

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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June 18, 2020

For breaking news go to HK-Now.com every day

Free weekly



Higgies to open June 29

By Kathy Brown

On June 9, Higgies' Facebook page announced, "After 3 LONG years, the MUCH anticipated RE-OPENING of a Connecticut staple has FINALLY come!! We're excited to get Higgies up and running again and we hope you're just as thrilled as we are!! We're aiming for a tentative opening date of Monday, June 29th so spread the word, come hungry and bring your family and friends!!"

Since it was shared 188 times on Facebook, it sounds like people are definitely excited to have Higgies back open. Higgies, which is located at 236 Saybrook Road, Higganum, has been a food/ice cream stand since the 1940's. Higgie's was opened around 1947 by the Smigel brothers, according to Elizabeth Malloy, Executive Director of the Haddam Historical Society. "The eatery catered to travelers along Route 9 (Saybrook Road) which was the main road between Hartford and the shoreline. Higganum resident, Dan Clifford remembers summer traffic backed up from the YMCA light in Middletown all the way to Higganum," she explained. "The Clifford family operated Higgies in the late 1950s through the 1960s. In the



Photos by Kathy Brown.

summer they served hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries, milk shakes (with real ice cream), Undina soda, and ice cream. They were known for their secret BBQ sauce. The restaurant has passed through several owners since then including local resident, Bill Distefano, who operated it in the late 1980s and early 1990s."

Rebecca Rossitto, who is from Portland, and her husband Michael Otlowski, who is from Middletown, are "concessionaires" in the carnival business. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, many events in their industry were canceled

for this year, so they needed to make alternate plans. They started looking for a location in Middlesex County to set up one of their concession stands. They weren't having much luck, but were reminded that Higgies were closed and had a great location.

They called the town, and got in touch with Dan Still, the current owner. "We talked for a few minutes about the possibility of us setting up our stand in his parking lot," said Rebecca, "and he had the AMAZING idea of us re-opening the building instead."

Continued on page H3

HKHS announces 2020 Top Ten Students

By Editorial Staff

During the livestream of the Board of Education meeting on June 9, at 5:30 p.m., Chairman Suzanne Stack began the program, then quickly passed it over to Superintendent Holly Hageman.

Holly introduced each student, and had them speak up so that the "camera" would focus on them, and at the end of the description of each student, she invited the student to speak. Students thanked teachers, guidance counselors, family, and community, and they all congratulated the other students being recognized.

Below are the descriptions of the Top Ten students of 2020:

Arjun Badami, son of Vivek Badami and Vish-nupriya Santhanam of Higganum, is ranked first in the Class of 2020. Arjun is the consummate student and member of the Haddam Killingworth High School Community. Although Arjun is most interested in the humanities, he has taken many of our most challenging classes in all subject areas, including nine Advanced Placement and University of Connecticut Early College Experience courses. Arjun never gives less than his best as a student, and the same is true in other areas of his life. He's a valued member of our Select Choir and our Drama Club, President of the Current Events Club, Captain of the High School Bowl team, and member of National Honor Society, Student Council, French Honor Society, and the Literary Magazine Club. Arjun is also an HK Ambassador, giving tours and representing our school at dozens of events over the past three years. In addition, Arjun was selected as Haddam Killingworth High School's Hugh O'Brien Youth Leader-



Photos by John Steady Photography.

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Congratulations to Our 2020 HK High School and HK Middle School Graduates



**Congratulations
Samantha!**
Can't wait to see you
shine at HKHS!
Love, Mom, Dad and
Nick

**Congratulations
Samantha, you are
limitless and we are
so proud of you!**
Dad, Mom, Seanna,
Simba, Sweets & Skye



**Katie Crandall,
We are proud
of everything
you accomplished
(#10).**
Congratulations!
Love Dad, Mom and
Kyle

**Victoria Rose,
Congratulations!**
We love you and
wish you continued
success in High
School, Papa and
Grandma.



**Congratulations,
Dylan!**
We are so proud of
your hard work and
accomplishments. We
wish you the best at
HKHS!
Love, Mom and Dad

**Congratulations
Owen and Luke!**
We wish you every
success at HKHS!
Love, Mom and Dad



**Congratulations
Alex and Brigitte!**
Good luck in
High School.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE H1

Top ten students

Continued from page H1

ship Conference representative and he has been an active participant in that organization for the past two years. Outside of that he has done within our school, Arjun also interned for a local State Representative, taking on multiple projects including serving as Coordinator for a Young Earner Prosperity round-table. He has also volunteered as a Camp Counselor-in-Training as well as at various other organizations. This past summer, Arjun found time to take a class on International Politics at Wesleyan University. Arjun will attend Georgetown University in the Fall, where he will study Government.

Zachary "Zach" Houlton, son of Tim and Sabrina Houlton of Higganum, is ranked second in the class of 2020. He achieved this while taking all of his courses at the highest level, including fourteen college-level courses. An incredibly well-rounded person, Zach also excels in several areas outside of the classroom. Zach competes in swimming year round and holds the HKHS record for both the 200 and 500-yard freestyle, as well as the 400-yard Freestyle Relay. Zach was an All-State swimmer for the 200 and 500-yard events for three straight years, and was well on his way to being named an



All-American athlete before the season was derailed by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Zach has been involved in other aspects of swimming, such as lifeguarding and coaching a Masters' Swim Program. In addition, Zach is a very gifted musician who has been named All-State for chorus and volunteers his piano playing skills for several events throughout the community and even wrote an album. Zach has a passion for helping others and spends much of his little free time volunteering, including at a swim program for children with special needs. Zach will attend Williams College this fall where he intends on exploring both his love of Music and Mathematics, where he will also be competing for Williams swim team.

