

# Haddam Killingworth News

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

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October 1, 2020

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Free weekly



“Sierra Leone — Roadside Happiness.” Photo by Amanda Fornal

## KWO Virtual Art Show — Spotlight on the Killingworth Artists: Part Two

By Kathy Brown

The KWO collaborated with the Killingworth Library, as well as the Killingworth Historical Society, to schedule events all year long to celebrate the centennial of women’s right to vote. Nancy McCormick, the current KWO president as well as the chair of the KWO Suffragist Committee, presented the idea of an art show to the KWO. “The original plan was to have artwork from the women of Killingworth on display in various places around Killingworth,” explained Genie Dethloff. “The exhibit was moved online due to COVID-19”; the exhibit is accessible at <https://www.kwoct.org/honoring-suffrage-gallery-2/>.

The idea of the art show came about “to cel-

*Continued on page H12*

## Green & Blue Way

### A Bold Concept To Jumpstart Economic Development in Our Region

By Maurice Adams,  
Ginger LaBella,  
and Alan Aronow

Where we live — the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region (LCRVR) — has long been a highly desirable place to visit, work, raise a family, and spend one’s retirement years (1).

The region’s towns offer beautiful natural settings, excellent schools, charming village downtowns, abundant commercial/recreational/cultural/entertainment resources, and close proximity to major urban employment centers. These virtues have provided the stimulus for decades of growth and prosperity.

But that prosperity is now faltering, which is evident when you drive through local town and see ‘For Rent’ or ‘For Sale’ signs posted everywhere.

In the early days our region’s destiny was tied to manufactur-



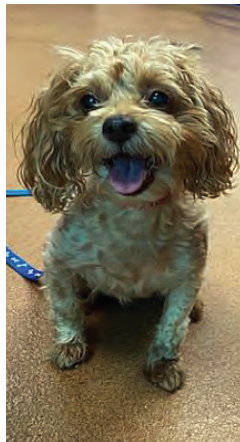
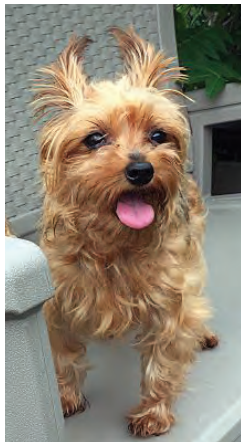
ing, mining, forests, shipbuilding, and agriculture. Then came the post war residential boom spurred on by new highways and job creation around urban centers in the state. But now, growth in this commuter ‘bedroom’ economy has been brought to a standstill as a result of the Great Recession in 2007/8 and now from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Where we once determined our region’s economy vitality based on industrial output mea-

sured in units, tons, kilowatts, gallons, and cubic feet, it now seems our future will be increasingly dependent on the number of people choosing to live and/or visit the charming communities along the CT River.

Those visits — whether for an extended stay or just to participate in a specific event for a few hours — collectively support a service economy based on tourism, culture, recreation, entertainment,

*Continued on page H2*



## Double the Love and Happiness! Meet Leah, Jayde

By Judith Levin

Leah is a female 9 year old Yorkshire Terrier mix (black, tan, and fawn in color). She is 25 lbs or less, house trained, spayed, up to date with shots, and good with other dogs.

She is bonded with her “sister,”

Jayde. Leah is a tad timid at first, but is a complete doll when she warms. She enjoys her daily walks, and attention from you and everyone else. Leah had some benign mammary tumors removed. Leah is awaiting some dental work in the meantime.

Jayde is a female 12 year old Poodle (tea cup), Yorkshire Terrier mix, Tan and Fawn in color. She is 25 lbs or less, house trained, spayed, up to date with shots, and good with other dogs.

Both girls will do well in an adult

household. They both enjoy calm and quiet home with someone that will give them lots of love or home with children 14+.

Jayde must be kept separate from Leah while Leah heals from her surgery.

Interested in adopting? Visit [www.pawst.org](http://www.pawst.org) to submit our Application.

Please note: PAWS are not currently adopting to Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine or Rhode Island due to burdensome regulations involved with importing an animal.

**In This Issue:** Community Calendar, Page H3 • To the Editor, Page H5 • Home decoration tips, Page H11

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## Green & Blue Way

Continued from page H1

food, beverage, lodging, and retailing.

Everyone seems to understand this. Yet despite this understanding, no one has yet suggested a way to solve the tough challenge of how to promote the regional attractions we now have, increase the number of new & unique activities and tie them all together in a way to entice significantly more visitors to this area, and to extend the amount of time they spend here.

For sure we have plenty of stand-alone attractions (Essex Steam Train, Gillette Castle, Florence Griswold Museum, Goodspeed Opera House, etc.) but they mostly seem to operate in a vacuum where each promotes itself without a coordinated marketing umbrella to generate 'synergy' where the total is greater than the sum of the parts.

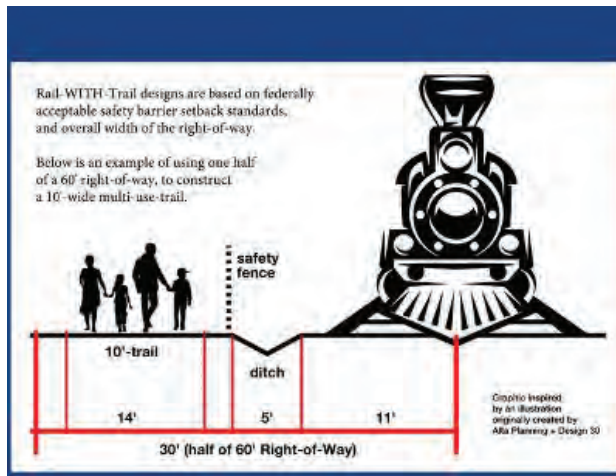
For the past few years a group of local residents has been working behind the scenes attempting to address this challenge with a bold new idea to leverage existing attractions (and set the stage for creating new ones) throughout the region using a concept they call - the Connecticut River Green&BlueWay (aka: Green&BlueWay or simply G&BW).

The name Green&BlueWay is inspired by the combination of "greenway" which can be defined as "any scenic trail or route, set aside for travel, recreational use or environmental protection" and "blueway" which indicates a water route. In 2012, the beautiful Connecticut River was designated the nation's first and only National Blueway. "Green&BlueWay" capitalizes on this distinction.

The Green&BlueWay is a 30-mile mixed-use scenic, recreational, and tourism corridor stretching from Middletown to Old Saybrook utilizing and tying together railroad property owned by the state that runs along the Connecticut River, existing state highways and roads, and of course, the river itself.

Many of you are probably thinking, "Hey, this isn't such a new idea." Haven't there been attempts in the past to promote a rail-TO-trail project along the Connecticut River that would convert unused sections of the railroad into hiking and biking paths? (2)

The answer is YES. But those efforts have not been successful. The reasons why are complex, but in the simplest terms, those rail-TO-trail efforts failed because they didn't fully take into consideration the



political and practical realities of ripping up an existing railroad route.

More importantly, the G&BW isn't just a hiking and biking trail. As you'll see it is also an organizational framework for making this area a recreational and tourist powerhouse in the state and a driver for future economic revitalization throughout the region.

### Where Did the G&BW Concept Come From?

Where do interesting new ideas and concepts come from? Especially bold new concepts that appear so sensible once they are converted into products or services or ways of doing things, that they seem to have always been there?

A few years ago local resident Maurice Adams, fascinated by the huge success of the HIGH LINE (built in New York City on an abandoned elevated train line) and frustrated that we didn't have something like this along the Connecticut River, came up with an idea he called the CTRiverLineTrail.

