatt Morrell of Higganum, who is in the physics program.

Freddy Stock of Haddam, who is in the computational mathematics program.

Michael Crenella of Killingworth, who is in the electrical engineering program.

CANTON, NY (07/01/2019) – Margareta L. Nystrom of Killingworth has been selected for inclusion on St. Lawrence University's Dean's List for academic achievement during the Spring 2019 semester. Nystrom is a member of the Class of 2021 and is majoring in art and art history. Nystrom attended Haddam Killingworth High School. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

SPRINGFIELD, MA (07/01/2019) – Springfield College has named the following area students to the Dean's List for academic excellence for the 2019 Spring Semester. Criteria for selection to the dean's list requires that the student must have a minimum semester grade point average of 3.500 for the semester.

Carley Moyher of Killingworth, CT has been named to the dean's list for academic excellence for the spring 2019 term. Moyher is studying Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Ross Meglin of Killingworth, CT has been named to the dean's list for academic excellence for the spring 2019 term. Meglin is studying Communication/Sport Journalism.

Kevin Gaiss of Haddam, CT has been named to the dean's list for academic excellence for the spring 2019 term. Gaiss is studying Communication/Sport Journalism.

Sean Marinan of Higganum, CT, has earned a master's of business administration degree in Business Administration from Springfield College for studies completed in 2019. At the undergraduate commencement on May 19, 695 bachelor's degrees were awarded. Including the degrees awarded at the graduate ceremony on May 18, a total of 1,265 degrees were awarded over the two days. At the graduate commencement, 522 master's degrees, one certificate of advanced graduate study, five Doctor of Philosophy degrees, 36 Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees, and six Doctor of Psychology degrees were awarded.

CCSU Spring 2019 Dean's List

Central Connecticut State University President Zulma R. Toro is proud to announce the students who earned a spot on the Dean's List for the spring 2019 semester. To achieve this academic distinction, an undergraduate student at CCSU must carry at least 12 academic credits during the semester and earn at least a 3.50 GPA out of a possible 4.0 GPA.

The following Haddam & Killingworth students who earned a place on the Dean's List are:

- Andi Cherry (Haddam)*
- Andrew Burr (Haddam)*
- Nicholas Buzas (Haddam)*
- Daniel Hamilton (Haddam)*
- Ryan Nenninger (Haddam)*
- Hannah Theriault (Haddam)*
- Nicholas Baccaro (Higganum)*
- Zoey Corey (Higganum)*
- Christopher Drexler (Higganum)*
- Elliot Lynskey (Higganum)*
- Sheryl Mullaney (Higganum)*
- Kyle Parmentier (Higganum)*
- Victoria Targonski (Higganum)*
- Aaron Auer (Killingworth)*
- Gina Cannelli (Killingworth)*
- Alexandra Coady (Killingworth)*
- Liam Foley (Killingworth)*
- Mathew Haigis (Killingworth)*
- Peter O'Neill (Killingworth)*
- Lawrence Sage (Killingworth)*

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Kids, Cars, Crime: Part Two

Understanding the who and why behind Connecticut's latest juvenile crime trend

By Meghan Peterson, PhD

Editor's Note: This is the second installment in a series examining juvenile involvement with auto-related crimes in Connecticut and the local impacts of this trend.

Part Two: Changes in Juvenile Law

Before we can address questions about the "whys" and "hows" of juveniles and auto crimes we are seeing in our state, it is important to be aware of the various juvenile justice system reforms that have been implemented. Connecticut's legislative body, the General Assembly, has passed laws expanding the juvenile justice system's jurisdiction to include individuals age 16 and 17 charged with criminal offenses as well as placing restrictions on post-arrest and pre-trial detention of juveniles.

Then-Governor Dannel P. Malloy made juvenile reforms (colloquially known as "raise the age") a signature component of his tenure. In 2018 Malloy encouraged the state legislature to consider passing a law that would expand the juvenile system's jurisdiction to cover individuals to the age of 21. Although it did not make its way out of legislative committee (meaning that it never reached the full General Assembly for discussion and passage), State House Bill 5040 *An Act Concerning Adjudication of Certain Young Adults in Juvenile Court* proposed the creation of a "new category" for individuals "between the ages of 18 and 20 called 'young adults.'" According to a press release from the Connecticut Governor's Office, "young adults would fall under juvenile justice jurisdiction in most circumstances, and – where appropriate – would benefit from the protections and services provided by the state's juvenile justice system." This would have built on previous state legislation, which to date have incrementally expanded the age range of juveniles within the juvenile justice system.

