

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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July 22, 2021

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Free weekly

A New Chief in Town

By Michelle Ford, Probationary Member of the KVFC.

(July 15, 2021) — During the annual elections held on Monday, July 12, the members of the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company (KVFC) elected former Deputy Chief Donnie Venuti to the position of Fire Chief. Venuti, who ran unopposed for the position, replaces Richard Bauer who chose to step down as Fire Chief but will now serve as the Station 1 Assistant Chief. Venuti's previous role as Deputy Chief will now be filled by 39-year member Bill Shipman. Bauer, also a 39-year member of the KVFC, has served a total of 12 years as the KVFC Fire Chief. When passing the Chief's badge to Venuti on Monday night, Bauer said of the change, "I couldn't be prouder of how Donnie has grown personally and professionally over the last 15 years. He's a highly qualified and competent fire officer who will do a great job leading the KVFC. His commitment to the Company, particularly over the



New Chief Donnie Venuti (left) and outgoing Chief Dick Bauer (right)

HVFC Responds to Vehicle Fire on Route 9 South

By Olivia Drake, HVFC.

(July 11, 2021) Haddam Volunteer Fire Company and Chester Hose Company Inc. responded to a vehicle fire at 7 p.m. July 11 on Route 9 South between exits 7 and 8. All occupants safely exited the vehicle before it fully ignited. They were evaluated on scene by Haddam Volunteer Ambulance Service personnel, and all refused additional medical treatment.

Crews used a single line off Haddam's Engine 1-13 to extinguish the fire.

Firefighters closed both lanes of Route 9 while the fire was being extinguished. Traffic resumed on the right shoulder until the vehicle was towed. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Photos by Olivia Drake, HVFC.



Paul Shilling (left) and Dick and Donnie (right)

last three years as Deputy Chief, has positioned him well to not only be successful as our Fire Chief but to also provide a seamless transition for our members."

Chief Venuti, who is also a full-time firefighter and EMT in the Town of Guilford, joined the KVFC in 2006 and has held a number of roles in the Company, including Quartermaster, Training Officer, Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and served on a number of committees. Regarding his new role, Venuti said, "I am honored to follow in the footsteps of my mentor and best friend, Chief Bauer. Also, looking forward to leading and working with the officers and members of the KVFC. We will continue to carry on the mission of the KVFC and provide the Town with the best fire and EMS services possible."

Before stepping down, Chief Bauer presented the annual Chief's Award to member and Company Secretary Paul Schilling in recognition of his pride, dedication, and commitment to the

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HVFC Firefighters pass their CT Firefighter Practical Exams

By Olivia Drake, HVFC.

Congratulations to John Shettleworth, Dani Rodriguez, Chuck Kowal, and Adrienne Schultz on successfully passing the Connecticut Firefighter I practical and written exams!



HVFC Responds: To Tropical Storm Elsa's Damage

By Olivia Drake, HVFC.

(July 10, 2021) On July 8-9, Tropical Storm Elsa brought an abundance of rain and wind to Connecticut, which caused severe flooding and damage to areas in Haddam. During the two-day period, HVFC responded to 10 incidents including four downed trees, wires, and electrical pole fires; three fire or CO detector alarms; and one motor vehicle accident.

Pictured, at 12:30 p.m. on July 9, crews were dispatched to Meeting House Road for a downed trees and wires incident. Crews blocked the road to

ensure the public's safety until Eversource secured power in the lines.

Photos by Olivia Drake, HVFC.



Find a Fur Baby Layla Has Found a Home in Haddam!

Editorial Staff.

Each week, Haddam resident Judith Levin scours the local rescues and submits a dog who needs a home to be posted on our news website. Layla, who we posted in May on our news website, has found a home! Layla has been adopted by a Haddam couple. They went to look at Lady, but Layla stole their hearts instead. We love happy endings!

Photo by Lisa Holt.



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RSD #17 BOE Approves Construction of New Playground at KES

By Austin Mirmina.

The RSD 17 school board green-lighted the construction of a new playground at Killingworth Elementary School, voting on July 6, 2021 to allow the school's Playground Committee to donate \$75,000 to be used for installation and equipment.

"Congratulations to KES for a new playground," Chairperson Suzanne Sack said.

The installation, which is slated as a community build project, will need to be approved by the school board's attorney, Floyd Dugas, and the district's insurance company before it can begin. The playground committee has chosen to work with a company called UltiPlay.

John Mercier, who is the director of operations at RSD 17, said choosing to do a community build versus a professional installation would save about \$12,000-\$13,000. According to Mercier, a supervisor from UltiPlay would oversee the project, with community members spending around three-or-four days digging holes, installing pipes and tubes,

and putting together certain equipment like musical instruments.

Board members were thrown for a loop when Eileen Blewett said she and two other members of the Facilities sub-committee – Peter Sonski and Joanne Nesti – were unaware of the substantial savings when they recommended at a recent meeting that the playground be professionally installed. Nesti added that the sub-committee did not initially favor a community build for liability reasons, but both members later voted to go forth with construction contingent upon the necessary waivers and supervision.

KES Playground Committee member Christy Coppola said her team would still be willing to make the donation even if the board ruled out doing a community build. Coppola said the committee ultimately felt comfortable with a community build knowing there would a supervisor present.

"The \$13,000 [savings] is a lot of money," Coppola said. "If we're able to go forward with a community build, that would be amazing. And it would definitely

help us get more pieces back there for our students."

The board considered tabling the item for a future meeting, but doing so would have significantly delayed the playground's already unclear completion date. Sack eventually coaxed the rest of the members into accepting the donation based upon contingencies, saying the board would do whatever it needed to mitigate risk.

"I think the key question is how comfortable is the board with a community build and any implications associated with anybody who gets injured on the playground sometime down the line," Sack said.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cancel Culture is Alive and Well in Killingworth!

