

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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August 19, 2021

For breaking news go to HK-Now.com every day

Free weekly

Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire Company gets new Chief: Tim Danaher

By Kathy Brown.

(August 10, 2021) — Bob McGarry has been the chief of the Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire Department for the last 19 years. He became First Selectman for Haddam in 2019. “The demands of the First Selectman’s position prevented me from having the time I needed for the department,” Bob explained.

So in May, Bob stepped down and Tim Danaher stepped up. Tim has lived in Haddam Neck since 1975, and has been a member of HNVFD since 2005. “Tim was the fire captain and the second most senior officer in the department for most of the time I was chief,” said Bob.

Tim has been a Lieutenant for two years, and a Captain for eleven years. He also is an EMT-B, Firefighter, and Engineer. According to Bob, Tim also volunteers with the East Hampton Ambulance Association, which provides medical coverage to Haddam Neck.

“[Tim is] highly qualified, well respected and an excellent leader,” said Bob, who will stay with the department as the Assistant Chief. “I can’t think of a better person to be the chief. I’m sure Tim will succeed.”

Official elections will be held in January.

Photos provided by Tim Danaher.



Middlesex Health requires employees to get vaccinated

By Amanda Falcone, Middlesex Health.

MIDDLETOWN — Middlesex Health announced today that it is requiring all Middlesex Health employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by November 1 unless they are granted an exemption or deferral.

The mandate also applies to all members of the medical staff and to volunteers, students, vendors and contractors.

“As an organization, we believe this is the right thing to do,” says Middlesex Health President and CEO Vincent G. Capece, Jr. “The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and the decision to mandate vaccinations was made with the health and safety of our patients, staff and visitors in mind.”

Several organizations, including the Connecticut Hospital Association, the American Hospital Association and the American Nurses Association, have announced that they support mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for health care workers. With this announcement, Middlesex Health becomes the latest health system in Connecticut to impose such a mandate.

It’s All About Community

By Kathleen Amoia.

From a neglected farm property to a bustling community hub, Killingworth’s Parmelee Farm spans centuries. Originally a homestead for Eunice and Horace Parmelee in the mid-1800s, the property grew in time to include 132 acres. Over the years and several families, Parmelee served as a farm, a summer resort (There was a pool!) and a turkey farm. But times and needs change, and Parmelee found itself unused and in need of repair. The Town of Killingworth, with

a vision for the future, purchased the property in 2000. In 2007, a few civic minded individuals came together and got approval to build a community garden. The gardens were well received and generated more interest from town organizations, officials, and citizens who saw the great potential this property held. That potential has been realized as a town resource and gathering place for all.

Of course, it took the formation of a committee and many hands coming

Continued on page HK3



Fairies from the Glen Wood with market coordinators Karen Milano and Linda Dudek.

In This Issue: Covid-19 News, HK3 • Letters to the Editor, HK6 • Science, HK9

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2021 Grim's Haunted House Kid's Games, Face Painting and Trunk or Treat

By Chuck Cook.

(August 10, 2021) — Grim's Haunted House is an event created by Chuck Cook, Frank Mucciacciaro & Ryan and Chelsea Cleveland here in Haddam. Now in its fifth year, this is a family-friendly event for the entire family. In addition, the fun coincides with a good cause effort: donations will be accepted for both the Haddam Food Bank and Fuel Banks.

The Haunted House, Kids' Games & Face Painting are the brainchild of Chuck Cook. Although the event began in 2016, the inspiration for it actually stemmed from the time he made a coffin for a Halloween party to celebrate with his then 10-year-old granddaughter. Fast forward 14 years later, the inspiration has expanded, and the event "is growing in popularity every year."

By the time 2016 came around, Chuck was in need for a "place to showcase it all." He took up someone's suggestion to contact Cindy MacNeil-Sola, then-Economic Development Coordinator. Chuck said, "Cindy was very happy to let us use the Community Center for the event." In addition, "it was at this time I was also introduced to Frank Mucciacciaro & Ryan Cleveland who shared the same passion for Halloween as I did." As a result of having the "good fortune of

being introduced to Frank & Ryan," Chuck says that we have made many of the props.

"Frank's sons Matt and Ryan are programming geniuses (in my opinion) and they program and come up with all kinds of concepts." What exactly goes into the Haunted House preparations? Chuck describes how nearly a dozen volunteers have assisted in the past and the event could not be held without the help from volunteers. It takes a full week to set the space up. This year volunteers are needed to help set-up, take down, work during the event in the Haunted House and also volunteer running the children's games and face painters.

If interested in volunteering (kids can earn their community service), contact Grim's Haunted House by email at grim5952@gmail.com or by telephone at 507-382-3416 (Chelsea) or leave a message or through Facebook Grim's Haunted House.

