

# Haddam Killingworth News

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March 11, 2021

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Free weekly



A large quilt with a patriotic theme. Photo provided by Mr. Quilter.

## Higganum Couple Make, Donate Quilts to Veteran's Organization

By Kathy Brown

A Higganum man and wife who prefer to remain anonymous have been quietly making and donating dozens of quilts to Quilts of Valor Foundation [www.qovf.org/about-qovf/our-history](http://www.qovf.org/about-qovf/our-history)

Mr. and Mrs. Quilter have been sewing and quilting since the '70s but became involved with the Old Saybrook Piecemakers group in 2019, according to Nancy Burns, who works with the Foundation. Mrs. Q's daughter was a QOV quilter, and invited them to join.

Mr. Q said that it used to take him three months to complete a quilt from start to finish, between piecing and quilting. He enjoyed making quilts for family members.



Willimantic Award ceremony for Vietnam Veterans held in October 2020. Photo provided by Nancy Burns.

When COVID hit, they decided to get serious, so they bought a new Bernina sewing machine to piece the tops and a long-arm machine for the quilting. Now it only takes him three hours to make a quilt from start to finish! He enjoys

*Continued on page HK2*

## Killingworth Lions Celebrate 50 Years

By Karen Milano & Greg Wind

American Industrialist and Business Magnate Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success". This has certainly proven true for the Killingworth Chapter of the Lions Club International, celebrating 50 years and many accomplishments. One of its founding members Charlie Smith, gives some detail below as to how it all got started.

"Conversations got serious during the Summer of 1970" says Charlie. "Jerry Sheridan and I had discussed this when I was a member of the Madison JCs in 1969. We had heard John Kempter, another neighbor, had been a Lions member when he lived in Durham. Conversations with his neighbors Rich Gruber and Steve St. John were blossoming at the same time. We first met at John's home, then Tony Bosco's later to find out how to structure this Club. We all felt Lions Clubs International mission - We Serve was the ideal foundation to start a club where individuals join together to give their valuable time and effort to improving their communities,



Photos Courtesy Killingworth Lions Club



and the world. A local publication at the time, The Clinton Recorder wrote an article about us forming a Lions Club, and that drew interest from other residents. Our Charter Night in February of 1971 was well attended with 39 members and sponsored by the Middletown Lions Club which celebrated its 90-year anniversary in 2019. John Kempter became our first President with Jerry and I following. Bill Peckham, a recent arrival from the Madison Lions Club, became our first Secretary with Tony Bosco joining us as Treasurer." (Charter members John

*Continued on page HK4*

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## Francis Henry Rutty



Francis Henry Rutty, 88, of The Villages, FL, passed away on February 17, 2021. He was born in Middletown, CT on September 1, 1932 and was the oldest child of Ethel Odette Rutty and Warren L. Rutty.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Eleanor Rutty Burr. He is survived by his devoted wife of 65 years Jean Johnson Rutty; brothers Warren Rutty and Wayne Rutty; daughters Cathy Kidd, Holly Krestalude and Tracy Rutty; 7 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; nephews and nieces.

Frank proudly served his country in the USMC from 1950-1954 and was a Veteran of the Korean War. Frank grew up and raised his family in Haddam, CT. He worked as a tool maker for many years until his retirement from Pratt & Whitney. Frank was a horse enthusiast and a Cowboy at heart. His greatest pastime was socializing with his family and many friends, old and new. He was a consummate storyteller and the life of the party. He will be dearly missed.

A service will be held at St. George Episcopal Church, Lady Lake, FL at a future date to be determined by the family. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Villages Honor Flight, PO Box 490, Lady Lake, FL. 32158.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE HK1

### Quilts for vets

*Continued from page HK1*  
making different patterns for the quilts.

Their longarm machine keeps track of stitches, and Mr. Q was fascinated to learn that there were between 48,000 and 49,000 stitches per quilt!

Quilts of Valor Foundation was started in 2003 by Catherine Roberts. There are now coordinators all across the United States making and organizing quilts for veterans "touched by war" through this Foundation.

According to Ms. Burns' count for the Old Saybrook Piecemakers group, Mr. Q has made 38 quilts himself, along with 35 longarmed quilts. Mrs. Q has made eight quilt tops, and together they have completed 17 additional quilts. "Our group is blessed with their dedication," said Ms. Burns. "[Mr. and Mrs. Q] are a team devoted to Quilts of Valor."