Adams knew about the unsuccessful past attempts to create a riverfront hiking/biking trail, so instead of butting heads with influential stakeholders who didn't want to abandon railroads in this region, he suggested a different approach. "Forget rail-TO-trail," Adams said, "let's work in partnership with the state and create a rail-WITH-trail corridor running through the entire region."

He pointed out that there were more than 85 examples of successful rail-WITH-trail projects in 33 states, where a railroad still operated, separated from the recreational trail by a safety barrier.

Two other local residents, Ginger LaBella and Alan Aronow, who were also passionate about a trail along the river, joined forces with Adams. Given that all three participants were marketing and busi-

ness professionals, and that all had lived in places like Kailua Hawaii, Pacific Grove California, Boston Massachusetts, Coconut Grove Florida, and even Collinsville CT where walk-ability and bikeability were valuable amenities attracting younger residents and out-of-town visitors, it wasn't surprising that the CTRiverLineTrail morphed from being just a hiking and biking trail idea into a bold new concept encompassing all aspects of recreation and tourism.

Their concept, the Green&BlueWay, would be both a physical entity and an organizational format for the future – a means of tying existing and new attractions and activities together to make our region an ever more exciting place to live and visit.

The G&BW concept takes advantage of natural and man-made resources in our region that don't exist anywhere else. Where else can you find the world famous Connecticut River, 27 marinas, 22 state parks and forests (not to mention Land Trust preserves) with over 30,000 acres of open space, a state owned rail right of way with an operating scenic railroad, a major state highway (RT9), and a beautiful scenic state road (RT154) all running parallel with one another for 30-miles between two population centers (Middletown and Old Saybrook)?

(1) The Lower Connecticut River Valley Region (LCRVR) is generally defined as the RiverCOG towns of: Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook. The region has 175,685 residents living in 433 square miles.

(2) Even before the state acquired the 22-mile Valley Line right of way in 1969 there were groups of people seeking to convert the railroad into a recreational trail. Beginning around 2007, one Haddam resident – Walter Zilahy – led an organized and determined group of rail-to-trail advocates seeking to convert the 9-miles of then unused Valley Railroad tracks from Goodspeed Station in Tylerville to Maramos into a hiking/biking trail – something he called the CT River BlueWay Trail. Mr. Zilahy passed away suddenly in 2015. We are indebted to his passion for providing expanded public access to the CT River and of the beautiful photos he took of the river to promote the trail concept. His efforts and the lessons learned, provided much of the inspiration behind the Green&BlueWay.

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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 [H-KNow.com](http://H-KNow.com) for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes.

## Thursday, October 1

P&Z Meeting – Haddam (remote access only)  
7:00pm – 9:00pm

## Friday, October 2

Higganum Farmer's Market – HES 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The market will be hosted every Friday from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Haddam Elementary School grounds, rain\*\* or shine. (\*\*May be cancelled if weather predictions call for severe conditions) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HigganumFarmersMarket/](http://www.facebook.com/HigganumFarmersMarket/)

Killingworth Library Zoom – Tween Comic Book Club 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Swing into the world of comics with our Tween Comic Book Club! Whether you are a fan of superhero comics or someone looking to learn more about the genre this library program will be action packed with fun.

We will be reading Spider-Man: Miles Morales and meeting every other week to discuss and compare it to the more recent Spider-Man movies.

The Miles Morales series is available through Hoopla, which you can access on the library's webpage: <https://killingworthlibrary.org/> (A library card is necessary to download content from Hoopla – please contact us if you need to apply for a card or you need your old card renewed.)

Meetings will be one hour long and held every other week on Fridays over Zoom from 4:30 to 5:30. Start date is October 2nd.

LOCATION: Zoom

## Saturday, October 3

Outdoor Fall Fair – Killingworth Congregational Church 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Congregational Church in Killingworth will hold its Fall Fair OUTSIDE on Saturday, October 3 from 9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m. Social distancing will be strictly enforced, and masks are required. Donated household items will be for sale on individual tables placed far apart on the church grounds. Two check-out tables will also be set apart, and take-out food is available. Rain date is Sunday, October 4, from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, please call the church office at 860-663-1789 or visit <http://www.killingworthchurch.org>

Super Saturday Storytime – Killingworth Library 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Weekly family fun for kids of all ages! Drop-in format, no registration necessary. Adult must accompany child.

## Sunday, October 4

Flotilla of Memories – Haddam Meadows State Park 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

A way to remember, honor and reflect loved ones we have lost. This year is Flotilla of Memories. We will be using paper boats (biodegradable and eco-friendly paper).

## Tuesday, October 6

RSD17 BOE Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, October 7

2nd Nutmeg Pharmacy Flu Clinic 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

If you missed our September Flu Clinic, then join us in October and get your flu shot. This year it's even more important to have your flu shot because

of the ongoing situation with Covid19, meaning our communities will be faced with TWO respiratory illnesses going around. Call for an appointment 860 345-3607 ext. 1. Drive up, pick a spot in front. Look for the tent! We can come to you. Please wear a mask.

## Thursday, October 8

Killingworth Library Zoom – Tween Write Club 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Come bring your creativity to our Killingworth Library Teen Write Club!

We are looking for young writers, poets, and artists who want to contribute and discuss poetry, artwork, and short fiction. Each week we will have a new topic or prompt to write about and at the end of the program a.m. we will combine all our creations into an online publication or literary journal.

Meetings will be one hour long and held every other week on Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 over Zoom starting on October 8th.



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# Artful Living Offers Sleepy Hollow Lantern Tour in October

Submitted by Chris Solimene

Artful Living presents Sleepy Hollow Lantern Tour October 16, 17, 18 2020

Experience an outdoor theatrical lantern tour with Artful Living at the Sleepy Hollow Lantern Tour at the Historic Parmelee Farm Homestead in Killingworth.

Meet colorful Sleepy Hollow residents as you seek out Ichabod. Partake in merry making at a good old-fashioned fall frolic, complete with refreshments. Might you glimpse a specter of the Headless Horseman himself? And what has befallen poor Ichabod? The legend continues... Legendary Fun appropriate for ages 8 and up!

Also Available: Autumnal Fare and Cider.

Tour Times start at 7 pm

Cost: \$15 per person

Reservations Required. To purchase tickets, go to [www.ArtfulLivingCT.com](http://www.ArtfulLivingCT.com)



Questions? Call 860-389-1363

This is an 'any weather' event so dress accordingly with proper footwear for walking uneven trails for

short distances.

The event allows for safe physical distancing and masks for all tour attendees will be required.

# GMChorale Announces its 2020–2021 Virtual Season

Submitted by Lisa Nappi

The GMChorale is proud to present a Virtual Season of Choral Enrichment for their 2020-2021 season beginning on September 8, 2020. Since performing live concerts in 2020 continues to be prohibited due to COVID-19, the GMChorale will meet on Zoom, as they have been since March. Internet sessions will focus on improving performance skills, building ear training and musical literacy, and studying choral music history to enhance musicianship for a time when the GMChorale is able to perform again.

Rehearsals on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. will primarily incorporate physical and vocal warmups, full group rehearsal periods, and smaller voice sectionals to create a fulfilling online rehearsal experience. Member accompanists and vocal coaches in each of the breakout "rooms" will assist singers in learning their music. Music will feature J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 4, Christ lag in todesbanden; F. Schubert's Mass in G Major; and W.A. Mozart's Sancta Maria.

In addition, the season will include several virtual events and livestream performances. In January 2021, GMChorale will present a three-part speaker

series to explore the impact of racial diversity, gender identity, homelessness, and PTSD on choral music.

New Singers. All who are interested in singing with the GMChorale have the unique opportunity of trying out rehearsals on September 22, September 29, and/or October 6, as well as meeting the Conductor, before committing to the season. Please call New Member Coordinator, Margie Livengood, at 860-633-6198, or email [margie.livengood@gmchorale.org](mailto:margie.livengood@gmchorale.org), to learn more about joining the GMChorale.

