

# Haddam Killingworth News

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

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December 2, 2021

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Free weekly

## Pizzeria DaVinci's 20 year legacy

By Kathy Brown

(Nov. 21, 2021) — Drew Sassi opened his first Pizzeria DaVinci in Killingworth 20 years ago, in 2001. "I was born and raised in Killingworth so it was an easy choice," said Drew. Then came Moodus and Rockfall in 2004, and Higganum and Avon in 2010.

Landon, Drew's wife, thought this would be a fun "hometown" story since all of the DaVinci owners were born and raised in HK, including Drew, who graduated HKHS in '94. "Such an amazing community that has shown us so much support, especially through last year!"

"Being from a small town, it was so important for me to hire local kids and be present in the community," said Drew, and that's just what he has done.

"I met Doug [Felton] 23 years ago when I would see him biking around Killingworth with his fishing pole on the back, at 15 years old," Drew said. "I asked him if he wanted a job and he never looked back. Doug is like my first-born child at this point." In 2004, Doug went with Drew to Rockfall to run that location. "I would come by [the store] on Doug's days off, and he would be mowing the lawn!" said Drew. Doug also helped manage the Moodus store.

Then they opened Avon together as partners. "In true Doug fashion, he put everything into the store and became the official 100% owner last year," said Drew.

Chris Bova was introduced into the DaVinci family at age 14; his mother owned a dog grooming shop next door. One day Chris came into DaVinci's for a slice of pizza, and Drew said, "How about a job instead?" As the story goes, "That very moment, Drew got me behind the line and was training me to make pies just like that," said Chris.

"Chris is such a special person, with the best heart," said Drew. "You can't be in a bad mood around Chris. He's like the annoying little brother I never wanted. Just last night he was sending Landon videos from about 15 years ago of the pranks we all used to pull on each other."

Though Chris has been the face of the



2008 Front row L to R: Eric Yocca, Courtney Palumbo, Chris Bova, Pete Zadroney  
Back L to R: Sal Zichichi, Pete Lieberman.



Drew with Doug Felton at Pizza Expo in Las Vegas.

Killingworth DaVinci for over a decade, he has only been the owner since 2017 when he officially bought the store. He resides in Killingworth with his wife and son, and "has future aspirations of opening another DaVinci one day," said Chris.

Emily DeNicola began at the Hebron location of

*Continued on page HK6*

## Seniors defeat Juniors in inaugural Cougar Bowl

By Barth Keck, Assistant Coach

(Nov. 22, 2021) — The seniors defeated the juniors, 13-12, in the inaugural Cougar Bowl at Haddam-Killingworth High School on Nov. 20, 2021. The event, sponsored by the school's Cougar Den, was planned as an updated version of the powderpuff game – a flag football contest played between 11th and 12th grade girls – last played in 2016.

"It started with the captains of the football team wanting to do a flag football game," said Ann Deibert, English teacher and co-advisor of the Cougar Den. "They knew the history of powderpuff at HK, so they wanted an updated version. It was very much student-initiated."

More than 300 spectators attended the game, 40 girls played in the game, 12 boys served as cheerleaders, and five HK football players acted as coaches.



Seniors. Photos by Ann Deibert.

"The Cougar Bowl was a huge success, thanks to the tireless efforts of our students and staff in just a short period of time," said Carlye Kohs, the school's library media specialist and Cougar Den co-advisor. "Over the past two weeks, our students dedicated time each

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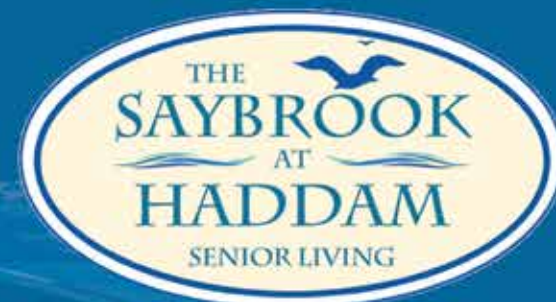
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# HKHS Defeated by SMSA 46-6

By Barth Keck, Assistant Coach

On Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, Haddam Killingworth High School Varsity football team was defeated by Sports and Medical Sciences Academy by a final score of SMSA 46, HK 6.

Daniel Hernandez scored three rushing touchdowns and Dylan Jackson added two more to lead Sports and Medical Sciences Academy (5-4) in its win over HK (2-7) in Hartford on Friday night. Miguel Varela ran for one TD and threw for another in SMSA's final game of the season.