While the Haddam Parks & Recreations handles the Trunk or Treat portion of the event, Chuck's wife Brenda and wife's daughter Linda see to it that the face painting, games, candy, and prizes "for the little ones" are in ample supply!

The Haunted House will be held this year, on Friday, October 22, Saturday, October 23, & Sunday October 24,



2021 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Trunk or Treat, face painting and kids games are only open on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Since this year's event will be the biggest and scariest yet, it has been



moved from the Community Center to the Haddam Elementary School.

Bring the whole family for this wonderful, scary, free event!
Photos courtesy of Grim's Haunted House.

EMMANUEL CHURCH

Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Killingworth welcomes new priest

By Kathy Brown.

Zoom interview. Online worship. That is how Martha Rogers entered the Killingworth community by becoming the Priest-in-Charge at Emmanuel Episcopal Church during a pandemic.

"It was quite a different experience than I have ever had in my 24 years as an Episcopal Priest," Martha said. She began online worship in April 2021, but did not meet any of her parishioners in person until in-person services returned to the church in July. The pandemic was not the "welcome to CT" gift she expected.

Martha is a New Englander at heart. She grew up in Warren, RI, but then moved to the Midwest to begin her career in education after graduating from Rhode Island College. She was in the special education field for approximately 18 years, primarily as a Home Interventionist for families with infants and preschoolers with handicapping conditions. After becoming ordained, Martha was the Vicar for a storefront church in Colorado, a Canon at the Episcopal Cathedral in South Dakota, a Rector of two churches in Iowa, and more.

"It is both a joy and a blessing to have been among, and with, God's people in each congregation," said Martha.

Now she has moved to Connecticut from Iowa, finding herself "back near the ocean I so dearly missed," explained Martha. "I'm back in New England!!!"

Martha is a trained, certified Spiritual Director, meeting on an individual basis with people as they explore their relationship with God in the busy-ness of everyday life. Her energy and delight are obvious when she talks about now being part of the faithful members of Emmanuel.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church has the nickname of being called "The Little Church in the Wilderness."



Martha Rogers

The church is listed on the Federal Register of Historic Places and could be considered one of Connecticut's oldest houses of worship.

The church, located off Route 148, was organized on July 10, 1800, by 19 residents of North Madison and two residents of Killingworth. Currently their worship services are held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Martha and her husband Dave have been married for 39 years, and have two children, Kevin and Katrina. Though Katrina and her family live in Nevada, her son Kevin and his family live in Essex. Dave and Martha have four grandchildren. "Caring for [the grandchildren] each week during the pandemic made the move from Iowa worth it," said Martha. They also have two rescue parrots who keep their home "energized" as they are very talkative.

Martha and her husband volunteer at the New London Food Bank. Martha also facilitates on-line grief support groups sponsored by the Brian Dagle Foundation of Niantic. Painting and yarn work fill Martha's spare time.

Rev. Rogers is eager to meet the residents of Killingworth and become active within the community. If you can't get hold of her, she may be at the shoreline "enjoying all that the Connecticut coast has to offer."

Photo provided by Martha Rogers.



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Needleman: August 11, 2021 update on Covid-19

By Norm Needleman, State Senator.

(August 11, 2021) — While I wish I didn't have to, I'm writing you today to share an update on the latest changes in our state with COVID-19. I've heard it said many times recently that while we all want to be done with the virus, the virus is not done with us, and that is true with the rise of the Delta variant. In our state, with high vaccination rates, we are lucky that the impact of this new, virulent strain of COVID-19 has not led to the serious and negative health outcomes seen in other countries, such as India, and states, such as Missouri and Arkansas, that have struggled, and continue to struggle, with its impacts on cases, hospitalizations and deaths. However, the numbers from around our state remain troubling.

We have seen numerous days this summer with several hundred infections reported, a streak that has led to a sharp increase in hospitalizations in just the last six weeks. While our hospital capacity remains well below the peaks of past waves, each hospitalized individual remains a person with a family and a life. Each death from COVID-19 still leaves many mourning the loss of the deceased and each serious infection comes with weeks or months of rehabilitation. It should remind us that, indeed, the virus is still able to cause negative health outcomes. Should our hospitals continue to fill, our health care workers will again be forced to face difficult challenges, with medical care for some of us interrupted as well. One only needs to look to canceled surgeries and overflowing emergency rooms in states like Florida and Texas to understand how this issue impacts more than just those who fall ill.

