

Haddam Killingworth News

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March 25, 2021

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Free weekly



Flash Fried Brussel Sprouts. Photographs by David Challenger.

Part 1: A Visit to Po's Rice & Spice Restaurant

By Sharon Challenger.

Editor's Note: This is Part 1 of a two-part series about Po's Rice & Spice Restaurant where a dining experience is presented.

Nothing is finer than to wake up to a sunny warm day after a long and grueling winter season.

"Can it get any better? I wondered. I was about to find out.

My calendar reminded me that I had an adventure planned. Today was the day I was supposed to meet with Po Fong, owner of Po's Rice and Spice restaurant in East Hampton, CT.

My mission: To find out what so many people in Higganum and Haddam had been raving about.

I heard about Po's over social media during the Covid-19 "lockdown," and curiosity drove me to ask a couple questions on



Megan's Salt Baked Shrimp

Facebook. "Do you like Po's?" and "What is your favorite dish on their menu?" I sat back and waited, not knowing what to expect, because social media can be risky at times. Within moments the responses came pouring in. The number of responses and the variety of answers – were all tremendously positive. Some even referred me

Continued on page HK8

2021 Mr. H-K Winner: Julian Spector

By Katja Berardino.

On Friday, March 5, 2021, Haddam Killingworth high school students from the HKTV program put on the 24th annual Mr. HK, where students competed with their performances, including singing and comedy acts. Members of the community were able to watch the show live from their own homes, and three faculty members were present as judges. The students competed to be crowned and claim the title of Mr. HK 2021.

This year's contestants were: Freshman David Sargent; Sophomores Nate Kelly and Andrew Melnick; Junior Riley Mack; and Seniors Jaden Mack, Brien McNamara, Julian Spector, and Gabe Martone. The judges were Ms. Deibert, Mr. Pallatto, and Mr. Cropper-Alt, who are all teachers at the high school. The show was hosted by Fisher Harris and Sophie Ramino. Students took on the roles of director, technical director, camera operators, stage managers, choreographers and audio managers.

The other students who organized and ran the show were Katja Berardino, Patrick Boots, Henry Sodergren, Morgan Schultz, Charlie Martino, Shane Coleman, Nick Pach, Logan DiCicco, Shelby Welsch, and Mia Rubino. The show was produced by Kasha Topa-Finberg and Jim Kane.

This year's show came with some extra challenges. The show was postponed from its original date due to



Photo of Mr. H-K Julian Spector. Photo provided by Steady Photography

snow and dangerous road conditions. Also, the high school was operating with a hybrid model, making it difficult to plan and organize the show when only half of the students could be there at once. Contestants couldn't perform in front of a live audience, like they usually do, so the show was broadcast for the community to watch from home. Despite the challenges, the students of HKTV were able to put on a successful show that was fun to participate in as well as watch!

Thank you to everyone who competed in and helped with the show! Congratulations to Julian Spector, who was crowned Mr. HK 2021 with his amazing performance of an original song that he sang and played on his guitar.