The Q's have lived in Higganum since 1980, and are retired now. Mr. Q is also a woodworker, making clocks, cutting boards, and even musical instruments.

"I didn't get to go to Vietnam, by chance," said Mr. Q, "but many of my friends did. This is my way of giving back."

## HADDAM TOWN NEWS

### Order bricks to honor veterans

*Submitted by Rick Annino*

Each Memorial Day, the Museum places an order for 4 x 8 inch red engraved bricks to be placed in the Memorial Walk in front of the Museum. These bricks are to honor any Veteran that has been honorably discharged from any branch of the Armed Services. They do not have to be a resident of the Town of Haddam and the bricks will be placed by Memorial Day.

The bricks are \$55.00 each. This is not a fund raiser and they are sold at cost. All orders must be received by April 15, 2021. Forms are available at <https://hk-now.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ENGRAVED-BRICK-ORDER-FORM-2021.pdf>. Additional forms are available at the Town Hall or by contacting Rick Annino at 860-345-4802. Please make checks payable to the Haddam Veterans Museum and mail to Rick Annino, 671 Little City Road, Higganum, CT, 06441. You may also call Rick if you have any questions.

In 2019, 716 quilts were awarded to veterans in Connecticut through the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Even though there was a pandemic in 2020, the group was still able to honor 78 veterans. Once the weather gets warm, they are hoping to have more ceremonies outside.

If you know a veteran who has been touched by war, and would like to nominate them to receive a quilt, check out the FAQs on the Foundation's website: [www.qovf.org/faq/archive/faq-nominations-awards](http://www.qovf.org/faq/archive/faq-nominations-awards). "These quilts are a safe space infused with love, care, and prayer," says Jane Dougherty, QOV Connecticut State Co-coordinator.

If you are interested in making quilts for the Foundation, their goal is patriotic quilts which are approximately 60" x 80" using 100% cotton fabric; many are red, white, and blue, though other colors have been used as well.

"We always welcome new men and women to get involved," said Ms. Burns. "We appreciate tops, fabric, batting, which means we can honor more Veterans. We are willing to teach or help anyone with patterns and ideas. You can choose to just be a part of our group or you can join Quilts of Valor Foundation through our group."

## TO THE EDITOR

### Who was that masked woman?

*The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors of this newspaper. Received Feb. 7, 2021.*

I call her "Moonbeam" because she gets up by the light of the moon every weekday to deliver your children to school in the morning. Through the



rain, wind, snow and sleet, she picks up her bus and prays for this future generation as she transports them back and forth to school. In between runs, she's at home caring for her elderly mom. And, when you're cleaning the snow and ice off your vehicle this winter, just imagine how difficult it is to clean a School Bus!! A true Labor of Love and a Light in the Darkness!

Please Thank and Pray for our Bus Drivers as they are on the Frontlines through this pandemic delivering our Country's Precious Cargo!

*Joanne Klock*



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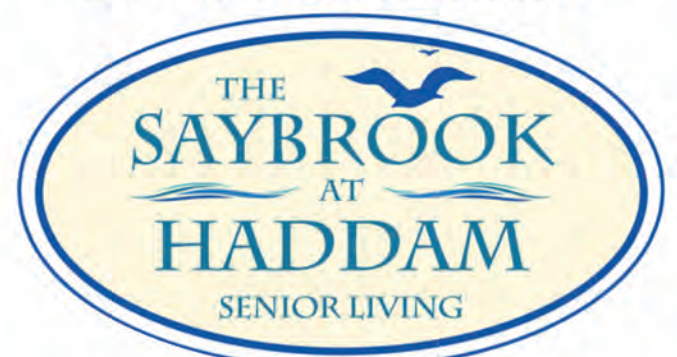


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# P&Z, and A Tattoo Parlor in Higganum Village

By Sharon Challenger

How does a Town handle all the business when they are placed under restrictions because of a pandemic? Can Town Halls be closed, people work from home, and meetings be held virtually without some things falling through the cracks?

Sometimes “yes,” sometimes “no.”

On December 3, 2021, a Planning and Zoning meeting was held to discuss the subject of a Tattoo Parlor business which was formerly located in Ty-lerville, moving to a vacant building in Higganum Center.

The meeting was to be a Public Hearing according to the minutes of the meeting; however, the public was not notified as per Connecticut law.