In recent weeks, the threat of the Delta variant has led to an increase in vaccinations against COVID-19 statewide and nationally, and this remains the single

best way any of us can protect ourselves against negative health outcomes. Even if not hospitalized, someone infected with COVID-19 can suffer long-term health issues from the virus. Vaccination is free and easy, with three available vaccines each offering significant protection from serious illness available at pharmacies and vaccination events in our communities. Side effects comparable to a flu shot can occur, but at least to me, that's worth protection against the worst of the virus. Statistics increasingly show vaccinated people can become infected with COVID-19, largely due to the Delta variant's increased infectiousness, but the vaccine acts as a primer for our immune systems. Breakthrough cases remain low, the number of individuals hospitalized from them even lower.

I would briefly note that I am not a medical professional, and if you have concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines, please talk to a medical professional you trust. Roughly 96% of doctors are vaccinated against COVID-19, one of the highest rates of uptake in the country; they will be well prepared to address any questions you may have.

While it seems things are going backwards in some ways, our state is well protected against the horrific outcomes of past COVID-19 waves thanks to high vaccine uptake. But we must also remember there are many in our communities still needing protection. Children under the age of 12 are currently unable to be vaccinated, and the immunocompromised in some studies have been shown to receive fewer benefits from vaccination. With this in mind, we must remember that we are all in this together. Our communities can still suffer losses despite the protection provided many of us by the vaccines. Until we can all be protected, we run the risk of harming others.

Depending on the ebb

and flow of COVID-19, in coming weeks, some towns and cities will likely impose mask mandates; some will restrict mask wearing to public buildings, while others may expand them to wider settings. While we are all tired of masking up, it is the right thing to do to protect others. You may not know if the person next to you is caring for an aging parent, a young child, or if they themselves have a condition putting them at risk. We owe it to ourselves to provide each other the same treatment we would want provided to us.

In coming weeks and months, we will learn more about this next chapter of the pandemic, one that will hopefully be mild and spare our state of negative outcomes. We owe it to ourselves to be proactive in the face of this latest challenge. I deeply hope it will be the last one.

KILLINGWORTH TOWN NEWS

It's All About Community

Continued from page HK1

together to create what you see today at 465 Route 81. There are trails to be enjoyed by casual walkers and serious hikers and their dogs. There are weddings, concerts, markets, and a shared harvest. School activities and Scout functions are held on the grounds. There are local non-profit events, maple sugaring, a corn crib, a schoolhouse, little free libraries, picnic tables and a modern public restroom open during all events. The original farmhouse is now the proud home of the Killingworth Historical Society and is frequently open to the public.

As weekly farm markets in the area became available, monthly Parmelee farm market coordinators Karen Milano and Linda Dudek shifted their focus to a larger once a year Artisan Market, still retaining some of its farm market roots. The all-volunteer planning and work staff market is now one of the largest events held at the farm and has become known for quality local and statewide artisan vendors. The volunteer Fire Department serves food all day and proceeds from their sales support their rescue efforts. This year the market will host over 90 vendors with quite literally something for everyone including canine companions. Proceeds benefit the farm and support

your talented neighbors.

Linda Dudek explains "While the Artisan Market involves months of planning and organizing, the result is gratifying. It's a fun day of shopping, eating, visiting with friends and neighbors and enjoying the farm property. The volunteers that help pull the day together remind me of growing up in Killingworth when there were less than a thousand residents, and everyone pitched in to make good things happen." Karen Milano adds "One of the most heartwarming things I witnessed in the 32 years I've lived in this community is the resurrection of Parmelee Farm through the efforts of so many community members including our local businesses. The Artisan Market is an extension of all that effort, the good [will be] evident on the grounds and in the camaraderie we witness throughout the day."

The market is held rain or shine on the second Saturday of each September, this year falling on September 11th. Open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., there are free shuttles for those who wish to use them available from the middle school next door and front of farm parking areas. Admission is free.

Photograph provided by Karen Milano.

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

Thursday, August 19

Killingworth Library Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we discuss *The Lost Man* by Jane Harper. For more info: 860 663-2000 Extra copies will be available at the circulation desk.

Special Meeting (Virtual) KVFC & KAA Service Recognition Plan Comm. 1:00 p.m.

Friday, August 20

Higganum Farmers Market 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Regular Market – End of Summer Market
Entertainment – Bill Benson

Saturday, August 21

Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Cromwell 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Events for the 16 towns of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook (identification is required; there is no fee to participate) Location: Woodside Intermediate School, 30 Woodside Road, Cromwell

Plants & Gardening Sales at Brainerd Memorial Library 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The avid gardeners of Brainerd Memorial Library are excited to share what we grow with our patrons and community. The Friends will offer plants, gardening books, baked goods, beach reads & other items. Gardeners can expect the Friends' usual low prices!