Matteo Piacenti caught a 25-yard pass from Alex Phipps for the Cougars' lone score.

"We ran into a very good team tonight — hats off to SMSA," said HK coach Tyler Wilcox. "Now we have one more game, and we'd obviously like nothing better than to beat Valley, our annual Thanksgiving rival. We have the team to do it. I believe in them. Now we just have to go out and put our best game together.

The annual Principals' Cup game featuring Valley/Lyme-Old Lyme will take place in Deep River at 6:30

p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Game Summary:

First Quarter:

SMSA – Daniel Hernandez 13 run (kick failed)  
SMSA – Dylan Jackson 20 run (kick failed)

Second Quarter:

SMSA – Jackson 46 run (kick failed)  
HK – Matteo Piacenti 25 pass from Alex Phipps (run failed)  
SMSA – Hernandez 6 run (Jackson pass from Miguel Varela)

Third Quarter:

SMSA – Makhi Bonds 11 pass from Varela (pass failed)

Fourth Quarter:

SMSA – Hernandez 52 run (run failed)  
SMSA – Varela 3 run (Hernandez run)  
HK (2-7) 0 6 0 0 6  
SMSA (5-4) 12 14 6 14 46



HK defensive line.



Running back Orion Inkel running the ball. Photos by Anthony Frasco.

# HKHS defeated by Valley LOL 22-17 in annual Principal's Cup

By Barth Keck, Assistant Coach

The Haddam Killingworth High School Varsity football team was defeated by Valley Regional/Lyme-Old Lyme 22-17 on Tuesday night, Nov. 23, 2021, in Deep River.

James Marsden scored on a one-yard run in the fourth quarter to complete Valley/Lyme-Old Lyme's comeback against Haddam-Killingworth in the annual Principals' Cup game. DiAngelo Jean-Pierre and Sam Mullaney also scored for the Warriors (4-6).

Ryan Duncanson and Nick Glynn scored touchdowns for the Cougars (2-8). Kevin Cavrell also kicked a 23-yard field goal for HK.

"The kids did a great job executing the game plan in the first half, but we couldn't extend it into the second half," said HK coach Tyler Wilcox. "It was frustrating, but they played hard all year. And I'm going to miss the seniors — they've made the most of their last chance to play high school football after

missing last year's season (due to COVID). They're just a great group of young men."

Game Summary:

First Quarter:

HK – Ryan Duncanson 25 pass from Alex Phipps (Kevin Cavrell kick)  
HK – Nick Glynn 1 run (Cavrell kick)

Second Quarter:

HK – Cavrell 23-yard field goal

Third Quarter:

V/LOL – Sam Mullaney 14 pass from James Marsden (Marsden run)

Fourth Quarter:

V/LOL – DiAngelo Jean-Pierre 45 pass from Marsden (Marsden run)  
V/LOL – Marsden 1 run (run failed)  
HK (2-8) 14 3 0 0 17  
V/LOL (4-6) 0 0 8 14 22



Senior Tobias Ketchedjian with a catch and run.



Senior Matteo Piacenti. Photos by Melissa Cavrell.

## Haddam-Killingworth Middle School

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# 2021 Summary of October 2021 meetings

By Jen Favalora

**Superintendent Transition:** In October, the District welcomed Jeff Wihbey as the new RSD17 Superintendent of Schools. Superintendent Wihbey presented his Entry Plan which includes conducting facility inspections, reviewing policies, contracts, and budgets, and holding interviews and focus groups with stakeholders throughout the community. At the completion of the entry plan, the Superintendent's observations, data analysis, and stakeholder feedback will be shared formally with the Board and at PTO and faculty meetings across the district. The Board has asked Interim Superintendent JeanAnn Paddyfote to stay on through the end of her contract to create an Employee Handbook, write district job descriptions, update district policies, and support the Superintendent during the transition.