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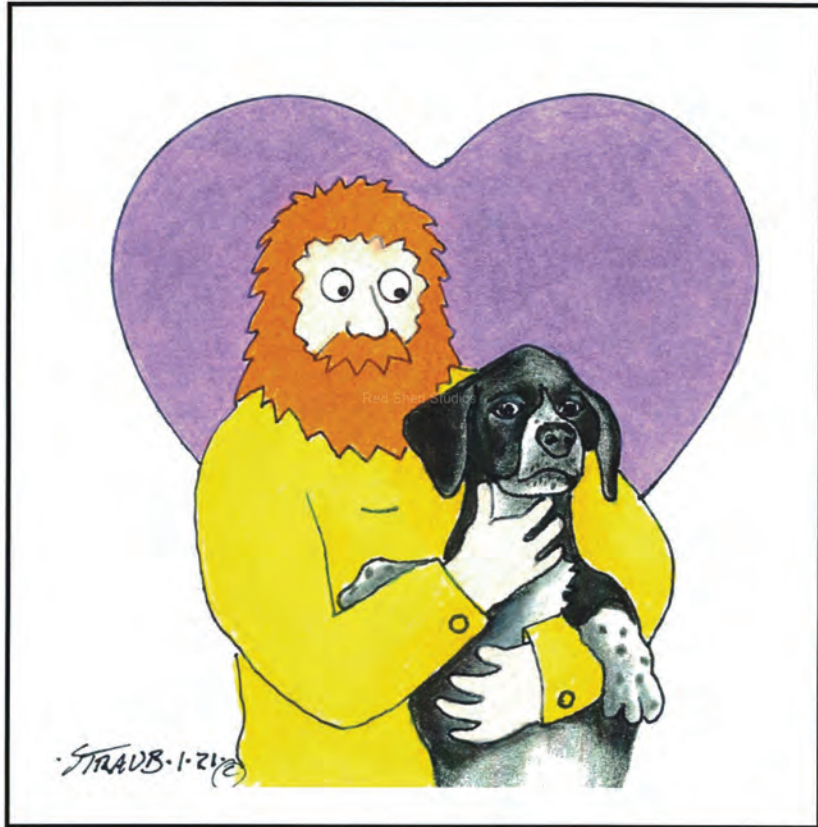
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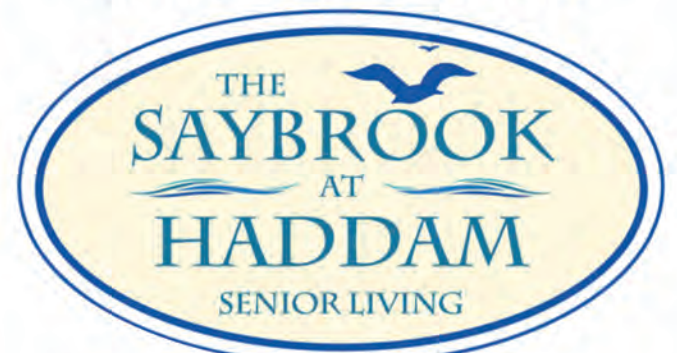
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Recycling in Haddam During COVID

By Kristin Battistoni.

What began as a small initiative by a few town employees has brought awareness to the need for Haddam to become a more environmentally friendly place. About a year and a half before COVID hit we were going strong.

The administration offered the staff more opportunities to become more sustainable in the Town Office Building itself. We started small and back to the basics. Each department was given a recycling container, we reached out to our hauler for clarification on types of material that should or should not be recycled. We put in a compost bin to reduce our bulky waste and began cancelling magazines and bulk mailings that no one read.

In the following months, residents took notice and began offering us some additional suggestions. Haddam formed a Sustainability Committee. A resident told us about a program through TREX that allows us to recycle soft plastic. We began collecting and recycling plastic by the ton and in return received three benches that are placed around town. We began to use Bay State Textiles to recycle textiles not suitable for donation. We started participating

and hosting community forums and officially joined Sustainable CT. We were well on our way to making Haddam an example of a sustainable town.

Then COVID struck. Recycling and being sustainable took a back seat to safety. We were told to go out as little as possible and we did. We supported local restaurants with take out only. We wore masks, many disposable, as to not spread a virus we were unsure of. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and spray were bought by the case. All of these efforts were necessary but generated a lot single use waste product.

All is not lost! We still have a small core of volunteers who are delivering plastic for TREX. The Bay State Textile recycle initiative is going strong. We just received a check for electronic recycling from the Transfer Station. The swap shack at the Transfer Station is open again. We have been in contact with the Haddam Killingworth High School Environmental club to put together initiatives to benefit us all.

I putting out a call out to all members of the community who are interested in creating an environmentally friendly Haddam. Please consider joining the Sustainability Committee. This committee is

going to take shape based on the needs and ideas of the committees and the community.

If you have a project/vision that you want to explore this is the place for you! If you belong to a group or own a business that wants to get involved in reducing waste, this is the place for you. If you're a teacher and want to get your students involved this is the place for you! Whether you have a lot of time to help or a little, if you're interested in sustainability, this is the place for you! We can look at different ways of saving the planet starting in Haddam. No project is too small or too big.