We will have: Perennials, groundcovers, annuals, shrubs, trees, herbs, and as the season goes on –

cut flowers, organic herbs, and edibles. Stop by, as plants will change and vary every month! [Rain date is following Saturday]

St. James Annual Chicken BBQ Dinner 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, please call Wayne LePard 860-345-4172

Monday, August 23

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

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

Wednesday, August 25

Killingworth Library Teen Book Club 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Teens ages 13-18 are invited to join our new summer book club!

This meeting will feature the graphic novel *Illegal* by Eoin Colfer.

Each discussion will be led by library volunteer Nikki Ritchie, extra copies of each title will be available for checkout at the circulation desk, and yes... there will be pizza!

Space is limited, so please register <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>.

Haddam Sustainability Comm. Mtg. 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Haddam Conservation Commission Mtg. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 26

Haddam ZBA Mtg. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Middlesex Health updates visitor policy again

By Amanda Falcone, Middlesex Health.

(August 5, 2021) — MIDDLETOWN — Due to an increase in the COVID-19 positivity rate in Connecticut and emergence of the Delta COVID-19 variant, Middlesex Health is, once again, tightening its visitor policy. The changes go into effect today. This decision was made to keep patients, employees and visitors safe.

Most Middlesex Health locations, including Middlesex Hospital, outpatient locations and ambulatory settings, will now allow only one visitor per day. All visitors must wear a face mask at all times, and they will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival.

Per recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), face masks are required in health care settings. You must wear a mask while at a Middlesex Health facility regardless of whether you've been vaccinated.

Visiting hours at Middlesex Hospital, located at 28 Crescent Street in Middletown, are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. — both on the weekdays and during the weekend. Visitors must register at the front desk in the hospital lobby and be 16 or older unless granted special permission.

Emergency Department patients can now have one visitor 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and these visitors should enter through the Emergency Department entrance. Pregnancy and Birth Center patients may have one visitor per day in addition to their primary support person.

There are some exceptions to these rules. They include:

- Visitors making compassionate care visits (maximum of two visitors at a time)
- Visitors making disability care visits
- Birthing partners for Pregnancy and Birth Center patients
- Visitors accompanying pediatric patients
- Clergy visits (Members of the clergy should not visit patients who are on special respiratory precautions unless it is a compassionate visit.)

Visitors arriving under these special circumstances may visit 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If they arrive when the hospital lobby is closed, they should go to the Emergency Department main entrance.

Patients on respiratory precautions, such as presumed or confirmed COVID-19 patients, will not be allowed visitors. Middlesex Hospital's inpatient behavioral health unit is also not allowing visitors at this time.

For more information about Middlesex Health's revised visitor policy, visit MiddlesexHealth.org/visitorpolicy.

Pre-Procedure COVID-19 Testing

In addition to tightening its visitor policy, Middlesex Health announced today that it will, once again, test all patients for COVID-19 two to three days before a surgical procedure regardless of whether they have symptoms of COVID-19 and regardless of their vaccination status.

In June, because of a very low positivity rate, the health system stopped testing all surgery patients for COVID-19, but it did continue to screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and require proof of vaccination. Testing was performed as needed. Now, because of an increase in the COVID-19 positivity rate and the Delta variant, Middlesex will resume pre-procedure COVID-19 testing beginning August 11.

Patients who need pre-procedure testing will be notified, and they will have the option of going to any Middlesex Health lab collection facility.

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Summary of July 2021 Board of Education meetings

By Jen Favalora.

RSD 17 Superintendent:

The Board of Education appointed Mr. Jeffrey Wihbey as its next Superintendent of Schools. Jeff possesses an extensive background and a distinguished career serving every level in K-12 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 Technical High School students throughout the state. At his appointment, Jeff expressed how ready he is to begin his work in RSD17 by listening to the community, staff and students as well as working together to raise HK to the next level of educational excellence. Mr. Wihbey's first day will be October 12, 2021.

Summer Learning:

Interim Superintendent Dr. Paddyfote gave a report on Summer Learning Opportunities that have been offered to help prepare students to be ready academically to begin the 2021 school year. Nearly 90 students opted for in-person sessions, which focused on essential content and skills needed for success. Another 90 students in grades 3-8 participated in on-line personalized learning pathways, monitored by a teacher, that they can log into at their convenience.

Next School Year

Interim Superintendent Dr. Paddyfote shared with the Board and community that guidance on mask wearing and other safety measures to reopen schools has yet to be given from the CT Department of Public Health and the CT State Department of Education. Once that guidance is received and reviewed, communication about protocols for students and staff will be sent.

