

# Haddam Killingworth News

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

Copyright ©2021 Haddam Civic League LLC

December 23, 2021

For breaking news go to [HK-Now.com](http://HK-Now.com) every day

Free weekly

## Elm Tree Communities, LLC breaks ground on Blueway Commons

By Jeff Hartmann, Founder, Elm Tree Communities

OLD SAYBROOK, Conn., Dec. 10, 2021 / PRNewswire/ — Elm Tree Communities today announced that it has broken ground on Blueway Commons, an upscale, 56-unit multifamily community in Haddam, Connecticut. Blueway Commons will consist of three two-story buildings and a state-of-the-art resident clubhouse. The project is slated to open in the winter of 2022, with preleasing to begin in the summer of 2022.

Blueway Commons will be located east of Exit 7 off Connecticut Route 9, twelve minutes north of Interstate highway 95; the development is convenient to the Amtrak and Shoreline East trains. The complex is fifteen minutes south of Middletown and Interstate 91.

The development is being built on Brookes Court adjacent to Route 154, and it will consist of 56 upscale apartment homes. Conveniently located near the popular downtown Chester, nearby stores and restaurants include Adams Market, Stop and Shop, CVS, Dunkin, Cumberland Farms, The Blue Oar, Little House Brewing Company, and more. Blueway Commons is located near the iconic Swing Bridge that links Haddam and East Haddam. The development will offer residents an outdoor lifestyle near the Connecticut River with kayaking, biking trails, and waterfront dining in the surrounding area.

“This development will offer the first modern apartments in Haddam – with complete lifestyle amenities, like the health and fitness clubhouse, a co-working lounge, a community room for events, and an outdoor patio contribute to the resort-like setting and overall sense of place,” said Jeff Hartmann, the founder, and CEO of Elm Tree Communities. Blueway Commons will provide an attractive home for young professionals, families, and empty-nesters no longer needing a large residence.

Blueway Commons will offer a variety of floor plans to cater to an array of lifestyles from one and two-bedroom options ranging from 815 to 1180 square feet. The apartments will provide modern kitchens with stainless steel appliances and smart technology throughout the complex. Additional in-unit features include contemporary bathrooms,



Groundbreaking. Photos by Ed Munster.



Concept drawing.

spacious kitchens with islands and energy-efficient appliances, balconies, and more.

In 2012, the Connecticut River was declared the first National Blueway, for which Blueway Commons is named and from which our development draws its inspiration. This upscale development offers its residents a lifestyle

Continued on page HK7

## Interview Killingworth's new First Selectwoman Nancy Gorski

By Clark Judge

Editor's Note: This is Part 2 of a two-part series about Killingworth's new First Selectwoman. Part 1 can be found in the 12/16/21 edition of Haddam Killingworth News.

**Q:** Before leaving office, Cathy Iino described “a change of attitude” in local politics, saying it’s become “an aggressive team sport.” Do you agree? From what I’ve heard you seem to be a moderate who can bring people together.

**GORSKI:** I’m glad to hear that. I portray myself as being a very moderate Republican.

I work with people on boards and

commissions. I try to be fair, but I do recognize what Cathy went through. I think the biggest challenge was when Charter Revision was found to be outside of state statutes. From that point forward it’s turned into a political football, and I don’t want to see that happen. Facebook (conversations) were very acidic, and I didn’t like to see that. In fact, I’m drafting an e-mail to people who were on the Charter Revision asking them if they want to come back. But I have to be careful that I can’t guarantee a spot. Because I have to make sure we’re in compliance with the state statute.

**Q:** You plan to pursue renovations to Town Hall, the Fire Company and Town Barn (EOC). The town pays approximately \$400,000 per year in debt service. How much additional spending do you believe will be required to complete those projects?

**GORSKI:** It’s premature for me to say. I do know that the Town Hall and Fire Department are on the Capital Plan for 2022-23. Now whether or not one has to come



Photo by Tim Gannon.

Continued on page HK3

**In This Issue:** Haddam Board of Selectmen, HK2-3, • Calendar, HK4 • HKHS Telethon, HK5

**PONDSIDE KITCHENS**

AND HEARTH

202 MAIN STREET  
DEEP RIVER, CT  
860.526.9567

[PondsideKitchens.com](http://PondsideKitchens.com)

[www.PondsideKitchens.com](http://www.PondsideKitchens.com)

For your safety, our store is open by appointment only

FREE ESTIMATES....BEST SELECTION....LOWEST PRICES

GRILLING AT HOME IS A GREAT FAMILY EVENT



**S SERIES**  
YODER SMOKERS  
FEATURING  
RCS TECHNOLOGY

Limited units arriving soon.

Call to place your order!!