The Town of Haddam does have a few events being planned currently. On May 8th we will be holding a Shred-It event near the community center from 9-12. If you have material you would like shredded join us for this event. A donation of \$5 a box will raise money for Social Services. On June 25th we will have a booth at the Higganum Farmer's Market for Eco-Awareness Day and again on July 23rd for Haddam Appreciation Day.

If you would like to get involved please contact Kristin Battistoni in the Tax Office at 860-345-8531 X 207 or email taxcollect@haddam.org.

CAMPUS CORNER

Local Student Plays on Eastern CT's Baseball Team

By Carol Ricker.

The varsity baseball and softball teams at Eastern Connecticut State University are amid their spring 2021 seasons of competition. Among the student athletes are:

- Owen Marica, a junior from Haddam who plays shortstop/pitcher on the baseball team and majors in Psychology.

Eastern offers a broad-based, Division III athletic program aimed at safe-

guarding the amateur aspects of the various sports and maintaining the proper perspective of athletics within Eastern's academic mission. By placing emphasis on the values of equity, diversity, sportsmanship, health and well-being, Eastern's athletic program encourages students to contribute more effectively to our society and live richer, fuller lives.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving more



Owen Marica.

than 4,000 students annually at its Wilimantic campus and satellite locations. In addition to attracting students from 162 of Connecticut's 169 towns, Eastern also draws students from 33 other states and 20 countries. A residential campus offering 40 majors and 60 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal art foundation grounded in a

variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked as the #1 public regional university in New England by U.S. News and World Report in its 2021 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded "Green Campus" status by the Princeton Review 11 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.



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Common Nutritional Deficiencies

If we do not consume or absorb a necessary amount of certain nutrients, then significant conditions can develop. Nutritional deficiencies can lead to poor bone growth, skin, nerve, and digestive conditions. Even in the United States, there are population groups that experience severe nutritional deficiencies while world-wide malnutrition has created a significant disease burden.

Vitamin D deficiency, also known as rickets, occurs mostly among elderly, institutionalized or hospitalized persons. There are rare forms of nutritional rickets that are due to a defect in Vitamin D metabolism. But, Vitamin D deficiency is not restricted to elderly, as poor dietary intake and lack of sun exposure affects the young as well. Foods high in Vitamin D are oily fish, fortified milk, and dairy products. The amount of Vitamin D produced by the skin when exposed to sunlight can last twice as long in the body versus ingested Vitamin D.

Iodine deficiency- Iodine replacement is indicated for all patients with iodine deficiency. Normal dietary intake of iodine is 100-150ug/day but pregnant and lactating women require 250ug/day. The first sign of iodine deficiency is thyroid enlargement. Patients with severe iodine deficiency have dry skin, bulging eyes, and inflexible muscles.

Vitamin B-12 deficiency- is usually diagnosed when a patient exhibits symptoms of sore tongue, weakness, and tingling in their extremities. Vitamin B12 deficiency can lead to a severe condition of brain swelling, severe anemia, or congestive heart failure.

Identification of nutritional deficiencies require a doctor's diagnosis, but a good way to avoid such problems is to eat a healthy diet avoiding sugars, salt and excessive fats.

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RSD #17 BOE: Summary of February 2021 Meetings

By Jen Favalora.

2020-2021 School Year: Superintendent Hageman announced the plan to bring HKHS back to full in-person learning. As was reported last month, with the field house renovations complete, the only obstacle in a full reopening was the high number of Covid cases in our towns. With community metrics trending down, the administration has planned a staggered return for all students starting with Seniors on March 15th, Freshman on March 22nd and Juniors and Sophomores will return to school on March 29th. All RSD17 students still have the option to learn remotely. The High School administration is also working on modified plans for Senior Spring traditions with health and safety as a priority while giving these students a memorable end to their Senior year.