The other juvenile reform bill State House Bill 5042 *An Act Concerning*

Prosecution of Low-Risk Offenders in Adult Court also did not make it into law. Nonetheless, it is helpful to understand what was being suggested at the executive and legislative levels in this state. As touted by the Governor's Office, the legislation would have expanded the legal status of "youthful offender" to individuals up to their 21st birthday. The Governor's Office press release did note at the time, however, that "the youthful offender" status "may not be used by individuals charged with the most serious crimes, including Class A felonies, sexual assault and rape."

The first law mentioned above would have expanded the juvenile justice system's jurisdiction to include individuals up to the age of 21. The second law would have permitted individuals up to the age of 21 to plead guilty to a "youthful offender" charge in the adult criminal court, affording them many of the same protections afforded to children whose cases are handled in the juvenile court such as confidentiality of proceedings and records, limited maximum period of incarceration and possible erasure of records.

According to Francis Carino, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney, "[t]here have been four major changes in the Connecticut juvenile justice system in recent years: the impact of the 'raise the age law'; changes in pretrial detention of juveniles charged with crimes; dispositional (sentencing) options available in juvenile court; and transfers of serious offenders from the juvenile court to the adult court."

Carino explains, "Going back a little more than nine years, the 'raise the age law' made a major change in the juvenile laws of Connecticut. On January 1, 2010, sixteen-year-olds became "children" and, for the most part, subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. The same thing happened to seventeen-year-olds on July 1, 2012. Sixteen and seventeen-year-olds charged with minor offenses classified as violations or infractions, as well as motor vehicle offenses found in Title 14 of the General Statutes, along with certain other charges, are

still handled as adult matters."

Still, youth who commit serious juvenile offenses (SJO's) can be transferred to the adult court system, depending on judicial and prosecutorial discretion. SJO's range the gamut from sale, possession with intent to sell drugs to manufacture of bombs to arson murder. Manslaughter in the 2nd degree with a motor vehicle, misconduct with a motor vehicle, and robbery involving occupied motor vehicle are the only vehicle-related offenses designated SJO's within the Connecticut General Statutes. These are offenses for which a juvenile's case can be transferred to the adult court. But again, such a transfer to the adult criminal justice system is not automatic. Moreover, a transfer is contingent on decisions by the judge and prosecutor. For informational purposes on each of these vehicle-related SJO's, the statutory language is provided below:

Connecticut General Statute section 53a-56b – manslaughter 2nd degree w/ motor vehicle:

"A person is guilty of manslaughter in the second degree with a motor vehicle when, while operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or both, he causes the death of another person as a consequence of such liquor or drug." It is a Class C felony.

Connecticut General Statute section 53a-57 – misconduct with a motor vehicle:

"A person is guilty of misconduct with a motor vehicle when, with criminal negligence in the operation of a motor vehicle, he causes the death of another person." It is a Class D felony.

Connecticut General Statute section 53a-136a – robbery involving occupied motor vehicle:

"Any person who commits robbery by taking a motor vehicle from the person of another knowing that such motor vehicle is occupied by such other person shall be imprisoned for a term of three years which shall not be suspended and shall be in addition and consecutive to any term of imprisonment imposed for such offense."

In sum, juveniles who commit manslaughter with a motor vehicle, misconduct of a motor vehicle causing another person's death, or robbery of an occupied motor vehicle may or may not see their cases transferred to the adult justice system. In some instances, juveniles may await the outcome of their cases in pretrial detention facilities, which may or may not be secure. In general, the pretrial detention facilities do not offer extensive rehabilitation or treatment programs for juveniles. In other instances, juveniles may be released back into the community pending a transfer hearing in the juvenile court. If juveniles are transferred, they may await the outcome of their case in an adult lockup facility; or, they may be released on bond.

Other vehicle-related offenses – among them, vehicle break-ins and thefts of items from unlocked vehicles, however, are not classified as serious juvenile offenses. Under Connecticut law, they are not classified as serious juvenile offenses. Consequently, youth who commit such vehicle-related offenses do not face the more stringent consequences that would accrue to a SJO.

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Kids, Cars, Crime: Part Two

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What happens, then, when a youth breaks into a vehicle or otherwise steals money/other valuables from a person's car?