Elijah "Eli" Houlton,

son of Tim and Sabrina Houlton of Higganum, is ranked third in the Class of 2020. This accomplishment came with Eli taking all of his courses at the most difficult level and handling the workload with extraordinary poise. Eli also developed a love for language while at HKHS achieving both the Seal of Bi-Literacy in Spanish and Summa Cum Laude recognition on the National Latin Exam. Like his brother, Eli is an avid swimmer claiming several school records and All-State accolades over his HKHS swimming career. When not engaged in studies or swim, including lifeguarding and teaching swim lessons, you will find Eli participating in one of the many other organizations that he is involved with which include being a Class Officer, Math League member, and a member of both the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Eli also somehow finds time to explore his love of music through playing the flute in HKHS Jazz Band and also volunteers his time playing in the "pit" for school musicals. Eli will be attending Tufts University this fall and will also be competing on their swim team.




Michael "Mike" O'Toole,

son of David and Michele O'Toole of Killingworth, is ranked fourth in the Class of 2020. Throughout his time at Haddam-Killingworth High School, Mike has proven to be a remarkable student and athlete. Over the years, he has enrolled in primarily honors and advanced-level courses. Last year as a junior, Mike was recognized with the George Washington Book Award and earned the title of Shoreline Scholar Athlete. Mike is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Spanish Honor Society. He is a member of the HKHS Hockey team as well as the Baseball team and has been a part of both programs since his freshman year. Mike was recognized as First Team All-State and Second Team All-Conference as a defenseman on the HKHS Hockey team. He plays First Base for our Baseball team and was a varsity Co-Captain as a junior and would have maintained




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

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Smiles FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Congratulations Class of 2020



We are proud of you all!



Plans for 2020 HKHS senior activities, events

By Donna Hayward, HKHS Principal

The last few weeks have included a whirlwind of emotion as Governor Lamont declared that schools would not reopen for the end of year. While many of us anticipated that this might happen, it did not lessen the impact of learning that it is a certainty.

As you would expect, the HKHS family has been working hard behind the scenes not only to continue the distance learning initiative which is new for all of us, but also to plan for our seniors in the event that we could not come back together for June 15th. These are not decisions we want to rush, as they are too important to rush. Rather, we are taking a careful and thoughtful approach and including seniors and a wide representation of faculty and staff in our planning. As parents and educators, we share in the seniors' disappointment and grief over the loss of these last few weeks together. I know families are sad, frustrated, and unsure of how to move forward; we are all, essentially, trying to "stick the landing" in a new dance we've never practiced. It is important that we are patient with each other and come together as a community to support our seniors. We all love them and care deeply about the rites of passage that bring closure to this chapter.

While we are still very much in the planning stage, I would like to update you on where we are in the process regarding senior celebrations. We are

planning for the following:

Mid-August Commencement: We are tentatively scheduling our graduation ceremony for a mid-August date. (We will release the date as soon as it is officially approved.) We know how important a traditional ceremony is to our senior families and are in communication with seniors about their specific priorities and wishes. While this event is subject to the State of CT social distancing guidelines at that time, our intention is to host either a traditional graduation ceremony or some variation on the traditional ceremony to the extent the State allows. If we are unable to hold a graduation ceremony in August, we will hold a virtual graduation ceremony instead. Please note that this would be our last resort, but it would be important to give our seniors some sense of closure before they all move on to their next endeavors.

Senior Prom: We have scheduled a NEW date for senior prom in August at St. Clement's Castle. We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to preserve this important event for our students. If we are unable to host the event at that time, due to social distancing or other restrictions, the money for prom will be refunded to the students/parents who have paid class dues.

Scholarship Night: We will be featuring our senior

scholarship winners through a recorded video production which will be aired on HKTU and posted on our website for seniors and families to enjoy at their leisure. Award presentations will be made by community groups, individual benefactors, and school administration and include the senior photo of each award recipient. This presentation will also include celebration of the top 10 students from the Class of 2020.

Project Graduation: Our Project Graduation committee is working to host a celebration for students the night of graduation. We are so grateful for this wonderful group who are working tirelessly in this entirely unfamiliar landscape to provide a safe party for our graduates. More information to follow.

HKHS has purchased personalized lawn signs for each graduating senior that will be incorporated into our June 15th celebration. They will then be gifted to the seniors and their families by the school. These are not the same as the Project Graduation lawn signs which are sold each year as a fundraiser. We encourage you to still purchase the Project Graduation signs, as they are very different from the school signs and create a unified celebratory display throughout our community.

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. Let us count our blessings and get through this together.

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Higgies to reopen on June 29

Continued from page H1

They have come up with a tentative menu: hand-pressed burgers, foot-long Hummel hot dogs, clam strips and whole belly clam baskets, hot and cold lobster rolls, fries, onions rings, fish and chips, and Philly cheese steak sandwiches. YUM! They'll also be serving soft serve ice cream, as well as Giffords hard ice cream. And with those, sundaes, floats, malts, shakes, and ice cream sodas. And that's not all. How does a funnel cake sundae sound with ice cream, hot fudge, whipped cream and a cherry?