For more information, please visit [www.gmchorale.org](http://www.gmchorale.org). Registration forms are available at <https://forms.gle/k7hgyV82L3dF4oMFA>

About the GMChorale (Greater Middletown Chorale) – The GMChorale has become one of New England's most distinguished choruses since its founding in 1977 as The Greater Middletown Chorale. Under the artistic leadership of Joseph D'Eugenio since 1998, the GMChorale is celebrated for its innovative symphonic choral presentations, and often performs with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and

other ensembles. The 80-voice Chorale performs a wide range of choral repertoire, from beloved masterworks to newly commissioned pieces. As the GMChorale enters its fifth decade, the organization is broadening its mission and the scope of its offerings to bring the transformative power and beauty of choral music to people and communities across Connecticut. Alchemy, the vocal chamber ensemble of the GMChorale, established and directed by Joseph D'Eugenio in 2016 as part of this broader mission, has already experienced great success with concerts of early to contemporary music, both a cappella and accompanied, in a variety of settings across the state. Alchemy's company of musicians includes music educators, professional soloists and artists, and skilled ensemble singers and instrumentalists who also are members of the GMChorale.

Most recently, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the GMChorale has pursued its first educational initiatives with two online Zoom courses: "Canons from Around the World" and "Choral Music Through the Ages." The GMChorale aims to nurture musical knowledge in domains such as literacy and history in members and audiences alike.

# HOME AND GARDEN

# Higganum Farmers Market: Christmas in October

Submitted by Kristy Benson

The Higganum Farmers Market proudly presents Christmas in October! The market will offer two ways to shop early, and in town!

On Friday, October 9, 2020, join us for our last regularly scheduled farmers market, with a Christmas twist! Vendors will have holiday themed items for sale, stocking stuffers, gifts, Christmas music provided by Bill Benson, hot beverages for sale, and

food by the Greekin' Out food truck. Come stroll through the Haddam Elementary school parking lot, which will be all decked out for the holidays, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 10, 2020 is kids day! Join us from 1:00-4:00 p.m., and see what creative things our local kids have to offer. They are currently busy making ornaments, hot cocoa reindeer's, jewelry, artistic gifts, and much more! Santa will stop by on the

10th, for a socially distanced visit, and Nancy Meyers will provide holiday shopping music.

Mark your calendars and join us for both of these great events, Christmas in October!

Masks required at both events and social distancing rules apply, per the Department of Agriculture.

Any kids interested in vending, make sure to contact Kristy ASAP at [Kristy@bitter-sweetfarm.com](mailto:Kristy@bitter-sweetfarm.com), at 860-918-2344, or send a message on Facebook.

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**Why Did Bob Lose the Election?**

Recent writers have called for the return of Bob Siegrist to his former position as state representative, and have asserted that Bob “lost the 2018 election because of his party affiliation.” Is that a reference to his vote to ban bump stocks which was opposed by most other Republicans, or perhaps to his opposition to conversion therapy, another misguided position of Republicans? Or is it possible that issues promoted by his party were simply unpopular?

There seems to be denial that other factors contributed to his defeat. Bob may have had a 100% voting record and was typically seen at community events, but there are higher standards for serving in elected office. As an incumbent, Bob would have an expert understanding of his constituents’ concerns after two years. He had an opportunity to advocate for them related to healthcare, the environment, infrastructure, and the state economy. As their state representative, he would have legislative successes to run on in his re-election bid, or proposed legislation to tout to constituents. The writer alerts us that “Bob’s voting record is public”, but on examination there is little that stands out except his vote to allow rate hikes for Eversource. The record also indicated that he voted against a pay increase for homecare workers, financial aid for undocumented students (not a pay out but a loan), and the national popular vote.

You decide. Did Bob lose in 2018 because of his party affiliation?

*Claire Walsh  
Deep River*

**Bring Bob Back for Local Impact**

This November 3rd election, join me in supporting Former Representative Bob Siegrist’s return to the General Assembly representing the people of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Haddam.

His common-sense leadership is needed again to make tough decisions regarding the state’s fiscal condition and long-term budget problems. He supports proposals that improve business confidence so that entrepreneurs can expand and grow jobs. He opposes tax increases because he knows higher taxes will be detrimental to economic growth in the 36th District and the state.

I am proud to support Bob Siegrist for the 36th District State Representative seat with my vote on November 3rd.

*William T. Bernhart  
Chester*

**In Support of Rep. Christine Palm**

As a high school senior, I volunteered with State Representative Palm on her Roundtable initiative, Young Earner Prosperity (YEP). This roundtable was intended to kick off a state-wide campaign to revitalize CT and make it more appealing to young people. Forty young earners were invited to participate in this discussion about the future of CT. They included students, teachers, small business owners, a farmer, and representatives from various organiza-

tions. The result was an extraordinary exchange of ideas where the panelists were able to express their concerns freely, and where the elected officials present listened with an open mind.

This event was a clear example of Representative Palm’s interest in young people and the challenges facing their generation, as well as her interest in improving the social and economic situation of CT. She listens to her constituents, identifies their issues, and is a great problem solver.

The YEP initiative was a significant beginning to create positive change for my generation in CT. This is the kind of leadership we need in our state to ensure strong economic growth and to ensure the quality of life for all in the future. State Representative Palm truly cares about the community she serves. A vote for Representative Palm is a vote for a brighter future for both our district, and for the state of CT.

*Arjun Badami  
Higganum*

**In Support of Christine Goupil**

I am pleased to write this letter to support the candidacy of Christine Goupil for State Representative for the 35th Assembly District consisting of Clinton, Killingworth and Westbrook.

Christine is the former First Selectman of Clinton, CT, and currently serves on their Town Council, the Connecticut River Area Health District Board, and Central Regional Tourism District Board. Previously, Christine served on the Planning and Zoning Commission and Downtown Revitalization Committee and is a founding member of Placemakers and the Clinton Arts Council.

Having served on these Clinton Boards and commissions, Goupil will bring an informed perspective to Hartford. Her experience in analyzing the impact of state policies, agency practices, and proposed legislation and its effects on town government will be an asset.

Christine has put her considerable energy into making her town a welcoming and desirable place to live. She will continue to put the knowledge and experience gained on these boards and commissions to work for us as we move forward out of this difficult pandemic time.

Please join me in voting for Christine Goupil to be our 35th Assembly District Representative on Nov. 3.

*Joan Gay  
Killingworth, CT*

**On Imposition of Fines for Not Wearing a Mask in Connecticut**

Gov. Lamont’s new executive order — imposing stiff fines on struggling state residents for non-compliance with his onerous restrictions on social gatherings — is tantamount to punishing Connecticut’s people for success. It’s unfortunate that, rather than encouraging and supporting people during one of the hardest years they have faced perhaps in their lifetimes, Connecticut’s governor has decided to clamp down on them even harder.

In Connecticut, 64 people are currently hospitalized for coronavirus in a

state of 3.6 million. Even as Gov. Lamont touts our state’s record of “flattening the curve” of hospitalizations, he has continued to impose (and even tighten) restrictions on people and businesses without offering any rationale based on scientific data. Despite Connecticut meeting the standards for reopening that he and his administration set, without explanation, the governor has repeatedly delayed continuing with his own reopening plan. Now, the first guarantee backed by hard numbers that our leaders have offered the people is the amount of fines that will be extracted from them. But when the governor ignores his own metrics for reopening, is it any wonder that some might ignore his ongoing restrictions — especially when they seem to bear little relationship to conditions on the ground?