The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors of this newspaper. Received July 12, 2021.

To the Editor:

If you doubt the claim I just made, then try disagreeing with any of our political representatives yourself. My emails and snail-mails to them concerned my assertion that too many of the responses to Covid-19 have been contradictory, of questionable effectiveness, and very damaging to our country. I cited over 20 reasons why I thought so and here are just a few examples:

- 1) If we were supposed to avoid crowds, why was there a big push to congregate kids back on buses and in schools?
- 2) Why was carpooling considered

dangerous but having kids packed on school buses was not? (See Item #1)

3) According to newsweek.com (4-28-2020) Dr. Fauci was backing the Wuhan lab where Covid-19 was supposedly being studied with U.S. funding. So why are we still trusting this guy to be an "impartial" source of information now?

Here's a "Response Status Report" as of July 12, 2021:

Killingworth's First Selectwoman Cathy Iino, did respond once to disagree with me – but only once. State Senator Christine Cohen pushed my inquiry off onto one of her staff people but that's as far as it got and no statement from her was ever forthcoming.

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal sent me one form email letter which

addressed none of the points I raised. U.S Senator Chris Murphy, State Representative Christine Goupil, and Governor Ned Lamont have totally ignored me.

Now, one would think that they would at least show me where they think I am in error and "set me straight." That's called a dialogue and isn't that part of their jobs? You know what? I think that, except for Ms. Iino, these fine folks have found it much easier to cancel me!

Reckon I'll just have to return the favor when the next election rolls around!

Sincerely,

Edward Wood
Killingworth, CT

REAL ESTATE

Real Estate Transactions

According to the Hartford Courant (7/9/21):

Haddam:

3 Brookes Ct., DPB LLC to Blue Way Haddam 2 LLC, 6/24, \$480,000

1564 Saybrook Rd., DPB LLC to Blue Way Haddam 1 LLC, 6/24, \$660,000

Killingworth

22 Running Brook Dr., C. W. and A. Francis to S. and J. D. Garoppolo, 6/21, \$525,000

449 Route 148, M. J. and C. L. Fraser to H. Litevich and K. Jeracka, 6/21, \$495,000

Bring Back Killingworth Children's Librarian

The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors of this newspaper. Received July 12, 2021.

Dear Editor,

We are writing this letter in [regard] to Gayle Byrne being laid off from her position as Children's Librarian. In June of 2020, after 20 years of employment, the library board unexpectedly laid Gayle off from her position. It appears that there are funds for this position in this year's budget. So why did this happen? We created a petition to show that the Children's Library position

should be reinstated and that Gayle Byrne should continue to fulfill her role. The youth of Killingworth deserve a dedicated librarian to serve their needs. Gayle has been an invaluable asset to our children growing up, this next generation deserves the same. If you agree, please read and sign [the] petition.*

Gena Murray & Sue Anziano
Killingworth, CT

Editor's Note: The petition can be found here: www.change.org website. Title: *Bring Back The Killingworth Children's Librarian Position.*

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Connecticut Summer at the Museum – Free Admission for Kids

Editorial Staff.

This summer the Connecticut Summer at the Museum program offers free admission to children under the age of 18 from July 1 through September 6. Children must be accompanied by a Connecticut resident adult.

Please note the following:

- This program is geared towards families exploring together, not large camp groups.
- The children and the accompanying adult must be Connecticut residents. Proof of residency may be required (CT Driver's License or ID Card).
- Tickets may be limited. Be sure to visit the museum's website to secure your tickets in advance as certain days may sell out.
- Participating museums have the discretion to administer the Connecticut Summer at the Museum program to the best of their ability and according to their needs. Certain restrictions may apply and capacity may be limited. Be sure to check with each museum to learn of any restrictions before visiting.

For more info on CT attractions visit www.ctvisit.com/articles/connecticut-summer-museum-free-admission-kids#section-6

Middlesex County

- Chester Museum at the Mill, Chester
- Connecticut River Museum, Essex
- Deep River Historical Society, Deep River
- Gillette Castle State Park, East Haddam
- Kidcity, Middletown
- Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown
- Pratt House Museum, New London County
- Avery-Copp Museum, Groton
- Colchester History Museum, Colchester
- Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Mystic
- Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme
- Fort Trumbull State Park, New London
- Hempsted Houses, New London
- James Merrill House, Stonington
- Leffingwell House Museum, Norwich
- Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London
- Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center, Mashantucket
- Mystic Aquarium, Mystic
- Mystic Museum of Art, Mystic

- Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic
- New London Maritime Society, New London
- Niantic Children's Museum, Niantic
- Stonington Historical Society, Stonington

New Haven County

- Barker, Character, Comic & Cartoon Museum, Cheshire
- Cheshire Historical Society, Cheshire
- Dudley Farm, Guilford
- Guilford Keeping Society, Guilford
- Henry Whitfield State Museum, Guilford
- Hyland House Museum, Guilford
- Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury
- New Haven Museum, New Haven
- Shore Line Trolley Museum, East Haven
- Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust, Wallingford
- Ward Heitmann House Museum, West Haven

Fairfield County

- Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield
- Bruce Museum, Greenwich
- Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport
- Danbury Museum & Historical Society, Danbury
- Danbury Railway Museum, Danbury
- Discovery Museum, Bridgeport (museum closed, only showing planetarium shows by reservation only)
- EverWonder Children's Museum, Newtown
- Fairfield Museum & History Center, Fairfield
- Greenwich Historical Society, Cos Cob
- Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center, Ridgefield
- Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum, Norwalk
- Mather Homestead, Darien
- Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Norwalk
- MoCA, Westport
- Shelton History Center, Shelton
- Stepping Stones Museum for Children, Norwalk