The plan is to be open through October. Business hours will be Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

They are currently looking for staff. If you're interested in a job, contact Rebecca at 860-716-9250 or Michael at 860-575-7264, or email them at prime.concessions@yahoo.com.

They are in the process of creating a plan with the health department, as well as local and state officials to follow all the regulations for the pandemic. They would like to make the ordering and pick up process as easy as possible for patrons.

"My husband, Michael, and I are really excited about opening Higgies back up," said Rebecca. "We've been looking for a location like this for a really long time but never really took it seriously because of our other profession in the carnival business. The opportunity to open something that is held so dear to everyone in the surrounding towns is coming at

the perfect time for us and we can't wait for you all to enjoy Higgies once again. We are most looking forward to meeting the families and regulars who

frequented this special place in years prior and we can't wait to hear stories about previous experiences customers have had over the years."

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Seeing Red-

We are getting to that time of year when the red eyes are out! When associated with sneezing or discharges, it usually something that is a momentary attack of allergies or a dip in the not fully chlorinated swimming pool, a quick trip to the doctor is in order. But, because this symptom can be severe it takes a doctor to make that differential diagnosis. Many of the most serious occurrences of red eye do not have a discharge, and typically the presence of a discharge is more an indication of conjunctivitis, which is not life threatening.

Some serious Red Eye Conditions-

- 1) **Corneal Ulcers-** most commonly occurs in patients who sleep overnight with their contact lenses, but not necessarily. Patients present with blurred vision, pain, and sensitivity to light.
- 2) **Herpetic Eye-** This occurs mainly in patients with a history of cold sores, lid vesicles, or in patients on immunosuppressant therapy. The doctor will inquire as to presence of symptoms prior to red eye forming, such as pain, numbness or tingling of the eye.
- 3) **Acute Angle Closure-** This is a very severe condition that results in very high intra-ocular pressure, which has potential to threaten vision. You might notice that eye feels hard when pressing against it with lid closed.

So by now, you should have made the mental note. If you get red eye- good opportunity to see the doctor, but remember the symptoms.

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Saturday	8:30 AM-4:00 PM	Fax: 860-345-3611
Sunday	9:00 AM-3:00 PM	Web: www.nutmegpharmacy.com

Call us — we are here for you

By Laurie Ruderfer, Executive Director, HKYFS

Youth and Family Services of Haddam Killingworth (HKYFS) staff want to send out a reminder that we are here for all HK residents, for families, large, small or in between, those with children, those without and those living alone. For those of you who know us, we want to remind you of what we do. And for those who do not, we want you to know that:

We are always available to talk, provide guidance, or offer counseling for matters large and small

We will work with you to obtain or become familiar with community resources and assist in making those connections and referrals

We can provide limited financial assistance to help any individual or family in order to meet their basic needs

We work in partnership with the local Resident State Troopers to address concerns regarding families in crisis and with RSD17 schools on a variety of programs

Because of the COVID-19 virus our office is currently closed but someone is in the office each day to answer the phone and each of us are working remotely, every day from nine to five. You can call the office (860.345.7498) and someone will either answer or respond to your call within 24-hours. You can also

email us at Office@hkyfs.org to connect during this time and after hours, too. Call if:

You need someone to listen, talk to or help—Katy Kennedy, Clinical Director: 860-333-5420

Have questions about programs or want info—Laura Shipman, Office Manager: 860.494.2762

You need assistance with resources—Laurie Ruderfer, Executive Director: 203.653.8884

Just as you are, we too are working to adjust to a new way of working and of life. We have reluctantly had to cancel our spring events: Pizza Delivery Night in partnership with Da Vinci Pizza, April Drug-Take-Back program with the Resident State Troopers, Family Olympics scheduled at Parmalee Farm in May, and our youths' participation in a regional youth leadership event scheduled for July. So, we looked for a silver lining and found one. We reached out to several of our grant funders to ask about redirecting some grant dollars to support HK families and organizations supporting families. And just this past Monday we got good news so will be reaching out to partner with both!

At the same time, we are working to develop groups for community members to help connect us to one another and share experiences of life during this time in 2020. So far, based on what you have told us plans include:

Support for single parent families

A group for teens and a group for parents to discuss college anxieties

Questions and answers on school readiness for rising Kindergarteners

Uncertain Times: living with worry and stress

Wellness activities and education for parents of young children

Virtual trivia and other fun games, connections, and distractions

All groups will be free and open to the public with appropriate materials and resources if needed provided at no cost. But for right now we want to know what you want or need during this time. Follow us on Facebook for ideas, suggestions, resources and daily words of inspiration and encouragement. Leave a message. Like a post. We are currently revamping the HKYFS website (www.hkyfs.org) to provide up-to-date announcements on new programs, resources, and ideas for families and individuals to connect and stay connected during challenging times. HKYFS is your youth service bureau. Reach out. Get to know us. Help guide our work during this time. Our virtual door is always open and we are always home and you will always be welcome.

HKYFS offers activity bags for pre-k children in HK communities

By Editorial Staff

Karen Pasiuk, Early Childhood Coordinator, at Haddam Killingworth Youth & Family Services was approached by Jessica Guelke, from the Red Barn, who shared an idea for supporting families and their children who are at home due to school closures. Jessica shared that Clinton Early Childhood Council was providing goodie bags for pre-K children in their community, and she wanted to know if the Haddam Killingworth community would like the same opportunity. Karen, and Laurie Ruderfer, the Executive Director of HKYFS thought it was a great idea.