In dark and difficult times, it is only humane and fair for government to provide as much certainty as it possibly can. If the plan for lifting restrictions is actually to wait until there is a vaccine, then the governor should simply say so. Otherwise, he is needlessly creating more uncertainty, fear and economic hardship for no discernible reason whatsoever — and adding to the perception that Connecticut’s government is hopelessly out-of-touch with those who lack the good fortune to collect a state paycheck.

This is not the way to instill confidence in the future, or signal to Connecticut residents that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Our state’s people have worked hard to decrease the spread of the coronavirus. They should be applauded, not punished. And consistent with the best science available and their own good common sense, they should be free to earn a living and to live their lives — not fined

by a detached, arbitrary and hypocritical government.

*Carol Platt Liebau  
President of Yankee Institute  
for Public Policy*

**Research Must Continue Even Amid Pandemic**

As the country continues to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, it’s important lawmakers and the public remember research into other diseases must also continue. That’s why I recently took part in a virtual event where I met with Congressman Joe Courtney as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN).

During this meeting I made it clear that the people of Connecticut are counting on our lawmakers to increase funding for cancer research and prevention. I shared how, as a 12-year breast cancer survivor, I benefitted from cancer research.

With more than 600,000 Americans expected to die from cancer this year, including almost 6400 in Connecticut, now is not the time to take a break. We are at a point where advancements in research are saving more lives than ever; and it’s critical that we keep this momentum going forward.

By increasing medical research funding at the National Institutes of Health by \$3 billion, we can continue to make progress in the fight against cancer.

I encourage you to join us, giving us a stronger and louder voice in the fight against cancer. Visit [fightcancer.org](http://fightcancer.org) to be connected to people like me in your community.

*Donna Rogers  
Volunteer, American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)  
Higganum CT*

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## Poet Laureate for Haddam to be Selected

Submitted by Robbie Marshall,  
Brainerd Memorial Library

The Brainerd Memorial Library is beginning a search process for the appointment of a Poet Laureate of Haddam. Once selected the Poet Laureate will serve in an honorary position as the ambassador of the community's vibrant literary life, promoting its literary community and celebrating the written word.

Nominees must be a poet, over 18 years old, a Haddam resident, and available to develop and present poetry-related activities and appear at public events. The Poet Laureate will be selected by a committee made up of community representatives and will need to have a breadth of experiences in poetry, a comfort level in public speaking, and achievements of distinction.

Information on the program and applications can be found on the Library's web site or can be picked up at the Library by prior arrangement through email at [haddampoetlaureate@gmail.com](mailto:haddampoetlaureate@gmail.com).

The deadline for applications is October 30, 2020. The Poet Laureate will be appointed to a two-year term, starting on January 1, 2021.

Although the position is unpaid, the Haddam Poet Laureate position is endorsed by the Town of Haddam and will be assisted by the Brainerd Memorial Library in the coordination of scheduling of events.

"Brainerd Memorial Library is pleased to support the Town of Haddam in creating the position of Poet Laureate. Under the leadership of Library Trustee Kent Jarrell, a team of community members has created guidelines for the selection of Haddam's first Poet Laureate. Upon request this poet will speak at various local events and will add to the cultural

richness of our lives here in Haddam," said Marijean Conrad, President of the Library Board of Trustees

Haddam's Poet Laureate would join more than two dozen poets serving in similar positions in other Connecticut communities.

"Too often we forget, living our busy lives, that poetry originates in the need to be with others more deeply--to relax, tell stories, sing songs, talk about our lives and to hear about the lives of others," said Margaret Gibson, State of Connecticut Poet Laureate. "Poetry embraces all of those activities. Poems may be read in solitude or in the company of others; a poem can kick off a discussion, often deepening the way we talk with each other. Poems mirror our lives; they speak our truths. As State of Connecticut Poet Laureate, I am happy to think that Haddam is preparing to enrich the lives of its residents by appointing a Town Poet Laureate."

## Killingworth Library Update and Messages of Thanks

Submitted by Genie Dethloff

Killingworth Library is reopening in carefully planned phases after closing for public use on March 15:

- Curbside service to check out books, movies and other items began on June 1. In the first 3 months, more than 700 items were picked up at curbside.
- A Summer Program of outdoor activities for families with young children and middle school students was held in July and August. A total of 70 adults and 101 children attended a variety of science-themed and educational activities spread over 19 sessions on library grounds.
- Browsing of the library's main room and PC use began by limited appointment on August 1, 2020.
- Parent-only browsing in the Children's room by limited appointment began in September. The Children's room will not reopen for regular use until sometime in 2021.
- The library will be offering two new programs online via Zoom, Tween Comic Book Club and Teen Write Club, bi-weekly starting in October. Check the library's website and Facebook page for details.

Much work has been done while the library was closed for public use. All areas of the building have been thoroughly deep cleaned, grant money was used to upgrade bathroom facilities, an HVAC air conditioning unit was replaced, stonework was replaced to create a level entryway to the building, computer cables are being reconfigured to ensure social distancing between computer stations, and a longer-term project to improve outdoor lighting in the parking area is underway.

We want to thank and recognize former library staff and volunteers for their years of service. While COVID-19 restrictions, financial considerations, and long-range planning to serve a changing demo-



Above: The main entrance walkway, before and after. Right: The Moyer's landscaping team: Andrew, Dave and Fred. Photos by Laurie Prichard.



graphic influenced some staffing changes, patrons of all ages continue to be served.

Killingworth Library would like to thank Gayle Byrne, children's librarian since 2000, for her dedication and service to the community, the library, and the children of Killingworth. Gayle organized and facilitated many programs that entertained and educated a generation of Killingworth children. She was the face and smile of the children's room for 20 years and even authored a couple of the books it contains!

We thank former staff member Kristina Sanso for her polite, professional manner and enthusiasm as circulation assistant in serving library patrons since 2017. Kristina also helped process interlibrary loans and created engaging displays of library materials.

Volunteers play a unique and special role at Killingworth Library, and we treasure each one. Our heartfelt thanks to three long-time volunteers

who retired in 2020: BJ Folger, who volunteered at the library circulation desk for more than 20 years; Joanne Hine, another friendly, dedicated volunteer with more than a decade of service; and Sue Dineen, who began volunteering at the library in the 1990s and served as desk volunteer and two-term board member.

### Killingworth Library's Main Entrance Walkway Repaired

The uneven and broken stone surface in front of the library's main entrance has been completely reworked with beautiful non-skid granite mined from a local quarry. We now have an entrance that is not slippery when wet and ready to welcome patrons.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to Moyer's Landscaping Services LLC, who generously donated their time for this project!

## Haddam Killingworth News

PO Box 15  
Higganum, CT 06441

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Send all requests, content and comments to: [HK-NowEditors@outlook.com](mailto:HK-NowEditors@outlook.com)

\* paper is affiliated with HK-Now.com and the Haddam Civic League

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# Free School Meals Program Extended for Haddam & Killingworth Children

Submitted by Holly Hageman, RSD #17 Superintendent of Schools

FREE School Meals Program effective Thursday, September 17, 2020 (through December 31st, subject to USDA funding)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved an extended waiver making all school meals free for every child that resides in Haddam and Killingworth. RSD17 will provide FREE breakfast and lunch (at KES, BES and HKIS) and FREE lunch (at

HKMS and HKHS). This includes children who are present in school, children who are remote learning from home and children not enrolled in our school system but are residing in either Haddam or Killingworth for all children age 18 and under. The forms to order food can be found on each school's home pages listed below.

In-School Learners at BES, KES, HKIS: Meal counts will continue to be taken at the start of the school day.

In-School Learners at HKMS: <http://www.rsd17.org/schools2.shtml> ORDER MUST BE IN BY 8:15 a.m.

In-School Learners at HKHS: <http://www.rsd17.org/schools1.shtml> ORDER MUST BE IN BY 7:00 a.m.