Vision of the Graduate: Dr. Hageman announced that after several months of work with community members, teachers and staff, Board members and the administration, RSD17 had finalized the Vision of the Graduate. This Vision clarifies six skills and dispositions that our community and schools desire as essential traits in our graduates. Our Vision focuses on developing our learners to be critical thinkers and collaborators, who are caring and compassionate with the skills and mindsets to solve real-world challenges. Students grow and contrib-

ute through academic exploration and feedback, perseverance and resilience, and open-mindedness to others' perspectives. The skills and dispositions in our Vision will guide our ongoing efforts to prepare our students to provide leadership, creativity, and ingenuity in an increasingly connected global world. You can read the details on our Vision of the Graduate, including the six skills and dispositions identified, on our RSD17.org website and then by clicking on the article to read it in its entirety.

Curriculum Committee: The Curriculum Committee introduced a proposal for Social/Emotional Learning Curriculums for both the Middle School and High School for the upcoming school year. The middle school proposed using the evidence-based Curriculum called "Second Step," which reinforces important skills such as managing stress, coping with challenges, resolving conflicts, building and maintaining healthy relationships, and responsible decision-making. The high school would provide SEL lessons once a week during their advisory period through a multimedia program called "School Connect" focusing on competencies identified by researchers as critical to success in school, the workplace, and life in general.

Diversity Committee: The Curriculum Committee reported that the District's Diversity Committee recently

completed a four part professional development series on understanding social identity and aligning equity goals with learning outcomes. The Committee has initiated professional development at all of the schools this Spring with a continued plan for professional development through 2021-2022. Alongside HK Youth and Family, the Committee has organized a monthly study group which focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion. Additionally, parents who are interested in participating in District focus groups are encouraged to contact Humanities Coordinator Jenn Beermunder.

Facilities Committee: The Facilities Committee reported their concerns to the Board on the condition of the White House and Barn located on the HKHS property. There is specific concern with the condition of the roof and boiler at the White House which houses HK Rec and HK Youth and Family Services. The Facilities Committee

recommended, and the Board agreed, for the District to work in partnership with both agencies to find alternate spaces within school district facilities to support our partners who serve the students and families of Haddam and Killingworth.

Correction: The January BOE Summary incorrectly reported the recently signed BOE- HKEA contract allowed for 2½ step movements to teachers. However, there were only 2 step movements negotiated over the three year contract.

Website: In March, the Board of Education will begin work on the 2021-2022 RSD17 School Budget. All meetings, including the Superintendent's March 2nd Budget Presentation, can be viewed live or recorded through the RSD17.org website. Proposed Budgets, Budget Timeline and FAQ's will be updated as they become available under "District" -> "Budget Information".

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.

Saturday, March 27

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

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

Thursday, March 25

Haddam ZBA Meeting (remote access only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Killingworth Library's (Book) Scavenger Hunt runs through March 31, 2021.

Contact Killingworth Library at 860 663-2000.

"Bid for Brainerd"

Brainerd Memorial Library is hosting an online auction, on BiddingOwl.com. The auction begins March 19 and runs through March 28, 2021.

Monday, March 29

Haddam BOF Budget Review Mtg. (remote access only) 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31

Haddam Conservation Comm. Meeting (remote access only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 1

Parmelee Farm Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Pond Room

DEATHS

Dorothy Ann Wright

Dorothy Ann Wright, of Killingworth, passed away on March 10, 2021.



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Making Mental Health a Priority After a Traumatic Event

By Attorney Alexander J. Sarris

A workplace accident resulting in an injury has an immediate impact of having to do with a physical injury and medical care required to recover. However, it is easy to overlook and not appreciate what can oftentimes be an ever greater challenge to a worker: the mental struggle that can develop from trying to come to terms and cope with the lasting effects of a physical injury. Reduced earning, recovery setbacks and even delays in treatment can all take a toll on an injured worker's mental health, thereby making full recovery even more daunting.

Here are some helpful pointers to make preserving your mental health a priority after a workplace accident:

- Do not be embarrassed or ashamed to discuss mental health concerns if you are struggling with depression or anxiety following a workplace accident.
- Be honest and forthright with medical professionals from whom you receive treatment for your physical injuries if you are concerned about your mental health.
- Medical professionals can provide helpful guidance and referrals if needed.
- Be prepared to have a candid discussion with a mental health professional regarding how your depression and anxiety from the workplace accident has influenced you personally, professionally and/or socially.

