

# Haddam Killingworth News

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August 12, 2021 For breaking news go to HK-Now.com every day Free weekly

## Haddam Scouts learn & win at Camp Mattatuck

By Kathy Brown.

On July 25, 2021, four adult leaders, along with 18 Scouts from Haddam's Troop #44 and their sister troop, #44G, attended a week of summer camp at Camp Mattatuck in Plymouth, CT. Mattatuck is a 500 acre camp outside of Waterbury. The Scouts earned merit badges, attended campfires, participated in troop activities, and had a great time learning about new interests and skills.

There were 82 merit badges offered during the week at Camp Mattatuck, in the categories of Waterfront, Nature, Scoutcraft, Shooting Sports, CAPE (Coolest Adventure Program Ever), Wheels, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The 17 boys and one girl earned merit badges from Canoeing to Chess, Climbing to Astronomy, Fishing to Orienteering, Rifle Shooting to Wilderness Survival, and Swimming



Trial by Fire

to Robotics. On average, each Scout earned three merit badges during the week.

There was also time to learn new skills and explore interests in open Climb, open Ziplining, open Swim, open Boating, open Shooting, and



Cooper climbing



Getting blobbed

Open Blob. Are you wondering what a Blob is? A blob is "a giant airbag floating on water, [where] one person sits on the side closest to water and waits to be bounced into the air by other people [who] jump on the other side of the blob."

This year there were a few changes due to COVID. Instead of eating in the dining hall, the Scouts picked up their food in the dining hall, then

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## RSD #17 appoints new Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Jeffrey S. Wihbey

By Pamela Hensel.

(August 3, 2021) On Tuesday, August 3, the Regional School District #17 Board of Education appointed Mr. Jeffrey Wihbey as its next Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Wihbey possesses an extensive background and a distinguished career in public education, most recently serving as the Superintendent of Schools for Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), leading and advocating for more than 11,000 students throughout the state. His educational career began in the classroom teaching High School Social Studies before taking roles as a High School Assistant Principal, Elementary School Principal, K-8 STEM Magnet School Founding Principal, and Assistant Superintendent.



Jeff Wihbey

Accomplishments during his Superintendency at CTECS include leading the completion of a strategic operating plan, closing out seven major school construction and renovation projects on time and on budget, and collaboratively implementing a blended learning 1:1 student laptop device process and program across the state. Mr. Wihbey's legacy with CTECS will include high school graduation rates that are among the highest in the state.

Mr. Wihbey is a collaborative and visionary educational leader who believes that every day, students, staff, faculty and administrators can improve over yesterday. Operating from this growth mindset, Mr. Wihbey focuses on building trusting relationships with all stakeholders, developing human capital, and effective teaching in every

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# Mask protest held outside RSD #17 BOE meeting on August 3

By Kathy Brown.

There were two Regional School District #17 Board of Education meetings held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, in the cafeteria at Haddam Killingworth Middle School. The Governor extended the option to hold meetings online/livestreamed as “public” which Region 17 has been utilizing.

The first meeting, held at 6:30 p.m. was to appoint Jeffrey Wihbey as the new RSD #17 Superintendent of Schools. Suzanne Sack, the Chairman of the BOE, said that because we had continuity and stability for the last 11 years (nine years with Howard Thiery and then two years of Dr. Holly Hageman, who had been Asst. Superintendent under Mr. Thiery), they held many interviews, did their due diligence, and made the decision very carefully. Jennifer Favalora, the Board Secretary, read his bio, and then they voted twice – the first time to appoint him as the Superintendent, and the second time to approve a 3-year contract for him. Both were unanimous by the Board members who were present.

Mr. Wihbey spoke to the Board, thanking them first for the opportunity. He said he was very excited for the work, and “I heard loud and clear what was important to the community.” He also promised to fight for the kids, and to be fiscally responsible to the community. He will start in October.

Two members of the public came into the cafeteria during the meeting, both unmasked, to watch the meeting. One of them, Bob Siegrist, former State Representative for Haddam, as well as current candidate for Haddam Town Clerk, said he didn’t realize that masks were required, and “I had no idea it wasn’t open to the public,” he said. “The door to the entrance was unlocked.”

The second meeting was their regularly scheduled meeting. During their recess between the meetings, some people had convened in the Middle School’s courtyard, right outside the cafeteria where they were meeting, to protest masks on students. They put up signs in the windows “This is Tyranny” and “Lock up Lamont” that could be seen by the Livestream camera.

Suzanne Sack called the second meeting to order

at 7:30 p.m., then led the Board reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. She then paused, and asked everyone to pause so that she could say a few words about Gianna Vincelett, a student in the school district, who was the victim of a hit and run bicycle accident on July



29, who later passed away from her injuries. While she was trying to pay homage to Gianna, the group of protestors outside started blasting their bullhorn to make themselves heard by the Board.

Ms. Sack asked for, and received, a short adjournment so that she could ask the protestors to respect the moment of silence. She then returned to her seat and continued to speak about the loss of Gianna, with the bullhorn in the background.

The Board then went on with the agenda, to the Public Comment section, where Ms. Sack and Ms. Favalora, took turns reading letters that had been sent in. Six letters were read:

- Dennis Cogley (Killingworth): no masks for students; it’s “child abuse”
- Rosalyn Reeps (Haddam): in support of students wearing masks
- Salvatore LoGiudice (Higganum): no masks for students
- Theresa Karber (Higganum): no masks for students

*Continued on page HK5*

## TROOPERS

### Killingworth welcomes State Trooper Chris Valente

By Cathy Iino, First Selectwoman, Killingworth.