Remote Learners and HK residents who are not RSD17 students

Remote Learners: Parents may pick up Grab & Go meals on Monday through Friday at each building, please note pick up time at each building. To help with planning, please complete the order form by 5:00 p.m. the night prior to pick up. Forms also available on website-under Food Service.

KES elementary remote learning meal order form: <http://www.rsd17.org/schools5.shtml>

Burr elementary remote learning meal order form: <http://www.rsd17.org/schools3.shtml>

HKIS remote learning meal order form: <http://www.rsd17.org/schools6.shtml>

HKMS remote learning meal order form: <http://www.rsd17.org/schools2.shtml>

HKHS remote learning menu ordering: <http://www.rsd17.org/schools1.shtml>

Non-Student Residents: Parents may pick up Grab & Go meals on Monday through Friday at BES. Pick up time for meals is 12:30 a.m. at the side of the school where parents pick up kids on half days. Signs will be posted with directions. Form must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. the night before pickup.

Burr elementary remote learning meal <http://www.rsd17.org/schools3.shtml>

## OBITUARIES

### Thomas J. Hartke



Thomas J. Hartke, 73, of Higganum, husband of the late Janet (Feuser) Hartke, died suddenly Saturday, September 19, 2020, at Middlesex Hospital. Thomas was born in Middletown, son of the late Frederick M.

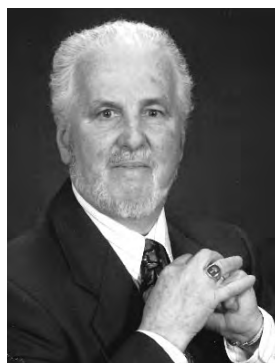
Hartke Sr. and Ann (Nosal) Hartke. Prior to his retirement, Tom worked as a union carpenter and was later employed as a Radioactive Waste Technician with Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. Tom was a Vietnam War Veteran of the United States Army with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion 40th Artillery, and a recipient of the Purple Heart. He was also a lifetime member and former Assistant Chief of the Haddam Volunteer Fire Department and an active member of the Haddam Veteran's Museum, the VFW, and the Haddam Club 60.

Tom always enjoyed spending time with his family, swimming, collecting odds and ends, playing cards, and vacationing in York Beach, Maine. He also enjoyed shad fishing, hunting, photography, playing golf, doing puzzles, and was a prominent UCONN Women's Basket fan. Tom frequently was known in town for being kind and generous with a contagious laugh and smile. He would often be found at a local establishment having breakfast and a cup of coffee discussing the latest current events. His love, care, kindness, and humor will forever be missed.

Thomas is survived by his daughter, Pamela Hartke-Ringleben of Kingston, NH, his son, Jason Hartke of Salem, his grandchild, Samuel Ringleben of Kingston, NH, his brother, Frederick Hartke of Higganum, and many nephews and cousins.

A Funeral Liturgy was held Thursday, September 24th at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Peter Church, Higganum. Burial with Military Honors was held at the State Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown, CT. Friends were able to call at Biega's Funeral Home at 3 Silver Street, Middletown on Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. Those who wish may make a memorial contribution to the Haddam Veteran's Museum, 671 Little City Rd, Higganum, CT 06441. To share memories or express condolences online, please visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](http://www.biegafuneralhome.com).

### Richard F. Radziwon



Richard Francis Radziwon, 81, of Higganum, CT and Dennis Port, MA, passed away on May 1, 2020 in the comfort of his own home after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease and other

health issues. Born on September 8, 1938, he was the son of the late Walter and Doris (Hill) Radziwon and the beloved husband of Beverly (Penfield) Radziwon for fifty-nine years.

Rich graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and went on to serve time in United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a retired employee of the State of Connecticut where he worked at Middlesex Community College, Connecticut Valley Hospital and Brainerd Memorial Library. Rich also owned Richards Paint and Repair.

Rich was a longtime member of Faith Lutheran Church in Middletown. He was also a member of the Elks B.P.O.E. Middletown Lodge #771 and the Mason Granite Lodge #119 in Haddam. Rich was an avid collector of Lionel trains and collectibles. He loved his home on Cape Cod and his many great Cape Cod friends. Rich loved being with family and friends. He was highly thought of for his caring feelings towards everyone especially children and seniors. He always made others feel special.

Along with his wife, Rich is survived by his sisters, Ann Lorraine Radziwon and Betty Bengtson, both of Middletown; his step mother-in-law, Ann Penfield of Cave Creek, AZ; nieces and nephews, Bill, Steve, Debbie, Kym, Heather and Beverlyann and many wonderful friends.

Besides his parents, Rich was predeceased by his brother, Robert Radziwon and his sister, Helen Perham.

A memorial service will be held on a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rich's memory may be made to Faith Lutheran Church, 300 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457 or to the Michael J. Fox Foundation, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 4777, New York, NY 10163. To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit [www.doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://www.doolittlefuneralservice.com).

## TOWN NEWS



Photo by Olivia Drake.

### Vehicle Fire on Saybrook Road

By Olivia Drake, HVFC Public Information Officer

On Sept. 17, 2020 Haddam Volunteer Fire Company was dispatched to a reported vehicle fire on Saybrook Road near Higganum Village Market.

The vehicle's operator noticed a fire in the back of his pick-up truck, pulled over, and used a fire extinguisher from the market to put the fire out.

Although there was no visible fire at the time firefighters arrived, crews sifted through the contents in the back of the truck, removed a battery, and extinguished smoldering plastic debris.

Firefighters rerouted traffic through the market's parking lot during the incident.

## DEATH

### Thomas F. Brennan Jr.

Thomas F. Brennan Jr., 75, of Haddam passed away on Saturday, September 19th in Middletown.



# LEGAL NOTICES

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
LEGAL NOTICE  
PROPOSED 2020 CHARTER REVISION**

The Haddam Charter Revision Commission has recommended certain changes to the Charter of the Town of Haddam in accordance with its final report dated May 27, 2020. The Haddam Board of Selectmen voted on June 8, 2020 to submit those changes to the voters for approval in the form of a question at the time of the regular municipal elections on November 3, 2020. A complete report of the changes to the Haddam Charter is set forth below. In addition, copies are available in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town of Haddam website: [www.haddam.org/charter-revision-commission-0](http://www.haddam.org/charter-revision-commission-0)

Dated this 1st day of October, Haddam CT

Board of Selectmen, Robert McGarry, Kate Anderson and Sean Moriarty

**CHARTER REVISION REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Section	Change Discussed	Rationale	Status
Table of Contents Section 8.6 (page 2)	Change title from "Director of Civil Preparedness" to "Director of Emergency Management".	Civil Preparedness is an obsolete title.	Approved
3.4 (a) and 9.3 9(a) (pages 25 & 6)	Move the last sentence in 9.3 (a) that begins "The First Selectman shall set the Annual..." to the second sentence in section 3.4 (a)	This is better call out the duties of the First Selectman in setting up the Annual Budget vote	Approved
6.3(j) (page 17)	Delete: "and input from the Long Range Capital Planning Committee"	This is the only mention of the LRCPC in the charter. We are evaluating our budget development process	Approved
8.14 (a) (page 23)	Reword: The Board of Selectmen shall be responsible for the hiring and termination of all Town employees. On a case by case basis, the Board of Selectmen may delegate these responsibilities to the First Selectman. The First Selectman shall be responsible for the review, evaluation and discipline of all Town employees.	The proposed wording streamlines handling routine personnel matters. It allows the BOS to delegate hiring and/or termination responsibilities to the First Selectman when they feel it is appropriate such as the recent hire of a part time transfer station attendant.	Approved, but removed "or designee after "First Selectmen" in last sentence
8.14 (b) (page 23)	Reword: The Board of Selectmen shall establish wage rates, salaries, job descriptions and working hours for all Town employees, except when the terms and conditions of employment of a Town employee are governed by a collective bargaining agreement and the Town's obligations under applicable law.	The current wording is in violation of the Municipal Employees Relations Act (MERA).	Approved
9.4 (c)(1) (page 27)	Is using a percentage instead of a number compliant with state law?	There was an open question on this item.	Confirmed current language is compliant
9.4 (c)(2) (page 27)	Delete the last sentence of the paragraph "Transfers within agencies of amounts exceeding \$1,000.00 shall require Board of Finance approval."	A number that is too low creates undue administrative work for the BOF.	Approved change from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