Today, making mental health a priority is important for everyone, especially those struggling with a workplace accident that derailed a prior lifestyle. If you find yourself in such a position and are in need of assistance, the attorneys at Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, P.C. are available for a free consultation regarding your rights and options to protect your interests.

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Killingworth Copes: March 12, 2021

By Cathy Iino, First Selectwoman, Killingworth.

It's been a year since the governor declared a public health emergency in Connecticut. Killingworth has done pretty well, all things considered. To date, we have had 302 confirmed cases of COVID—less than 5 percent of our population—and, tragically, 6 deaths. About 9 percent of the U.S. population has had confirmed cases to date, and about 7.5 percent of the Connecticut population.

As of the 8th of March, 1,967 Killingworth residents had received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine. That is over half of our population age 45 and older! Good work, Killingworth—especially given the difficulties in scheduling vaccination appointments that many of us have faced.

For those of you who have not yet signed up for vaccination, alert citizens have shared two helpful sites: <https://vaccinefinder.org>, created by the CDC, allows you to find vaccine clinics near you just by typing in your zip code.

www.covidvaccinetexts.com, “built by a few folks who were tired of clicking refresh on pharmacy websites trying to get a vaccine appointment,” gives you a chart of options with a variety of information, including how to contact a particular vaccination provider.

VA Clinics. The Veteran’s Administration is now holding walk-in clinics for veterans of any age who are enrolled with the VA. Clinics are scheduled at the West Haven Annex, 200 Edison Road in Orange, today, March 12, from noon to 4:00 p.m., and March 15, 16, 18, and 19, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

The VA will also hold a clinic on March 17, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., in Waterford (Oswegatchie Elementary School, 470 Boston Post Road). This one requires an appointment; enrolled veterans can schedule into the clinic by calling 203-932-5711, x5627, 7784, or 7754.

Veterans can enroll with the VA at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/>.

Housebound residents. We are trying to arrange vac-

inations for housebound residents. If you or someone you know is housebound and would like to get the vaccine, please call 860-663-1765, x220, and leave a phone number. We will call you to get the name and address of the person. We will notify you as soon as we have a program set up.

Unfortunately, Killingworth’s rate of infection per 100,000 people has gone back up to 31.4, which keeps us in the red zone for risk of transmission. That means we must continue to wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines. Even if you are vaccinated, wearing a mask will prevent possible spread to others and will reassure people you see in public that their exposure is limited. Masks are still required at the Transfer Station, for example. Please keep our community healthy.

Spring is on the way. We can hang in for another couple of months.

Stay safe and carry on.

100 YEARS AGO / HISTORY

Happy Birthday Einstein: Sailing the CT Coast

By Phil Devlin.

In the month of September, 1905, Einstein’s paper on the special theory of relativity is published in the *Annalen der Physik*. The renowned physicist, born on March 14, 1879, spent the summer of 1935 in Old Lyme, CT, often sailing on the Connecticut coast.

Henry David Thoreau and Albert Einstein had something in common: They both loved simplicity. Both also shared a love for nature. For Einstein, that love of nature found expression in sailing.

The simplicity of the interplay of boat, wind, and water appealed to him. He learned to sail in Switzerland as a young man and continued to do so for more than 50 years.

After fleeing the repression of Jews and intellectuals in Hitler’s Germany and coming to Princeton in 1933, Einstein often spent the summers at the seashore. He rented a home called the “White House” in Old Lyme during the summer of 1935 and took his

17-foot sailboat named Tinef with him.

Despite sailing for over half a century, Einstein was not a very accomplished sailor. According to his biographers, he would lose his direction, his mast would often fall down, and he frequently ran aground and had near collisions with other vessels.

Often sailing near the mouth of the Connecticut River at Old Saybrook, Einstein ran aground on a sand bar once. The *New York Times* took note, running the following headline in the summer of 1935: “Relative Tide and Sand Bars Trap Einstein.” Another newspaper put it this way: “Einstein’s Miscalculation Leaves Him Stuck On Bar Of Lower Connecticut River.”

