

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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October 15, 2020

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Free weekly



Former First Selectman Schlag, 46, Passes Away

By Editorial Staff

Melissa Schlag, former First Selectman of Haddam, passed away on Friday, October 2, 2020, at the age of 46, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Back in 2011, Ms. Schlag gained the public's attention with her vocal opposition to the "Land Swap" in Haddam (17 acres of state land overlooking the river). On that wave, she ran for State Senator on the Green Party ticket in 2012, but lost.

Ms. Schlag ran for First Selectman of Haddam in 2013, and served from November 2013 to November 2015. She also served as a Selectman from November 2017 to November 2019. Ms. Schlag received national attention when she started kneeling during recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at Board of Selectmen meetings in July of 2018.

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Higganum's Eweather Voted 'Best in CT'

By Kathy Brown

Eweather was named to Connecticut Magazine's Best of Connecticut list for 2020 as "Best Social Media Influencer."

"This Higganum-based social media powerhouse is passionate about the weather and photography," according to Connecticut Magazine. "It's a passion shared by tens of thousands of followers in Connecticut and beyond, particularly on Facebook, where the likes and comments on the account's daily posts and forecasts flow as heavy as the Connecticut River after a tropical deluge. Though the content creator prefers to remain anonymous, his photos and videos have been featured on The Weather Channel and Good Morning America, and across local media outlets. @eweather13 on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter."

Eweather was started as a Facebook page back in 2013 by a Higganum



resident. Often, after big weather events, the followers would increase. "I remember picking up close to 5k followers after one big snowstorm," said Eweather, who prefers to remain anonymous. Right now, he has over 72,000 followers on Facebook.

"Eweather was started as a place to

provide accurate forecasts with a focus on big weather events, and also a place to showcase my photography," Eweather told us. "I grew up fascinated by the weather. It was Hurricane Gloria that really got me into it. But I ended up getting a business degree so weather

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KWO Supports Fight Against Domestic Violence

By Genie Dethloff,
Publicity Chair KWO

October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), a month of activities that celebrate survivors and raise awareness about the issue and the services available to help victims and survivors. Killingworth Women's Organization (KWO) has marked the town with signs including purple ribbons in support of DVAM and to increase awareness. On October 22 which is Purple Thursday, you can wear purple to show your support.

Domestic violence is a pervasive problem "No state, no city, no community, and no neighborhood is



Women from KWO who are increasing awareness of domestic violence by placing signs around Killingworth for DVA Month. Photo by Isabel Rochette.

immune from domestic violence. Perpetrators and victims come from all races, religions, cultures, age groups, genders, sexual orientations, and so-

cioeconomic levels. Domestic violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to

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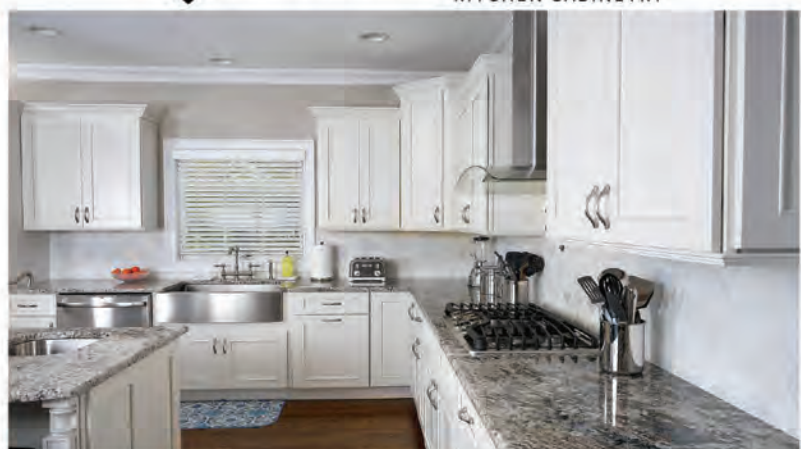
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FROM THE HADDAM REGISTRARS OF VOTERS
Presidential Election Information

Submitted by Raymond Skarsten & Saralyn D'Amato, Haddam Certified Registrar of Voters

Haddam's next voting session is the "Haddam Presidential Election" on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

To register to vote: The Registrars' Office is open on Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or register at Haddam Town Hall, Town Clerks office (see Town Hall hours below). You may also request the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk to send you a mail-in voter registration form, or visit our website haddam.org/registrar-voters.