HKYFS will create activity bags "filled with open-ended, fun and easy activities for pre-K children and their families to do over the summer," explained

Karen. "The bags will include such things as recipes to make your own playdough and bubbles, calendars of summer fun ideas, a math activity calendar with a deck of cards for included games, craft projects with materials, books, and more."

To reserve your bag, call HKYFS at 860-345-7498. When your bag is ready for pick up, you will be contacted. Bags will then be placed in a bin outside HKYFS's front door at a time and date that is convenient for you. HKYFS is located at 91 Little City Road (the white house in front of Haddam Killingworth High School.

"We are super excited to be able to provide these bags to area families and their young children," said Karen.

EDUCATION

HKHS Spring 2020 Virtual Art Show released

By Donna Hayward, HKHS Principal

As many of you have enjoyed in past years, each year HKHS hosts our Spring Art Show at a nearby gallery. It is a wonderful event, featuring the beautiful work of our student artists. While we miss the gallery visit this year, we certainly aren't lacking in student talent!

Please enjoy the virtual art show. Click on the first slide and use your keyboard arrows to advance to the next slide.

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May report

By Jessica Condil, Director, Senior & Social Services

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

A special monetary donation has been made in honor of Pat Zeidler and her retirement to the Haddam Emergency Food Banks. Congratulations Pat and thank you for all you have done over the years to support Haddam Emergency Food & Fuel Bank. Your generosity has been a blessing to our community!

Senior & Social Services:

The following programs have serviced the community:

Haddam Emergency Food Bank has serviced a total of 53 Adults & 19 Children, in addition to food, Haddam Emergency Food Banks has serviced 9 families with gifts cards to local restaurants and grocery stores in town. With a total of 81 receiving help from Haddam Emergency Food Bank.

Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank has serviced a total of 2 families- for 1 electric assistance & 1 oil Assistance.

Haddam Senior & Social Services has serviced 2 individuals with paperwork assistance.

Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank has serviced 3 families with clothing.

Haddam Social Services has done 0 wellness checks

for May of 2020.

Senior Van:

The Senior Van has serviced a total of 13 medical appointments for the month of May 2020.

Haddam Senior Center:

As of 3/16/2020 all CRT meals have been a grab and go or frozen meal due to COVID-19. Meals are distributed on Mondays for the week and are available for pick up Mondays at noon.

The Haddam Senior Center has distributed 298 CRT meals for the month of May 2020.

COVID-19 NEWS

Eversource provides virtual energy efficiency pre-assessments

By Tricia Modifica & Mitch Gross, Eversource

In an effort to help residential customers and small business owners reduce their energy costs during this difficult time, Eversource has modified its popular Home Energy Solutions energy assessments and is now offering no-cost virtual pre-assessments. While all in-home visits are suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, customers can connect with an Eversource-authorized technician remotely – by phone or video service – and will receive the same expertise, personal care and energy-saving products and incentives as an in-home visit.

“One of the highlights we’re offering customers is that we will pay 100% of the cost of some common energy-saving measures, which will help customers save money during these financially difficult times,” said Eversource Energy Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Penni Conner. “Business and residential customers who participate in the virtual pre-assessment will

also receive a custom report outlining energy-saving recommendations. This virtual service allows us to continue to serve them and provide them with ways to save.”

The virtual pre-assessment helps identify simple recommendations for customers to start saving money and energy right away. Following the virtual pre-assessment, customers will receive energy-saving products recommended by their technician at no cost, such as LED light bulbs and advanced power strips that the customer can install themselves. Once restrictions are lifted, a technician will visit the customer’s home or business to provide additional energy saving recommendations and services.

Customers may also qualify for generous incentives, including:

- A no cost visit to complete air sealing and safety tests once in-home services resume

- Up to 100% off the cost of many energy-saving measures, including insulation for residential customers

- Low- or no-interest financing opportunities

Eversource customers interested in scheduling one for their home or small business can call 1-877-WISE-USE. (1-877-947-3873).

COMMUNITY

Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation announces 2020 scholarship recipients

By Christiana Field, Vice President, NBFMF

This year, the Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation, Inc. is excited to recognize four outstanding \$1000 scholarship recipients who have demonstrated kind hearts and exceptional character in many areas of their lives. Throughout their time as students at HK, they have shown our community that they are strong, resilient and up for any challenge thrown their way. We’re confident that they will carry these qualities with

them as they begin their college careers in STEM and mental health fields. While many things may be uncertain at this time, we know that their futures are bright. Congratulations Crystal Lentz, James Clemente, Michael O’Toole and Zach Hines and best wishes for your next adventure!

The mission of our Foundation is to prevent suicide through public awareness and education, to reduce the stigma of mental illness, and to provide hope and support.

MINI CALENDAR

Upcoming Spotlight Community Events

Saturday, June 20

2020 Stuff-A-Cruiser Food Drive/ non-Perishable Food Items, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Collection locations: CSP Troop F (Westbrook); Westbrook Town green; Essex Town hall; Middlefield Resident Troopers office; Durham Resident Troopers office; Old Lyme Big Y; Deep

River Adams Market; Higganum Market (Higganum Center); United Church of Chester

HK Peaceful, Sit-In Style Protest, 1:00 p.m.