Hartford County

- 4-H Education Center at Auerfarm, Bloomfield
- American Clock & Watch Museum, Bristol
- Art Museum at University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford
- Barnes Museum, Southington
- Butler-McCook House & Garden, Hartford
- Buttolph-Williams House, Wethersfield

- Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford

- Connecticut Science Center, Hartford

- Connecticut Trolley Museum, East Windsor

- Connecticut's Old State House, Hartford

- Dinosaur State Park, Rocky Hill
- Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford

- Harry C. Barnes Memorial Nature Center, Bristol

- Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington
- Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center, Bristol

- Isham-Terry House, Hartford
- Mark Twain House & Museum, Hartford
- New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain

- New Britain Youth Museum, New Britain
- New England Air Museum, Windsor Locks
- New England Carousel Museum, Bristol
- Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine, East Granby

- Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden, Suffield
- Real Art Ways, Hartford
- Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton
- Simsbury Historical Society, Simsbury
- Stanley-Whitman House, Farmington
- The Children's Museum, West Hartford
- Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford

- Webb-Dean-Stevens Museum, Wethersfield
- Windsor Historical Society, Windsor
- Wood Memorial Library & Museum, South Windsor

- Litchfield County
- Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden, Bethlehem
- Eric Sloane Museum, Kent
- Glebe House Museum, Woodbury
- Gunn Historical Museum, Washington
- Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington

- KidsPlay Children's Museum, Torrington
- Litchfield Historical Society, Litchfield
- Lock Museum of America, Terryville
- Merwinsville Hotel Restoration, Inc., Gaylordsville

- New Milford Historical Society & Museum, New Milford
- Railroad Museum of New England, Thomaston
- Sharon Historical Society & Museum, Sharon
- Torrington Historical Society, Torrington
- Watertown History Museum, Watertown

- Tolland County
- Nathan Hale Homestead, Coventry
- Vernon Historical Society, Vernon

- Windham County
- Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum, Willimantic
- Windham Textile & History Museum, Willimantic

- Connecticut Summer at the Museum is made possible through an investment from the federal COVID-19 recovery funding Connecticut is receiving from the American Rescue Plan Act. The program is administered by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of the Arts in partnership with Connecticut Humanities.

- Photo by Sharon Challenger.



Gillette Castle

HK RECREATION

2021 Outdoor Family Concert Series

By Josselyn Salafia, HK Rec Dept.

Free Outdoor Summer Concerts sponsored by the HK Recreation Department! Bring a blanket or a chair to enjoy an evening of live entertainment at the Higganum Town Green or Parmelee Farm. Fun for the whole family! An ice cream truck will also be present. The Higganum Market will also be available until 7:00 pm. Thank you to Our Presenting Sponsor, New Image Auto, LLC and Nutmeg Pharmacy/Higganum LLC, Co-Sponsors, Elm Tree Partners, LLC, Higganum Veterinary Clinic, Mike's Auto Service and Sponsors, Jacks Country Restaurant, RAD Computing and Weise Enterprises, LLC for their donations to help support the series.

Music will take place 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Please adhere to the following COVID-19 Guidelines to keep everyone safe. Practice social distancing with other families, set up at least 15 feet apart from other parties, when not seated please wear a mask. Do not attend if you have been around someone that is ill or who has had symptoms in the last 14 days.

Night Shift: Friday, July 16th at the Higganum Green.

This band covers 60's, 70's and 80's top 40 and performs the most popular and fun songs from those decades. Night Shift will get the audience to sing, clap, dance and laugh and really have a fun time. Visit www.nightshiftbandct.com

Blues Connection: Friday, July 23 at Parmelee Farm.

Based out of Central CT this male & female band covers greats including, but not limited to: BB King, Blues brothers, Eric Clapton, Rolling Stones, Susan Tedeschi, Eva Cassidy, Bonnie Raitt and Arithra Franklin. Visit www.bluesconnectionband.com.

Great Hill Mountain Band: Friday, July 30th at the Higganum Green.

The Great Hill Mountain Band hails from Portland, Connecticut. They are an award-winning country music band, together for 27 years, playing a mix of modern Texas-style country music as well as southern and classic rock. Over the years, the Great Hill Mountain Band has played at bars, fairs, private parties and many park and recreation summer concert events. They are known for their energy, enthusiasm and harmonies that will appeal to all ages and keep them dancing until the end of the evening.

Destructive Box Tree Moths Found in Connecticut

Reprinted with permission from UConn Extension Service.

(July 13, 2021) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responding to a significant plant health threat and needs your help. Please check your boxwood plants

for the invasive and destructive box tree moth. During the spring, a number of U.S. nurseries received potentially infested Canadian boxwood plants. This invasive pest feeds on the plants' leaves, and can cause complete defoliation, eventually killing the plant.

Many Connecticut residents have already purchased and planted these boxwoods. If you bought one, you may have infested boxwood on your property. USDA wants to prevent the box tree moth from spreading and establishing itself in the State and beyond.

Here's how you can help:

If you bought a boxwood plant during spring 2021, please inspect it for signs of the moth and report any findings to your local USDA office or State agriculture department. If State or Federal agriculture officials visit your home, please allow them to inspect



Courtesy of Matteo Maspero and Andrea Tantardini, Centro MiRT – Fondazione Minoprio [IT].



Photo by ireding01, Adobe Stock.

your boxwood trees and place an insect trap. Box tree moths can produce several generations between June and October, so acting now is essential to prevent this pest from establishing itself in Connecticut.

This pest threatens the thriving U.S. boxwood industry, as well as nurseries and other businesses

that sell these plants wholesale and direct to consumers. Boxwoods have an estimated \$141 million economic impact in the United States, according to one industry estimate.