Trooper Chris Valente will be filling in as Killingworth’s Resident State Trooper for the month of August, while Rich Mulhall, our regular RST, is away for special training. Trooper Valente has been with the state police for seven years and recently joined Troop F.

Welcome, Trooper Valente!



*State Trooper Chris Valente*

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# Protecting Birds and The Fair is Back

By Terry Twigg, Haddam Garden Club.

Even though they may meander a bit, my articles usually address just one topic. This month, though, I want to address two very different subjects. One is serious, while the other is fun and upbeat. I'll discuss the first up front; otherwise, I might lose some readers before you reach the end of the article.

**Something is killing our songbirds.** Across large segments of the country, young fledglings are dying of a mysterious, as-yet-identified ailment. It may be bacterial, or possibly viral. It could be caused by a fungus; surely I'm not the only gardener who's found patches of mushrooms all over the yard in this exceptionally humid, raining summer. It could be that the level of pesticides in our environment has reached a tipping point, and I implore you: if you haven't already stopped using glycoposphate-based pesticides like Roundup, please, please stop now. (Glycoposphates have been banned in many countries for years, but the U.S. lags woefully.) Whatever the problem is, it's causing apparently neurological damage, including blindness, which is a horrible way for young songbirds to die. No "perfect" lawn or garden is worth such a devastating loss.

What can you do about it? Besides avoiding pesticides, you can help by temporarily emptying out your bird feeders and bird baths. It's not known whether the problem is contagious, but, out of caution, birds need to practice social distancing right now. And if it is contagious, they need to be foraging well apart from each other, not sharing communal food and water sources.

Don't worry that you're abandoning the birds to starvation. At this time of year, food sources are abundant, and they will manage just fine. Continue to keep the buffets closed at least through the end of summer. The Connecticut Audubon Society is closely monitoring the situation and will let us know when it's safe to resume feeding. There are some encouraging signs that the problem may be starting to lessen. Let's hope that, by the time the weather gets cold and natural sources become scarcer, we'll be able to fill up the feeders again. I'll keep you posted.

**The Haddam Neck Fair is Back!** We still have a month of high summer to enjoy, but it's time to start planning your horticultural entries for Labor Day Weekend. The Haddam Garden Club took on

the responsibility for the Horticulture and Flowers section two years ago, and we're doing our best to make it fun and user-friendly for as many people as possible.

**Horticultural entries:** This is your chance to show off your gardening skills. You can enter specimens in as many classes as you like (but only one entry per class, please). Keep in mind that you want to exhibit the freshest, most perfect flowers. Choose flowers that have just barely come into full bloom, with no missing or drooping petals, no chewed-up leaves, and no evidence of disease. Don't forget to bring a vase or container, and remember: the container is part of your exhibit and can make or break your score. It should be clean, an appropriate size and color, and able to hold the blossom attractively upright. No floppy stems!

**Floral design entries:** Here, in particular, you should be having fun. We've tried to reshape this section to be less intimidating for beginners, and hope you'll give it a try. Our intended theme last year was based on the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower. That fair was canceled, but, since there's no law against commemorating the 401st anniversary, we decided to keep the theme. You can create a design using just Old World plants, or just New World species, or mix it up. We've added an entirely new award, the Susan Ritty Bouquet award, which is ideal when you have a mix of colors, shapes and textures to play off against each other. One entry recognizes the contributions of Native Americans, who gardened this land long before Europeans arrived. And we're hoping to receive many entries for a candles-optional Thanksgiving centerpiece, which can be as classic, whimsical, or kid-friendly as you choose.

Entries must be dropped off on Thursday, September 2, 2021. To learn more about the Horticulture and Flowers section, check exhibitors' rules, and get inspired, please go to the Fair website, [www.haddamneckfair.com](http://www.haddamneckfair.com). (As I write, the 2021 guide for exhibitors has not been posted yet, so keep checking back.) See you at the fair!

# RSD #17 appoints new Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Jeffrey S. Wihbey

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classroom, with the ultimate goal of ensuring success for all students.

Mr. Wihbey holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Connecticut, a M.A. in Teaching from Quinnipiac University, a Sixth Year in Educational Leadership from the University of Connecticut, and a Superintendent Certification from the University of Connecticut's Executive Leadership Program.

Mr. Wihbey was selected from an applicant pool of 30 candidates. The process included nine first round interviews with three candidates advancing to the final round with the hiring committee. The hiring committee was composed of the Regional School District 17 Board of Education and five advisory members representing parents, administration, staff, Central Office, and the Superintendent's office.

Suzanne Sack, Board of Education and hiring committee Chair expressed, "Jeff Wihbey is the right person at the right time to serve as RSD17 Superintendent. He has the necessary skill set and the appropriate focus, and it's the right time in his career to invest deeply in the development and growth of our community's children and the School District that serves them."

Mr. Wihbey and the Board of Education have agreed to a three-year contract.

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**Common Area Premises Liability: Part 1**  
By Attorney AnnMarie C Rocco

A common area is, in real property law, the area which is available for use by more than one person and is generally available for use by tenants, their guests, and others who may have a legitimate reason to be at the property (e.g. deliveryman, police officer, etc.). Common areas exist in apartment buildings, condominium complexes, shopping malls, and office complexes. Lobbies, walkways, elevators, mall corridors and other areas open to tenants, unit owners and others are examples of common areas.