Higganum Town Green/Haddam Elementary School; more info can be found at the HK Peaceful Protest Facebook page



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Living Wills Versus Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders

A Living Will is a document intended to convey a patient’s preferences regarding end-of-life healthcare decisions when the patient cannot express them personally to a healthcare provider. A Living Will, often in conjunction with an appointment of Health Care Representative taking effect upon the patient’s incapacity, directs healthcare providers about the types of medical care the patient wishes to have provided or to forgo at the end of life, consistent with the patient’s values and autonomy.

A do-not-resuscitate (DNR) order is an order issued by an authorized medical practitioner that directs clinicians not to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest. A DNR order, by itself, may not address the withdrawal/withholding of any medical care other than resuscitation.

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed that healthcare providers, as well as patients and families, may not understand the differences between Living Wills and DNR orders. Misinterpretation of Living Wills and DNR orders may inadvertently result in the provision of unwanted care or the withdrawal or withholding of otherwise appropriate interventions. Accurate interpretation and implementation of these documents, in addition to effective planning and communication, are essential to ensure that a patient’s end-of-life preferences for medical care are honored.

A patient’s choice in selecting a Health Care Representative (usually a close family member) is also very important. In addition to being familiar with the patient’s health care preferences, the Representative needs to be able to process often complex medical information in stressful situations, and help build consensus within the family regarding medical treatment.

For more information, contact Attorney D. Jeanne Messick at the law firm of Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, PC.

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Golf fundraiser canceled; library now offers curbside service

By Genie Dethloff, Publicity, Killingworth Library

Golf Tournament update:

It is with much regret that the Killingworth Library must cancel their largest fundraiser of the year, The John P. Hine, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament, that was scheduled for August 17th, 2020 due to COVID-19. We hope to see you all at the Clinton Country Club in August 2021! Donations are always welcome to help us cover our costs as we continue to provide invaluable services to our community. We are so grateful for all the support we get from the community.

Curbside Service:

We are excited to announce that Killingworth Library is offering “no contact” curbside service to Killingworth residents: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 12 noon – 6 p.m.; Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. – 1 pm. At the present time only items that belong to Killingworth Library can be checked out; inter-library loan is currently not available. Items can be returned via our book drop. Returned items will be quarantined for 4 days before being checked in. Fines will not be charged to accounts while we are

providing curbside service. Check killingworthlibrary.org for details on the curbside pickup restrictions and process, or call 860 663-2000. If you are homebound due to health or mobility issues (not related to COVID-19), call us and we will arrange for a volunteer to deliver the items to you. For those who depend on the library for computer use, the library has a small number of Chromebooks on loan which may be reserved for checkout. We have not yet determined when the building will reopen but rest assured that we look forward to serving you curbside – we have missed our patrons! Wishing you all good health.

HEALTH / WELL BEING

Does your child stutter?

By Patty Reed, Stuttering Foundation

Parents eagerly anticipate the moment when their child first begins to talk. But for some parents, it is a time of anxiety because their child struggles to get words out. As many as five percent of preschool children nationwide have repetitions and prolongations of sounds severe enough to be of concern to their parents.

The DVD in English and Spanish, *Stuttering and Your Child: Help for Parents*, helps parents detect stuttering and take action toward helping their child and is available at most public libraries. Some libraries have an older video format.

Produced by the 73 year-old nonprofit Stuttering Foundation, the film describes what kinds of stuttering young children may exhibit, how parents can help at home, and the role of a speech pathologist in evaluating and treating children who stutter.

“Stuttering typically begins between the ages of two and five,” says Barry Guitar, Ph.D., professor and chair of Communication Sciences at the University of Vermont in Burlington. “It may begin gradually or

suddenly, and many of these children outgrow their disfluencies naturally. However, if a child continues to stutter for several months, or appears to be frustrated by it, parents should seek assistance.”

Guitar appears in the DVD with other nationally recognized experts in stuttering: Peter Ramig, Ph.D., of the University of Colorado at Boulder, Diane Hill, M.A., of Northwestern University, Patricia Zebrowski, Ph.D., of the University of Iowa, and Kristin Chmela, M.A., also of Northwestern University.

These experts address common concerns that parents have about their child, such as how to help the child at home and whether to seek the advice of a speech pathologist. Strategies parents can use to help reduce stuttering are given throughout the DVD and include reducing the number of questions they ask the child, focusing on taking turns during conversations, and making time to read or talk with the child in a relaxed manner.

“Parents are relieved to discover that they are not alone and that other parents share their concerns,” says speech pathologist Kristin Chmela. “Stuttering remains a mystery to most people,” notes Jane Fraser,

president of the Stuttering Foundation. “Watching a young child struggle to speak can be devastating. This DVD is designed to reassure parents and families that many preschoolers stutter, that they can be helped, and how parents can play a vital role in this process.”

7 Tips for talking with your child:

- Speak with your child in an unhurried way, pausing frequently.
- Reduce the number of questions you ask your child.
- Use your facial expressions and other body language to convey to your child that you are listening to the content of her message and not to how she’s talking.
- Set aside a few minutes at a regular time each day when you can give your undivided attention to your child.
- Help all members of the family learn to take turns talking and listening.
- Observe the way you interact with your child.
- Above all, convey that you accept your child as he is.

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Are drive-in theaters making a comeback?