KES Playground:

The Board accepted a donation of \$75,000 from the KES PTO to be used to purchase new playground equipment at Killingworth Elementary School. The KES PTO worked in partnership with KES Principal, Dennis Reed, Director of Operations, John Mercier, former Superintendent Hageman and the BOE Facilities Committee to achieve an age-appropriate design, acceptable for the space, that will be enjoyed by the community's children for many years to come.

HKHS Athletic Fields:

The Facilities Committee proposed, and the Board agreed, to authorize \$20,000 from the emergency operating account to replace lamps and ballasts at the HKHS athletic field and \$24,000 for the repair and recertification of the bleachers at several of the High School athletic fields.

Town Payments:

Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, has worked with the Boards of Finance from both towns to agree on a new payment schedule from the towns. Payments from the town have been spread out from nine monthly payments to eleven with an adjustment to the percentage paid each month. Additionally, the District has agreed to allow the towns to use their entire position of the audited fund balance to offset the first payment in July. Previously the audited fund balance was returned over the entire nine-month payment schedule.

On our Website:

Continuity of learning is important to prevent summer learning loss and thus the district has created a summer

learning plan for all students exiting grades K-8 which includes both reading and math. These Summer Learning Opportunities, which include suggested reading and math activities, can be found on the RSD17.org website

under Parents → Summer Learning Opportunities and then clicking on the grade your child is entering in the fall.

CAMPUS CORNER

Merit Pages News.

Local students graduate from the University of Hartford

WEST HARTFORD, CT (08/04/2021)– The University of Hartford congratulates its nearly 900 undergraduates who celebrated their Commencement this spring. Local graduates include:

- Noah Freeman of Killingworth
- Clayton Moore of Killingworth
- Tyler Saari of Killingworth

Local Eastern student completes internship in summer 2021

WILLIMANTIC, CT (08/10/2021)– Eastern Connecticut State University students are gaining real-world experience this summer as interns working with a variety of companies. From small businesses to major corporations, museums to sports leagues, students are working in hybrid, remote and on-ground environments as they fulfill a range of functions, including video production, community outreach, IT support and more. Among the students is:

Connor Chute of Higganum, a junior who majors in Business Information Systems. Chute is an intern with Travelers Insurance in its Business Insights and Analytics Leadership Development Program (BI&ALDP).

Abigail Smith named to Union College 2021 Dean's List

SCHENECTADY, NY (08/11/2021)– Abigail Smith, of Killingworth, CT, was named to the 2021 Dean's List at

Union College.

Smith is a member of the Class of 2023 majoring in Biology and English.

Comprised annually, the Union College Dean's List honors students who have a grade point average of 3.5 for the entire academic year and meet certain other requirements.

URI graduates local students during 135th Commencement

KINGSTON, RI (08/12/2021)– The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 4,000 of its newest alumni during the University's 135th Commencement. More than 3,700 undergraduate degrees and 680 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during nine individual ceremonies held over three days, May 21-23, 2021.

- Alise C Greco of Higganum received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Summa Cum Laude.
- Megan Little of Higganum received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Cum Laude.
- Mia Marie Luzietti of Killingworth received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Technology, Cum Laude.
- Halie Serbent of Killingworth received a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology.

Students who received the honor summa cum laude graduated with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.7; students who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.50; and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.3.



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Editor's Note: The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors of this newspaper. HK-Now welcomes supporting or opposing views on any posted item.

Please consider re-electing Prem Aithal to the RSD17 BoE

I am happy to announce that my candidacy was approved by the State of Connecticut as a petitioning, unaffiliated candidate, and I am officially on the ballot running for re-election to the Regional School District #17 Board.

To voters of Haddam (and by extension, Killingworth), the good news is that you've essentially given me a "trial period" since July 2020 when I was elected. I have been at every regular Board of Education meeting, I serve on the Finance Subcommittee, and I am the Chair of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee, created in Sept 2020. I deeply care about this work and it brings me joy to serve our community and students.

What are my goals for the next four years if I were re-elected?

- Facilitate the completion of a long-term strategic plan by the end of the 2021-22 school year. Some continuity and expertise in the strategic planning process will be critical so that the goal of all students growing and embodying our new Vision of the Graduate is achieved.
- Create a fiscally responsible budget that is centered towards the needs of our students & teachers who provide the instruction, while ensuring that long-term budget needs are planned for and accomplished. Athletics & extracurricular activities, which help students learn teamwork, balance, and social skills, are critical as well.
- Implement and better communicate the purpose of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) initiatives. There are numerous misconceptions related to DEI, mostly revolving around talking point phrases like 'critical race theory' (we do not teach this in K-12), and we need to do a better job of explaining "the why." For example:
 1. With equity, we seek to remove obstacles for underserved, disadvantaged students so that they can achieve the same level of academic fairness as their peers. By doing so, we are not hindering

the education of the other subsets of students, as growth is crucial for all students.