Carino answers this inquiry by explaining that "In some locations, community-based diversion programs, such as juvenile review boards are available to handle the cases of first offenders charged with minor offenses where the juvenile acknowledges responsibility for the offense. If a juvenile satisfactorily completes such a diversion program, the charges are dismissed and the juvenile has no juvenile record because they never entered the juvenile court system." Otherwise, juvenile cases are heard in the juvenile court that serves the youth's town of residence. A juvenile in Haddam, therefore, would go to Middletown Judicial District Courthouse to have a case heard.

While a case is pending before the juvenile court, law enforcement has the legal authority and discretion to place youths in one of the two juvenile detention centers in Connecticut: the Bridgeport Juvenile Detention Center or the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center. These are secure pretrial housing locations run by the Court Support Services Division within the Judicial Branch. These facilities do not provide comprehensive treatment or rehabilitation for juvenile offenders. Finally, juveniles age 15+, transferred from the juvenile court and charged as adults who cannot post bond or are convicted as adults, and subsequently given incarceration time can also be housed at an adult correctional facility for individuals under 21 – the Manson Youth Institute (MYI) in Cheshire, according to Carino.

After years of political debate, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS), located in Middletown, closed in April 2018. Run by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), CJTS was the only secure (locked) treatment facility for male juvenile offenders. A January 2019 report released from the state Office of the Child Advocate found that male juveniles incarcerated in the state – especially those who have "complex" mental health needs and who are "imprisoned in the adult correctional system, are the most likely to lose meaningful access to education, rehabilitative services and visits with family..." The report

investigated the state of the juvenile justice system between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

As *CT Mirror* noted, "this report is released as the state grapples with how to handle youth who break the law. In April 2018, the state closed its lone prison for youth who were convicted of offenses not serious enough to land them in the adult correction system – CJTS – which has left more youth lingering in pre-trial detention facilities not equipped for long-term stays." To a certain degree, the legal situation in which Connecticut juvenile offenders are now stuck appears to be this unclear area between juvenile pre-trial detention, criminal penalties, and adequate state mechanisms to address these matters.

Prior to changes to juvenile laws in Connecticut, Carino describes how the placement of juveniles in detention used to proceed: "the police simply brought the juvenile to the center with an affidavit establishing probable cause to believe the juvenile committed the offense charged and the center would admit the juvenile. The juvenile would be presented before a judge the next business day. If remanded back to detention after that hearing, there would be a hearing every two weeks to determine if the juvenile needed to remain in detention."

This process, Carino explains, changed when "the law changed and required a court order to place a juvenile in detention if the center was full and juvenile was only charged with a minor offense. A few years later, the law changed again and the police were required to get a court order to place any juvenile in detention, at any time, regardless of the seriousness of the charge. Around that time the New Haven detention center was closed, leaving only the Hartford and Bridgeport centers. That resulted in the police, especially those in outlying towns, having to take one or more officers out of service for a significant period of time in order to transport a juvenile to detention. Requiring the police to obtain a court order to place a juvenile in detention, which often meant going to the judge's home in the middle of the night, and closing the New Haven center, served to discourage the police from placing juveniles in detention. For some juveniles, placing them in detention upon arrest was the only immediate consequence they saw for their misconduct." Furthermore, Carino notes that Public Act 16-147 (effective October 2016) deleted

references to punishment of juveniles in previous legislation and substituted them with the following language: "...provide individualized supervision, care, accountability and treatment to such a child in a manner consistent with public safety." The relevant passage in the law is below, with bolded phrases and words indicating deletions of the previous statutory language:

*In addition, with respect to proceedings concerning delinquent children, the Superior Court shall have authority to make and enforce such orders as the court deems necessary or appropriate to **[punish the child]** provide individualized supervision, care, accountability and treatment to such child in a manner consistent with public safety, deter the child from the commission of further delinquent acts, **[assure]** ensure that the child is responsive to the court process, ensure that the safety of any other.*

For the crimes of auto theft, break-ins, theft of items from unlocked vehicles, Carino says that "the juvenile age fifteen or older would not be eligible for automatic transfer (from juvenile to adult court). If they have accumulated a substantial juvenile record, they could be transferred using the discretionary transfer procedure if the court determines that it would be in the juvenile's best interests to have the case heard in the adult court. That would be a very unusual outcome."

So, what legal tools are available for state authorities to help remedy the issue of juvenile involvement with vehicle offenses specifically, and crime more broadly? What can be done to effectively address issues within a juvenile justice system that may not yet be fully equipped to deal with the repeat serious offender? We seek answers to these questions later in the series.