By Philip R. Devlin

A chemical company executive named Richard Holingshead opened the first-ever drive-in theater in America 87 years ago this year in Camden, NJ, during the Great Depression. Within 10 years, hundreds of drive-ins opened across the country, particularly after the most vexing problem — that of an adequate sound system — was solved by RCA in 1941. RCA had the brilliant idea of setting up individual speakers mounted on posts to provide adequate and timely sound for each car. As long as patrons remembered to unhook the speaker from their car before driving off, there were few problems and drive-ins flourished.

The new form of entertainment, however, was not without other problems. Religious groups complained that drive-ins were immoral because the privacy of being in a locked car or van in the dark provided ample opportunity for sexual encounters; thus, drive-ins came to be known as “passion pits.” Another issue centered around the underage drinking of liquor, as it was easy to conceal alcoholic beverages in the trunks of vehicles. It was also possible for people — especially teenagers — to smuggle in their friends in the trunk!

Weather was another problem, particularly in Connecticut and other New England states where evening thunderstorms often arose. Daylight-saving time was also an issue, as movies sometimes couldn't begin until 9:30 at the peak of summer. Despite these drawbacks, drive-in theaters experienced explosive growth during the postwar period.

To lure patrons to the theaters before dark, theater managers introduced a number of gimmicks such as playgrounds for kids and live music concerts before the show. The largest drive-in theater in Connecticut, the Meadows Drive-In in Hartford, for example, actually had motorized rides for kids in their playground. The Meadows



claimed to be the largest drive-in in the world! The facility, opened in 1955, covered 32 acres, could hold over 2,500 cars and had 6 concession stands. The space is now known as the Comcast Theater (formerly the Meadows Music Theater) and claims to be the country's largest open-air music venue with a capacity of over 30,000 people. The Meadows Drive-In was also the first outdoor theater to show professional boxing matches live. It closed in 1975.

Not far from the Meadows was the Hartford Drive-In on the Berlin Turnpike and the East Windsor Drive-In on Route 5. The East Hartford Drive-In was also located on Route 5. Southington and Middletown also had long-lasting drive-in theaters. In fact Southington is one of the 3 drive-ins left in Connecticut. The Southington theater re-opened in 2010 with help from the town. It is located at 935 Waterbury-Meriden Road in the Plantsville section of town.

Another survivor is the Mansfield Drive-In, located in Mansfield, CT at the intersection of Routes 31 and 32. The Mansfield theater doubles as a giant flea market on weekend days, a strategy that has helped it and other drive-ins to survive. The largest current drive-in in the world, the Fort Lauderdale

Swap Shop, also doubles as the single-largest outdoor flea market in the world.

The third Connecticut drive-in still operating is located in Barkhamsted and is called the Pleasant Valley Drive-In. Pleasant Valley has been in the news lately, as a movie industry technological changeover to a digital projector system has endangered its existence. Beginning in 2014, the movie industry will no longer make movies available in a 35 mm film format. The problem is the

cost of the new projection system, estimated by some reports to be in the \$80,000 range—a steep price for a seasonal mom-and-pop business. Incidentally, the old speaker-on-a-pole system at Pleasant Valley has been replaced with the more technologically savvy FM radio speaker. Simply tune your car radio to 87.9 FM and listen to the show.

In 1965, drive-ins accounted for over 25% of the movie screens in the United States. Now they constitute just over 1%. A number of factors over the years have conspired to put the drive-in theater business into decline. Among the most significant factors is the price of real estate. Often, strategically located drive-ins became more valuable as real estate for other purposes. The Hartford Drive-

In on the Berlin Turnpike, for example, is a great location for the condominiums that now are located there.

Advances in home entertainment options for movies such as the VCR and DVD plus huge projection screen TVs have also contributed to the demise of the drive-in; nevertheless, there are many people alive today with happy memories of attending many a drive-in movie during their teenage years in the 1950s and 1960s.

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Send all requests, content and comments to: editors@HaddamNews.org

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OBITUARY

Amanda June Lisitano

Amanda June Lisitano, 41, of Higganum, Conn., passed away unexpectedly at home on Sunday, June 7. A beloved mother, sister, fiancée, daughter, and friend, Amanda's life was taken too soon.

Amanda was born on June 30, 1978 to Marsha Brielmann and Joseph Lisitano Jr. Amanda went on to obtain her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Early Childhood Education. She was a dedicated preschool teacher first at Haddam Cooperative Nursery School and presently at Environmental Sciences Magnet School in Hartford. She was also an active member of Haddam Junior



Women's Club, enjoyed camping, the beach, and most importantly, spending time with her entire family.

Above all, Amanda's top priority was always motherhood. Amanda made sure her son and daughters had every opportunity and will be remembered by her three children for their nightly bedtime snuggles. Amanda has courageously battled stage four colon cancer since 2014. Her strength and determination will be remembered by everyone who

knew her. Amanda was predeceased by her father, Joseph Lisitano, Jr. She is survived by her children, Kaden, Camryn, and Brylee, her fiancé, Jason Rode, her mother and step-father Marsha and Glenn Bri-

elmann of Haddam, sisters, Marci Marciniac (Rob) of Haddam, Shanna Lisitano (Sean) of Higganum, Elizabeth Kormos (Dan) of Moodus, and Alexandra Stackhouse (Dakota) of Middlebury. She also leaves behind many nephews and nieces.