2. Academic studies have shown that diversity (in viewpoints, cultures, backgrounds) improves student critical thinking & communication and helps one challenge stereotypes. The demographics at RSD17 are different than other parts of the country, and we must expose our students to diversity so that they can thrive when they leave the RSD17 nest.

- Continue to foster Board decorum and professionalism especially when we disagree on key issues.

I would love the opportunity to serve you for the next four years. If you are still unsure what I stand for, reach out to me, fellow Board members, and Haddam community members and get their feedback on my performance and my character. Thanks for the opportunity and please consider re-electing me for the RSD17 Board of Education! [Please view full-length Letter to Editor online dated August 9, 2021]

*Prem Aithal
Higganum, CT
August 11, 2021*

Board of Education has dedicated members from both towns

It is a privilege to be a member of the RSD 17 Board of Education. I am grateful to be able to serve our community in this way. The most important thing you need to know about me is that I am an Unaffiliated voter. My name is on the ballot thanks to those who were willing to sign my petition. I am forever grateful to all of them for supporting my desire to run. I cherish my independence as a person who can talk to and listen to both sides of an issue, without labels or biases clouding my thinking.

We have a great deal of important work to do on the Board of Education: assessing our various school buildings to see what their future will be, what renovations they might need, what technological additions we will need to make. Along with bricks and mortar, we continue our work on strategic planning, blending the education of our students with the facilities they will need to do their best work.

In my professional life, I was fortunate to spend almost three decades as a news reporter, providing information to the best of my ability. This work, as a Board of Education member, has, at times, been more challenging than anything I've encountered before. And I welcome the chance to keep doing it. This is a very good Board of Education, with dedicated, committed members from both our towns. I would like to see it stay intact and continue its good work. I believe that my fellow Board members and I have earned your trust for re-election. I hope you will grant us the privilege of continuing to serve you and our students. Thank you.

*Joanne Nesti
Haddam
August 12, 2021*

Page & Johnson have lost my vote

To the Editor:
I am very glad to read Chris Page's and Shannon Johnson's introduction of their candidacies and qualifications to run as Republicans for a seat on Regional School District 17's Board of Education.

Their decision to stand and associate themselves with men and women who ransacked the U.S. Capitol, attacked police officers, shouted racist and anti-Semitic epithets — and then chanted for the hanging of the sitting vice president — are activities and speech protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. I am thankful for the right to speak freely, assemble and petition the government.

However, their introductions, published in the HK News, do

not mention any effort to help the students of Regional School District 17 learn the rules of grammar, perform the functions of algebra and improve reading comprehension. Nor do their letters address any effort to help teachers and administrators do their jobs under difficult circumstances. By Page's and Johnson's own words, it's better to go to Washington and join a riot than to stay at home and extend a hand to our students, teachers and administrators who face unprecedented challenges in going to and operating schools during a pandemic.

Accordingly, they have lost my vote.

*Rick Hornung
Haddam
August 11, 2021*



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Brenda Buzzi's reasons for running for BoE again

"Are you running again for a second term on the Board of Education"? At first, I said, "No"! Who would want to volunteer for another four years of a thankless, highly, and frequently criticized, huge workload, of an unpaid 'job'?" Then, I thought about it, there is so much GOOD I do bring to the board. I can use my experiences and knowledge to strengthen RSD#17 and give back to my community, which I love. The positive reasons outweigh the negative, so, the answer is "YES", I am running again!

Here are my goals for when I am re-elected:

- This summer I helped lead the Superintendent search. This fall I will assist with the transition of our newly appointed Superintendent. We are excited to have this experienced, smart, and easy-going leader to help move us forward.

- I will help to promote our "Vision of the Graduate" in most things we do. This starts in elementary schools, not just in high school. It supports each individual child's interests; helps make children and families feel that they belong at HK.
- Work to implement Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion tools into our schools. This is NOT Critical Race Theory! DEI focuses on everyone being treated the same for what they need and to be kind to each other.
- Work with the board and the consulting firm to construct a long-term strategic plan to take our district go from great to superb.
- To constantly be fiscally responsible with the budget and expenses, all while keeping the students' needs as a priority.

- To be the voice for teachers, staff, students, and YOU on the BOE.
- As a fourth-generation family in this town, I have been a HK student, parent, volunteer, and employee. I have worked with children in my preschool and in public schools. I have a bachelor's degree in psychology, and currently working on my master's degree in social work. I continuously bring you approachability, honesty, transparency, humor, and rationality to the BOE. Let us set the example for the children by working together and BEING KIND to one another! I am always a call or email away. I greatly appreciate your support and vote in November.