**Strategic Plan:** As part of its strategic planning process launched this spring, Regional School District 17 is conducting a district-wide survey until December 1, 2021. The survey is open to employees, parents, students, recent alumni and community members without students in the District. Involvement of the entire community is important to the long-term framework for decision-making that builds upon the common values held by the RSD17 community. The survey can be found at [www.rsd17.org/district/rsd17-strategic-planning-survey](http://www.rsd17.org/district/rsd17-strategic-planning-survey)

**District Update Emails:** The Board of Education announces a new way for Haddam and Killingworth residents to stay up-to-date with District information by signing up for email updates. Through a partnership with the Towns of

Haddam and Killingworth's alert system, District emails will include board meeting summaries, occasional surveys, and information on Annual Budgets and Referendums. You can also sign up to receive updates and alerts from Haddam and/or Killingworth. Sign up for email updates at [www.rsd17.org/community/haddam-and-killingworth-alerts](http://www.rsd17.org/community/haddam-and-killingworth-alerts)

**Science Textbook Update:** The Curriculum Subcommittee recommended, and the Board agreed, to update the AP Biology textbook. The AP Board recommends textbooks be updated every 10 years, and the current textbooks are from 2011. The AP Biology curriculum is being updated to focus less on memorization and more on the scientific thought process, integrating more authentic research and incorporating online study guides.

**Facilities Assessment:** The Facilities Committee has received a 300 page draft of the facilities assessment report from Tecton Architects. The firm's representatives gave the committee an overview of the report and the committee sent the firm back with notes of interest and areas of concern for follow up and research. The goal is to have a presentation to the full Board in December.

**Finance Committee Update:** Like last year, the finance committee is tracking unexpected Covid-related expenses. As of six weeks into school, approximately \$26,000 has been spent on additional hires and equipment. The committee also reported that the initial look at the unaudited balance from the end of the last fiscal year had two items to note; an increase in approximately \$113,000 in fuel costs and about \$90,000 in revenue from the Excess Cost Share Grant.

**On our Website:** The Strategic Plan Survey can be found on the [www.rsd17.org](http://www.rsd17.org) website under "District" -> "RSD17 Strategic Planning Survey".

## FAMILY & PARENTING

### RSD17 to conduct Preschool developmental screening

By Lee Kozlowski

(Nov. 16, 2021) — Regional School District 17 Haddam Killingworth Schools will be conducting Pre-School Developmental Screening (Cognitive & Readiness Skills, Speech & Language Skills, Fine & Gross Motor Skills, Social Skills, Adaptive Skills) for children ages 3-5 who reside in the towns of Haddam and Killingworth.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's development, please call to arrange for an appointment at Killingworth Elementary School. Please call 860-663-1121 or email Lee Kozlowski at [lkozlowski@rsd17.org](mailto:lkozlowski@rsd17.org)  
Due to COVID, we are still handling screening differently this year. Details will be provided when you call for an appointment.

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### Alphabet Soup: Common Workers' Compensation Slang Explained

**By Attorney Alexander J. Sarris**

Workers' compensation is a complex legal system filled with many abbreviations completely foreign to the uninitiated. Below is a brief summary of common phrases:

- **FRI / FROI** → First Report of Incident. Should be completed and provided to the employer within the same day of any workplace accident.
- **30C** → Formal notice to both the employer and the proper Workers' Compensation Commission District of a workplace accident.
- **1A** → Formal confirmation of personal classifications to ensure accurate benefits.
- **AWW** → Average Weekly Wages. Gross weekly wages received. Typically calculated over the 52 weeks preceding the date of work injury.
- **BCR** → Basic Compensation Rate. Adjusted workers' compensation pay rate. Typically about two-thirds of the employees' standard pay rate.
- **TT** → Temporary Total Disability. An indemnity benefit paid when an injured worker is out of work indefinitely.
- **TP** → Temporary Partial Disability. An indemnity benefit paid when an injured worker has work restrictions that cannot be accommodated by the employer. Common for the employee to complete job search forms for these benefits.
- **MMI** → Maximum Medical Improvement. The point in treatment when an injured worker has plateaued in medical recovery and reached a new baseline after treatment.
- **PPD** → Permanent Partial Disability. Another indemnity benefit that reflects the percentage impairment suffered to the affected body part. Assigned by a physician and typically determined at the time of MMI.

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# CT State Police: Lock your cars!

By Troopers DeAngelo and Muckle, CT State Police

(Nov. 19, 2021) — In recent years, we have seen a trend across the State of Connecticut and across the country of an increase in vehicle break-ins and vehicle thefts. These types of crimes tend to be occurring in residential neighborhoods across the state during the overnight hours; and unfortunately the Town of Haddam has not been immune to these types of incidents. In the vast majority of cases, unlocked vehicles are entered during the overnight hours and thieves help themselves to personal belongings. Many times, when keys/fobs are left within unsecured vehicles, the thieves steal the vehicle itself.