Box tree moths are highly mobile and are reported to be good fliers. Natural spread of this moth in Europe is about 3 to 6 miles per year. One analysis from Europe concluded that natural dispersal from continental Europe to the United Kingdom was possible, suggesting sustained adult flights of over 20

miles.

USDA's Response with State Partners

In response to the incident, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a Federal Order on May 26, 2021, to halt the importation of host plants from Canada, including

boxwood (*Buxus* species), Euonymus (*Euonymus* species), and holly (*Ilex* species).

In addition, APHIS is working closely with the affected States, including Connecticut, to:

- Find and destroy the imported plants in the receiving facilities;
- Trace sold imported plants to determine additional locations of potentially infected boxwood;
- Provide box tree moth traps and lures for

surveys in the receiving facilities and other locations that received potentially infected plants; and,

- Prepare outreach materials for state agriculture departments, industry, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialists stationed along the Canadian border, and the public

LOCAL BUSINESS

New Image Auto to Discontinue Auto Emissions Testing

By Kathy Brown.

On July 11, 2021, New Image Auto, LLC posted on their Facebook page, "This Friday, July 16th, will be the last day we will be doing emissions testing. For several reasons we are choosing to exit the emissions testing program and will no longer be a test station."

We talked to one of the owners of New Image to get the scoop. Michelle and Jeremy Adametz have owned New Image since 2017. Michelle said that the previous owners had done the emissions testing and they wanted to continue offering the service, but for a number of reasons, they will be discontinuing it. One of the main reasons is that they are short staffed, so when someone comes to get their emissions testing done, a mechanic has to stop work on whatever vehicle they're working on, wash their hands, and do the testing. The testing isn't consistent — sometimes there are five vehicles to test in a day, and other days there are 30.

New Image is short on technicians, even without losing someone to emissions testing. "Customers are often frustrated that they have to book appointments farther out," said Michelle.

The state has a third party contracted to oversee the emissions testing. In March, the emissions system was hacked, and Michelle said, "There was little communication to the public, or to the test stations, and the stations bore the brunt of the backlash."

The third party now has a new contract term, where the testing equipment cost and other items will be increasing by an as-yet-undetermined amount, but the Adametz's don't feel comfortable signing a contract with so many unknowns so they have made the difficult decision not to sign the contract to continue emissions testing.

After July 16th, according to the CT Emissions website, these will be the closest testing stations:

- Jim's Auto Sales & Service, 13 Middlefield Rd., Durham, CT
- Computer Tune & Lube Inc., 966 Washington St., Middletown, CT
- Midas Auto Service, 380 Washington St., Middletown, CT
- Personal Auto Care Service, 60 DeKoven Dr., Middletown, CT
- D&R Automotive, 32 Nod Place, Clinton, CT
- Guilford Texaco, 2293 Boston Post Rd., Guilford, CT
- A1 Complete Autocare, 655 Boston Post Rd., Guilford, CT

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Help for Kids Who Stutter

By Patty Reed, Stuttering Foundation.

(July 12, 2021) — Kids who stutter have a lot to say, and friends can show them how in *Stuttering: For Kids By Kids*, a DVD in English and Spanish starring kids who stutter, available at most public libraries or through interlibrary loan.

Many children who stutter have never met others who struggle with the same disability. In this DVD from the Stuttering Foundation, they meet kids who recount how they handle challenges such as teasing, speaking out in class, and teaching others about stuttering.

Swish, a lively and engaging animated basketball character designed by students at Purdue University, narrates the DVD. The children, who range in age from first graders to high school students, offer frank and sometimes differing views of stuttering.

For example, Matthew, age 10, says about his speech difficulties, "It's no big deal;" but Kate, age 9, worries about talking, what is going to happen next and whether or not she'll stutter. Arianne, age 14, says, "The hardest part about stuttering is to get through it and to stay in there when you're stuck." Umang, age 12, agrees, "Sometimes it gets

kind of annoying when you want to say something, and you can't. I also get worried what other people might think if I do stutter and wonder if I'll be able to get out of my blocks and things."

"All those interested in helping kids learn more about stuttering will want to see this tape," said speech-language pathologist Bill Murphy of Purdue University. "The children featured are a perfect example of how to openly and honestly handle stuttering." "This is an important tool for families and teachers of kids who stutter," added Jane Fraser, president of the nonprofit Stuttering Foundation.

Other professionals and specialists in stuttering in this production include Kristin Chmela of Northwestern University, Joe Donaher of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Lisa Scott of Florida State University, and Lee Caggiano of Friends.

The 74-year-old nonprofit Foundation has provided free materials to public libraries nationwide. A library that will shelve them can download a request form at www.stutteringhelp.org/libraries-information.

HKYFS 8th Annual Backpack & School Supply Program Info

By Laura Shipman, HKYFS.

(July 14, 2021) — Haddam Killingworth Youth & Family Services is once again holding their annual Backpack and School Supply program.

The HKYFS Backpack Program for the 2021-22 school years serves Haddam Killingworth students who are in need of assistance of the essential tools to learn in the classroom. When students start off the school year prepared, they are more likely to succeed in school. We look forward to partnering with you to provide students a positive start to the upcoming school year.

To register your child/children for this confidential program, call 860-345-7498 or email office@hkyfs.org.

To donate supplies, we have a bin outside our building to leave items in (please leave your name and contact information).

Items needed: #2 pencils, mechanical pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, colored pencils, highlighters, notebooks, lunch boxes, high school backpacks, flash drives, post it notes, pencil sharpeners, folders, 3-ring binders, loose leaf paper for binders, pencil case, markers.

HOME & GARDEN

Showers of Flowers Can Take Years

By Sharon Challenger.

When we first moved to Higganum back in December 2006, we were faced with having to landscape a piece of land which had little landscaping to speak of. This is always the case in new developments, so we were not alone.

How do you begin when the slate is clean, and possibilities are endless?