When pressed for an explanation, Town Planner Bill Warner posted on Facebook pages that, “his entire staff all went out on Covid leave” and a notice was never sent out to the press. Two legal notices are required by law.

As a result, a lawsuit was filed in Middletown by a resident against the Haddam P&Z Commission.

Mr. Warner explained (on social media): “The Planning and Zoning Commission approved a text amendment and the site to allow the parlor to open. That vote was challenged in court. Our attorney has indicated the PZ decision remains valid unless a judge in Middletown Superior Court determines otherwise.”

What will happen next? Mr. Warner explained, “we are redoing the hearing rather than waiting for a judge to tell us to redo the hearing.”

As a result, a Public Hearing Meeting has been rescheduled for March 18, 2021 7:00 p.m. at HES.

At the meeting, residents will have a chance to make their concerns known. Ultimately the P&Z Commission will have the final say.



Mr. Warner stated, “I supported the application on December 3rd, and I intend to support it again on March 18th. This is all on me. It is my fault and I have apologized to all involved.”

Haddam’s P & Z Bylaws, which were adopted on September 19, 2019, state in Article VI *Officers and Their Duties*, Section 3. “The Secretary shall recite the legal notice or agenda item in conjunction with all public hearings.” In Article XI *Public Hearings*, Section 4. “The Secretary shall read the legal advertisement.” However, the Public Hearing Notice was not read because it was never sent to the press. In spite of this, the meeting went on because no one on the Board realized that the community had not been informed. The minutes note: “There was no one from the public present.”

The Public Hearing was being held to discuss the following regulation change: Proposed 5.6 C.[8] Tattoo and/or Body Piercing Studios (Existing Business Allowed to Relocate to Other Zones Allowing Personal Service Establishments) 310 Saybrook Road, Higganum. Map 14A Lot 009. Applicant: Rob Lloyd.

Chairman Wallor opened the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Subject discussed under Agenda item 6. Public

Hearing, were as follows:

- Why Mr. Smith (owner of Tattoo Parlor) needs to move. The minutes state, “Mr. Smith stated his landlord has evicted him to put something else within the building. Mr. Smith also stated he “would like to stay in the town and be allowed to move his business to another area.”
- Zoning regulations on signage in Higganum Village were discussed. Commissioner Bull stated Mr. Smith would need to meet the Village District sign regulations. Mr. Warner explained that “there was insufficient time to develop a design for an exterior sign given the urgency of the matter.”

Haddam P&Z Regulations state the following:

Section 5.6. Any use not listed as permitted in a zone shall be deemed prohibited. Without limiting the scope of this provision, the following uses are expressly prohibited, whether as a principal or accessory use or in any other guise:

- 5.6.C.8 Prohibits “Tattoo and/or body piercing studios.”
- Mr. Bull asked Mr. Smith if he had pursued other locations besides Higganum Village for his business. Mr. Smith stated, “Yes, and that the proposed relocation site is where he had wanted to have his business originally.”
- Parking and signage were discussed and minutes note, “Mr. Smith stated he would like to keep the signage classy.”
- The minutes note: “There were no residents present to [speak] either for or against the proposal.”
- Mr. Bull motioned to close the public hearing at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Wallor seconded, and Motion carried unanimously.

Continued on page HK5

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### How To Make Your Divorce Less Stressful on Your Children

By Attorney Makana A. Ellis

Divorces can be complicated and difficult, but they do not have to be difficult on your children. Here are practical steps to take to make the divorce process less stressful:

1. **Talk to Your Children**  
Have a conversation with your children about the divorce together with your spouse, if this is feasible. Be honest about what is taken place and allow them to ask questions.
2. **Make Sure Your Children Know the Divorce is Not Their Fault**  
Assure your children the divorce is not their fault and they do not need to blame themselves for it.
3. **Continue Daily Routines**  
It is vital to try to continue the daily routines. Even if you and your spouse are living separately, continue to share in parenting responsibilities, if this is feasible.
4. **Do Not Argue and Fight in Front of Your Children**  
It is important to put your best foot forward in front of your children and to not argue or fight in front of them.
5. **Seek professional help if needed**  
A family therapist can help assist with the transition of going through a divorce and can help your children cope and deal with their feelings.

If you are considering filing for a divorce, please contact **Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, P.C.** to discuss your options and for a consultation.