The polls are open from 6:00am to 8:00pm. The three polling places are:

*District # 001

Haddam Firehouse Community Hall
 439 Saybrook Rd (Rte 154)
 Higganum, CT 06441

*District #002

Regional School District #17 Central Office
 57 Little City Rd
 Higganum, CT 06441

*District #003

Haddam Neck Firehouse
 50 Rock Landing Rd
 Haddam Neck, CT 07624

*Curb side voting is available for "voters with a disability"

October 27, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. – All day registration and in-person cut-off to register for the November 3rd "Presidential Election" will be held at Registrar of Voters Office, Haddam Firehouse, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum.

November 2, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. - Limited Registration Session to admit those seeking to vote in election whose qualification as to age, citizenship or residence was attained since October 27, 2020. Will be held at Registrar of Voters Office, Haddam Firehouse, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum

Registration Deadlines:

Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by October 27, 2020

In-person and on-line cut off is October 27, 2020

by 8:00pm - (To register on-line a DMV license is required).

NOTE: Any unregistered Connecticut resident who is eligible to vote or any resident who has moved into Haddam, may register and vote in person on Election Day - ONLY at the Haddam Firehouse Complex, 439 Saybrook Road (Rte 154) Higganum, CT 06441 - Hours: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

The Registrar of Voters STRONGLY urge Haddam residents who are not registered to vote, to register as early as possible before November 3, 2020. Also, please visit our website haddam.org/registrar-voters - for election information and forms. A copy of the ballot will also be on our website.

The Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State will be sending out applications for absentee ballots to all eligible (active, registered) voters between September 8th and September 11th and ballots will be mailed out October 2, 2020.

Haddam Registrars: Phone: 860-345-0979 E-mail: registrar@haddam.org

Haddam Safe Voting at Polls

Submitted by Raymond Skarsten & Saralyn D'Amato, Haddam Certified Registrar of Voters

HADDAM VOTING POLLS
 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
 NOVEMBER 3, 2020
 COVID-19 UPDATE

The Haddam Registrars of Voters are making our voting polls as safe as possible.

1. We require every voter to wear a facemask when entering the voting polls.
2. Our poll worker/election officials will all be wearing a face shield,

facemask and gloves for your protection and their protection.

3. After each voter votes in our voting booths, the booths will be cleaned with disinfecting wipes.
4. The voter may use his or her own marking pens for the ballot. A "Sharpie" or "Paper Mate Flair" brand marker is recommended. Markers will also be provided, if needed.
5. Please stay at least a 6' distance from another voter.
6. There will be elections officials in our polls to assist all voters.

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Higganum's Eweather Honored

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became a hobby." He not only posts his own nature photography, but photos from his followers. "It's turned into an amazing and interactive weather community." When a storm hits, people comment with how much rain, snow, or wind their area received, and some post photos as well.

Connecticut Magazine publishes their list of "The Best of..." Connecticut each year. This year, the contenders for "Social Media Influencer" were: Eweather, "Life Unfiltered" (Alexa Curtis), Charli D'Amelio, Connecticut Weather & News on Facebook, CT-FoodGirly, "Daym Drops" (Daymon Patterson), "Happily Eva After" (Eva Amurri Martino), "But First, Coffee" (Kallie Branciforte), Kevin and Lill,

Local Moms Network (Layla Lisiewski, Megan Sullivan, and Jessica Blouin), "Style Cusp" (Marissa Meade), and "Nonee's World" (Nonee Ngazimbi-Cunningham). They published their winners on September 1, 2020.

"When I first saw the CT Magazine readers' poll I thought I could possibly have a chance. Then when I saw I was up against Charli D'Amelio, who had over 50 million followers on Tik Tok, I thought I had no chance," Eweather said. "I was shocked when I received word from CT Magazine that I won in the most influential social media category!"

If you're interested in tell-it-like-it-is weather and beautiful photography, follow Eweather on Facebook (an account is not required)

Melissa Schlag Passes Away

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When she was running for Board of Finance in 2019, she had this to say, "I was honored to serve on the Municipal Opportunities Regional Efficiencies Commission at the state, and was working with other towns and cities to reduce expenses through shared services. . . I promise integrity, fairness, transparency, and communication with all residents."

She was the longtime layout editor of the Haddam Bulletin. She also served as a Justice of the Peace from 2013 until her passing.

On Saturday, a message went out to Haddam residents from current First Selectman Bob McGarry: "It is with deep regret that I'm writing to inform you that former First Selectwoman Melissa Schlag passed away last night. She was well known for her involvement in our community, her passion for the environment and conservation, and her work on the Haddam Bulletin. I admired the courage she had to stand up for her convictions. She did a lot for Haddam. She will be missed. My condolences go to her loved ones and friends."




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Spooky Stories from the Garden

By Terry Twigg

In honor of Halloween, I thought I'd share some of the creepier experiences I've had in my gardens. No ghosts or witches, but a few chills up the spine, maybe.