In addition, the question of the Town Manager form of government was considered. Based on several interviews with experts on the topic and with feedback from the public, we have come to the following conclusions:

- There is little public support for a major change in Haddam's form of government
- Town Manager forms of government tend to work better in larger towns than Haddam
- Switching to a Town Manager form of government needs to start with an advocacy group created separately from a Charter Revision Committee to educate the public, identify the pros and cons of switching and build public support

Based on all the above factors, the Charter Revision Committee recommends no changes to our form of government at this time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Battistoni, Chair

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF HADDAM  
PUBLIC HEARING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020**

Notice is hereby given to legal voters and/or taxpayers of the Town of Haddam that there will be a Public Hearing on October 8, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. via GoToMeeting to discuss the Town Charter proposed revisions for the community to come and give their input. The recommended Charter revisions are available online at [www.haddam.org](http://www.haddam.org).

Public Hearing on Charter Revision  
Thursday, October 8, 2020 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (EDT)

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Dated in Haddam, Connecticut this 1st day of October.  
Charter Revision Commission: Mike Battistoni

**LEGAL NOTICE  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF HADDAM**

All electors and citizens qualified to vote at Town Meetings of the Town of Haddam, Connecticut are hereby warned and notified that there will be a Special Town Meeting on October 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm located at Haddam Elementary School, 272 Saybrook Road, Higganum CT 06441 for the following purposes:

1. To elect a moderator.
2. To consider, discuss and vote to approve Resolution 2021-1 to increase the Pedestrian Plan appropriation in the Capital Nonrecurring fund from \$6,000 to \$14,000 with the increase funded by the \$8,000 received from the State.
3. To consider, discuss and vote to approve Resolution 2021-2 to create an appropriation line in Capital nonrecurring fund for \$10,000 for "Rossi Property" to be funded by a transfer from unallocated CNR line.

A full copy of the resolutions can be found at the Town Clerk's office or at [www.haddam.org](http://www.haddam.org)

Dated in Haddam, Connecticut this 1st day of October 2020.

Board of Selectmen:  
Robert McGarry, Kate Anderson & Sean Moriarty

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](http://www.haddam.org).

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# Blue Fire Stage Company's Next Act: Theatrical Workshops

Submitted by  
Rebecca Degnan

This past summer, Haddam's Blue Fire Stage Company pulled off what many thought was impossible - a live, outdoor, socially distanced theatrical production, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Performed at Parmelee Farm in Killingworth, the company worked closely with local health departments throughout the rehearsals and performances, and their nearly sold-out run was a huge success. Persevering through a pandemic, a tornado warning, hurricanes, a power outage and even one show performed fully on generator power, this small nonprofit theatre company demonstrated their creativity, determination, teamwork and attention to detail to an audience that was hugely grateful to experience live theatre after so many months of quarantine. Now, Blue Fire is using those same qualities to launch yet another creative project - fall theatrical workshops for kids, teens and adults, held outdoors at the former Haddam Elementary School.

Blue Fire's mission statement is shared on their website: "The mission of Blue Fire Stage Company is to build a collaborative, diverse and accepting community through the arts and arts education..." Over the past year, their main focus has been on the performance aspect of their mission. "We are now excited to begin focusing on our educational goals," says Rebecca Degnan, one of the founders of Blue Fire. "Running classes and workshops has always been a part of our plan. We needed a space to do that, and it was very important to us that we stay local to the HK community. We are so excited to have been given the opportunity to rent space at the former Haddam Elementary School, which we can now call our home. This gives us the opportunity to begin running classes and workshops."

The fall workshops being offered by Blue Fire focus on a variety of performance skills. Each workshop is offered for a variety of age groups, including adults, and are appropriate for performers of all experience levels. Small class sizes allow the teachers to cater their instruction and feedback to each individual student at their level. There are workshops that focus on auditioning skills, including a unique workshop that helps students get the most out of a cold read at an audition, storytelling through movement, character development, improvisation, and a theatre games workshop as well. "We wanted to create a workshop curriculum for everyone," says Johanna Milani, the Education Coordinator. "No matter your level of experience, whether you have never performed before, or if you have been performing for years, you will be able to find a workshop to suit your needs." Class descriptions are available by downloading their workshop brochure here: Fall Workshop Brochure

Blue Fire's workshop teachers are experienced



performers and teachers, and those who have attended their shows are sure to recognize them. They are Rachel Ballasy, Rebecca Degnan, and HK alumni Johanna Regan Milani and Henry Tobelman.

Rachel Ballasy is a performer, director, and choreographer whose talent and skills have been on display from the midway (Hersheypark) to the main stage in PA and CT, most recently performing as Olive Ostrovsky in Blue Fire's summer production of 'Spelling Bee.' Rachel started working with young theatre minds as a theatre camp director in her hometown of Ellington. She went on to direct and choreograph middle school and high school students (Seussical, White Christmas and Beauty and the Beast to name a few) for the past five years.

Rebecca Degnan has a BMus from the Hartt School of Music. Her first teaching experience was at Neighborhood Music School's Audubon Arts Summer Camp, and she loves to bring the fun and energy of a camp environment to all of her teaching experiences. She has taught voice through her private studio in Haddam since 2004. She was the chorus teacher at HKMS for many years before earning her MS in Counseling from CCSU and becoming a school counselor there. She is the founder and director of the Shoreline Singers choral program, and has music directed and accompanied for a number of theatrical groups throughout CT. She is the President of the Board of Directors of Blue Fire, and a founding member.

Johanna Regan Milani is the Educational Coordinator for Blue Fire. She has been coordinating the curriculum development and scheduling for the fall workshop series, and will be teaching many of the workshops. She is an actor, singer, and director based out of CT, with a BA in musical theatre from Ashland University, and her MAT in education from CCSU. She has performed with numerous companies across CT in roles such as Mary Poppins (Mary Poppins), Belle (Beauty and the Beast), Tracy Turnblad (Hairspray), Baker's Wife (Into the Woods), and Lady of the Lake (Spamalot). Johanna has taught in both high school and elementary school settings, and has worked with actors of all ages for over a decade.

Henry Tobelman has been doing local theatre since the age of 12 and has performed in shows including Les Miserables (Javert), Jesus Christ Superstar (Pontius Pilot), Little Shop of Horrors (voice of Audrey II), Mary Poppins (Bert) and many more. He was a head counselor at YPCCA Jr Theatre Camp for 5 years, where he taught character building, scene analysis, staging and set design. He has taught theatre and music for students ages 5-45 for over six years, including guitar, piano, voice and beginner drums. In addition, he writes original music for his band, King Bongo, and is working on theatrical writing in his free time.

Blue Fire is no stranger to navigating health and safety requirements during COVID. Having successfully and safely run outdoor rehearsals and performances this past summer, they are quite familiar with all requirements and follow them diligently. All workshops will be offered outdoors, and students and teachers will be observing social distancing guidelines, including wearing masks, maintaining a 6-foot distance, and increasing this distance to at least 12 feet when students are performing without masks. "We are ready and willing to make adjustments to our classes and procedures if health department guidelines change," says Rebecca. "We are working closely with our local health department in order to stay aware of any changes as they happen." Information about costs can be found on the website.