If not maintained properly, the person or entity who is responsible for upkeep of a common area may be liable for injuries that occur to a tenant, a guest, or a customer. However, this is not true in every situation. For example, if Tenant B spills water on the floor and 5 minutes later, Tenant A's guest slips on the water, and falls and breaks their arm, in most instances, the person or entity who is responsible for upkeep will probably not be held liable, because the water was not on the floor long enough, and it is not expected that a person or an entity's owner or employees inspect the property on a constant basis. However, if the water is there long enough, or if those responsible for maintenance know it is there and fail to clean it up, the responsible person or entity may be liable for resulting injuries. The specific circumstances of each case must be evaluated carefully to determine liability.

If you are seriously injured in a common area, after seeking treatment, you should contact an attorney as soon as possible. Before leaving the scene, determine precisely what caused your injury. If you are able, photograph the area where the injury occurred, and obtain the name of any witnesses. If you are not able, ask a trusted person to examine the area for you, and take photographs. These cases are often difficult to prove especially if too much time goes by and critical evidence is not preserved. Memories fade but a photograph preserves the condition for all of time.

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# HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH TOWN & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Thursday, August 5

**Reptile Decorating** KW Library 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

"Why does it always have to be snakes???"

Come be braver than Indiana Jones and decorate your own wooden snake! Suggested ages 6 - 12.

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

Register online <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>  
**Parmelee Farm Comm. Mtg.** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Parmelee Farm.

## Friday, August 6

**Killingworth Historic Review Comm. Meeting** 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Town Hall

**Higganum Farmers Market** 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Kids Become Vendors Day, Entertainment - TBD

**HK Rec Dept Outdoor Concert Series: Great Hill Mountain Band** 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Free Outdoor Summer Concerts sponsored by the HK Recreation Department! Bring a blanket or a chair to enjoy an evening of live entertainment at the Higganum Town Green or Parmelee Farm. Fun for the whole family!

## Saturday, August 7

**KW Library - Denison Pequotsepos Live Animals** 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Our summer reading program wraps up with a live animal presentation by Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, featuring some scaly friends! Suitable for all ages.

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

Space is limited for this event, please register online <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

**HHS Summer Concerts: Music in the Museum Gardens** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

August 8-Old Lyme Town Band

The concerts are free, but donations encouraged. Music is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Bring your own chair and food. Drinks will be available for a donation.

We invite you to come early to socialize and enjoy your picnic dinner.

## Monday, August 9

**Haddam BOS Meeting** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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

**Killingworth Park & Rec. Meeting** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Town Office Bldg.

## Tuesday, August 10

**KW Library - Tuesday Book Club** 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us as we discuss *The Engineer's Wife* by Tracey Enerson Wood. Emily Warren Roebling is the wife of the chief engineer for the Brooklyn Bridge. When her husband suffers the bends from his underwater work on the structure, she takes on the task of overseeing the project's completion. P.T. Barnum becomes her most trusted supporter as Emily deals with rough work crews and the city's corrupt politicians. Kirkus Review said, "the writing meticulously evokes the sights, sounds, and smells of 1870s New York."

Extra copies will be available at the circulation desk.

This program is held in the library's meeting room - newcomers always welcome!

**Killingworth Inland Wetlands Meeting** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Town Office Bldg.

## Wednesday, August 11

**Killingworth Library - Learn How to Spin on a Drop Spindle for Teens** 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Learn How to Spin on a Drop Spindle for Teens! Lauren Burchsted from My Favorite Things Farm will teach you how to create yarn without using a spinning wheel. Supplies will be provided. For ages 12-17. Space is limited, so please register <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

**Haddam EDC Meeting** - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Killingworth Public Health Agency Meeting** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (remote access)

## Thursday, August 12

**Haddam Park & Rec. Meeting** 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

## KILLINGWORTH TOWN GOVERNMENT

# Killingworth Copes: August 2, 2021

By Cathy Iino, First Selectman, Killingworth.

It's been a while since the last coronavirus update. Unfortunately, Middlesex County is now in the "substantial risk of transmission" category for COVID. The Centers for Disease Control and the CT Department of Public Health recommend that everyone, vaccinated or not, wear masks indoors and maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet.

I had hoped, when I wrote my July column for the

Killingworth Krier, that we would be enjoying at least a respite from the pandemic. Unfortunately, the recent surge in cases in our area means that we must continue to adhere to safety rules in Town Hall: all visitors must wear masks, and we ask that you ring the doorbell before entering. We will also continue to hold meetings virtually for the time being. Please check the calendar at [townofkillingworth.com](http://townofkillingworth.com) for log-on information.

The new surge in COVID infections is the result of the Delta variant, which is far more contagious than earlier variants. Some people who have been vaccinated may still catch the disease, although, if there are symptoms, they are generally much milder. Researchers believe, however, that even vaccinated people can transmit the Delta variant, whether they have symptoms or not.

Virtually all hospitalizations and deaths from COVID are among people who are unvaccinated.

It is not too late to get vaccinated if you haven't already. Many pharmacies continue to offer the vaccine, as does the Connecticut River Health District. CRAHD has vaccination clinics Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Fridays, 8:00 a.m. - 11a.m. Contact them at 860-661-3300.