Brenda Buzzi
Higganum
August 11, 2021

Why I am running for the BoE: Working together to make District 17 stronger

Ten years ago, my wife and I were looking to relocate, and a town with an exceptional public school system was high on our list of priorities. Since growing up in neighboring towns, we knew the Region 17 school district had a great reputation and focused our search in the Haddam/Killingworth area. We ended up settling in Haddam and presently have two children in the school system.

Since relocating, the Region 17 school district has not disappointed us. The teacher to student ratios, the extra professional staff in the classrooms, dedicated teachers/staff and administrators, as well as the challenging and rigorous curriculum puts the district above others.

My goals, if I am fortunate to be elected to the Board, will include listening; listening to students, parents/caregivers, teachers, administrators, staff, experts and fellow board members. It takes a strong community to educate dynamic students and actively listening is paramount to the success of all students.

I also want to make sure the curriculum for K-12 is focused on critical thinking and problem solving. Whether you work in an office, own your own business, learn a vocational trade, enlist in the military, being able to problem solve is a critical skill needed to succeed. I have a Bachelor's degree in History, an MBA and I have worked in higher Education/Educational technology for the last 20 years. Being able to problem solve and work well with others has helped me succeed in my career and it is that process that will help our youngest community members succeed in the future.

Related, I want to encourage a diverse and well-rounded curriculum for students. There are important core subjects such as reading, writing, math, sciences, the arts, and social studies that students should be taught while in K-12. In addition to these core subjects, having a diverse and well-rounded foundation of "life" skills will help students succeed after graduation as the world is increasingly diverse.

Bullying and harassment are unfortunately prevalent in many school districts, especially with the rise of social media. I will focus on a strong anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy where no one should feel uncomfortable attending school. I feel there should be zero tolerance when bullying and harassment are involved and this applies across

the entire school district.

Finally, I strongly feel social and emotional health should be a focus of the school district going forward. Even before the COVID pandemic, there was sobering data about students with anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts. The district should have a campaign to let the students know it is OK not to be OK. Whether it is a short term issue or a long term issue, students should feel comfortable talking to someone and getting the help they need.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working together to make District 17 stronger!

Stephen Bayley
Higganum, CT
Received August 7, 2021

Hypocrisy

Dear Editor,
The hypocrisy of the East Haddam News editors went on full display in the August 5, issue. On page 3 you author an article asking for civility in written discourse and then on page HK3 you publish an opinion hit piece by Christine Palm where she outright doxes three of the nominees for the Haddam Board of Education. Not surprisingly, the nominees are not members of her preferred political party.

If this is your idea of civility, than your editorial staff are as hopelessly partisan as Palm. You can't simply include a disclaimer and then print something that is the exact opposite of how you expect us "regular folks" to act. That's the "do as we say not as we do" mentality that has the average citizen rejecting the extreme bias in media today. Your editorial staff should offer a full and complete apology to the readers for their blatant hypocrisy. One of those two articles should not have been printed. You can't have it both ways.

Furthermore, Palm all out lied when she referred to an "armed" crowd attacking the U.S. Capitol. There is no evidence any of the rioters were armed.

The only people there who were armed were the Capitol Police and the only casualty at the riot was unarmed Air Force veteran Ashli Babbitt who was shot and killed by Capitol Police. This one blatant lie calls into question the validity of all the accusations Palm makes in this hit piece. If she can't get that fact right, why would anyone believe what else she said?

Looking from across the river I have faith the Haddam voters will elect candidates for Board of Education who they feel will serve their community, school system and students the best. In trashing these nominees and voters who nominated them, Palm, like so many other "tolerant" Democrats, has admitted in writing to the public that politics matters more than good governance. If Palm cannot accept and work with those who hold another point of view, maybe Haddam voters will make yet another change when she comes up for re-election.

Respectfully,
Bob Brzozowski
East Haddam
August 7, 2021

DEATHS

Raymond (Ray) E. Deshaies, 67, of Haddam Neck, passed away on August 2, 2021.

John Joseph Zapatka, Jr., 72, of Higganum, passed away on June 26, 2021.



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NASA: Cygnus cargo ship on its way to International Space Station

By Sharon Challenger.

(August 10, 2021) More than 4 tons of necessary supplies for astronauts are on their way to the International Space Station (ISS) via a Northrop Grumman-built Cygnus NG-19 spacecraft.



The Cygnus is an uncrewed cargo ship designed to bring supplies and equipment to the ISS. It also serves to take refuse away. The cargo ship is named after the Cygnus constellation which is best seen in the evening from the early summer to mid-autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.