A memorial service in celebration of Amanda's life will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 31 Main Street, East Haddam, Conn., on her 42nd birthday, June 30th, at 1:00 p.m. Visit www.ststeves.org for more details.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the education fund for her three children at Liberty Bank. Please direct any donations to "Kaden, Camryn & Brylee Listano-Rode Fund" in person at any Liberty Bank location or by mail to Liberty Bank, 116 Bridge Street, Haddam, CT 06438.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

TO THE EDITOR

Return Bob Siegrist to Hartford

To the Editor:

This November 3rd we have an opportunity to elect an individual who has represented us with distinction, has worked incredibly hard on our behalf in the General Assembly and never missed a vote.

Former State Representative Bob Siegrist has always fought for us in Haddam and the entire 36th House District – advocating for issues that matter to us – local control, our environment, and keeping our small town identity.

Bob was critical in securing funding for water infrastructure improvements for the Tylerville section of Haddam ensuring safe, clean water for residents. He was also recognized for his role in securing upgrades to the 911 Valley Shore Emergency Communication System.

Bob is certainly one who sees the public trust as a great one and considers it an honor to serve in office.

Please join me in supporting a gentleman who will put people before politics – let's return Bob Siegrist to Hartford on November 3rd as our State Representative. Sincerely,

Matt Pytlik
Haddam Neck

In support of Christine Palm

To the Editor:

In State Representative Christine Palm, we in the 36th Assembly District have a strong leader active in our best interests. We are represented by someone who is consistently caring in thought, word, and deed.

In a recent Op-Ed (Seven Ways We Can Come Out of the Coronavirus Crisis Stronger, Hartford Courant, April 15, 2020), Representative Palm indicated that the Covid-19 pandemic has illuminated the inequities of access and quality of healthcare. She also alerted us to the needs of essential workers who have given so much and who need our support.

Ms. Palm recommended how public policy can serve us collectively in this current public health crisis. Representative Palm truly listens to the needs of her constituents and builds effective legislative networks to achieve solutions.

Her contribution to passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act is another example of her advocacy for constituents and her leadership.

As a Family Physician, I appreciate her enduring commitment to healthcare issues and her efforts to secure a more equitable healthcare system for all.

Sincerely,

Kate Wessling, M.D.
Higganum



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Top ten students

Continued from page H2

this position as a senior. Mike took the opportunity to be a member of One Big Circle, a group in which students with and without disabilities socialize and exercise together this year and has volunteered with his church youth group and worked at a local market during his time in high school. Mike plans to attend The Ohio State University in the Fall of 2020. He intends to study Mechanical Engineering with an automotive focus.

Schuyler Dragoo, daughter of Roy and Eliza Dragoo of Haddam, is ranked fifth in the Class of 2020. Schuyler is an extremely driven student and an active leader within the Haddam Killingworth community. Schuyler has worked to challenge herself throughout high school, taking many

Advanced Placement courses along with University of Connecticut Early College Experience classes. Schuyler has a true passion for music. Schuyler has played the violin for 13 years and is a member of the Connecticut Youth Symphony and other ensembles. She also volunteers for a local orchestra, a chamber music program, and shares her talents by playing at retirement homes and a nearby library. She has been involved with the HK Select Choir since Sophomore year and participated in the New England Music Festival and Shoreline Music Festival during her high school music career. Not only is Schuyler a gifted musician, she's involved in numerous co-curricular activities including; Spanish Honor Society, Current Events Club, Human Relations Club, Principal Hayward's A team, Math League, HK Ambassadors, and International Culture Club. She's also a Class Officer. Schuyler has adapted core goals thanks to her participation in the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership seminar (HOBY), that she still lives by such as being involved in activities that make her happy and trying to make a positive impact on her community as well as the people around her. Schuyler will be attending University of Chicago this upcoming Fall and majoring in Global Studies.

Lauren Miller, daughter of Raymond Miller and Ivy Alexander of Killingworth, is ranked sixth in the Class of 2020. Lauren is an amazing student, athlete, and person who will be greatly missed at HKHS. Academically, Lauren has taken all of her courses at the highest levels where she truly found a passion for everything STEM-related. Lauren also played both volleyball and tennis while at HKHS and was elected to captain both teams during her senior year! Lauren is a true leader who was President of the School Council, Vice President of the Spanish Honors Society, and an active member of National Honors Society and the Principal's A-Team. Lauren has also served as one of the Student Representatives to the Board of Education, providing the Board with updates on student activities for the past two years. Along with her commitments to HKHS which keep



her busy, Lauren has also been very active in our community and has completed over 200 hours of community service through a multitude of local organizations, including the HKYFS group Ignite. Lauren will be attending the University of Connecticut as a member of their honors program this fall where she plans on majoring in Health Sciences.

Fijare Plous, daughter of Scott Plous of Higganum and Allison Plous of Middletown, is ranked seventh in the Class of 2020. Throughout her time at Haddam-Killingworth High School, Fijare has flourished while taking a rigorous schedule. Over the years, she has enrolled in primarily honors and advanced level courses. During Fijare's junior year, she was recognized with the UConn Avery Point Coastal/Environmental Book Award. With the help of Ms. Adamczyk, Fijare founded the Tutoring Club, which allows our students to connect in peer-tutoring arrangements, and served as President of the club for the past year. She also started our school's Pill Bottle Drive, in which she collected empty pill containers to be cleaned and sent to areas of the world in need of medical supplies. Fijare is a member of the National Honor Society and was a member of the stage crew for "Bye Bye Birdie" last year. She has also been an HKHS Ambassador since junior year. Fijare was able to attend Semester at Sea spring semester of her sophomore year. This experience provided her the opportunity to circumnavigate the globe on a ship while completing her existing HKHS classes as well as earning col-



lege credit. Fijare has earned college credit through UMass Amherst's summer program as well. Fijare has spent time in the Genetics Labs at UMass and Wesleyan, studying everything from dog fur to common transgenes in vegetables. Fijare's future plans include attending Brandeis University in the fall. She will be pursuing a degree in Biology with a focus on genetics.