Vaccinations protect not only your own health but the health of the whole community, including children too young to get vaccinated yet. If you have questions about the vaccine, please don't hesitate to contact Killingworth's health director, Amy Scholz, [healthdirector@townofkillingworth.com](mailto:healthdirector@townofkillingworth.com), or 860-663-1765, x223.

Together, we can beat down the COVID pandemic before it gets even worse.

Stay safe and carry on.

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# Haddam Scouts learn & win at Camp Mattatuck

Continued from page HK1

ate in the picnic grove. Masks were worn inside any buildings, and each troop wore different colored wristbands to establish cohorts. That didn't slow down the fun though!

There were troop activities as well as downtime where the Scouts talked, played football, cards or chess, learned lashings, worked on rank advancement requirements, or went to the Trading Post for a snack. Some of the troop activities were:

Troop Blob & Turbochute, where both Scouts and leaders had a lot of fun launching people into the air, and whooshing down the hill into Lake Kenosha

- Moby Duck, where the participants were two to a rowboat, and without oars had to rescue as many rubber ducks as possible and bring them back to shore
- Troop Blacksmithing, where several of the Scouts took a turn at forging hooks
- Troop BMX, where the troop rode bikes on a

trail to a scenic overlook

- Troop Conservation, where the Scouts took an hour to do some community service at camp, clearing an area of brush and downed limbs.

- Troop Fire building, where the younger Scouts learned the proper way to build a fire, then competed in a Trial by Fire competition.

The Scouts stayed in tents on platforms, ate meals together, divided up responsibilities like Firewatch, waiter duty, and latrine cleaning, and were entertained at the campfire by various skits and songs during Family Night at the end of the week. The Scouts who attended are age 11-16.

This year at the Court of Honor at the end of the week at camp, the Troop was happy to learn that they had earned first place in the Water Carnival, as well as first place in the Trial by Fire time trials, 2nd in BMX time, the biggest frog of the week, and

the biggest fish of the week. Participants in COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience, for ages 14+) and participants in Wandering Wednesdays each received recognition as well.

Both troops welcome new members, ages 11-17. Troop #44 is Haddam's Boy Scout troop, and Troop #44G is a regional Scouts BSA troop, accepting girls from Haddam, Killingworth, East Haddam, Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

After Labor Day, the troops will once again start holding weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings. For more information about joining either troop, please contact Scoutmaster Mark Pach at markcp571@gmail.com or Scoutmaster Kathy Brown at kjbrown92@aol.com.

Photos by K. Brown.

## TO THE EDITOR

### Response to Conflict

The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors of this newspaper. We welcome supporting or opposing views on any published item. Received August 1, 2021.

Last year in response to threatening and hostile discourse on social media in Haddam, our First Selectman and others created guidelines for ethical behavior for those who hold office in town. Coming from different points on the political spectrum they came together to head us in a constructive direction. Let's build on that.

As the letters in these pages from Rep Palm and members of the HRTC have shown we must as voters, as candidates and office holders reach past strong emotion/opinion and act to strengthen the educational, fiscal and social fabric of our community thoughtfully. This means including facts about racism and any discrimination in our history. Our aim should be to serve the community as a whole with honest discourse planning for growth and safety. I hope integrity leads us to build agreements that give us constructive results.

My husband, son and I have lived in Haddam for 33 years. I practiced medicine here for 10 years. Our son attended elementary school here. Now retired, I recently became the Democratic Registrar of Voters and will be running for the Zoning Board of Appeals. I've been reviewing zoning regulations, reading minutes and hope to speak with and learn from those who continue on the board.

Sincerely,  
Kate Wessling, M.D.  
Higganum

## REAL ESTATE

### Real Estate Transactions

According to the Hartford Courant (7/29/21): Killingworth

83 Buell Hill Rd., R. and D. Paolucci to M. E. and J. R. Infante, 7/16/21, \$785,000

211 N. Parker Hill Rd., R. R. Croce to Nparkerhill LLC, 7/15/21, \$535,000

347 Route 148, R. and R. Jensen to S. and P. Ackley, 7/14/21, \$690,000

## EDUCATION

### Mask protest held outside RSD #17 BOE meeting on August 3

Continued from page HK2

- Jamie & Daryl Ritone (Higganum): no masks for students
- Robert & Nicole Harlow (Higganum): in support of everyone wearing masks and they hope that a remote option will be offered again

The rest of the agenda was followed, with the bullhorn going on and off during the remainder of the meeting, as well as someone sporadically running back and forth outside with a Don't Tread on Me flag.

"I attended the RSD17 BOE meeting last night with my family," said Christopher Page, who has been endorsed by the HRTC as a candidate for the Board of Ed. "We started on the street waving signs and some of us made our way to the courtyard outside the school cafeteria. As we were not allowed to attend the meeting, we were attempting to make our voices heard by the Board members. This is in line with our 1st Amendment right to Peacefully Assemble and Redress Grievances to an elected Government."

"The Board of Education should make meetings open to the public in person," said Steve Wytas. "Parents should have the right to speak in public to the people that are making medical decisions on behalf of their children. Masks are medical devices. Teachers and school staff that force children to wear

these medical devices (against the will of the parents) should have proper OSHA 1910-134 training, medical liability insurance, and medical malpractice insurance the same as a pediatrician is required to have. I support parent's first amendment right to free speech, the right to peacefully assemble, and the right to petition their government for redress or grievances."