The classic murder mystery. We've all seen at least one movie in which the bad guy maneuvers an inconvenient corpse into a wheelbarrow (the wheels always squeak), and then trundles it out to the back garden, where he buries it under cover of darkness. I'm here to tell you that's just plain boneheaded. Even out here in the country, most of us have neighbors who would notice that much activity in the middle of the night. Instead, whenever you have a body to dispose of, dig the grave in broad daylight, as nonchalantly as possible. That's what I did.

No, not really. But I DID dig a two-foot by six-foot trench for roses in front of my barn, on a corner lot open to two busy streets. Only then did I realize it looked just like a grave, but all the people driving by just smiled and waved. I waved back. Nothing to see here, folks. Just a little, er, composting.

What the Realtor never told you. What if it wasn't you, but a previous owner, who left sinister surprises in the garden? My predecessor at the same house had been a champion slob, leaving several dumpsters' worth of trash, half-obscured by waist-high grass. (Not to mention the pizza slices still in the microwave...in a house that had been empty for

over a year.) Directly behind the kitchen door was a pile of half-burnt chicken and rabbit bones. My first thought was that he practiced voodoo, but later I found cages in one of the barns, so apparently the rites were culinary in nature.

Weirdly, he had paved over most of the back yard, so it was only after bringing in a backhoe that I could even begin to prepare my long-awaited perennial beds. Classic murder mystery number 2, in which the body has been secreted under a slab of concrete or asphalt, right? My friends and I joked about it as I began to dig. But, six buckets of broken glass later, my shovel hit...something. I moved the shovel a few inches, and then a few more, as we do when trying to gauge to size of a rock. The "something" seemed to be about eight inches round. Knobby. Irregular. And as I moved the shovel, I began to glimpse of white through the dirt. Truly, I was spooked.

For just a few moments, I was Miss Marple. But, of course, it wasn't a skull, but something gardeners are far more likely to find in soil: the ghost of chemicals past, applied by a predecessor. Mine, fortunately, was benign: a half-empty bag of lime, rained on long ago and hardened rock-solid. (Or bone-solid.) And that's as close as I ever want to come to a Superfund environmental contamination site.

The sci-fi horror. My weirdest, freakiest garden experience happened here in Haddam, and while the previous stories might have been just flights of imag-

ination, this one is, unfortunately, all too real.

Soon after buying the house, I put down cardboard and wood chips for new garden beds, leaving it all to break down over the winter. When spring came, I went out back and sank a fork into the now-softened and enriched soil. As soon as the fork hit the ground, I was surrounded by large pink-brown worms levitating up from the chips, rising six or eight inches straight up before slowly dropping back to earth. Startled, repulsed, and spooked, I jumped back. I'd never seen anything like it.

But they're real. Crazy snake worms, jumping worms—they have many names, none of which quite capture the sheer revolting quality of these big, invasive creepy crawlies. Our part of North America has no native earthworms, as the glaciers scraped them all away along with most of our topsoil. The worms we're familiar with are all European imports. But the crazy snake worms are newer, different, and bad news. When touched, they explode into seizure-like writhing. Grab one by the tail end, and it breaks off, while the worm escapes. The soil they infest is recognizable by its coffee-grounds texture, stripped of nutrients, and as their population grows, more and more of the forest floor is depleted of its ability to sustain healthy undergrowth. This is a real-life Halloween trick, with, as yet, no treat. If the biologists come up with a way to eradicate these pests, I'll share it with you.

Really, I'd rather have a bucket of gummi worms.

PURA Extends COVID-19 Payment Program

Submitted by Mitch Gross, Eversource

Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) today issued a ruling that will extend the enrollment period for the COVID-19 Payment Program for non-residential customers through November 1, 2020. The enrollment period for the COVID-19 Payment Program for both residential and non-residential customers will now extend through November 1, 2020.

PURA also reminds all residential customers that the "Shut-off Moratorium" (<https://portal.ct.gov/pura/consumer-services/pura-covid-actions>) currently in place for state-regulated electric, gas and water utilities is scheduled to conclude on September 30, 2020. PURA encourages all customers experiencing difficulty paying their utility bills to contact

their utility company and to ask:

First, whether the customer is eligible to be "coded hardship." Special financial assistance programs are available to hardship customers. For more information, see <https://operationfuel.org/2020/09/02/shutoffs/>

Second, if ineligible for hardship status, to be placed on a COVID-19 Payment Plan.

Important Dates:

The Shut-off Moratorium for non-hardship residential customers is scheduled to conclude on September 30, 2020.

Enrollment for the COVID-19 Payment Program for non-residential and residential customers is open until November 1, 2020.