Olivia Herrmann, daughter of Michael and Laura Herrmann of Killingworth, is ranked eighth in the Class of 2020. While at Haddam-Killingworth High School, Olivia has continuously challenged herself with difficult classes including several Advanced and Honors-level classes.

Olivia's teachers frequently comment upon her work ethic and, just as importantly, her willingness to help others in the classroom. Olivia also received the honor of the Seal of Biliteracy and the 2019 Mount Holyoke College Book Award. When Olivia is not studying or at a club meeting you will most likely find her on an athletic field as she was a three-year member of the HKHS field hockey team and a four-year member of the HKHS lacrosse team where she was elected a Co-Captain by her teammates for her senior season. Olivia has also volunteered a multitude of hours doing community service for several different organizations including HK Girls Youth Lacrosse and Hartford Kids Holiday Shopping. Olivia will attend Clemson University in the Fall where she will study Nursing.



Continued on page H11

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LEGAL NOTICES

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF DECISION

Zoning Board of Appeals, Haddam, Connecticut meeting on May 28, 2020 acted upon the following items:

1. To allow a variance to Section 23.1 for Accessory Buildings, allowing a 12' by 24' one car, one story garage within 20' (40' required) of the front property line at 12 Arkay Drive, Higganum CT. Applicant: Steven Adduci.

Zoning Board of Appeals
Haddam, Connecticut

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Board of Appeals, Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing ONLINE VIA GOTOMEETING (see agenda at www.haddam.org) on June 25th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item (s):

- 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

Said application is online at www.haddam.org and on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Haddam CT

HADDAM LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the Town of Haddam. A Tax levy of 31.69 mils on the dollar was laid on the 2019 Grand List. The first installment will become due July 1, 2020. If payment is not received on or before August 3, 2020 they are subject to an interest rate .25% per month or any fraction of a month from the due date until September 30, 2020. After September 30, 2020 the interest rate will resume at the statutory 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month from the due date. A minimum interest charge of \$2.00 will apply to all delinquent taxes. Please visit our website Haddam.org or call for important details for safe payments. Payments will be received through the included return envelope at the Tax Office located in the Town Office Building located at 30 Field Park Drive Haddam, CT 06438. The Haddam Tax Office hours are: Monday and Wednesday 8:00AM to 2PM; Wednesday 8:30 -2PM; Thursday 8:30AM to 2PM; Friday 8:30AM to Noon. Senior hours are Monday and Wednesday 8AM - 10AM. Call 860-345-8531 X 207 with questions.

Kristin Battistoni C.C.M.C
Haddam Tax Collector

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

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CONTINUED FROM H10

Top ten students

Continued from page H10

Luke Lamontagne, son of Justin and Lisa Lamontagne of Higganum, is ranked ninth in the Class of 2020. While at Haddam Killingworth High School, Luke has shown to be an all-around gifted student with his true passion residing in STEM courses. Luke's teachers all comment on his diligence and also that he is one of the kindest young men to walk the halls of HKHS. Outside of the classroom, Luke is a valued part of our school community. He is a member of the National Honors Society, a four-year Class Officer, a member of the Principal's A-Team, and an HKHS School Ambassador leading tours and representing the school at several events since his Sophomore year. Luke also has a love for the sport of soccer and was a four-year member of the HKHS soccer team where his coach comments that his work ethic was unparalleled. This fall, Luke, will be attending Bryant University as a member of their honors program and will be studying Mathematics.



Kaitlin (Katie) Crandall, daughter of Christopher and Marci Crandall of Higganum, is ranked tenth in the Class of 2020. Katie is a student who has always gone the extra mile while keeping a positive attitude. She has taken numerous advanced and honors-level classes. Katie is involved with various activities through our school, including serving as Secretary of the National Honor Society, Manager of the Girls Lacrosse team, member of Spanish Honor Society, and sharing her love of cooking through volunteering with Kids' Kitchen. She is also an HK student ambassador, offering her time to give tours to incoming Freshman. Outside of school, Katie keeps busy babysitting and working at a local restaurant. Katie was the recipient of the 2019 Student Sage Recognition award for her academic excellence and community involvement. In addition, she has received The Seal of Biliteracy for her fluency in Spanish. This fall, Katie will attend Sacred Heart University and major in Psychology.



Parents and grandparents:

Congratulatory ads for HKMS and HKHS students (see Page 2) are available in the July 2 paper. Contact Ed for details at 860 345-2225 or e.munster@comcast.net.

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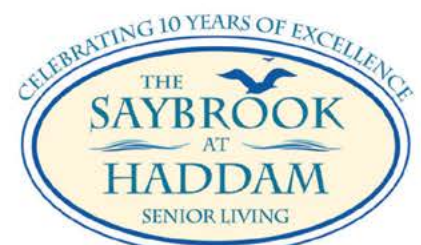
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- United Church of Chester

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