The first spring was pretty bleak, but we had a lawn which was a start. The developer also had planted some shrubs and trees around the property so there was a base to work around.

I read that the soil in Higganum was not very rich, and that it was why early settlers did not do much farming. The soil is made up mostly of glacial till which was laid down by glacier ice

15,000 years ago.

The layer of topsoil on our site was little to nothing due to excavation. Having taken a course in Landscape Architect & Design in college I knew that it would take 4-6 inches of topsoil to grow a healthy lawn. So, I insisted our developer bring back in a hefty supply of topsoil.

In no time we were off and running. We kept after weeds in the new lawn by hand picking them out daily. While it might seem excessive, it paid off. In no time we had a healthy thriving lawn.

The upper part of our lot was mostly untouched woods. Bittersweet vines had taken over large sections of it which was not the best of circumstances. It had to be dealt with, so we made a plan. Each year

we would focus on one section and work to eradicate the pesty vine.

Today we still have battles to face with the vine, but I am not one to give up that quickly. Each year I get out a set of electric hedge clippers and I cut down the remaining vines so they can't go into the berry stage. Little by little we have been able to reclaim the natural setting of trees, Jack in the Pulpits and other CT plants.

With patience and time and hard work, you can turn a barren area into quite a work of art. The old saying "Rome wasn't built in a day" is so true, but anything that is worthwhile takes time.



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Haddam Killingworth News

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A New Chief in Town

Continued from page HK1

KVFC. In his nearly 30 years of service to the KVFC Schilling, a retired Middletown Police Department Sergeant and Captain with the Regional Water Authority in New Haven, has served as a Lieutenant, Secretary and Administrator for the Company. "Paul is like a breath of fresh air when he pulls up to a call," said Bauer. "His wisdom and experience have made him a tremendous mentor and a great sounding board for me over the years."

In recognition of the outgoing Chief, Schilling said of Bauer, "Leading a department of this size through such a complicated time as COVID, he got everybody to pull together and always made good, solid decisions for the Department." During his 39 years with the KVFC, Bauer has served as Chief four times, with the most recent stint beginning in 2018. Over his last three years as Chief, in addition to leading the Company through the COVID-19 pandemic, Bauer helped complete the Company's financial and accounting processes update, transitioned the Company's reporting and documentation to a fully-electronic system, abandoning the antiquated paper-based system, oversaw the implementation of significant improvements to the communications system which included getting radios for all firefighters, managed Station 1 physical and security improvements, helped to develop an improved training program for members, and, according to Schilling, "probably a dozen other things. He led us through big changes and improvements."

Service awards were presented to Ralph Knockwood (40 years), Andy Kuczma (35 years), and Michael Carri, Pete Cumpstone and Paul Jacobs, each for 20 years of service. The membership also voted probationary members Lisa Sizer and Patrick Dooley into full-time active membership, bringing the total active membership to 55.

To learn more about the KVFC and to find a complete list of KVFC officers, please visit the newly updated website at www.killingworth-fire.org. The KVFC relies on dedicated volunteers from the community and any Killingworth resident interested in serving are encouraged to contact the department by email at FireChief@TownofKillingworth.com.

Photo credits: KVFC Members.

RSD #17 BOE Summary of June 2021

by Jennifer Favalora.

Cougar Pride: The board held its annual recognition ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of Class of 2021's Top Ten Students, award the District's Staff Members and Teachers of the Year and thank the District's Retirees for their many years of service to the students in our District. Notable awards went to this year's Valedictorian, Maxwell Cozean and Salutatorian Julian Spector. Ronnie Ellinson was named District Staff Person of the Year and Wendy Scoppa was named Teacher of the Year. With gratitude we celebrated the retirements of Juliann Bacewicz, Kathleen Briotti, Jill MacDiarmid, Katharine O'Mara, and Linda Hansen.

Dr. Hageman highlighted the Burr Elementary Learning Fair which featured 72 projects submitted by students across all grade levels who shared their learnings and interests. From creating elephant toothpaste to inventing robots who can read minds, this event featured the ingenuity and creativity of our children and the openness of our staff to encourage our students to pursue learning that meets their interests.

Despite a very complicated school year for sports, HKHS won the most Shoreline Championships in school history, with Titles won by Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Volleyball, Boys Cross Country, Gymnastics, Boys Indoor Track, Girls Outdoor Track, Boys Lacrosse and Boys Outdoor Track. Twenty HK Seniors will continue to play sports at the college level and six of our HKHS outdoor track athletes competed and placed in the top 10 at the National Track and Field Tournament with Kedarjah Lewis and Eamon Sweeney earning All-American honors.

Superintendent Search: In June, JE Consulting gathered information through conversations and surveys from over 300 community stakeholders for a community profile of the Superintendent. This profile, which can be found on our website under Superintendent Search, was presented to the hiring committee, which includes all Board members along with five representatives from the District's Central Office, administrators, teachers, staff and parents. Applications for the position closed in July with 29

applicants from seven states applying to be the next Superintendent of RSD17.

Facilities Assessment: The Facilities Committee recommended, and the Board agreed, to hire Tecton Architects for \$61,200 to perform an assessment of all of the District's facilities. Tecton will collect data through site walkthroughs of each property to assess the physical condition of the space and report an assessment of each property based upon current condition, expected useful life, and conditions due to use. Finally, they will generate a report based on short, medium and long-range maintenance and capital improvement priorities.

End-of-Year Fiscal Update: With continued uncertainties facing the district in the next school year due to Covid-19, the Finance Committee recommended, and the Board approved, to use \$200,000 from the '20-'21 fund balance to pre-pay a portion of the State Partnership Insurance Premiums approved in the '21-'22 budget. The Board agreed that the money remaining in the '21-'22 budget for Health Insurance would only be used for Covid-related expenditures, including pandemic related learning loss, and any unspent funds will be returned to the towns in the following year's audited fund balance.