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## Killingworth Lions Celebrate 50 Years

*Continued from page HK1*

Kempton and Charlie Smith still remain active as contributing members 50 years later)

In their first year the club raised funds by selling plastic bags at the River Rd. dump and selling light bulbs door to door. The money was used to purchase an eyesight testing machine for the Killingworth Elementary School. In the fall of 1971, they established their long and continuing association with the Durham Fair by selling fried pizza dough from a tent. The 70s also brought sponsorship of the Killingworth Town Picnic with sky diving entertainment, softball games against the Fire Department, cow chip bingo and beer sales. Longtime residents will remember a much-loved local restaurant at that time, The Country Squire, which provided good food and a private meeting room for the initial twice monthly meetings.

During the 1980s increasing membership boosted fundraising activities. Kids Night Out (KNO) was initiated at the Congregational Church Old Town Hall. A Lions "Lend a Hand" initiative was very active and club members built masonry-walled baseball dugouts at Rocco Reale Field. The still popular Easter Egg Hunt tradition came to be and the Durham Fair fried dough sales were enhanced with the use of several construction trailers converted to Pizza booths. It was during the 80s that the Lions adopted their Christmas Tree Sales event, which is one of their most successful fund raisers to this day. Meetings eventually moved to the VFW Hall on Route 81 when the Country Squire sadly closed. The club adopted social events such as the Fall Pig Roast, which eventually became the "New Member" Pig Roast, and the always lively Christmas Party during the holidays.

Membership continued to increase during the 1990s and the Club collaborated with the Haddam Lions to sponsor Roberts Brothers Three Ring Circus at Burr Elementary School in 1994. It was at this time that the Club initiated the popular Annual Senior Dinner Night event, thanking the town's senior citizens for their lifetime of contributions to community. It was decided that the Killingworth "Citizen of the Year" Award would be announced at the

Senior Dinner and the tradition continues. Thanksgiving and Christmas Food drives began during this decade to fortify the pantry shelves at Helping Hands. Tent rentals became a very successful fundraiser, second only to the Durham Fair Pizza Dough sales. Local Lions organized a community-wide raffle fundraiser which provided \$26,000 for a FIDELCO Guide Dog for the blind.

In the 21st Century, the Lion's Den moved from the VFW to the Madison Rod and Gun Club, and then to the Killingworth Congregational Church in 2013 where monthly Lions meetings are conducted. In 2015 five women were inducted into the club and the first female president Nancy Keyes, was installed in 2020. Two FIDELCO Guide Dog Vans were donated in partnership with other clubs. In 2017-2018 The Lions Centennial Project was the installation of playground equipment at Sheldon Park. Much Lion effort was put into the organization and operation of the 350th Anniversary Town Parade and Picnic Celebration where over a 1,000 community members and families enjoyed a beautiful day at Parmelee Farm.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic the Killingworth Lions have been actively collecting food and monetary donations at the transfer station for the Helping Hands Food Pantry and the HK Backpack Program. In the Spring close to 70 bags of food were picked up from ShopRite in Clinton by Lions members and delivered throughout our town with all safety precautions implemented. Many thanks to Mercedes Riccui, Killingworth's Municipal Agent and Amber Stamm, the HK Backpack Program Director, and to the group of Lions who volunteered countless hours fulfilling the immediate needs of the town's food pantry and the HK Backpack program. The Lions would like to extend their gratitude to all those who have contributed to these important and vital causes such as our Annual Appeal Letter, Holiday Food Drives in coordination with the Killingworth Women's Organization (KWO) and Christmas Tree Sales and many who have donated above and beyond especially Mary and George Keithan. A special thanks for support from the Killingworth Division of the Middlesex County Chamber, especially Chamber Chair Franco Piscitelli, the Killingworth

Krier's Editor Karen Milano and Advertising and Designer Lynn Reed.

The Lions members empower each other in ways no one person can do alone. Their mission is to reach and serve the greater population and quickly respond to individuals who need their help on a moment's notice. "Where there is a need there is a Lion". This dynamic group of 54 caring volunteers continues to support over 30 service and charity organizations through fundraising events, determined to fight hunger and help those who are struggling due to health, personal or family hardships. The Lions signature fundraisers donate every dollar raised and every item collected back to the community. Since the club's inception in 1970, the club has raised over \$868,000 as of December 2020 and will continue its mission to help those who are in need.