Sarah Herbst-Page said, "We are done defending our right to assemble. If they don't like it, they can let us up at the podium with a microphone in person to be heard."

The police did appear on the scene, and the conversation between the officers and the protestors was very cordial. The officers did make sure that the Board of Ed members made it safely to their vehicles after the meeting concluded.

"I just want to make it clear and on record," said Mr. Siegrist, "that I was not there for the bullhorn incident. I left when the first meeting was done. And that part, in my opinion, got way out of hand."

The schedule for future meetings of the Board of Education is listed on the rsd17.org website. To submit a public comment to be read aloud by the Board Secretary and/or the Chair, send an email that includes your first and last name as well as the town in which you reside to boepubliccomment@rsd17.org.

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# BML Newsletter August 2021

By Brainerd Memorial Library Staff.

"The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning."  
Natalie Babbitt

While renovations are wrapping up, please use our touch-less pickup. Email [library@brainerdlibrary.org](mailto:library@brainerdlibrary.org) or call 860-345-2204 to request items. We will arrange pick-up when we fill your order, so please provide the best contact, and include your library card number.

Service hours: Mon. 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Tues. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Wed. 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Fri. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### Cat Behaviorist Rachel Geller

Wednesday, Aug. 11th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom  
Call to register 860-345-2204

Is your cat thinking outside the box? Are you living with a hard core shredder (and I don't mean snowboarding)? And when it comes to your multi-cat household, why can't they all just get along? Join Dr. Rachel S. Geller, certified cat behaviorist, pet chaplain and Fear Free Shelter specialist. She will give advice for developing and maintaining cat-and-owner harmony, providing you with insight on your cat's behavior and answer all of your cat behavior questions.

### The Longest Suicide in Hollywood

Wednesday, Aug. 18, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Call to register 860-345-2204

Matinee idol, Montgomery Clift had everything needed to be the top leading man of the 1950s. but his life took a sharp turn after a horrific accident that led him down a decade of addiction.

Presenter John William Law is a writer and journalist who discusses film history in his publications, on NPR, and in documentaries.

Look for the Library at the Haddam Neck Fair Sept. 3rd through 6th

### A unique library book club: Meandering in the Meadows

Do you like to talk about books? Do you like to walk and hike? Brainerd Memorial Library announces a new book club: Meandering in the Meadows. This book club meets on the fourth Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Gather at the

silos in Haddam Meadows State Park for a unique book discussion group. We will walk the loop with stops along the way to discuss the month's book selection. Join us to talk about books while enjoying the outdoors.

It is not necessary to have read the book. We will have copies at the circulation desk.

Call us at 860-345-2204 or email [library@brainerdlibrary.org](mailto:library@brainerdlibrary.org) to reserve a copy and arrange a pick up time.

Email Laurie at [lgardner@brainerdlibrary.org](mailto:lgardner@brainerdlibrary.org) for more information.

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

### List of books:

August: Harry's Trees by Jon Cohen

September: The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate Discoveries from a Secret World by Peter Wohlleben

October: Two Old Women: an Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage, and Survival by Velma Wallis

November: The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michelle Richardson

## Annual BBQ Chicken Dinner

By Elaine Jackson.

Come join St. James Episcopal Church in Higganum for our Annual Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, August 21, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The dinner will include BBQ Chicken quarter, baked potato, coleslaw, corn on the cob and homemade desserts. The tickets are, Adults \$15, Seniors \$12, Children \$8. Take out dinners are available. We are located on the corner of Route 81 and Little City Road. Please preorder for eat in dinners or take out to avoid us running out of chicken. Call Wayne LePard 860-345-4172.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE KILLINGWORTH

The Killingworth Conservative Minor Party pursuant to CT statutes, will hold a meeting on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at 7:00pm, at 154 Schnoor Road, Killingworth, CT 06419 to endorse candidates for 2021 Municipal office.

John Samperi, KCP chairman.

## HADDAM TOWN GOVERNMENT

### Haddam Voter Registration Summary August 1, 2021

August 1, 2021

District	Democratic	Republican	Unaffiliated	Other	Total
001 Firehouse	916	778	1325	43	3062
002 Central Office	754	748	1240	39	2781
003 Haddam Neck	97	85	89	2	273
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>1611</b>	<b>2654</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>6116</b>
	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>1.37%</b>	

## Haddam Killingworth News

PO Box 15, Higganum, CT 06441

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# A Hearse, a nose bleed, and a movement: Tracing 50 years

By Clark Judge, KAA.

Nobody is exactly sure when the Killingworth Ambulance Association began, but all who were in on the ground floor agree it was sometime in 1971. What they can't ascertain, however, is what provoked its formation – though one of its founders tried.

"Charlie Grace," said Charlie Smith, the KAA's first president.

Excuse me?

"He lived on (Route) 148," said Smith, "and was susceptible to nose bleeds. He kept calling Clinton (ambulance), and one time when they took him to the hospital he nearly bled out. So that was the incentive."

That was 50 years ago when Nixon was president, a gallon of gas cost 36 cents, Archie Bunker ruled TV ... and the KAA took shape. Responders were volunteers who weren't EMT-or-MRT trained. There were no masks. There were no gowns. There were no gloves. There were no uniforms because there was no money.