This is not a new phenomenon, however it does seem to be getting more media attention as of late. This is a good thing, as these types of crimes are getting more attention within the State Legislature in Hartford. Changes to current juvenile laws (in particular) will be a cornerstone in allowing Law Enforcement to more effectively address this growing problem. In the meantime, Troop F personnel are making it a point to conduct frequent checks of residential neighborhoods; especially during the overnight hours.

We have found that much more often than not, unlocked vehicles are targeted. Thieves tend to focus on this “low hanging fruit,” as they are easy targets. The simplest, most effective, and most immediate solution to address these types of crimes in Haddam and also other communities is to lock your vehicle, secure valuables, and do not leave your keys in your vehicle. In addition, “if you see something, say something.” State Police Troop F

is manned 24/7 and someone is always available to take your call day or night. Should residents witness suspicious persons, vehicles, or activity day or night; they are asked to please contact Troop F right away and a Trooper will respond to assist/investigate. The non-emergency phone number to Troop F is 860-399-2100 Option “#4”. For emergencies, always dial 9-1-1.

Please feel free to notify your Resident State Troopers of any suspicious activity in your neighborhood. However, if you witness suspicious

activity, it is best not to wait and to notify Troop F immediately so a Trooper can respond in real time. In these types of cases, we have found that prevention is far more effective than prescription. Taking a few extra seconds to lock vehicles, secure valuables, and take your keys is often all it takes to not fall victim of these types of crimes that, unfortunately, have become all too common in our state.

Best Wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Thank you Cathy Iino!

*Editor's Note: 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.*

November 15, 2021 was Cathy Iino's last day in office as Killingworth First Selectman, after 12 years of service to town residents. With the support of our newly installed First Selectman, Nancy Gorski, I invite you to contribute to a compilation of notes of gratitude.

It could be a simple note of thanks, an expression of an appreciation for a special accomplishment, or a memory of an event or a moment for which you wish to honor Cathy.

Please email your contribution to [thankyouCathyIino@gmail.com](mailto:thankyouCathyIino@gmail.com) or mail your note or card to Killingworth Town Hall, attention: Thank

You Cathy project, 323 Rt. 81 Killingworth, CT 06419

All notes and cards received by January 31, 2022 will be bound together and given to Cathy as a tangible sign of our appreciation.

*Thank you,  
Casey Jacob  
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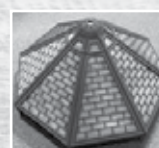
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# Pizzeria DaVinci's 20 year legacy

Continued from page HK1

Pizzeria DaVinci in 2009. "I fell in love with it pretty quickly," said Emily, "and spent as much time as I possibly could working and learning what I needed to know. My goal was to become the youngest PDV owner in company history."

"In 2016, external events forced me to take a little break from the pizza life," Emily explained. "In 2019, I returned with a roaring fire inside to finish what I had started."

"Emily approached me for a job in 2019 for part time at the Moodus location," said Drew. "I wasn't even hiring at the time, but I knew I couldn't pass. We actually created a position for her." Drew offered Emily the head management position in the Higganum store.

"Originally, the deal was that I spend two years in the Higganum location, structuring it the way my other two PDV locations were structured, and then I would go on to open my own," said Emily. "As time went on, plans changed... into my wildest dreams! I was offered a partnership with Drew and Landon in the Pizzeria Da Vinci brand. As a partner, my role is to search for, open, and establish new Pizzeria Da Vinci locations and oversee them as they grow."

"Everything really does happen for a reason," said Drew, "because Covid hit five months later, and because of cancer I was advised to stay out of the restaurants and Emily kept everything running."

"As the pandemic has thrown new challenges from

every angle, we have seen a lot of setbacks in our goals to expand the brand," said Emily. "I will remain in the Higganum location until we have the staff to run it without me; at which point, our venture to expand will be my main focus."

"She runs circles around me and everyone else," said Drew. "We always laugh because some of our security cameras can't even keep up with Emily!"

Hunter Czaja is the most recent member of the DaVinci family. "Hunter started working for me at 16 in Higganum," explained Drew. "My wife always says I am hardest on the employees I see the most potential in, and that isn't truer with anyone than it is Hunter. I have been doing this a long time and have worked with a lot of amazing kids. I can't think of anyone who is more of a team player than Hunter."