In Part Three we will examine in more detail the effects that legal changes within the Connecticut juvenile justice system are having in the state. For this ongoing series, many thanks are in order for their expertise and assistance: Chief State's Attorney Kevin T. Kane; Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney, Francis J. Carino; Haddam Resident Trooper Enrico Milardo; Killingworth Resident Trooper Scott Wisner; William H. Carbone, Executive Director of the Tow Youth Justice Institute (University of New Haven).

Connecticut's five signers of the Declaration of Independence

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Hall first settled in South Carolina, but he soon moved to Georgia, where he practiced medicine and owned a plantation. Hall was elected to represent Georgia at the Continental Congress. He volunteered to assist the Revolutionary Army with medical supplies. He, too, signed the Declaration, becoming the fifth Connecticut native to do so. Hall had to flee Georgia during the war for his own safety. He returned to Connecticut for

a while, where his family hid him from the British. After the war, Hall returned to Georgia, where he spent the rest of his life. Lyman Hall died on October 19, 1790, at the age of 66. A public high school in Wallingford today bears his name.

Neither William Williams nor Oliver Wolcott were present in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, to vote on the acceptance of the Declaration of Independence; nevertheless, both men eventually signed their names

to the document and incurred great personal risk by doing so. All five Connecticut natives who signed the Declaration distinguished themselves in many ways both in Philadelphia and in their native Nutmeg State. Their courage and integrity as public servants for the state and for the nation were exemplary and stand in sharp contrast to the narrowly focused vision of the special-interest-driven nature of too many modern politicians.

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June 2019 report

By Olivia Drake, Public Information Officer, HVFCo.

Haddam Volunteer Fire Company responded to 51 calls for emergency services in June 2019 including a deck collapse, fuel spills, pole fires, and a fatal motorcycle accident.

Of those:
 Fire/alarms: 6
 Motor vehicle accidents: 6
 Medical: 28
 Downed power lines: 4
 Other: 7
 Total: 51

On June 15, 2019, HVFC personnel responded to a motorcycle accident on Saybrook Road near the Thankful Arnold House. The operator lost control of his motorcycle, drove off the road near Field Park Drive and struck a utility pole, which ejected him from the vehicle. He then struck a mailbox and another utility pole. Upon arrival, firefighters and EMS personnel attempted to resuscitate the operator, but he was later pronounced dead on the scene. Firefighters blocked traffic during the incident and while police reconstructed the accident.

On June 17, 2019 three patients were transported to area hospitals following a deck collapse on a home located on Little Meadow Road in Haddam.

At 8:10 p.m., HVFC was dispatched to the scene for a reported entrapment under a deck. Upon arrival, firefighters encountered three patients near a collapsed deck, all alert. Another woman and her toddler son also had fallen from the deck but were not injured.

The deck was located on the front of a 3-story gable-roofed home. A wooden support beam had collapsed and the deck broke free from the home's third story.

Firefighters and EMS personnel quickly evaluated all three patients with injuries. One male patient and one female patient were transported to Hartford Hospital with injuries. Another male patient was transported to Middlesex Hospital, also with injuries.

On June 7, 2019, crews were dispatched to Sunoco Gas Station in Tylerville for a fuel spill where approximately 15 gallons of gasoline was running into a storm drain. HVFC placed absorbent material on the parking lot and absorbent mats near three affected storm drains. The scene was turned over to DEEP for clean up.

No one was injured following a motor vehicle accident on June 13, 2019 involving a 9 Town Transit bus and car. At 12:37 p.m., Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. was dispatched to Killingworth Road near the Mobile Higganum Service Station. The transit bus struck the vehicle in front of it causing significant damage to both the car and bus. The operator of the car, the driver of the bus, one bus passenger and a child were evaluated on scene by EMS personnel and refused additional medical treatment.

HVFC responded to two utility pole incidents on June 15. The first occurred on Saybrook Road, where a tree had fallen, taking down primary wires. HVFC assisted Connecticut State Police in rerouting traffic while Eversource secured the power. The second occurred on Killingworth Road where a tree branch had fallen across the primary wires, causing one wire to snap near the side of the road. HVFC closed a short section of road helped reroute traffic during the incident.

On June 24, 2019 HVFC responded to another utility pole incident on Foot Hills Road. A tree had fallen onto utility wires and was burning. Damaged wires energized the metal in neighboring guard rails, causing more multiple wooden rails to ignite and smoke. Once Eversource secured the power, firefighters used a hose line off Engine 3-13 to extinguish the fires.