The ambulance was a used red-and-white Cadillac. Board meetings were at the old Center School off the town circle. And calls were limited to emergencies only.

"Times were different then," said Dan Perkins, another founding father.

How much different? We asked a handful of the KAA's original members as the group prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary. This is their story.

## IN THE BEGINNING ...

Prior to 1971, there was no KAA. Ambulance calls for Killingworth were handled by neighboring towns, depending on where you lived. If it was south Killingworth, Clinton responded. If it was north Killingworth, Durham took the call. Madison handled west Killingworth, Westbrook the east and a private firm out of Middletown took whatever fell its way.

"So service was spotty," said Smith.

That's an understatement. There were fewer than 100 calls per year – sometimes more like 40-50 – for a town of 2,500, with the majority taken by Clinton.

Which is where Charlie Grace comes in.

"The need was there," said Smith. "The most important thing was a motivator."

One was Don McDougall, an active member of the KAA's board of directors today at 87. So a handful of town residents, led by Walter Albrecht, got together and decided to do something about it. They pushed for a volunteer ambulance association, called an informal town meeting where the group was approved and

adopted the Westbrook system of an individual, non-political organization. Soon, Smith and Perkins said, the group had an estimated 25 volunteers – most of them married couples – on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Someone came to my door and asked if I'd like to join," he said. "So I did."

In fact, he answered the KAA's third ambulance call. Like others, he wasn't EMT-trained. That wasn't required. CPR and first-aid were, and McDougall got instruction in both in one weekend with the Westbrook Ambulance. Four years later, he gained EMT certification by taking 80 hours of classes at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown.

Today, aspiring techs are required to take 150.

"You didn't have to have the same credentials then as you do now," said Perkins.

And so the KAA was born, with volunteers ready to take 12-hour shifts scheduled by Albrecht. Responders were alerted at home by telephone, and they were required to find replacements if unable to commit to scheduled shifts. But before they could launch, one piece was missing.

An ambulance.

## DEALS ON WHEELS

This is where Albrecht comes in, persuading local resident and philanthropist Marion Platt to donate \$3,000 toward the purchase of a vehicle. It was a 1964 used Cadillac with 13,000 miles on it, purchased from a dealer in Fairfield County. But it wasn't a sedan. It was an ambulance that looked more like a hearse, and there was a reason: Because it was.

Honest.

"We had just opened an account at the Clinton National Bank," said Smith, who joined Albrecht and KAA member Hap Gaylord to close the deal. "But we had no money in the account. I remember when we made the down payment. We told them not to cash the check."

That's when Platt came to the rescue.

By the end of its first year of operation, the KAA had \$7,000 in donations and an ambulance. But where to put the transport? There was a gas station in town off Route 80 – Saglio's

garage, site of today's Dance Corner – that no longer was in business, and owner John Saglio offered it to the KAA free of charge for as long as needed.

From there, the ambulance moved to the Center School and, later, the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company's headquarters, built in 1971 next to Town Hall.

"But did you know about the gas?" asked Smith.

Uh, no.

"After each run, we were required to leave the ambulance with a full tank," he said. "We needed gas, not diesel, and thanks to Louise Burghardt – who had a filling station on Route 80 – we got fill-ups after each trip, regardless [of] what time it was ... even if it was 3 in the morning."

"Now, remember: This was before cell phones, and she lived above the gas station. So how did we communicate with her? We must have had to call dispatch – which was in Clinton – and asked them to wake her up to open up the pumps. She always did."

## FIRST RESPONDERS WITH FIRST RESPONSES

Calls could be as eventful as they were sporadic. In the winter, driveways sometimes were so deep in snow that first responders had to wait for plows to arrive. Once the KAA answered a call of a burning house on Route 81 near the Higganum border ... and wound up rescuing a pig from a smoldering lean-to. Then there was Smith's first call as a responder.

It never happened.

Rushing to Saglio's garage, he and his partner found the ambulance missing. It turns out that a board member had taken it without notifying anyone to rush his grandchild, injured in a vehicle mishap, to the hospital.

"So," Smith said, "it was a non-call."

But that wasn't his most indelible memory.

*Continued on page HK8*

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# A Hearse, a nose bleed, and a movement: Tracing 50 years

Continued from page HK7

Transporting a pregnant woman was, a story chronicled in 1974 by local resident David Sturges in the book "Tales of Killingworth: You Can Get There From Here." Appropriately, the chapter was entitled "The Anxious Patient and the Indisposed Attendant."

By this time, the KAA had moved on to a second ambulance, a lime-green 1974 Cadillac, and it was first on the scene. So was Smith. The two were summoned in the middle of the night to the newly constructed Middlesex Hospital clinic in Essex, where the patient – late in her pregnancy – had gone, complaining of leg pains.

"The doctor who evaluated her thought she should go to a hospital," said Smith, "but he recommended she not be transported by car. So he called for an ambulance. She wanted her leg to be level with her heart because the doctor suspected a blood clot, and one of the treatments is to keep the patient flat on her back."

So the patient was loaded, and the ambulance sped off to Middlesex Hospital where, Smith said, the KAA took "80 percent of our transports." One problem: It was the wrong destination. The patient's physician was at Yale-New Haven. So the ambulance immediately exited Route 9, changed direction and headed west.