Interestingly, Einstein seemed to be indifferent to the dangers of sailing, and the perils were particularly acute since he didn’t know how to swim! It is rather amazing that

Continued on page HK6

HADDAM GOVERNMENT

Finance Director Hired

By Robert McGarry, First Selectman, Haddam.

I’m pleased to announce Ann Harter has accepted our offer of employment and will be Haddam’s new Finance Director starting on Monday, April 5th. Ann has many years of municipal finance experience. She spent 27 years in the City of Newington’s finance department; 17 as the Deputy Finance Director and 10 as the Finance Director. I’m looking forward to adding her expertise to our staff.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Timeline Update, Rent and Utility Payment Assistance Program Launched

By Norm Needleman, State Senator.

I hope your week is off to a good start and are enjoying the last few days of winter. Please take a couple of minutes to read an important development regarding eligibility to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. Plus, there is a new program available to help eligible Connecticut households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with utility and rental payments.

State Tentatively Prepares to Accelerate COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule

Governor Ned Lamont announced today that as the state anticipates an increased supply of COVID-19 vaccines in coming weeks, the state is accelerating its age-based rollout to proceed on a faster schedule than previously planned. Under the new accelerated schedule, residents between the ages of 45 and 54 are expected to become eligible to schedule vaccine appointments on March 19; two weeks later, on April 5, scheduling tentatively will open to all state residents 16 and over. The scheduling is still tentative in case of future changes.

Nearly 500,000 State Residents Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

As of March 15, Connecticut has administered 1,379,497 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with 496,006 residents being fully vaccinated and receiving both doses of the vaccine. An additional 918,741 first doses of the vaccine have been administered. Those totals include 35,250 doses of the Johnson &

Johnson one-shot vaccine in addition to other figures for the two-shot Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. As of March 15, 59 percent of Connecticut residents over the age of 55 have received at least one vaccine dose, with 77 percent of 75+, 71 percent of 65-74 year old residents and 40 percent of 55-64 year old residents receiving at least one shot. Overall state-wide, 31 percent of all adults have received at least one dose of the vaccine. The state says it is ahead of schedule based on increased supply and strong execution, helping speed up the state's opening of vaccine access to additional age groups.

UniteCT Launches Today — \$235 Million Rental, Utility Payment Assistance Program

Today, Connecticut's new rental and utility payment assistance program UniteCT launches, with \$235 million in support for qualified Connecticut households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with financial support specifically heading to households making up to 80 percent of the local HUD Area Median Income.

The program offers up to \$10,000 in rental assistance for renters in need, with UniteCT offering to pay 85 percent of overdue rent in the six months prior to the application and landlords writing off 15 percent of those six months of arrears. UniteCT will additionally pay three months of upcoming rent; after then, a renter would need to recertify for another three months. Applicants will be asked to pay between 0 and 30 percent of impending rent payments depending on their income compared to AMI. There is also a \$1,500 cap for utility assistance per payer, with funds to be committed by September 2021 and disbursed by December 2021.

While households at or below 80 percent of HUD AMI are eligible, priority will be made for eligible households earning under 50 percent of AMI or households with at least one member who has been unemployed for at least three months. Qualifying households have seen reductions in household income, seen rising costs or experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19, demonstrating a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Albert Einstein

Continued from page HK5

he didn't drown. In 1944, for example, while sailing on Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks, Einstein's boat hit a rock and capsized. A rope entangled his leg, and he was trapped briefly underneath the sail, but he managed to find his way to the surface without panicking and was saved by people on a passing motorboat.

Those who knew Einstein claim that he always took a pencil and a pad of paper with him when he sailed, so that if he got stuck or if the wind died, he could write down his thoughts. Since he liked solitude and privacy, perhaps this was just another aspect of sailing that appealed to Einstein. Perhaps even aspects of his famous Theory of Relativity were formulated onboard a sailboat.

Here is how Einstein explained his theory in simplified fashion to members of the public: "Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour. Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a minute. THAT'S relativity."

Here are some other interesting quotations from the renowned physicist with the fly-away hair, some of which were may have been formulated onboard a sailing boat — perhaps off the coast of Connecticut:

"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex ... It takes a touch of genius and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction."