COVID-19 Payment Plans:

- Are available to any customer requesting financial assistance, without demonstrating financial need;
- Require no initial or down payment;
- Can be up to twenty-four (24) months in length;
- Waive any fees or interest in the calculation of the monthly payment amount;
- Facilitate the repayment of the past due balances in addition to the customer's current monthly bill.
- Importantly, any customer enrolled in a COVID-19 Payment Program who is current with their payment terms cannot be disconnected even once the Shut-off Moratoriums have concluded.

Haddam Killingworth News

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Girls Soccer: HKHS 3, Old Saybrook 0

Submitted by Mike Shea

The Haddam-Killingworth High School girls varsity soccer team shut out the Old Saybrook Rams on October 6, 2020 by a score of 3-0.

The game today, was the 2020 Senior Game. The nine senior players and two senior team managers were honored before the game. Those being honored were: Kedarjah Lewis, Morgan Madore, Kaitlyn Parri, Morgan Schultz, Sophie Gromala, Autumn Walton, Mai-Ly Criscuolo, Kelsey Lonergan and Mia Rubino. Team managers were Candace Williams and Jenna Griffiths.

The HK Cougars started the first half with a successful penalty kick taken by junior, Yumi Imai. HK finished the 1st half with a ripping shot by Kait-



Photo by Kerrie Parri

lyn Parri, going up 2-0. In the second half, HK kept the pressure on. Morgan Madore had a fantastic corner kick, where Kedarjah Lewis found it and sealed the win, 3-0. Goalkeeper Kesley

Lonergan had a great game with five saves to complete the shutout.

Haddam-Killingworth moved to 2-0 to start the season.

Girl's Soccer: H-K 4, Portland 1

Submitted by Mike Shea

On Friday, October 2, 2020, the Haddam Killingworth High School Girls Varsity Soccer team played Portland High School.

The HK Cougars opened their season by defeating Portland High School by a score of 4-1. Goals were by Autumn Walton, Kedarjah Lewis, Yumi Imai and Morgan Madore. Assists were supplied by Kaitlyn Parri, Hadley Commerford, Kedarjah Lewis and Morgan Madore. Goalkeepers were Sophia Torello and Brianna Nugent they combined with 4 saves. The young defensive line starters included Leah Sosnowski, Leah Chester, Caroline Conte and Rory Parri.

Every player on the varsity team saw action and all contributed to the first win of the season!

H-K RECREATION DEPARTMENT

October 2020 Youth Programs

Submitted by Josselyn Salafia

COVID-19 Safety protocols & social distancing will be enforced.

Karate – Mondays and Wednesdays, 10/7/20 – 10/28/20 (no 10/12) from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at Parmelee Farm. \$36 (all 6)/\$18 (3). Non residents add \$10.

Skyhawks Golf – Tuesdays 10/6/20 – 10/27/20 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at Sheldon Park. \$70 (non residents add \$10).

Creative Art – Tuesdays 10/13/20 – 10/27/20 from 4:14 – 5:30 p.m. at Sheldon Park. \$38 (non residents add \$10).

Archery – Wednesdays 10/14/20 – 10/28/20 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Sheldon Park. \$39 (non residents add \$10).

Zumba Kids – Thursdays 10/15/20 – 10/29/20 from 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. at Sheldon Park. \$42 (non residents add \$10).

Canvas & Pumpkins in the Park

– Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Sheldon Park. \$36 (non residents add \$5).

Gross and Really Cool Jr Experiments – Thursdays, 10/1/20 – 10/29/20 from 4:15 -5:45 p.m. at Parmelee Farm. \$103 (non residents add \$10).

Horseback Riding – Tuesdays or Wednesdays, 10/6/20 – 10/27/20 or 10/7/20 – 10/28/20, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. or 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Whitney Ridge Farm. \$175 (non residents at \$10).

Babysitting – Monday to Wednesdays, 10/5, 10/6, 10/7 5:15 – 7:15 p.m. at HK Rec. outside. \$75 (non residents add \$10).

Skyhawks Multi-sport – Thursdays 10/1/20 – 10/22/20, 4:15 – 5:00 p.m. (ages 4-6), 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. (ages 7-10) at Sheldon Park. \$70 (non residents add \$10).

Gymnastics – Fridays, 10/9/20 – 10/30/20, 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. at Caffery's Dance. \$82 (non residents add \$10).

October Events & Activities

Submitted by Robyne Brennan, HK Rec Dept.