ESS Update: The Board approved a fund transfer from Transportation and Tuition lines to the ESS line of the '21 - '22 budget to pay for a second clinician in the Effective Schools Solutions High School program to support the needs of the high school students next school year. One student will be returning from an out-of-district placement into the ESS program, therefore, the \$117,500 fee for the new clinician will be offset in the '21 - '22 budget by what would have been paid for out-of-district tuition and transportation for that returning student.

On our Website: The Board has reviewed and updated nearly 40 Policies in the 5000 series. This series, which relates to Students covers many topics from student dress code to fundraising to transportation. You can read the find the Board policies on our RSD17 website under District → Board of Education → Policies and Resources.

CAMPUS CORNER

Merit Pages News.

Eastern Connecticut State University
WILLIMANTIC, CT (07/08/2021)-- Hundreds of students graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University this spring 2021 semester. The University's 131st annual Commencement Exercises occurred on campus on May 15 and 16. Olivia Harry of Higganum graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Goodwin University President's List
EAST HARTFORD, CT (07/14/2021)-- Goodwin University's President's List for the Spring 2021 Session includes 411 students, all of whom scored a perfect 4.0 GPA.

- Alyssa Crete of Higganum
- Julia Nosal of Higganum
- Elizabeth Kavanaugh of Killingworth
- Sherin Mastracchio of Killingworth

Goodwin University Dean's List
Goodwin University announces 1,014 students achieved Dean's List for the Spring 2021 session.

- Sarah Bugbee of Higganum
- Alyssa Crete of Higganum
- Haleigh Klein of Higganum
- Julia Nosal of Higganum
- Emily Jennings of Killingworth
- Elizabeth Kavanaugh of Killingworth
- Sherin Mastracchio of Killingworth
- Alexandra Spencer of Killingworth

LEGAL NOTICE

HADDAM LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the Town of Haddam. A Tax levy of 32.16 mills on the dollar was laid on the 2020 Grand List. The first installment will become due July 1, 2021. If payment is not received on or before August 2, 2021 they are subject to an interest rate of 18% per annum or 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. The tax becomes delinquent and interest will be charged as of August 2, 2021. Please visit our website Haddam.org for more details. Payments will be received 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 through Tuesday 8:30AM to 4PM; Wednesday by appointment only; Thursday 8:30AM to 6:00PM; Friday 8:30AM to Noon. Contact Kristin at 860-345-8531 X 207 or taxcollect@haddam.org 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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HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH TOWN & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please visit www.haddam.org, www.townofkillingworth.com or hk-now.com for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes. See hk-now.com for more information on calendar items.

Thursday, July 22

Life Sized Candyland – KW Library 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We will bring a childhood classic to life here at Killingworth Library!

You'll have a sweet time playing Candyland with your family and friends!

This session is recommended for children 6 – 12. Please register online killingworthlibrary.org/

KW Republican Caucus 7:00 p.m. Parmelee Farm Pavilion.

KW Democratic Endorsement Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Emergency Op. Center.

Friday, July 23

Higginum Farmers Market 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

KW Library Build Your Own Castle - Join us for a read-along of the story A Paperbag Princess by Robert Munsch, then build your own castle afterwards! Each family group attending will receive their own copy of A Paperbag Princess to take home. Suggested ages 4-10.

PLEASE NOTE: All of our summer programs will be held outside on the library's grounds. Adults must remain with their children during the duration of the event.

Please register online killingworthlibrary.org/

Saturday, July 24

Summerfest – Brainerd Memorial Library The Friends of BML and the Library's Children's Department are holding a Summerfest! The new date is Saturday, July 24th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Under the tents will be crafts like Fairy Gardens, sun art, and floral arrangements along with plants, gardening books, cut flowers, DVDs, audiobooks,

and baked goods for sale.

Drop in with your family to try a craft, browse our beautiful flower arrangements & plants, pick up a summer read, or just have a slice of watermelon and visit with us!

Tag Sale - St. James Episcopal Church in Higginum will sponsor a tag sale, bake sale on Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the church's parish hall at the corner of Route 81 and Little City Road. The sale will feature furniture, collectibles and other items. We welcome people from all over looking for an opportunity to sell their wares. If you are interested in a space to sell your wares, cost is \$20. Please reserve and payment by 7/19/2021 for a space. Please contact Elaine Jackson 860-424-6178 or elainejack835@gmail.com or call Alice Bartolotta 860-347-6719 to reserve your space.

Brainerd's New Book Club meeting - 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Do you like to talk about books? Do you like to walk and hike? Brainerd Memorial Library announces a new book club: Meandering in the Meadows. We will meet at the silo at Haddam Meadows State Park for a unique book discussion group. We will walk the loop with stops along the way to discuss the month's book selection. Come join us to talk about books and enjoy the outdoors. It is not necessary to have read the book. For more info., see article.

**The threat of inclement weather will postpone this event. Announcements will be made via our Facebook, Instagram, library web page, and by direct email message to participants.

Life Sized Candyland – KW Library 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We will bring a childhood classic to life here at Killingworth Library!

You'll have a sweet time playing Candyland with your family and friends!

This session is recommended for children 2 - 5. Please register online killingworthlibrary.org/

Monday, July 26

Killingworth BOS Mtg. (remote access) 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Killingworth ZBA Mtg. (remote access) 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Killingworth Library Storytime Tales From Far Away – 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Join our intern Hana as she shares another story from a faraway place. We'll enjoy the storybook "Where Are You Going? To See My Friend!" by Eric Carle and Kazuo Iwamura, and learn some simple Japanese words. Suggested ages 2-5.