Next up on the community project list is supporting the Killingworth Elementary School (KES) PTO efforts to replace the playground at the back of the school. Through fundraising and hands-on work efforts this project can be accomplished in 2021. Says Nancy Keyes, current President... "We are just getting started as we continue to move further into our 6th decade of service, our commitment to taking action and making a positive impact on our community and the world we live in. There are over 1.4 million people who are Lions world-wide and know the power of putting kindness in action."

If you are a resident of Killingworth and have an interest in learning more about our club, its members and humanitarian efforts both locally and internationally, please contact Charlie Smith, Membership Chairperson at (203) 430-5887 or email: csmith0701@comcast.net or visit the Killingworth Lions website: www.killingworthlions.org or FB @ KillingworthLionsClub.

## DEATHS

### Julia McClain Schwartz Bond

Julia McClain Schwartz Bond, 68, of Killingworth passed away on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

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# HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH TOWN & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please visit [www.haddam.org](http://www.haddam.org), [www.townofkillingworth.com](http://www.townofkillingworth.com) or [hk-now.com](http://hk-now.com) for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes.

See [hk-now.com](http://hk-now.com) for more information on calendar items.

## Thursday, March 11

Killingworth Conservation Comm. Mtg. (remote access) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Haddam Park & Rec. Mtg 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

## Saturday, March 13

Virtual Super Saturday Storytime 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Killingworth library remains closed. Join our Saturday Storytimes on our YouTube channel! <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

## Monday, March 15

Haddam BOF Regular & Budget Review Mtg. (remote access) 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Haddam Inland Wetlands Meeting (re-

mote access) 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Killingworth Charter Revision Comm. Mtg. (remote access) 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, March 16

RSD17 Community Input on BOE Budget 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (remote access)

Killingworth P&Z Comm. Mtg. (remote access) 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, March 17

Killingworth Comm. on Alternative

Housing Mtg. (remote access) 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## Thursday, March 18

Haddam P&Z PUBLIC HEARING Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. HES  
Mystery Book Club (Zoom) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we discuss Plum Island by Nelson DeMille.

Email the library at [mail@killingworthlibrary.org](mailto:mail@killingworthlibrary.org). Extra copies available at the library.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE HK3

# P&Z, and A Tattoo Parlor in Higganum Village

*Continued from page HK3*

The Public Meeting continued as the P&Z Commission discussed the request of Mr. Smith.

Mr. Warner explained that because the Tattoo Parlor is the only item in 5.6 that is pre-existing, the zone would have to be changed in order for Mr. Smith to open his business in Higganum Village. Mr. Bull noted that if the language in the regulations could be rewritten, he was “in favor of the proposed relocation.” Commissioner Chadwick asked if a variance could be done, and Mr. Warner stated yes, but asked “why would the Commission allow a separate board to override the Commission’s regulations?” Mr. Warner stated, “the language is designed to accommodate exactly what the Commission was doing.”

Commissioner Luisi stated, “this matter is being made into a bigger deal than it needs to be.” Mr. Wallor agreed.

Prior to the vote on the motion, Mr. Wallor asked Mr. Warner how the motion will change Section 5.6. Mr. Warner stated the wording would change to (existing & licensed tattoo businesses in the Town of Haddam

are allowed to terminate and abandon their current location and relocate to other zones in the Town allowing personal service establishments.)

Mr. Bull motioned to approve proposed 5.6.C.[8] Tattoo and/or body piercing studios (existing business allowed to relocate to other zones allowing personal service establishments) 310 Saybrook Road, Higganum. Map 14A Lot 009. Applicant: Goodspeed Tattoo. Condition – Signage limited to window graphics similar to the gold leaf lettering at existing location. No neon or LED window signage. No exterior sign proposed. Mr. Wallor seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (from P&Z Minutes)

So, one might wonder, why do we have regulations in place that specifically state Tattoo Parlors were prohibited in Higganum Village?

There has been a lot of time and taxpayer dollars spent over the years discussing what types of businesses residents want to see in Higganum Village. The recent Charrettes indicated that residents want to make the Village a place which would attract tourists, hikers, and artisan shops.

Tattoo Parlors were never a part of the plans of any of the groups in the Charrettes.

The failure to notify the public that a Public Hearing was scheduled is clearly problematic. If the P&Z bylaws had been followed, the Commission may have realized a Public Hearing notice had not been filed. At that point, the meeting could have been rescheduled to allow for public input.