"The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible."

"Human beings, vegetables, or cosmic dust, we all dance to a mysterious tune intoned in the distance by an invisible player."

"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

"Only two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

"The most aggravating thing about the younger generation is that I no longer belong to it."

"The intuitive mind is a sacred gift, and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift."

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning."

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On the Road with the Haddam Historical Society

By Elizabeth Malloy, Executive Director, Haddam Historical Society.

The Cyrus and David Hubbard House at 91 Little City Road is one of Haddam's best examples of Greek Revival/Italianate style domestic architecture and has been called the "grandest" house in the Ponsett District.



Above: Cyrus A. Hubbard.
Right: The Cyrus and David Hubbard house.
Photos provided by Haddam Historical Society.

Cyrus Hubbard built the house and adjoining barn for his parents David and Julia Hubbard in 1849. David was a successful farmer, and the Hubbard Family was one of the area's earliest and most prominent families. Hubbard's three maiden sisters, Miriam, Rhoda and Hadassah also resided with the family in the new house. The "old maids" are fondly remembered in the Reverend William C. Knowles "By Gone Days in Ponsett-Haddam" published in 1914. He recalls that the maiden aunts were always on hand to help out in sickness or any other misfortune which included bandaging wounds to sewing buttons. The "aunties" were always there with stories to entertain or advice to manage. He called them "a noble army of martyrs".

Cyrus Hubbard, who financed the construction of the house, made his fortune as a liquor and segar (cigar) importer in New York City. He and his wife, Rhoda split their time between the city and Haddam. Extremely successful as a liquor importer, Hubbard can claim a patent for "Holland Gin" which he received in 1875 and was called "Swallow Schiedam". The gin capital of the world is Schiedam, Holland. The Italianate style was the fashionable architectural style of the mid-19th century and Hubbard constructed it to show off his success.

After his father's death in 1872, Cyrus and his wife lived in the house until his passing in 1900. His funeral was [newsworthy] as it was officiated by both a Catholic Priest and Episcopal Clergyman which was considered very "rare" for the day.

In early 20th century the property was owned by Czechoslovakian immigrants who operated a chicken farm and in 1967 the house was purchased by the Board of Education to house administrative offices. It later became home to Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc., and HK Recreation Department.



Architecturally the house is cubed in form and features a hip roof with significant overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets, a tell-tale sign of the Italianate style. The front entrance portico is highly embellished with carved columns supporting an entablature with brackets. The interior

exhibits original ornate marble fireplace surrounds, moldings and doors. The impressive barn to the east has board and batten siding and similar brackets supporting the eaves. It also is Italianate in style and is one of finest barns remaining in Haddam.

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Dancing Daffodils Returns for 2021 Picking Season

By Kathy Brown.

Last year was Jen and John Halfinger's first season for the Dancing Daffodils, when they planted 8,000 daffodils in 10 different varieties. COVID hit and people loved going to the fields by appointment only where they could roam in the fresh air, breathing in the spring air, and picking beautiful daffodils.



Last fall, Jen and John planted an additional 22,000 bulbs, bringing their total up to 30,000 bulbs! "We've got an amazing selectin of varieties," said Jennifer. "Each flower is a piece of living art; they are all so beautiful."

Daffodils make excellent cut flowers. Picking will begin when flowers reach the swollen bud stage. Call the farm at 860-345-4609 for daily picking updates. Daffodils are .55 per stem. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Halfinger Farms Dancing Daffodils is located .5 mile from their greenhouses at 15 Jacoby Road, Higganum.

"There is something magical about being surrounded by thousands of daffodils," said Jen. "They renew and inspire. Picking daffodils is one of the simple pleasures in life."

EDUCATION

Haddam Club 60 Scholarships

By Carol Ricker.

Haddam Club 60 is offering a \$750.00 scholarship to a high school senior who lives in Haddam, Higganum, or Haddam Neck. It is available to students attending Haddam Killingworth High School, Mercy, Xavier, Vinal Regional or home schooled. Applicants should be interested in entering the medical field.

Applications are in the guidance offices of these schools and must be returned by April 23, 2021.