PLEASE NOTE: All of our summer programs will be held outside on the library's grounds. Adults must remain with their children during the duration of the event.

Please register online killingworthlibrary.org/

Wednesday, July 28

RiverCog Mtg. (remote access only) 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 860 581-8554 www.rivercog.org

Teen Book Club – KW Library 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Teens ages 13-18 are invited to join our new summer book club!

This meeting will feature the novel The Raft by S.A. Bodeen.

Each discussion will be led by library volunteer Nikki Ritchie, extra copies of each title will be available for checkout at the circulation desk, and yes... there will be pizza!

Space is limited, so please register <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

Haddam Sustainability Comm. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 29

Make Your Own Puppet – KW Library 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Craft and create a new friend at our make your own puppet program! Suggested ages 6 – 12.

PLEASE NOTE: All of our summer programs will be held outside on the library's grounds. Adults must remain with their children during the duration of the event.

Please register online killingworthlibrary.org/.

Registration for this program reserves one activity table, with room for multiple family members. Please indicate the number of children in your group on the registration form.

Want to do a show? See the calendar for July 31st

Haddam ZBA Mtg. 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Killingworth Joint Pension Cmte.-Municipal Emp, Pension Trustees 3:00 p.m. Town Office Building.

Interested in writing for us?

Write to us at:

HK-NowEditors@Outlook.com

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Brainerd Recommends: July 2021 Book Picks

By Emily Gaynier.

(July 14, 2021) — Looking for something new to read? The staff at the Brainerd Library is here to help with book recommendations as varied as the staff itself!

In the month of July, we have recommendations from Kelly, Emily and Lyndsey. More thoughts on these books can be found at the Brainerd Library's Goodreads. All recommendations can be accessed through the Brainerd Memorial Library. Give us a call at 860-345-2204 or email us at library@brainerdlibrary.org and we can make sure the book is waiting for you when you get to the library.

Blood Red Road by Moira Young

When her brother is captured by unknown horsemen, Saba leaves her home in Silverlake to get him back. In order to save her brother, Saba teams up with a daredevil and a gang of revolutionaries.



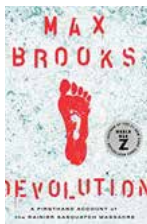
Inhuman by Kat Falls

In this dystopian book, Lane has to risk it all in the Savage Zone to save her father. He's a Fetch, someone who retrieves lost artifacts from the Zone, but now he's captured and Lane has to finish his last job to get him back.



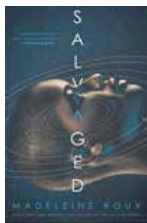
Devolution by Max Brooks

The community of Greenloop is stranded when Mt. Rainier erupts. No Wi-fi, no food deliveries, no cell service, and no idea that they're in the path of something worse. A legend is sent from their territory by the volcano and they are hungry.



Salvaged by Madeleine Roux

Rosalyn is a space janitor. She and her team are sent to clean up messes



on spaceships. But her latest job is not what anyone expected. The crew of the Brigantine is still alive, but bioluminescent fungus has spread across the ship and inside of them.

Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?

by Caitlin Doughty

Caitlin Doughty, also known as Ask a Mortician on YouTube, is answering questions about death from kids. Questions like "What would happen to an astronaut's body if it were pushed out of a space shuttle? Can Grandma have a Viking funeral? Will my cat eat my eyeballs?" and more.



The In-Between by Rebecca Ansari

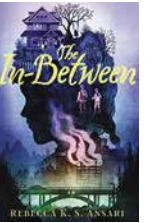
Cooper has been feeling lost for a long time and

he's found purpose in an unsolved mystery from 100 years ago. A strange symbol was found on an unknown boy who died in a train crash, a strange symbol that is on the coat of his neighbor.

Komi Can't Communicate

by Oda Tomohito

Komi is the girl everyone thinks cool and aloof, but Tadano notices something that no one else does. Komi is super awkward and has a hard time speaking to anyone. Now Tadano is determined to help Komi on her quest to make 100 friends.



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Bon Ami Cleanser's Connecticut Roots

By Philip R. Devlin.

Feldspar “waste” from a Connecticut pegmatite quarry source of the product.

Sometimes significant discoveries happen by accident.

In 1945, Percy Spencer of the Raytheon Company was standing in front of a magnetron — a device used to generate microwave radio signals in radar units for the U.S. Navy during World War II — when he noticed that the chocolate bar in his pocket melted. He then placed popcorn in front of the device, and it soon popped all over the room. Within two years Raytheon produced the first microwave oven.

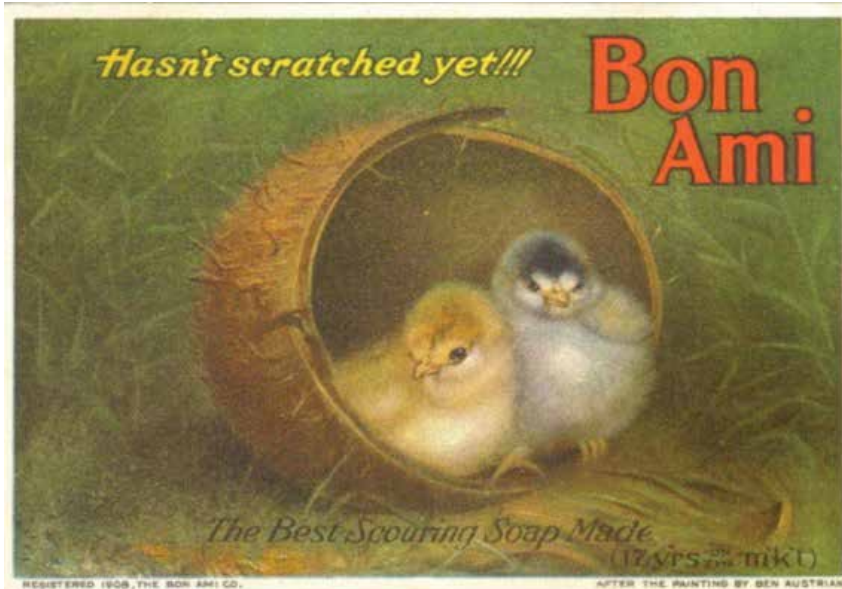
In 1928, Alexander Fleming accidentally forgot to cover a petri dish containing staphylococcus bacteria. Blue-green mold from bread had fallen into the dish. Fleming noticed how the moldy bread had inhibited the growth of the bacteria; thus was born penicillin, the first antibiotic, quite by accident.