As a result of the Commission not notifying the public, a lawsuit was filed on January 30, 2020 in the Superior Court in Middletown, CT. The individual asked the Court to reverse the decision and order the P&Z Commission to deny the application. They are also asking for “a temporary restrain-

ing order be issued, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 8-8(h), prohibiting any use of the text amendment pending the completion of this Appeal” and “Such other relief as appears equitable and appropriate to the Court.”

The first Public Hearing Notice appeared in the March 4, 2021 edition of Haddam Killingworth News. The second is scheduled to appear in the March 11, 2021 edition.

A Public Hearing will be held on March 18, 2021 7:00 p.m. at HES.

Haddam P&Z minutes for Dec 3, 2020:

[https://www.haddam.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4486/f/minutes/pz-dec32020\\_minutes\\_-\\_in-person.pdf](https://www.haddam.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4486/f/minutes/pz-dec32020_minutes_-_in-person.pdf)

Lawsuit information: <http://civilinquiry.jud.ct.gov/DocumentInquiry/DocumentInquiry.aspx?DocumentNo=20036447>

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# Upcoming HK Recreation Programs

Submitted by Josselyn Salafia

For more information, please call the HK Recreation Department at 860-345-8334 or visit us on-line at [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com).

## CREATIVE ART

Kids - get creative making lots of fun crafts with Tracey Distasio! Children will create a variety of different projects as well as cookie decorating on the last day! Class will meet on Tuesdays, 3/9 - 3/30 from 4:15 - 5:30 pm at Haddam Elementary School All-purpose room. The fee is \$55 (non-residents add \$10). Kids should bring a smock or shirt that can get messy. Visit [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com) to register today.

## HK RecCreation Stations

Come join us! There will be seven stations to engage your child's fine and gross motor skills (i.e fitness, tactile, music, nature, arts & craft & more). Stations and items will be sanitized. One family per station at a time. Program meets Mondays, 3/15 - 3/29 from 10:00 - 11:00 am. Fee is \$30 (non-residents add \$10). Visit [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com) to register today.

## LEGO Challenge

Do you think you have what it takes? Each week you will have one hour to build and solve a unique story challenge from the comfort and safety of your home via Zoom! Register for Wednesdays 3/10 & 3/17 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm or Thursdays 3/11 & 3/18 from 4:15 - 5:15 pm. Different challenges each week. Sign up for one or both! A zoom link will be sent each week. Fee is \$22. Visit [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com) to register today.

## KARATE KIDS

The Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department is offering Karate for boys and girls ages 5 - 12. The class will be held at Haddam Elementary School on Mondays & Wednesdays from March 8 - March 24. The classes meet from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. The fee is \$42 (all 6) / \$21 (for 3). Non-residents can sign up for an additional \$10. Visit [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com) to register today.

## ZUMBA KIDS

The Zumba Kids program is the ultimate dance-fitness party for young Zumba fans where they can play it loud and rock with friends to their own rules! This program features age appropriate music and moves that will get kids movin' to the beat. The program will run March 11 - March 25 at the Haddam Elementary School gym. The fee is \$38 (non-residents add \$10) and meets from 4:15- 5:15 pm. Visit [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com) to register today.

## HORSEBACK RIDING

The Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department is offering Horseback Riding Lessons. Classes run for 4 weeks. The fee is \$175 (non-residents add \$10). Program will meet on Tuesdays, March 9 - March 30, 4:30 - 5:30pm, 5:45 - 6:45pm or 7:00 - 8:00 pm for ages 6 - 13. There is a max of 4 participants per time slot.

This class will cover grooming, saddling, riding, safety skills, as well as fun games. Lessons are geared for the novice rider. All equipment will be provided including Western and English saddle and helmet. More advanced students are welcome. Facility is lighted. Participants should wear pants. A heeled shoe (boots) is preferred. Classes are held at Whitney Ridge Stables, 227 Little City Road, Higganum. Visit [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com) to register today.

## SKYHAWKS MULT-SPORT PROGRAM (Soccer, Basketball, Baseball)

This is an introductory sports program for children that meets Tuesdays, March 30 - April 20 at Sheldon Park, 5:00 - 5:45 (ages 4-6) or 6:00 - 6:45 (ages 7- 10). The fee is \$75 (non-res. add \$10). This multi-sport program gives children a positive first step into athletics. Baseball, basketball, and soccer are taught in a safe, structured environment with lots of encouragement and a big focus on fun. There is a max of 10 participants per group. Visit [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com) to register today.