Halloween Activity to Go Kit — A variety of crafts and activities. Order by October 7, 2020. Curbside pick-up around October 16, 2020. \$12 each

Canvas & Pumpkins in the Park – Oct. 17, 2020 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Sheldon Park. \$36 each

Pumpkin Paint Event by Abrakadoodle. Don't miss this fun fall art event for families. Paint a Halloween

inspired design on canvas or a craft pumpkin. Includes choice of craft pumpkin or canvas, paints, brushes, and a special treat. Safe fall fun for everyone. Register by Oct. 15, 2020 at www.hkrec.com.

Halloween Car Costume Parade – Oct. 24, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. at HKIS/

HKMS Parking Lot

Decorate your car and dress in costume for a car parade. Pets welcome. Parade by our panel of judges. Be creative and have fun. Prizes awarded to top 3 cars/families. \$15 per car. Each registrant will receive an entry number to be placed on your car and a time to drive by. Register by Oct. 23 (noon).



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Connecticut Halloween Guidance

Sent out by Town of Haddam

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requires all of us to take steps to keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe and healthy: wear our masks, wash our hands frequently, and maintain social distancing. As a result, we will need to celebrate many fall traditions differently this year, including Halloween. Traditional Halloween activities carry a high risk for spreading COVID-19, but we can reduce that risk significantly by organizing and participating in fun, lower or moderate risk alternatives. The holiday may look different this year, but the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) believes we can

still enjoy a happy (and healthy) Halloween.

The CT DPH recommends that everyone planning to participate in Halloween activities this year review the guidance recently issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>) describes “lower” “moderate” and “higher” risk activities. DPH recommends that Connecticut residents avoid higher risk Halloween traditions and focus celebrations on the lower and moderate risk activities.

The ability to maintain social distancing and follow face covering rules is especially important when

participating in Halloween activities. In addition, please refrain from leaving your home for any Halloween activity and do not pass out Halloween candy if you are ill or have traveled to one of the states listed on the Connecticut travel advisory (<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>) between October 16th and October 30th (i.e. 14 days before Halloween). In this case you should be following the testing and self-quarantining guidelines, per Executive Order No. 9C. CDC guidance and safety tips are summarized below, along with additional considerations for restaurants and colleges and Universities.

To see the chart of Lower | Moderate | Higher risk activities, go to https://www.haddam.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4486/f/news/connecticut-halloween-guidance_finaldocx.pdf

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KWO's efforts to support Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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intimate partners who are married, living together, or dating.” (Source: 2018-2020 GFWC Club Manual: Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention)

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) defines Domestic violence as “a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that can include physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse or financial abuse.” (Source: www.ctcadv.org)

The CCADV (www.ctcadv.org) supports our state in preventing domestic violence. They report serving 37,773 individuals victimized by domestic violence who sought assistance through their 18 member organizations last program year, yet more cases of domestic violence in Connecticut go unreported. The CCADV member organization for Middlesex County is New Horizons Domestic Violence Services in Middletown (www.newhorizonsdv.com) which serves over 1000 individuals over a year, and is an organization the KWO has supported with donations for years.

One of KWO's most active committees is the Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Committee (DVAP). KWO's efforts include bringing awareness of the problem, its impact on the community and ways to help through events, panels and various other means. Some of their past efforts included:

- Organized a workshop on domestic violence for

local residents.

- Worked with a local acting group to put on a docudrama at the high school about a girl assaulted on a college campus.
- Reached out to the Haddam-Killingworth schools to offer our assistance in their implementing Erin's Law, a law to provide education to all age school children in preventing sexual abuse.

Various donation drives to collect items for women and children who are living in a safe house overseen by New Horizons in Middletown has been a main DVAP activity. The drives include collection of holiday presents, welcome bags for new residents, pajamas for women and children, new mattresses for the shelter, and other needed items for the shelter. For two years, around the holidays, KWO donated home furnishing items to women who had been victims of domestic violence but had survived and were ready to move to their own homes. In 2018, KWO had an event celebrating women with 130 women attending and 20 female vendors – proceeds went to New

Horizons and other DVAP projects.

The DVAP Committee is looking for new projects and new members to join the committee. KWO's parent organization, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), has expanded their interest beyond intimate partner abuse to violence against women in all forms: elder abuse, teen dating violence, campus sexual assault, violence against women of color, and child abuse, as well as to engaging men to promote respectful behavior and help prevent relationship abuse (Source: 2018-2020 GFWC Club Manual: Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention). If you are interested in any of these issues, please join us. To learn about KWO go to www.kwoct.org or email info@kwoct.org.