What does the future hold for Blue Fire? "Unfortunately, an in-person winter show is unlikely due to COVID," says board member Christa Douyard. "However, we are looking forward to continuing our education program, and hope to offer virtual classes in the winter." As soon as the company is able to perform safely again, they look forward to planning their second mainstage performance, and hope to host a wine-tasting cabaret fundraiser as well, either in-person or virtually. One thing is for sure, nothing will keep this little-theatre-that-could down. For more information on Blue Fire or their Fall Workshop Series, visit them at [www.bluefirestage.org](http://www.bluefirestage.org), or on Facebook or Instagram @bluefirestage.



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## Halloween Hayrides

**Spooky Halloween Displays & Farm Animals  
1-8pm**

Westledge Farm, 6 Parker Hill Road, Killingworth, CT  
Each weekend (Fri, Sat & Sun) through Halloween  
**\$7/person, kids under 5 free**  
**One free pumpkin per family**

Masks & Social Distancing will be required.



ON THE ROAD WITH THE  
HADDAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# The Well House

By Elizabeth Malloy, Executive Director,  
Haddam Historical Society

Prior to the 20th century few Haddam homes had indoor running water and relied on an outside hand-dug, shallow well to provide water for everyday activities including cooking, cleaning and washing. Multiple times during the day water would be lugged inside in buckets by older children or adults. The well was dug on the property near enough to the house for convenience but far away from the privy for health reasons.

Early wells were dug to a depth just below the water table (anywhere from 15 to 100 feet), were circular in shape and lined with stone. Sometimes



a nearby spring or brook could supply water when necessary. Some homes had cisterns in which collected water could be stored.

The early hand dug wells were covered with a well cap, a circular or slab piece of stone, piece of wood or a simple wooden well house to prevent people or animals from falling into the well. Water was retrieved by lowering a bucket on a rope into the well or a windlass. These were later replaced by hand pumps, which can still be found some yards today.



By the 1930s electric water pumps were available to most homeowners and the shallow wells and well houses were abandoned. Most well houses seen today are a decorative feature, but if you drive around slow enough you can still spy some older ones watching guard over the old well.

## CONNECTICUT NEWS

FROM STATE SENATOR NORM NEEDLEMAN

# Updates on Education, Connecticut Travel Advisory

By State Senator, Norm Needleman

Please take a few moments to read about an upcoming Middlesex Habitat for Humanity information meeting for military individuals and families, an education update, and health and weather preparation tips as we enter Fall. If I may be of assistance to you please email [Needleman@senatedems.ct.gov](mailto:Needleman@senatedems.ct.gov).

## Habitat for Humanity to Hold Application Information Meeting For Military Individuals/Families

The Middlesex Habitat for Humanity will hold an application information meeting Monday, October 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Cromwell ReStore, located at 34 Shunpike Road in Cromwell. This meeting will provide attendees with more information about applying to potentially own a home, which Middlesex Habitat for Humanity plans to construct in Middlefield in the near future. Middlesex Habitat will distribute applications for the Military Build program. Individuals or families meeting the following requirements can apply: they must be veterans or military service members, must have a DD Form 214 or current military ID, must have a need for simple, decent housing, must meet the income requirements for a house, and must be able to pay a low-interest mortgage for the house if selected. Any eligible military individual or family is highly encouraged to apply. The event will follow COVID-19 precautions – for more information or to RSVP, please call 860-398-6483 or email [mlopez@habitatmiddlesex.org](mailto:mlopez@habitatmiddlesex.org).

## 14-Day Quarantine Lifted Under New Condition, Six States Removed from Travel Advisory

Governor Lamont has loosened travel restrictions from those who travel to Connecticut from high-risk areas. Travelers no longer have to quarantine if they're coming in from a high-risk state if they have a negative test. If a person does not present a negative COVID-19 test, then they will have to quarantine for 14 days. Anyone traveling from the list of locations must fill out a health questionnaire and quarantine for 14 days. People who fail to comply with the requirements could pay a \$1,000 fine. Six states have been removed from the list including California, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, and Ohio. The current list is Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

## State Electronic Learning Device Delivery Ahead of Schedule

Roughly 20,000 of 81,000 learning devices purchased for students across the state are scheduled to arrive ahead of schedule, state officials said. The "Everybody Learns" initiative, set up by the governor's office, is slated to provide hundreds of thousands of laptops and learning devices to students across the state as disruptions to education including remote and hybrid learning schedules continue to be necessary amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to 141,000 devices slated to be delivered to schools, the state is also providing 60,000 internet connections, with more than a fifth of those connections successfully installed. Just over 20,000 Windows laptops will be delivered through the end of September, with another 60,000+ Chromebooks to be delivered in October, on top of 60,000 laptops already distributed in May through the Partnership for Connecticut.

## U.S. News and World Report Highlights 16 Connecticut Colleges and Universities

The annual U.S. News and World Report ranking of colleges and universities, released this week, found 16 Connecticut schools ranking highly and gaining attention for academic success. This reminder of Connecticut's strong educational roots includes the following schools receiving accolades:

- UConn was named the 23rd best public university in the country and the 63rd best overall university
- Yale ranked 4th nationally, placing top-10 in writing, learning communities, undergraduate research, senior capstones and first-year experiences
- Trinity College ranked 44th in national liberal arts colleges and ranked in the top 50 for value
- Wesleyan ranked 20th in national liberal arts colleges and ranked in the top 25 for value
- The University of Hartford, Quinnipiac University, Sacred Heart University and the University of St. Joseph all ranked in the top 250 national colleges and universities nationwide

## DEEP Warning Bear Sightings Will Increase this Winter

There have been 42 reports of black bears entering homes this year and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has issued a warning that the unusually high number will increase this fall when bears seek out easy-to-find food

as they prepare for winter. Officials are asking Connecticut residents to be extra cautions going into the fall and observe the state's rules for limiting encounters with bears. If you encounter a bear in your yard or while hiking, it is suggested to yell or make other loud noises. If the bear becomes aggressive, contact DEEP at 860-424-3333. For more information and helpful tips you can click [here](#).

## Tips and Advice as We Enter Autumn

It may be hard to believe, but next week brings the start of autumn. On Tuesday, September 22, the seasons will begin changing, though there's been a nip in the air after dusk for a few days now. Though it won't be a typical fall, here's some tips and preparations you can make now to avoid problems in the months to come.

- Staying Healthy – With hybrid and remote learning, mask use and COVID-19 complicating daily life, staying healthy this autumn will be a difficult prospect. With this in mind, one of the most important things we can all do is get a flu shot. While there is hope that widespread mask use could lead to a light flu season this year – the Southern Hemisphere reported its lowest-ever transmission rates of flu this year due to frequent mask-wearing, among other changes in place to protect against COVID-19 – getting a flu shot will help prevent the risk of two viruses circulating at the same time. Additionally, this is a time of year where fewer people go outside due to colder temperatures and muddy weather. Taking a Vitamin D supplement can help support your mood and immune system, as can eating nutritious foods, staying hydrated and following proper hygiene.
- Staying Prepared – Though we hope they don't happen, autumn storms can pack a powerful punch. Especially after recovery from Tropical Storm Isaias, it's a great idea to check your flashlight batteries and other resources necessary in a power outage. As temperatures cool, snow can creep into the forecast as well. It's smart to check your shovel and snow-blower, as well as your heating, now instead of later. That could save you trouble down the line.
- Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1 this year at 2 a.m., and with changing clocks, it's also a great idea to check your carbon monoxide and smoke alarms to make sure they're operational.



## To Leave It or Change It, That is the Question

We asked readers to send in design questions for Killingworth's Rachel Schemmerling, Design Consultant, to answer.