"One thing after another was happening," said Smith. "I was in the back of the ambulance, and on the way my stomach started feeling sick. I wound up throwing up my dinner in one of the pails in the back of the ambulance which was for patient use, not for the driver or attendant. And then she was not in any distress; she just had this pain in her leg and was quite sympathetic to my moment of distress."

Bottom line: The patient didn't deliver ... not until weeks later ... but comforted Smith instead.

"We had quite a chat all the way back," he said, "and she made me feel better. Our roles got reversed."

## FINDING A HOME

By 1981, the KAA's board of directors resolved to have its own headquarters. In the late 1970s it was holding meetings at the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company, though they sometimes moved to homes of board members or the front room of Town Hall.

But all that changed in 1982. The association signed a 25-year lease on a two-acre parcel from the town at \$1 year, which is the current rate, and began construction on a two-story building. Money was tight, and so was the KAA's budget. It held the figure at \$50,000 and set an "anticipated" deadline for completion at February, 1983.

It met both.

How? With a remarkable grass-roots effort that featured volunteer work and donations of materials. Architect Arlene Tunney agreed to work for free. Local electricians, masons, carpenters – basically, an assortment of tradespeople – volunteered their time and services. Former board member Jim Lally of Schuck Engineered Construction would oversee the project and do the excavating.

He volunteered, too.

"Everywhere you turned," said Lally, "somebody was doing something. There was a lot of sweat equity."

Finding Tunney was a coup. She was an award-winning local architect and friend of Lally and then-KAA president Don Henson. When they mentioned something to her about hiring an architect, Tunney told them she had an idea.

"I said I'd do it for free, which they liked," said Tunney, who now splits her time between Chester and Block Island while maintaining her firm, Tunney Associates. "I lived in town, and it just made sense to do it. In reality, I got other work out of it, too. People saw it and thought it was a nice building."

It was. It still is.

In fact, it won an award from the American

Wood Council and was pictured on the cover of an architectural construction magazine. The building, which Tunney admitted "was kind of ahead of its time," incorporated "a passive solar system" that included a slate floor in a sun space, walls that retained heat and one bay for an ambulance.

A second bay was added in 2002 to accommodate a bigger, box-style Ford ambulance acquired the previous December.

"It was a lot of fun," said Tunney. "Jim Lally was incredible. He gave me my lead and said, 'We can do this, and we can do that.' He and Don Henson were a delight to work with."

By 1982, the KAA was handling an estimated 150 calls annually. Funding was still a concern, but with the help of a building fund campaign, \$23,000 had been donated by early December, 1981.

Nevertheless, more was needed. As an incentive, the KAA offered townspeople a sweetheart deal: Members who donated \$15-20 annually qualified for free emergency transportation – as did their families and house guests.

The inducement worked. When the building was completed, the KAA met all its expenses.

"We didn't raise all the money in the beginning," said Lally, "but we were close. The trick was to keep it going, and we thought as people saw the building coming to fruition they would jump aboard. And that's what worked out."

## TURNING 50

Today, the KAA is firmly entrenched, with an operating budget of \$167,150 for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Not included is the possible acquisition of a new, fully-outfitted ambulance at an estimated cost of \$400,000, a vehicle that would replace the current box-style Dodge ambulance, purchased in 2011 for over \$200,000.

In all, there have been seven ambulances, including a 1978 box van purchased new for \$34,556, and a box-style ambulance acquired in 1991 for \$65,300. When the latter vehicle was retired, it was donated to an ambulance squad in Marionville, Me., a rural town of 414, through a contact made by the KAA's McDougall.

"They needed an ambulance," he said, "so I brought it up to the board, and they OK'd it."

Within a year of its creation, for instance, the Frackelton Fund — named in memory of a local resident

Continued on page HK9




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# A Hearse, a nose bleed, and a movement: Tracing 50 years

Continued from page HK8

who died — donated money to fully equip the first ambulance, including stretchers, medical supplies and orthopedic equipment. In 1976 a local actors' group contributed \$7,155 to cover the cost of a new cardiac monitor. Then there was the construction of the KAA's headquarters. The KAA currently includes 27 technicians (all volunteers), offers CPR, EMT and "Stop the Bleed" classes, last year answered an estimated 350 calls and received \$35,050 in annual donations in 2020-21. It is a vital and necessary service of the town that created it, but history tells us it's much more than that. It is the embodiment of a can-do spirit that defines Killingworth as a community.

"When I see this building," Smith said on a recent visit, "it's not a proud moment. It's more of a lucky moment that a small town had volunteers who, frankly, sacrificed a lot in the early 1970s to make some of these organizations grow strong."

Dan Perkins was one of those volunteers, and he nodded as Smith spoke.

"I'm grateful," he said. "We started with nothing, and it turned out pretty well."

Photos courtesy of KAA.



L-R -- Mike Haaga, Marguerite Haaga and Dan O'Sullivan. Mike is the KAA's Chief of Service; Marguerite its Vice President; Dan its President.



(L-R) Don McDougall, Dan Perkins, Charlie Smith



Mike Haaga (L) handing over the keys to the ambulance destined for Maine.



Former ambulance.

## TROOPERS

### Recent arrest made in 2019 carjacking incident

By Kathy Brown.

Back in June 2019 we reported on a car being stolen out of a woman's garage in Higganum. Haddam Resident Trooper Joe DeAngelo informed us today that after a long investigation, a suspect, Eric Walz, age 48, of Groton, has been arrested.