"I love his work ethic and kindness, but I can honestly say I don't think I have ever met someone with more integrity," Drew went on to say. "He has such a unique leadership style; he's like everyone's big brother. If I call him with accolades, he always credits the team, and if I call him with criticism, he puts the blame on himself as their leader."

"Landon and I were given the opportunity to buy back the Moodus location from my former brother-in-law in 2019," explained Drew. "I almost turned it down because I was stretched thin and Landon suggested a partnership with Hunter. He accepted and never looked back. He will officially be the sole owner of Moodus in 2024."



Emily DeNicola. Photos provided by Drew Sassi.

"The Pizzeria Da Vinci brand is everything to me, always has been, always will be," said Emily. "I look forward to your next article, maybe titled... 'How Pizzeria Da Vinci went from 8 locations to 800 in just 10 years.'"

"The family bond that we all have is what has made the last 20 years so special," explained Drew. "I didn't have kids until later in life, so my employees were definitely my surrogate kids. One introduced me to my wife, one was even in the room when we had our first child. These are just a few of the wonderful employees who have turned into family over the years."

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# Local International Award-Winning author launches new children's book

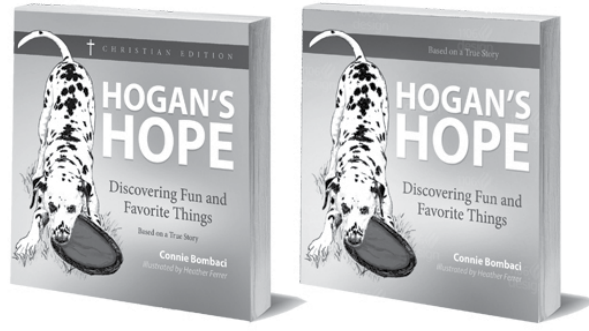
By Connie Bombaci

KILLINGWORTH, Conn. – In her newest book, “Hogan’s Hope: Discovering Fun and Favorite Things” (published by PTL Publishing), author Connie Bombaci brings her multi-award-winning book, Hogan’s Hope, to children of all ages. Bombaci continues to share the story of her deaf Dalmatian named Hogan, who teaches children that achieving success is possible no matter the circumstance and that being different makes a person special. Its message: everyone is worthy of real love and genuine acceptance, and life can be filled with eternal hope.

Because of community support, Bombaci decided to launch her latest book at the local and well-known Haddam-Killingworth Middle School’s Craft Fair (HKMS). “Killingworth is a delightful, unique, and beautifully-spirited town where folks come together to serve and benefit one another. I want to remain a part of this warm and welcoming association, and giving back one’s talents is an important part of working together. If I can draw more folks to this amazing event organized by truly dedicated volunteers and parents, then I want to do anything I can to help.” The fair is December 4, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at HKMS on route 81 in Killingworth.

“Like so many of us who have differences or challenges of some sort, deaf dogs are often misunderstood, even mistreated, or rejected,” says Bombaci. “Hogan’s story provides the hope of a joy-filled life for children despite any of these differences. Most importantly, his courage to overcome challenges and prejudice continues to give inspiration to anyone, human or pet, that accomplishment, success, and genuine love are truly possible.”

Bombaci’s children’s books result from the recognition of the adult books Hogan’s Hope: A Deaf Hero’s Inspirational Quest for Love and Acceptance (secular) and Hogan’s Hope: A Deaf



Dog, A Christian’s Faith, A Courageous Journey (Christian). Readers appealed for Bombaci to offer Hogan’s message of hope to children.

### About the Author

Connie Bombaci grew up in a suburban neighborhood outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and now lives in Killingworth, Connecticut, with her husband, Jim, and their rescued deaf pup, Elsie, in the rustic, puppy-friendly home that Jim built on their five-acre “piece of Heaven.” A retired educator, Bombaci is an optimist whose faith guides her to believe in the extreme goodness and immeasurable importance of all God’s creations. Her desire for others to sincerely believe in their value led her to become an educator. She worked fervently to increase young people’s confidence and belief in themselves no matter their challenges. She offers hope where frustration and failure seem inevitable. In her book, Bombaci shares the story of her first deaf pup, Hogan, and the message that hope is real and found in the kind and generous hearts of gracious people. In addition, Bombaci continues her cause



Connie Bombaci. Photo courtesy of Connie Bombaci.

and readily makes herself available for interviews, appearances, and presentations. More information is offered at <https://conniebombaci.com>

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# Seniors defeat Juniors in inaugural Cougar Bowl

Continued from page HK1

day during lunch to practice football and cheer. It's amazing how much they learned in that short period of time, due in no small part to the tremendous efforts of our student coaches."