Perched atop a two-stage Antares rocket, the Cygnus NG-16, the heaviest Cygnus spacecraft to date was launched from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Space on Wallops Island, Virginia at 6:01 p.m. EDT August 10, 2021.

During the live broadcast of the launch, NASA's public affairs officer, Courtney Beasley provided commentary from Mission Control in Houston. "The S.S. Ellison Onizuka is now on its way to the International Space Station to deliver more than 8,200 pounds of cargo."

The craft is hauling scientific equipment and supplies for the Expedition 65 astronauts onboard the space station. It's also packed with new hardware and other equipment for the station's upgraded solar arrays.

- The Cygnus spacecraft was developed by Orbital Sciences Corp. and Thales Alenia Space
- It was designed to bring material to the ISS following the retirement of NASA's Space Shuttle program, which ended in 2011

- The first Cygnus launch took place in 2013 from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia
- The craft consists of a silver pressurized cylinder that's 17 feet (5 meters) long
- It is powered by two solar panels that stick out like wings from its sides
 - The original version of Cygnus could carry up to 4,409 lbs. (2,000 kg) of material to the ISS
 - More recent models have a cargo capacity of up to 7,716 lbs. (3,500 kg)
 - Since its first launch, the Cygnus cargo ship has carried more than 70,000 lbs. (31,500 kg) of necessary equipment to the station
 - A typical Cygnus mission launches using an Antares rocket from a NASA launchpad
 - It is launched to an altitude of 250 miles (400 kilometers), where the ISS orbits

- The vehicle uses GPS and star trackers to autonomously navigate closer to the station
- It is captured by the outpost's robotic Canadarm2, which is controlled by astronauts on the ISS
- Once the spacecraft docks with the ISS, crewmembers open the hatch and pull equipment from the spacecraft
- Included in the cargo is a new mounting bracket that astronauts will attach to the port side of the station's backbone truss during a spacewalk planned for late August.

- Over the course of a 30-day mission, Cygnus is filled with refuse, and then closed up again and detached from the station
- When its resupply and waste collection mission ends, the Cygnus spacecraft burns up in Earth's atmosphere over unpopulated areas of the Pacific Ocean

Sources: www.space.com
www.northrupgrumman.com
www.nasa.gov

Photo of Cygnus and robotic arm by Jeff Williams
 Photo of Antares rocket on launchpad by NASA/
 Terry Zaperach



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By Laura Shipman, HKYFS.

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Middlesex Chamber to host Zoom meeting on East Haddam Swing Bridge project

By Sierra Lopez.

(Middletown, CT) Chairwoman Maureen Westbrook of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce announced that the chamber will host a special meeting of its Haddam & East Haddam Division which will focus solely on the upcoming East Haddam Swing Bridge Construction Project.

The meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

This meeting will preview the project and will formally launch a new chamber committee that is designed to minimize the impact of the project on the local business community. The meeting will include chamber leadership, representatives from the CT. Department of Transportation, state and municipal leaders from Haddam and East Haddam, and other stakeholders.

Middlesex Chamber President Larry McHugh noted, "We look forward to ongoing constructive conversations with representatives from Connecticut Department of Transportation, local leadership, members of the local business

community, and other stakeholders as we collectively navigate this upcoming project."

Questions can be directed to info@middlesexchamber.com.

Established in 1895, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is the largest Chamber in the state. Located in Middletown, CT, this dynamic business organization boasts over 1,986 members that employ over 50,000 people. The Chamber strives to be the voice of business in Middlesex County and the surrounding area with nine geographically based divisions that meet on a monthly basis as well as industry-based committees and councils throughout Middlesex County that work hard to provide a valuable service to their members. In addition to being an effective and dynamic business organization, the chamber strives to be a community organization. Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce runs a number of events and programs that support veterans, youth development, and substance abuse prevention. For more information visit www.MiddlesexChamber.com.

2021 Senior Fall Festival

By Susan Rutty.

The Haddam's Committee on Aging is sponsoring a Fall Festival Luncheon for Seniors. It will be held on Monday, September 20th 2021 at St. James Episcopal Church, Route 81, Higganum, starting at 11:30 a.m.

Lunch will be served including dessert and beverages followed by entertainment.

Reservations must be made in advance. Please mail a \$5.00 deposit to Susan Rutty at 34 Rutty Lane, Haddam, CT 06438. Deadline is September 10th. Seating is limited so make your reservation early. Your \$5.00 deposit will be returned to you upon your arrival to the lunch.

The Senior Van will be available for anyone needing transportation to and from the lunch. Please call the Senior Center at 860-345-2480 and speak to Coleen.

For questions, please call Susan at 860-345-4049.

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