If you need help or someone to talk to in Middlesex County, contact New Horizons Domestic Violence Services in Middletown at their 24/7 Hotline: 1-888-774-2900 or www.newhorizonsdv.com. From anywhere in Connecticut you can call or text (888) 774-2900, 24/7 or visit CTSafeConnect.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF DECISION

At the Town of Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on October 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

- Approved a request for a special permit for an 800 s.f. attached accessory apartment on second floor of the home at 239 Plains Rd, Map 50/lot 9-3 Applicant: Michael Ciborowski. A copy of the approved text is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and Haddam Land Use Department.
- Re-Approved of site plan of an 8 unit elderly housing (age 55 and older) complex. At 215 Chamberlain Hill Rd, Map 2/lot 20-3. Applicant: Tom Zuppan A copy of the approved text is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and Haddam Land Use Department.

Town of Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Board of Appeals, Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing at the Haddam Old Town Hall, 21 Field Park Dr., Haddam, CT on October 29, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. to act upon the following item (s):

A. A variance to allow a pre-built shed at 14' from road when 30' is required. Section 4 table 1 in R1 zone. Property located at Map 72A3 Lot 0047 -12 Shore Dr, Higganum CT. Applicant: Jay Cassella

Said application is on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Haddam CT

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

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TO THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Voters

We are hearing that voters are making errors in their absentee ballots that will make them invalid.

The most important things to remember are: complete the ballot in blue or black ink; fill in the circle next to your choices (no x's or checkmarks); put only one ballot in the inner envelope (not husband and wife or kids in together), each must be in a separate inner and outer envelope; sign and date the inner envelope and seal it before placing it in the outer envelope.

Let's all make our votes count!

*Kate Wessling
Higganum, CT*

In Support of Norm Needleman

I plan to vote for Norm Needleman for re-election to the State Senate.

Senator Needleman has almost two decades of experience in local and state government and is the founder of a successful business. He has served the town of Essex as a First Selectman and Selectman, after serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Economic Development Commission. He has also been a member of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments.

I believe this experience provides him with the expertise to make sound decisions for CT and to prepare our state for the future.

As chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, Senator Needleman supports a "green economy" to protect the environment and to create jobs. He prides himself in "com-

mon-sense legislation" to guide CT into the future. His proposed legislation has had broad bipartisan support and all bills were successfully passed last year after leaving committee.

Senator Needleman has also been an advocate for consumers.

Most recently he addressed the poor emergency response to Tropical Storm Isaias by Eversource, held public hearings, and proposed legislation to hold them accountable for prolonged outages. The legislation would impose penalties and allow consumers to pursue refunds for damages. We need strong leadership to regulate utility companies and to protect consumers from unreasonable rate hikes.

We also need experienced legislators who are committed to an improved utility system for the future. Experience matters.

That is why I support Senator Norm Needleman for re-election.

*Rick Hornung
Haddam*

In Support of Christine Cohen, State Senator

When your readers cast their ballots this fall, I urge them to consider supporting a second term for State Sen. Christine Cohen, who has ably represented the 12th District for the past two years.

I've been impressed by her leadership on a number of issues, particularly environmental stewardship and sensible gun safety legislation. Christine was the driving force behind the creation of the bipartisan Coastal Caucus which works to mitigate the impact of climate change in our region through smart legislation. She has also

supported up-and-coming agricultural businesses, including industrial hemp producers and cideries.

Following a tragedy in a neighboring town, Christine helped pass Ethan's Law, which mandates safe gun storage. She also co-sponsored legislation to ban home-printed, 3D plastic guns with no serial numbers ("ghost guns").

I appreciate Christine's thoughtful approach to new legislation; she does extensive research and seeks input from a wide range of constituents before making decisions that impact all of us.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic and in the aftermath of tropical storm Isaias, I've relied on Christine's emails for important and timely information about how these events are impacting our region. She is a strong advocate for residents of the 12th District.

I will be casting my ballot for Sen. Christine Cohen this fall and I encourage your readers to do the same!

*Maureen Farrell Charney
Killingworth*

In Support of Christine Palm

Christine Palm has done an outstanding job of representing our 36th district and deserves our enthusiastic support for her re-election.

During her first term, Christine served on committees important to our district, where she has successfully crafted legislation supporting both

local and State needs. Her background in teaching, journalism, and policy fuel Christine's unique mixture of knowledge and experience allowing her to work effectively in the General Assembly. She works effectively with fellow representatives from both parties and districts across the State. She's demonstrated that she can make difficult decisions and defend them with clear and carefully considered arguments. She acts with courage and confidence in her knowledge embodying leadership and problem solving pragmatism. She has shown us that she prioritizes her constituents over her party. That's what outstanding representation should be! Choosing someone because they're loyal to their party, doing and supporting whatever they are instructed, is not what one should seek in a representative. We've had that, the approach wasn't what the majority wanted, and frankly I can't see a good reason to bring it back.