## Do-it-at-home Doodlekits - ART IN BLOOM by Abrakadoodle

This is the perfect activity to bring home for spring. Gift baskets are wrapped in cellophane and includes package of construction paper, watercolor and multi-media paper for projects, scissors, glue/ glue sticks, watercolor sets, crayons, colored pencils, markers, brushes, tempera paint, an activity/coloring book & instructions. Will feature art from artists such as Beatrix Potter, Kusama Yayoi, Piet Mondrian, and Damien Hirst. Zoom Instruction is available as an option. Fee is \$58 per kit (Non-Res. add \$5). Each kit contains 5 projects. Visit [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com) to register today.

## FITNESS YOGA

The Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department is offering Fitness Yoga on Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 9 - April 1 from 7:00 - 8:15 pm via Zoom. Journey through a 75-minute mind/body class. Discover the strength and cardiovascular benefits of this power yoga class and enjoy the relaxation as you reduce stress. Gain flexibility and balance through a flow of yoga poses. This is a great class for all levels including advanced, intermediate and beginners. The fees are \$64 (2 x a week), \$31(1 x a week) and \$10 for a drop-in. Visit [www.hkrec.com](http://www.hkrec.com) to register today.

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# Local Company Toesty Sheets Set to Revolutionize Bed Making

By Kathy Brown

While making her bed on vacation four years ago, Michele Wytas realized that she accidentally packed two fitted sheets. Being a problem solver, Michele worked with what she had and layered the two fitted sheets on top of each other, then folded down the top layered sheet at the head of the bed. Her son tackled the bedmaking every day quickly and easily, instead of avoiding it like he usually did. "These are great!" Michele thought, "How do I not have these?"

She established a company to produce the sheets in March 2018. The parent company is called Calyx LLC, from the Calyx-sepal pod of a plant, Michele explained. "[The pod] protects the fine silky hairs, kind of like our sheets protect you at night." Right now she is the only employee, and they are starting with a small run of 1,000 units. She has her eye to the future though. "Once we grow and expand, we are looking for a place in East Haddam/Haddam area to make our home," said Michele. "We are looking; so let us know."

She lived with her former husband in Haddam for 16 years. "I have so many fond memories [in Haddam] from getting engaged in my rock garden, to raising our two boys up until high school in town, making so many lifelong friends, and being part of the community."

Michele has a BA in Communications, and she is a certified teacher in Technology. She is working on her Masters in Education now, while starting this business, and continuing her graphic design freelance career. Plus she's the mother of two busy teenaged boys.

After her divorce, she took a job designing at the Connecticut Lottery so that she could get back on her feet and rebuild what was once their summer home in East Haddam into a year round home. Once that was complete, she took the leap and left her full-time job to return to freelance design and animation, under the name Renderwoman.

Michele said there were many people who helped



Michele Wytas showing product. Photo provided by Michele Wytas.

get this idea off the ground and "I can't thank them enough!": State of Connecticut Small Business provided her with free services, UCONN law took her on as a free client, friends helped her write, market, shoot commercials, gave her business advice, participated in photo shoots, and are helping spread the word about her sheets. "I'm truly blessed," said Michele.

Though she is starting off with a small run, she has plans to add new products and develop both retail and industrial side by getting into hotels, nursing homes, and hospitals.

The sheets have a lot going for them: they were designed locally, they're 100% organic cotton, free of pesticides and insecticides and/or 100% recycled materials. From the tote the products are wrapped in to the shipping boxes and labels, it is either designed to be repurposed or already is so you can feel good about the purchase.

As part of her marketing plan, she has this to say about her new line of sheets, Toesty Sheets eliminates all these time consuming and frustrating errors in bed making like putting the top sheet on backwards or upside down, or running around the bed to make sure that everything is even. "The Toesty Sheets' top sheet goes on once and goes on correctly."

Michele's solution was to integrate an elastic

banded end cap at the foot of the sheet, along with gradient seamed sides. She has applied for a patent. "The end cap slips over the mattress easily, eliminating the need for 'hospital corners,' while the gradient side seams are tailored to prevent the need for side tucks. This top sheet design distinguishes the bottom of the sheet from the top, and it ensures a correct foldover. With those margins of error eliminated, the sheet can be quickly placed onto a mattress — without the need for centering, aligning, folding, and tucking — the hybrid top sheet is instantly centered on the bed, with a straight top, and even side drops."