QUESTION: "My wife likes to change the fireplace mantle for every holiday but I prefer a permanent display. Who is right?"  
– Jason Hayward

ANSWER: You're both right! When guiding clients on the best course of action as it pertains to home decorating, my motto is, "If you love it, then it is good, and it should stay. However, when it is something that really breaks all the rules of design, we might need to intervene just slightly." And this does not mean building a second fireplace!

The elements and principles of interior design include space, line, form, light, color, texture, and pattern. Keeping those elements in balanced proportion is the key to creating a beautiful interior.

So when two people have differing opinions, then we have to compromise and bring them together in their decorating goals while still keeping them in line with those basic principles of design.

In the case of Jason Hayward, he and his wife disagree about whether to leave a permanent display vs. changing it often. My answer to this question is – YES... BOTH! It is possible to have the best of both options. The fireplace is naturally a focal point in the room and, therefore, you want it looks its best and appeal to every person that lives in that space.

To achieve this, they can create a per-

manent display, but change out certain elements of the season or with each holiday. For example, start with a grounding element like a large mirror or a statement piece of framed art. Add accessories on either side to create levels and/or symmetry. Then seasonally, they might add some decorative details that pertain to that holiday or time of year.

Here are some step-by-step tips to building a nice fireplace mantel display using some of the key principles of interior design listed above:

1. Space: The first step is clearing off the mantle entirely and giving it a good cleaning. It was time to dust off those cobwebs anyway!

2. Line, Form and Light: Select one large item to ground the space, such as a mirror or a piece of art.

3. Color, Texture and Pattern: Select display items of similar colors, such as books, vases or containers. Then create different heights within those items.

4. Lastly, incorporate those key elements by adding seasonal or holiday accents, such as greenery in December or pastel flower touches in the Spring.

To send in your design questions, please see the guidelines in this article.

*Rachel Schemmerling is an Interior Design Consultant, located in Killingworth. She is known for her unique approach to design, with a keen eye for designing beautiful, comfortable surroundings while finding creative ways to work within a budget.*



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Out of this World

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O	A	N	O	D	M	N	I	Z	O	I	K	C	I	O	CLINTON	NAUGATUCK
T	T	O	I	T	L	K	A	T	L	F	G	I	D	O	FAIRFIELD	NEWINGTON
G	E	T	P	E	G	E	G	L	Q	G	R	T	G	R	FARMINGTON	NORWALK
N	R	N	O	T	G	N	I	H	T	U	O	S	E	B	GROTON	PORTLAND
I	B	I	J	J	I	N	I	F	X	R	T	Y	F	T	HADDAM	RIDGEFIELD
M	U	L	C	N	G	D	N	W	E	E	O	M	I	S	HARTFORD	SOUTHINGTON
R	R	C	O	W	H	L	Z	Q	E	L	N	P	E	E	HIGGANUM	STONINGTON
A	Y	T	O	K	L	A	W	R	O	N	D	E	L	W	KILLINGWORTH	WATERBURY
F	S	R	D	R	O	F	R	E	T	A	W	D	D	P	LEDYARD	WATERFORD
H	T	M	I	D	D	L	E	T	O	W	N	M	I	M	LYME	WESTBROOK
H	I	G	G	A	N	U	M	J	F	O	C	C	W	M	MIDDLEFIELD	WESTPORT
K	C	U	T	A	G	U	A	N	V	O	L	Y	M	E	MIDDLETOWN	
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KWO Virtual Art Show – Spotlight on Killingworth Artists: Part 2

Continued from page H1

celebrate one of the many talents that women have – creating art,” explained Genie. “Many museums and galleries around the country are doing a women only show this year.” Genie’s daughter came up with curatorial statement for the show that is on the website:

*“The 19th amendment ensured that women’s voices would be heard. Today we celebrate this milestone through the voices of local women, expressed in their visual art. The women’s suffrage movement could not have been successful without collective action, and so it is important now, when we cannot come together in person, to come together virtually as a community in commemoration of women’s suffrage.”*

The Killingworth Women’s Organization was founded in 2003. There are, on average, between 40 and 50 women in the organization. The KWO is a community service organization of women volunteers “dedicated to helping others in Killingworth and to building a stronger sense of community,” said Genie. They raise funds during the year and have various events and committees working on a variety of interests, such as an annual scholarship, education on domestic violence, sending care packages to local service members, hosting Trunk or Treat, as well as a Holiday Gift Drive, and running Santa’s mailbox in Killingworth.

This week, we’re going to spotlight three artists, who are participating in the online art show, who work in three different mediums.

**Sierra Leone – Roadside Happiness by Amanda Fornal**

Amanda Fornal discovered an interest in photography at Haddam Killingworth High School while taking a class. “We developed our own film and worked in the dark room. Since then I am mostly self taught.”

Photography isn’t her only interest however. “Creating things has always interested me,” explained Amanda. “When your wall needs a painting, instead of buying one, paint one. Instead of buying a bookshelf, measure and build one. If the opportunity comes up to take a class in glassmaking, filmmaking, or some other art form that fits my schedule, I take it.”

Amanda grew up in Killingworth, and often returns to visit her parents. “Killingworth is in a unique position that allows you to live in a quaint forest, but still be driving distance from the city of New York,” said Amanda. “The dark night sky allows you to see a field of stars while listening to crickets break the evening silence.”

She likes the process of creating art. “Painting and glassblowing both can be quite meditative,” said Amanda. “Creativity is valuable in all parts of our lives. In business, in play, and in art, our creativity can add value to what we do.”

On the subject of women gaining the right to vote, Amanda said, “The idea that only 100 years ago women in the US did not have the same rights as men, often seems absurd to me. I am thankful for those who stood-up and fought for the equality that I take as a life standard. I hope that one day all women will have the opportunity to feel equal and valued.”

If you would like to see more of her work, visit <https://www.orangemirror.com/Photography>.



**Old but Not Retired by Sandra Smith**

Sandra Smith and her husband, Charlie, have lived in Killingworth for more than 50 years. “We fell in love with the town when our real estate agent showed us some houses here,” explained Sandra. “I had never heard of the town before that time even though I had lived in CT all my life. I love everything about Killingworth . . . the people, the town, the beauty, the birds, wildlife, etc.”

Sandra describes a bit of her history, “I was very fortunate to have been born with artistic talents. My mother was a wonderful seamstress, and my father was super talented in whatever he touched. Because I was one of those children who never stopped moving from the day I was born, my mother bought me tons of paper, crayons, etc. to keep me out of the many mishaps I had gotten myself into. Because I was such an active child, my mother put me into art lessons, piano lessons, dancing lessons, singing, acting, etc., . . . anything to keep me from my many mishaps. I have had lots of art training, but I fell in love with oils (as soon as my mother thought I was capable to not “eat it” or get too much of the oils on me!).”

On women getting the right to vote, Sandra had this to say, “It doesn’t matter how or where you vote, but VOTE!!”

*If you’re a woman from Killingworth and would like your art shown in the virtual art show, please use the form here: <https://www.kwoct.org/honoring-suffrage-gallery/>.*

*All women in Killingworth (and surrounding towns) are welcome to join the KWO.*

*Art included here is with permission from the artists.*



**Galine Sea Goddess by Renee Lavoie**

Renee Lavoie is a self taught artist who has lived in Killingworth for 13 years, after moving here with her family for her son and the school system. “I have been drawing since I was a small child,” said Renee. “I started painting around the age of 20.” She explained that she started using oil paints while watching Bob Ross videos, then switched to acrylics. “Due to fast drying and my lack of patience, it is my favorite medium.”

She creates art as a form of stress relief. “I love painting,” explained Renee. “There are no rules. Anything goes. Just free your mind.”