For more information, please call Carol Ricker 860-345-8450

A Visit to Po's

Continued from page HK1

to their website where I could see the menu. I was surprised to learn that Po's was making weekly deliveries to Higganum. People would gather on Wednesday evenings at HES and eagerly await their delivery. My hopes for finding an exceptional Asian restaurant were rising by the minute.

Upon arrival at Po's Rice and Spice we were greeted by their friendly staff. Shing seated us at a lovely table by a sunny window in what was formerly a large porch in an older home. The room was cozy and warm, and light music played in the background making it very inviting.

Torrey, their media specialist, came to chat with us and their server, Morgan gave us our menus, as tea, water and a popcorn treat was set before us by Shing.

My husband and I had decided we would each order different appetizers, soups, and meals so we could try as many items as possible. We began with Pan-seared Pork Dumplings which had a delicious sauce for dipping. I selected Tom Kha, which is a Thai soup made with coconut milk, spices, chicken, and vegetables. My husband chose the Egg Drop soup.

I have made Tom Kha soup at home and can say mine has never even come close to Po's. The beautiful delicate flavors made me sit up and take note. It was the best Tom Kha soup I have ever had!

As we changed bowls to try each other's soup, I was immediately aware of the delicacy of the Egg Drop soup. It was prepared so carefully that the egg looked like delicate lace floating in the rich broth. I knew I just had to ask Po how this was accomplished.

My next treat was the pork dumplings. When I cut into the dumpling, I knew immediately the covering was light, not stodgy. The flavors were profound, especially when dipped into the specially made sauce Po carefully prepares for her dishes.

As we sat dining, Po came out to speak with us and asked us what other items we'd like to try. We were tossing around the idea of choosing a seafood dish and a fowl dish. Po mentioned that we should try their Brussel sprouts side dish as it is one of their most popular. She set about making that happen.

Within moments a beautiful dish of Fried Brussel sprouts and Szechwan sauce were delivered to our table. The sprouts were topped with sesame seeds which made for a pretty picture. Little slices of an Asian sausage, similar to chorizo were mixed in with

the sprouts. At first glance I thought they might be hot pepper slices, so I was hesitant to bite into them too quickly. After carefully sinking my teeth into them, I was delighted to find out they were sausage.



Jenny's Honey Duck

No need to grab the water glass – it was not a Hunan chili! Now, I will admit that Brussel sprouts are probably not high on the list of favorite foods for most people, but if you have not tried Po's Fried Brussel sprouts, you have no idea of what magic can be done to those little green balls! The process of flash frying makes the outer leaves crispy and more fl-

avorful. After trying them, I felt that the lowly Brussel sprout was finally honored!

Now for the entrees. I ordered Jenny's Honey Duck, because I love crispy duck and because it is one dish I have not even dared to make. My husband ordered Megan's Salt Baked Shrimp, an extremely popular dish on the menu.

When my Honey Duck arrived, I was surprised to see the overly generous portions on the plate. Two drumsticks with thighs sat atop two breast sections. I immediately calculated that I would have enough for three more meals at home, and I did! The savory flavor of the duck and the crispy skin was pure heaven. It left me with feelings of reverence for the bird, and of course Po and the chef!

My husband's Salt Baked Shrimp was a sight to behold. He was not overly eager to share with me, which was a sure indication they were incredible! The jumbo flash-fried shrimp were lighted seasoned with salt and Thai chili and were topped off with a sprig of cilantro. They were nestled alongside bright green perfectly steamed broccoli. The Thai chilis and red bell pepper pieces lined the plate creating a work of culinary art. Another masterpiece!

Feeling totally satisfied, and immensely grateful for having found Po's Rice and Spice, we prepared to have food packed up for home. I was looking forward to dinner for sure!

Po's came to check on us and was kind enough to take time out from her busy day to speak with us in length about her business and life.

In Part 2 of this series, we will give readers an inside look at what Po's journey has been like over the years, beginning with her early days learning Asian cuisine by her father's side, to her current status as a successful restaurant owner.

Po's Rice & Spice website: www.posriceandspice.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PosRiceandSpice

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