State and local government power is a critically important counterbalance to Federal power – safeguarded by our Constitution's built in system of checks and balances. Choosing effective and competent State Representatives has never been more important for CT and our country.

Please join me and a majority of your neighbors in our four towns of the 36th District to re-elect Christine Palm. Vote in person or vote by mail but please vote.

*Al Saubermann
Deep River*

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Killingworth BSA Gains New Eagle Scout: Jackson Pitts

By Kathy Brown

Killingworth Scouts BSA Troop #18 has gained another Eagle Scout. Jackson Pitts, a Senior at Haddam Killingworth High School, completed his Eagle project, a gaga pit, last summer/fall, but his Board of Review was postponed because of COVID-19.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 13 of which are "Eagle required" (such as First Aid, Personal Fitness, Citizenship in the World), plus eight more merit badges of their own choosing. They are also required to manage an Eagle project, which requires planning, managing work crews, and often raising funds and having to interface with an organization or town to get permission to do the project.

While involved with Scouts, Jackson participated in the troop's annual 50 mile hike on Vermont's Long Trail, along with a 100 mile canoe trip in Maine. He held the leadership position of Senior Patrol Leader, as well as patrol leader.

Jackson earned his Eagle Scout rank, as well as one Palm (this is achieved by earning an extra five merit badges — for each Palm — beyond the ones required for Eagle Scout rank).

Jackson's project was building a gaga pit at the Erik W. Auer Killingworth Recreational Park (KRP). For those not familiar with the game of "gaga," it is



Jackson Pitts

played in a wooden structure with a ball, sort of like soccer where you get other players "out" by making the ball touch them below the knee until there is only one player left.

"The physical construction of the project only took three weekends," explained Jackson, "but the difficult part of the project was organizing the design, approval, and execution process. There were a lot of town meetings involved and many different people from whom I had to gain input, approval and support, along with getting the fundraising required to pay for the materials."

Jackson is busy outside of Scouts as well. He throws for HKHS Track & Field, and plays on the HKHS Football team (which was canceled this year due to COVID). He loves the outdoors, including biking, hiking, boating, swimming, and riding his dirt bike. And he is restoring his 1989 Ford truck, including swapping out the engine by himself.

"I witnessed Jack, first hand, turn from a young boy into a man as a result of this [Eagle] project," said Paul Pitts, Jackson's father and Scoutmaster. "It kick-started the next phase of his life, building the request, communication, planning and project skills to set him up for the future."

Because of COVID-19, his Eagle ceremony has been postponed. Congratulations Jackson!

HADDAM SCOUTS BSA

Haddam's Pack 40 Cub Scouting News

Submitted by Kathryn Rizzo

Cub Scouting, like all activities, has had to quickly and safely adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Haddam Pack 40 leadership has been working with the district to structure a safe and fun program for our Scouts this year and we wanted to share a few of the activities we have in store.

Join Scouting!

For all our new and returning scouts, our Join Scouting night is being held on Thursday, October 15, 2020 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the HES parking lot on 272 Saybrook Road, Higganum. Scouts can also email Pack 40 to register at higganumpack40@gmail.com

Outside Meetings!

Den leaders are being creative and looking to do many outside activities with their Dens to complete each level's scouting requirements. Getting outside is what brings many of us into scouting, and we are excited to do even more outside events as with the scouts this fall. Some of these outdoor requirements may include physical fitness, whittling, fire building, hiking with map and compass skills, and outdoor cooking.

Hiking!

We are organizing activities to keep us outside this fall, and hiking as Dens and as a Pack will be a big part of that. We are going to begin this with a hike of Swan Hill in early October. Swan Hill is a beautiful section of trails that overlook the town center and the Connecticut River. The hike will give us the opportunity to observe interesting rock structures left from glaciers thousands of years ago, as well as local wildlife and enjoy the changing seasons.



Lyman Pies!

This fall we are running a fall fundraiser for delicious Lyman Pies and cookie dough. These pies are locally sourced and make a great addition to your Thanksgiving table. If you are interested in ordering, the on-line order form can be found at <https://my.mcmfundraising.com/2020-fall-troop-40-haddam/pack-40>

Pick-up will take place on Saturday November 21, 2020 at the HES parking lot during our Giving Tree event from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

The Giving Tree!

This event will look a little different this year for our Cub Scouts and we want to invite others in the community to join us in helping out families in need at the holiday. Saturday November 21, 2020 from 12:00-3:00 p.m., we will be outside at HES with our Giving Tree. Folks can stop by, pick up their pie order, and grab a tag off the tree to purchase a gift for a family in need. During the event we will be taking small group hikes to Swan Hill and enjoying some refreshments around the tree. This year it is more than ever a time for our community to lift one another up, as we always do best, and support each other in these challenging economic times. We hope to see you there!