"It was really fun and I got to use all my pointless football knowledge stored in my head for years," said junior MVP Juliana Gagliardi, who scored a touchdown on a 33-yard, scoop-and-score fumble recovery. "We're all going to play next year and we're actually going to win."

"I was surprised by how much I learned about the game of football," said senior MVP Yumi Imai, who scampered for a 65-yard touchdown run. "I didn't know the difference between offsides (a defensive penalty) and false start (an offensive infraction) before I played in the Cougar Bowl."

Senior Audrey Snyder was named the game's overall MVP, while senior Lucas Kamoen was awarded Cheer MVP.

The HK football team provided the coaches, including seniors Matteo Piacenti and Kevin Cavrell, who coached the junior girls, and seniors Corey Phipps, Ryan Duncanson, and Nick Glynn, who coached the senior girls.



Juniors.

Senior Bella Virgulto and junior Ana Garcia coached the cheerleaders, while seniors Andrew Fleig and Gabe Barile handled the public-address duties.

All proceeds will go toward the budget of the Cougar Den, which plans events throughout the school year to boost school spirit and create a positive

school climate. Co-advisor Deibert said preliminary plans for the future are to split proceeds of the Cougar Bowl with the high school's Holiday Show, an annual telethon that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to charitable organizations over the past three decades.

## 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, December 2

**3rd Annual Holiday Pop-up Market** – HES 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
**Killingworth Library craft for teens & tweens** 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
**Haddam P&Z Meeting** 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
**Parmelee Farm Committee Meeting** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### Friday, December 3

**Killingworth Historic Review Comm. Meeting** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (remote access)  
**3rd Annual Pop-up Market** 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### Saturday, December 4

**Killingworth Historical Society Christmas Fair** 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**St. Lawrence Christmas Fair** 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
**Tylerville Tree Lighting** 5:00 p.m.  
**HKIS/MS 33rd Annual Holiday Craft Fair** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Free Admission

### Sunday, December 5

**St. Lawrence Christmas Fair** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**3rd Annual Holiday Pop-up Market!** 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### Monday, December 6

**10th Annual Yuletide Quilt Show** - First Congregational Church of Haddam 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**3rd Annual Holiday Pop-up Market!** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 7

**RSD #17 BOE Meeting** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (remote access)

### Wednesday, December 8

**Haddam Economic Development Meeting** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
**Haddam Sustainability Comm. Meeting** 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
**Killingworth Public Health Agency Meeting** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (remote access)

### Thursday, December 9

**3rd Annual Holiday Pop-up Market** 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
**Higganum Cove Meeting** 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
**HKHS Winter Choral Concert** 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
**Killingworth Conservation Comm. Meeting** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



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## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY EVENTS

# Santa Sightings 2021 in Haddam and Killingworth

By Kathy Brown

### November 24 – December 18, 2021

Santa's Mailboxes will be at the Nutmeg Pharmacy (Killingworth Road, Higganum) and the Haddam Post Office (Route 154, Haddam) on November 24, 2021. The mailboxes will stay up until December 18, 2021. Your child may write a letter to Santa and if you include a self addressed stamped envelope,



Photo by Olivia Drake, HVFC.

HJWC members will make sure that Santa writes a letter back to your child!

### November 29-December 17, 2021

The North Pole Mailbox returns to the Killingworth Library on Monday, November 29, 2021! Children can drop off their letters to Santa through Friday, December 17, 2021. Letter templates will be available for those who aren't sure what to write. Most important: if you would like a response, please be sure to include your full name and address! The North Pole Mailbox is sponsored in cooperation with the Killingworth Women's Organization.

### December 3, 2021

Please join us on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. as we light up Higganum Center together! Santa will be making a special visit to the Town Green for a tree lighting ceremony. Afterwards, you can warm up with light refreshments at the former Haddam Elementary School. The Higganum Holiday Pop-Up market located in the HES gymnasium will be open special hours on Friday (2:00-8:00 p.m.) to welcome shoppers before and after the tree lighting ceremony, and many Higganum Center businesses will be open as well.