"Trooper Milardo (retired), Trooper Stranger, and myself (along with other Troopers from Troop F) have conducted extensive investigation into this incident," said Trooper DeAngelo. "Through forensic (DNA) evidence, we were able to successfully identify a suspect in the case. An arrest warrant was subsequently drafted and approved by the Office of the State's Attorney at GA-9: Middlesex Superior Court."

Trooper DeAngelo went on to say that yesterday, August 2, Waterford Police located Mr. Walz and took him into custody, then transferred him into State Police custody. He was charged with Burglary 2nd degree, Larceny 2nd degree, and Robbery 3rd degree.

He appeared at the Middletown Courthouse for his arraignment, and remains in custody on a \$50,000



Eric Walz

bond. The case is now closed.

Trooper reports reflect arrests, not convictions. Visit [jud2.ct.gov](http://jud2.ct.gov) to learn the outcomes of criminal and motor vehicle arrests.

### CT Trooper Update on hit and run accident in Higganum

CT State Police.

(July 30, 2021) **\*\*UPDATE\*\*** Fourteen (14) year old critically injured in Haddam hit and run.

A vehicle has been recovered and a person of interest has been identified. Central District Major Crime Squad Detectives are continuing to follow up on leads pertaining to this incident. The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Mauriello at Troop F at (860) 399-2100 or at Derek.Mauriello@ct.gov. As always, calls can be made anonymously.



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# Needleman: Funding for Special Ed. Services, upcoming Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics

By Norm Needleman, State Senator.

(August 4, 2021) — I hope you are staying safe and healthy. Our schools, students, and teachers have been resilient in navigating the ongoing challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is incumbent on us that we make resources available to assist school districts and students, especially those who have been most impacted by the pandemic's effects on education. This week in Higganum, I joined Governor Lamont, Connecticut Acting Commissioner of Education Charlene Russell-Tucker, state representatives Christine Goupil and Christine Palm, and local leaders to highlight the over \$16 million in school relief funding that will assist Connecticut schools in providing special education services during the 2021-22 school year.

This substantial support in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) funds for special education services will be directed through several initiatives that were piloted last school year by several school districts, including Regional School District 17.

This coming school year, four main initiatives will be coordinated by the Connecticut Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education to assist in providing services to students with disabilities and their families.

- Assist districts with addressing delayed, interrupted, suspended, or inaccessible individualized education plan (IEP) supports and services for students with IEPs
- Increase the capacity of Connecticut's six Regional Educational Service Centers (RESC) to assist school districts in conducting special education evaluations
- Supporting supplementary tutoring and reading instruction
- Provide individualized 1:1 in-home assistance and support for students with high needs

## Upcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics in Portland, Colchester, and East Haddam

The Chatham Health District continues to work with local providers and partners to make COVID-19 vaccinations available at local community events, and vaccination clinics will continue in coming weeks. Through a partnership with Walgreens and Community Health Center, the Health District can offer free vaccines to all attendees 12 and older, with those receiving their first dose eligible to receive a \$25 Walgreens giftcard. Here's a schedule of upcoming clinics at local August events:

- Portland Housing Authority, 208 Main Street, Portland – August 5, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Colchester Farmers Market, 112-228 Broadway Street, Colchester – August 15, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

- Music on The River, 6 Main Street, East Haddam – August 16, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

- Lions Club Carnival, 112-228 Broadway Street, Colchester – August 20, 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.

## Free Home HIV Testing Kits Available from Community Health Center and East Hampton Pride

East Hampton Pride, a community group providing a safe space for East Hampton LGBTQ+ residents and allies to come together to promote inclusiveness and LGBTQ+ rights, and Community Health Center's (CHC) Center for Key Populations have partnered to offer free home HIV testing kits. The limited number of kits are available to individuals 16+ and are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information or to receive your home testing kit, contact Doug Janssen at 860-347-6971 ext. 3905 or JansseD@chc1.com.

## Connecticut Minimum Wage Increases To \$13/Hour

As part of the state's five-year period of gradual minimum wage increases started in

2019, the minimum wage has increased from \$12 per hour to \$13 per hour. Signed into law two years ago when the minimum wage was just \$10.10 per hour and the result of legislation passed as a top priority of Senate Democrats, this third of five wage hikes is part of a staggered process. On July 1, 2022, minimum wage will again increase to \$14 per hour, while on June 1, 2023, the final hike will bring the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Beginning in 2024, the minimum wage will then become indexed to the employment cost index, meaning future rate hikes will grow according to economic indicators.



Needleman, Russell-Tucker & Lamont at HKHS

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## Residents Enjoy:

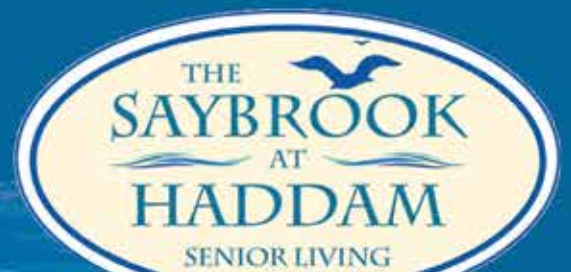
- 3 chef-prepared meals daily
- Social activities
- Exercise programs
- 24/7 nursing staff
- Transportation

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- Peace of mind
- Seeing loved ones happy, safe & thriving, in a healthy environment that observes all CDC protocols
- Regular visitations & holiday events

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