On June 21, 2019 HVFC was dispatched to Hungerford Road in East Haddam as part of a mutual aid Tanker Task Force. A propane truck had collided with a car, causing the truck to overturn and leak fuel. Both vehicle operators were taken to the hospital. Only one home in the area was evacuated. Members used Tanker 2-13 to block and reroute traffic during the six-hour incident.

On June 29, 2019 HVFC and Durham Volunteer Fire Co. were dispatched to Millers Pond State Park for a reported traumatic injury to an 18-year-old female who jumped from the rocks into the pond and hit her head. Upon arrival, the patient was out of the water, conscious and alert. The patient was loaded into Durham's all-terrain vehicle near the beach area and was evaluated on scene. She was later transported to Middlesex Hospital via Haddam Volunteer Ambulance Service.

DRILLS and TRAINING

On June 6, four members of Haddam Volunteer Fire Company completed a 10-hour Hurst Qualification Class that focused on the proper use of Haddam's hydraulic Hurst tools including a spreader, cutter, ram, and combination tool. The class also covered stabilizing vehicles, technical rescue, vehicle structure and anatomy, and patient care.

On June 17, members of Haddam Volunteer Fire Company and East Haddam Fire Department gathered at Haddam Meadows State Park to participate in a marine drill. They focused on how to respond to a water search and recovery mission near the park's sandbar where two 18-year-old men drowned in the

Continued on page H12

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By Laurie West Prichard, Director,
Killingworth Library Association

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FOR ADULTS AND YA PATRONS – THE SUMMER READING BINGO CHALLENGE IS UNDERWAY!

If you haven't picked up your Summer Reading Bingo Challenge sheet there is still plenty of time – we will accept entries until 09/04. Participants will have a chance to win 1 of 3 gift certificates to local businesses. Come join the fun!

VISIT THE LIBRARY TABLE AT THE KILLINGWORTH FARMERS MARKET ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

July 10, July 24, and August 7 - and remember, the library is open until 6 pm on Wednesday evenings through the end of August!

NEED TO COOL OFF ON A HOT DAY?

Killingworth library is not only air-conditioned, but we offer free wi-fi, access to PCs, a community puzzle and coloring sheets, plus puzzles and board games suitable for all ages to play in the library or check out. If you need a quiet space to work, just ask about the availability of our conference room at the circulation desk.





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Beginning Friday, June 21st, and every 3rd Friday thereafter
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Please RSVP to Kathy Hallett at 860-345-3779.
TheSaybrookAtHaddam.com

FAITH / COMMUNITY

HUMC and St. James Episcopal Church's VBS: July 15-19

By Cheryl Czuba

July 15-19 HUMC and St. James Episcopal Church's Hero Central Vacation Bible School 5:30-7:30 pm at Higganum United Methodist Church for children, pre-school -6th grade. VBS is free. To register call 860-345-4622 or email: vbsofhigganumc@gmail.com.

CONTINUED FROM H11

June 2019 report

Continued from page H7

area in 2017 and 2011.

Members of Haddam Volunteer Fire Company's Junior Division participated in a drill June 27 at the company's training building. The Juniors practiced using SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) and hose line advancement techniques.

Members also learned how to properly use radios, checked apparatus, and participated in a live burn in New Haven.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

On June 9, members of Haddam Volunteer Fire Company and Haddam Volunteer Ambulance attended the Kids Run-a-Muck at Haddam Meadows State Park. Firefighters used water from Tanker 2-13 to create a slip n' slide, which was used as part of the course. EMS personnel also were on standby in the event of any medical emergencies.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary are pleased to announce that Junior Division member Sierra Statkiewicz received the Auxiliary's \$500 scholarship. Sierra graduated from Haddam-Killingworth High School in June and will attend the Simmons School of Nursing in Massachusetts this fall.




EAST HADDAM CONCERT EXPRESS

Hello Neighbors! During the Music on the River concert series we will be running nightly train rides from Eagle Landing State Park that will take you Southbound to Deep River Station, on a round trip sightseeing tour of the beautiful landscape that the Connecticut River Valley has to offer.

The train will be departing at 6:30 PM and will return to Eagle Landing by 7:00 PM. You'll be back in time for the tail end of the concert or to grab a bite from one of the many great local eateries such as the Blue Oar or Gelston House! Tickets are \$5 per person and are first come first served at Eagle Landing, while supplies last.

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