"I had an idea before this one and people laughed, so I gave up on it," Michele said. "Then the universe gave me this idea and I said I had to try it. When I find a product that makes a chore more manageable, while at the same time being beautiful, I feel giddy with excitement! I hold that product in my hands and think, 'Yes! This is so smart! And look how pretty!' I absolutely love them and know you will too."

Michele is offering readers in the local area this discount to use on her website: HometownVibes for 15% off and free shipping. You can also check out her Facebook page or Instagram.

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## Haddam Civic League Scholarship Accepting Applications

By Kathy Brown

Are you interested in the field of Journalism or Communication? Are you a graduating senior who is a resident of Haddam, Higganum, Haddam Neck, or Killingworth? Then maybe this scholarship is for you.

The Haddam Civic League Scholarship was established in 2015 to recognize students whose high school career reflects the values of good citizenship, respect and an appreciation of the role communications plays in our society. The Haddam Civic League is organized and operated for the purpose of collecting and disseminating news and information for the benefit of the citizens of Haddam through its on-line newspaper H-KNow.com and its print newspaper Haddam Killingworth News. The organization is guided by a sense of impartiality including presentation of opposing views, devoid of conflicts of interest and supported by research.

Any graduating senior who is a resident of Haddam or Killingworth, a member in good standing of his/her student body, a participant in extra-curricular activities and who has performed community service during his/her high school career is eligible for this scholarship. The student shall have participated in at least one aspect of communications in high school

(school newspaper, TV, or other journalism activity). The student shall have contributed at least one (1) article to the H-KNow.com publication. The scholarship award is for use in the student's pursuit of secondary education in the field of journalism or communications. The student must complete the Application: HCL Scholarship Application (one can access the application here: HCL scholarship application, and submit two letters of recommendation and an essay (750 words or less) that addresses the following: What role should the media play in the dissemination of information? Why is accurate and unbiased information important? How do you see your college major fitting into the values of proper journalism or communications?

The student may be required to interview with the Scholarship Committee and/or its representatives. Specifications can be found at the following link: HCL 2021 Scholarship Specs. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2021 mailed to The Haddam Civic League Scholarship Fund Committee, c/o William R. Bowles, Esq., PO Box 478, Higganum, CT 06441-0478.

Payment of the scholarship proceeds will be made directly to the student upon verification of tuition payment via a cancelled check or a receipt from the recipient's choice of college or university.

Haddam Civic League is the parent organization of H-KNow.com and Haddam Killingworth News.

### 60's Songs

Find and circle all of the 1960's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional 1960's song.

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S S W I L D T H I N G W I P E O U T K  
T I M Z B C E C Y L E G N A N E E T O  
H K Y Z R C R N E E Y A W A N U R O O  
E T G Y D V A Y O P S B U S S T O P P  
S S I W O A L R I T S T E L P A S O S  
E A R N W L O Y A N S E E O M Y G U Y  
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Y W H I T E R A B B I T V R D F O P S  
E B B H O R T F P N A A A L C A U N I  
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R E T H T W I N D Y N F W H H P A G T  
E T C I E B L U E M O O N Y A T S H R

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BLUE MOON  
BLUE VELVET  
BUS STOP  
CARA MIA  
CHAIN GANG  
CHERISH  
CRAZY  
CRYING  
DIZZY  
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SPOOKY

STAY  
SURF CITY  
TEEN ANGEL  
THE BOXER  
THE TWIST  
THESE EYES  
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\* paper is affiliated with HK-Now.com and the Haddam Civic League

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### PLANNING AND ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing at the former Haddam Elementary School, 272 Saybrook Road, Higganum CT on March 18th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item(s):

- Proposed Zoning Text Amendment to the Haddam Zoning Regulations – Section 5.6 C.5 Tattoo and/or body piercing studios with a site plan approval at 310 Saybrook Road, Higganum, CT. A copy of existing and proposed text is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk. Applicant/Property Owner: George Smith / Robert Lloyd

### Proposed Language

- Tattoo and/or body piercing studios; **provided, however, that existing & licensed tattoo businesses in the Town of Haddam are allowed by site plan review to terminate and abandon their current location and relocate to other zones in the Town which allow personal service establishments.**

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

Planning and Zoning Commission, Haddam CT

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.