At a pegmatite mine in South Glastonbury in the early 1880s, J.T. Robertson noticed that the shovel used to separate feldspar from quartz was always bright and shiny. Pegmatite consists primarily of three minerals: quartz, mica, and feldspar. Feldspar had been considered a waste product. Quite by accident, the shiny shovel gave Robertson a new idea that led to using feldspar to produce one of the most enduring products in America — Bon Ami cleansing powder. It was made in Manchester for the first 75 years of its existence.

According to John A. Pawloski's excellent book, Connecticut Mining, pegmatite mining began in Connecticut in 1825. Though pegmatite mines were scattered throughout the state, most were concentrated within a belt about a mile wide and nine miles long extending from Glastonbury to Haddam. This area is known as the Middletown Pegmatite District. Within this district was a mine known as the Husband Feldspar Quarry in South Glastonbury. Since Glastonbury borders Manchester, the Husband Quarry became the source of feldspar for the Bon Ami Company.

J.T. Robertson used the feldspar “waste” to start the Robertson Soap Company in Manchester in 1886. He mixed it with soap and produced the Bon Ami soap cleanser. Within a year he had changed the name of the company to the Bon Ami Company. The key to the product's appeal was the soft feldspar component that would not scratch surfaces, even porcelain; in fact, the company's enduring logo became “Hasn't Scratched Yet!” Its logo became a newly-hatched yellow chick, as a newly-hatched chick will live off of the nutrients of its egg for awhile before having to scratch the ground for food — a fact readily apparent to Americans 100 years ago but not well known today.

Only three corporate logos are older: the man on the Quaker Oats box, the Smith Brothers on the cough drop box, and the arm of Vulcan on the Arm



and Hammer Baking Soda box. The company hired popular turn-of-the-century artist Ben Austrian to paint their chick logo. So popular were Austrian's logos that many were printed as lithographs. (See photo.)

Right up until World War II, Bon Ami was the leading scouring cleanser in the United States. In fact, the Bon Ami Company was one of only 16 companies throughout the Great Depression of the 1930's to pay a dividend every year! In the postwar period, new rivals appeared such as Zud, Ajax, and Comet. These cleansers often had chemicals such as bleach in them and used clever marketing techniques to grab a sizeable share of the cleansing market. In addition, Bon Ami had to endure a period of shady business practices in the mid-to late 1950's involving fraud and other types of corruption, such as the misuse of funds and kickbacks. In 1958, the New York Stock Exchange threatened to de-list the company. The Manchester plant, down to 70 employees, closed its doors on October 31, 1959, after almost 75 years of operation.

After changing hands a few more times, the Faultless Starch Company of Kansas City, Mo., eventually purchased Bon Ami in 1971 and still owns it today. The purchase coincided with a growing societal awareness of concern for the environment. Bon Ami exploited that concern by promoting itself as an environmentally friendly “green” product containing no harsh chemicals. In fact, the new owners had it listed in the first Whole Earth Catalog of 1974, touting the fact that Bon Ami contained no disinfectants, bleaches, dyes, phosphates, or perfumes.

Furthermore, Bon Ami was used to remove scuffmarks from the floor of Skylab from 1973-1979, as other cleansers containing bleach would have harmed important components on the spacelab. The strategy worked, as Bon Ami has regained a healthier share of the cleansing market. In addition, the company has returned to its roots by once again using products that others regard as waste: the

packaging for new Bon Ami products consists 100% of post consumer-used plastic bottles.

Beginning in 1825, pegmatite mining in Connecticut focused mainly on extracting mica and quartz for its first 60 years. Quite by accident J.T. Robertson realized that the feldspar component of pegmatite mining had value as well. He turned that insight into one of the most enduring products in American commerce: Bon Ami. The last pegmatite mining operation in Connecticut ended in 1991. Feldspar from Glastonbury has not been transported to the north side of Manchester

for use in Bon Ami since 1959. Nevertheless, by emphasizing its environmentally friendly roots in Connecticut, Bon Ami has been able to re-invent itself as a “good friend” of the environment and continues to prosper to this day.

Notes and Sources:

- Connecticut Mining; by John Pawloski: 2006; Acadia Press—a wonderfully concise and informative history on the subject; lots of photos.
- Fundinguniverse.com
- Bonami.com
- Jiffynotes.com
- “Bon Ami” is French for “good friend.”

HADDAM SENIOR CENTER

Haddam Seniors Fall Festival September 20, 2021

By Jessica Condil.

The Haddam Seniors will be holding a Fall Festival on Monday, September 20, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Saint James Hall in Higganum (corner of Killingworth Road & Little City Road).

All Haddam Seniors are invited. Rain or shine – indoor dining. Entertainment. Transportation will be provided if needed.

Please make your reservation by September 10. To RSVP, contact Susan Ruddy by mail at 34 Ruddy Lane, Haddam, CT 06438 or by phone at 860-345-4049.

While there is no cost to Haddam Seniors, we are asking those who plan to attend to provide a \$5 refundable security deposit. If you come to the picnic, your \$5 will be returned.

This is a Haddam Committee on Aging project.

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