### December 4, 2021

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Please join us on December 4th between 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. to light up our beautiful tree in Tylerville. All are welcome to join this free gathering. Come have a

bite to eat, enjoy some hot apple cider, take a train ride, and see SANTA!! Please park in the Tony's Package Store Parking Lot. Sponsored By: Alan's Small Engine Service, Fireworks Hearth & Home, Mikes' Auto Service, River's Edge Home Center, River Valley Provisions, and Tony's Package Store.

### December 11, 2021

Come have breakfast with Santa at the Killingworth Nursery School on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Adult breakfast is \$7, and children's breakfast (under 10 years old) is \$5. Have your picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There will also be crafts for sale, a raffle, and fun activities for kids. The Killingworth Nursery School is located at 273 Route 81, Killingworth, behind the Congregational Church.

'Tis the season for Haddam Volunteer Fire Company's annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 11, 2021! All children 10 and under will receive a gift from Santa, a photo with Santa, cookies and refreshments. All residents in the Higganum/Haddam area are welcome! Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Santa arrives by fire truck at 6:00 p.m. While the kids are meeting Santa, parents and families may purchase tickets for the HVFC Auxiliary's basket raffle! *Fire Station #1 is located at 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum.*

*If you hear of any other Santa visits in Haddam or Killingworth, please let us know at [HK-NowEditors@outlook.com](mailto:HK-NowEditors@outlook.com).*

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Saint Lawrence Christmas Concert to be held Dec. 12

By Sue Nesci

Saint Lawrence Church in Killingworth hosts its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The event features instrumentals, vocalists, congregational signing of carols and refreshments. For more information, visit [www.stlawrencechurch.com](http://www.stlawrencechurch.com)

St. Lawrence Church is located at 7 Hemlock Drive in Killingworth.

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## HADDAM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

# HVFC Responds to Propane Tank Leak on Embassy Drive

By Olivia Drake, HVFC

At 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 18, 2021 Haddam Volunteer Fire Company was dispatched to a residence on Embassy Drive in Higganum for a reported leaking propane tank. The homeowners noticed the smell of propane in the air shortly after the fuel was delivered.

After determining there was indeed a leak at the bottom of the tank, HVFC called for Guilford Fire Department's Hazmat Team, which came equipped with a flare stack and other equipment.

A flare stack—referred to Guilford firefighters as “the red Dragon”—is used to burn vapor and pressurized liquid from the propane tank. This eliminates gas spilling onto the ground and harming the environment.

Flaring the entire tank took about an hour, according to Fire Chief Sam Baber.



Photos by Olivia Drake, HVFC.

## HIGGANUM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# Return of the Annual HCC Cookie Walk!

By Pamela Crum

Don't have time to bake Holiday Cookies?

**WE'RE BACK - WE CAN HELP!**

Need a quick thank you gift for a teacher or neighbor?

**WE'RE BACK - WE CAN HELP!**

Want to present a thoughtful hostess gift?

**WE'RE BACK - WE CAN HELP!**

Spent all day shopping and don't have time to cook supper? **WE'RE BACK - WE CAN HELP!**

**DECEMBER 11, 2021 - Save This Date!**

After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, Higganum Congregational Church is pleased to host their 14th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 11, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. So what exactly is a “Cookie Walk” you ask? Well, during this busy and often hectic holiday season, it's an opportunity to “LET US DO YOUR HOLIDAY BAKING FOR YOU” - a chance for you to fill a box or two with your choice of an abundance of fresh, homemade Christmas Cookies baked with Love. As

an added bonus, we also offer yummy homemade soups for sale by the quart. The selection of cookies and soups varies from year to year, but it is definitely worth the trip.

This Church event is an occasion to provide a service for our community by helping our neighbors with their holiday cookie baking as well as offering them the option to take some of our home-cooked soup home for supper - a welcome contribution after a long day of shopping!

It is worth noting that funds raised from this event help us to continue our involvement in and support of local mission work. Your support of our events helps ensure continuity of assistance to members of our community.

So please make a point to stop by, say hello and



Photo by Pamela Crum.

check us out on December 11th. Come grab a box (or two or three) and fill them with your choice of delicious cookies and pick up a quart or two of your favorite soup. We know you'll be glad you did!



Gillian R. Kelly, DMD, MSD  
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