KILLINGWORTH

Helping Hands Food Pantry

Submitted by Genie Dethloff

Killingworth residents can pick up food curbside at the pantry on Thursdays from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at 242 Route 81 (on the circle). Food is available for weekly pickup, if needed. Orders will consist of a prepacked selection of nonperishable food staples, with extras as available – portioned to fit your household size. Special dietary needs or food requests will be filled if available; make sure to call or email ahead and let the pantry know your request.

Call 860 663-1765 ext. 401 or email helping-hands@kwco.org. If you can't make the designated hours, food pickup is still available by appointment - leave a phone message or email. Delivery is also available for those who are homebound. All information is confidential.

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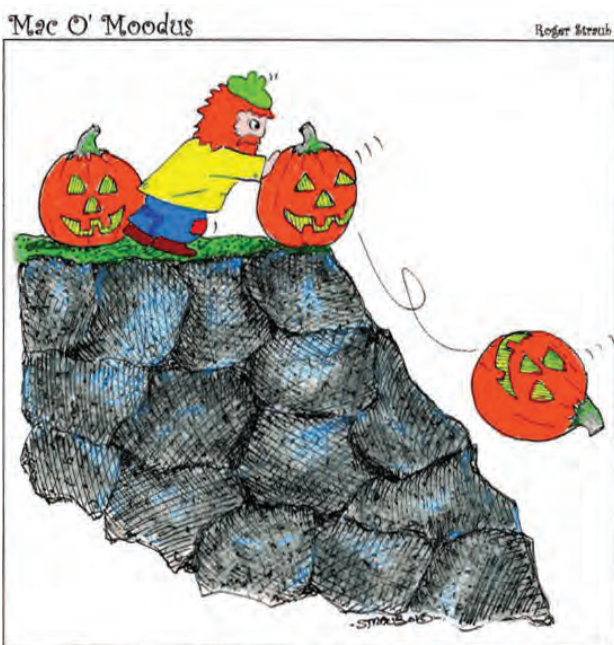
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Photo by Olivia Drake.

One injured in Killingworth crash

By Olivia Drake, HVFC Public Information Officer

Haddam Volunteer Fire Company responded mutual aid to Killingworth at 10:23 p.m. Oct. 2, 2020 to spearhead landing zone operations for Hartford Hospital's LIFE STAR, a critical care helicopter service.

HVFC was called to assist following

a motor vehicle accident on Route 148, west of the Reservoir Road in Killingworth. The patient, who was extricated from a rolled-over vehicle, was transported by Killingworth Ambulance Association (KAA) to the landing zone area at Killingworth Recreational Park. LIFE STAR airlifted the patient to a trauma center with serious injuries.

ELECTION 2020

Haddam Voter Registration Summary

Submitted by Raymond Skarsten & Saralyn D'Amato, Haddam Certified Registrars of Voters

Town of Haddam – Voter Registration Summary
October 1, 2020

District	Democratic	Republican	Unaffiliated	Other	Total
001 Firehouse	935	786	1362	42	3125
002 Central Office	789	739	1312	32	2872
003 Haddam Neck	94	90	92	2	278
Totals:	1818 (29%)	1615(26%)	2766(44%)	76 (1.21%)	6275

A Window of Opportunity

By Jennifer Armenia, Marketing Director

If you are considering a senior living community, now is a great window of opportunity. During this uncertain time with Covid-19, a group environment may seem risky. However, if you consider the extra precautions being put in place, it may be just



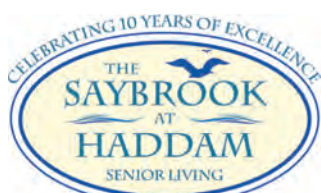
what you need to ensure you receive appropriate support while maintaining your independence. People living at The Saybrook at Haddam enjoy many benefits:

- Social engagement – at a safe distance, of course. Residents are encouraged to meet in public areas with reminders to stay 6 feet apart and wear masks. We help residents stay connected to their families, friends, and more

through the use of technology and safe, in-person visits (currently outdoors).

- Physical exercise – small group exercise classes, a gym, and wide, open spaces (both inside and out) encourage residents to stay active.
- Reliable care – for those who need support, our staff is here 24/7, 365.
- Three meals per day.
- Weekly housekeeping of the apartment.
- Sanitizing of surfaces in public spaces multiple times per day.

During this window of opportunity, while Connecticut's infection rates are lower and routine testing of staff is occurring, families are better able to assist their loved one with a move and can help them transition into a new setting. If you're interested in a carefree lifestyle and senior living, please call to learn how we are keeping our residents safe and happy. We look forward to hearing from you!



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