**S SERIES**

YODER SMOKERS

- Set temps from 150° up to 600°F
- Optional Grill Grates hit temps up to 700°F
- Integrated probe port for probe management
- Two integrated food probes
- Ceramic igniter
- Stainless interior components designed to stand up to the cooking environment
- New burn grate designed for optimal airflow



YS640S

# December 13, 2021 Haddam Board of Selectmen Meeting

By Ed Munster

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) held a regular meeting on Monday, December 13, 2021 at the old Haddam Town Hall. First Selectman Bob McGarry called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Selectmen Sean Moriarty and Kate Anderson attended, as did Assistant to the First Selectman, JoAnn Ricciardelli. The Board approved minutes from the regular November 8, 2021 meeting and minutes from the November 29, 2021 special meeting.

McGarry reported that remediation of the Rossi property continues. He and Town Planner Bill Warner met with Greg McKenna on December 8, who is still interested in moving Nutmeg Pharmacy and adding a medical office building at that location.

The Town has received a draft Financial Assistance Proposal from DECD (Department of Economic Development) for the Scovil Hoe

property. McGarry met with the proposed developer, Parker Benjamin, Town of Haddam environmental consultants, and the Town's environmental attorney to review it. DECD's questions were answered, and some changes were proposed.

Bids were opened on December 8 for the Beaver Meadow Road culvert. The low bid was within budget, and Town Engineer Jacobson is reviewing it.

The Bridge Road sidewalks bids were opened on December 1. The grant amount will need to be increased. Jacobson is contacting the CT Department of Transportation (DOT).

In terms of private development projects, McGarry reported that a building application has been received for a 42-unit apartment project at 105 Bridge Road. A groundbreaking ceremony took place on December 12 for Blueway Commons on Brookes

Court, which comprises 56 units. The first building is scheduled for completion by October 2022. Hope Gardens, a private wellness center, at 7 Island Dock Road is undergoing renovations.

In terms of personnel matters, the BOS recommended the hiring of a Building Inspector as a result of interviews which were held. Also the Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) position, which is currently vacant, will be posted soon.

COVID cases have been rising. There have been 55 new cases since the last BOS meeting. Vaccinations and boosters are available in town for residents to obtain.

The Scovil Reservoir Dam (also known by some as Chatham Lake or Waterman's Pond) was inspected. There were some minor issues such as vegetation growth which were noted. The report is being submitted to DEEP.

The composting project, which was approved for a Sustainable CT Matching Grant, is underway. Composting kits are available at the Town Office Building for purchase.

McGarry congratulated twins Alex and Bridgette Battistoni, who won a scholarship in the Connecticut Conference of Municipality's "Local Government is Cool" essay contest.

Brenda Buzzi provided a report to the BOS from the RSD 17 Board of Education. Among the topics discussed was a plan to help remediate the loss of education as a result of last year's COVID remote learning.

Tax refunds in the amount of \$4,296 were approved by the BOS. Ann Riebold, assistant Town Clerk, who has served the town in a number of capacities over 35 years, has announced her resignation as of April 1, 2022. Mike Lafleur, President

# Haddam Food Scrap Recycling began Dec. 8

By Linda Talbott

The Free Food Scrap recycling program for all Haddam residents started December 8, 2021 at the Transfer Station, at 750 Saybrook Road. Special free Food Scrap Only passes for those with private haulers are now available at the Town Office Building. Starter kits also are available there for those who want to use them. Success occurred on the opening day as one and a half Blue Earth Compost bins were filled!

Go to [HaddamSustainabilityCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:HaddamSustainabilityCommittee@gmail.com) for questions and the town website to learn more.



Left to right: Kristin Battistoni, Linda Talbott, Assistant Public Works Director Christopher Corsa, Sam King from Blue Earth Compost and First Selectman Robert McGarry. Photo provided by Haddam Town Hall.

**BOSCH** Accredited Contractor  
**MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC** **DIAMOND CONTRACTOR**

**ABSOLUTE AIR SERVICES**  
 1116 Portland Cobalt Rd. (Rt. 66), Portland  
 Hours: Mon - Fri 8 AM - 4 PM  
 860-666-4200  
 Serving Central CT & Middlesex County

**Visit Our NEW Ductless & Heat Pump Showroom**  
 The first and only one in Connecticut. See, Touch & Feel Fully Operational Heat Pump Heating & Cooling systems and talk to our experts.

[absoluteairservices.com](http://absoluteairservices.com) HIC. 0630546 - HTG.0393975-51 Heating & Cooling Installation and Service

Continued on page HK3

**Certified Public Accountants & Consultants**

Tax Planning and Preparation for Businesses and Individuals  
 Estate and Retirement Planning  
 Attest Services

860-663-0110  
 166 Route 81, Killingworth  
 OEcocpas.com

**Offerdahl Emerson & COMPANY, LLC**

**PETE'S CLEANING**

- Carpet & Tile Cleaning for Over 50 Years
- Move-in and Move-out Services
- Call for Quote and Prompt Service

**IT IS TIME TO CLEAN AND DISINFECT!**

Call **860-788-7373**

*Leaves may be starting to fall, but home sales are not.*

Contact us for all your real estate needs this Fall.

Expertly represented by:

Barrett-Kenneth Realty Group  
 860.368.0140  
[info@bkrealtygroup.com](mailto:info@bkrealtygroup.com)

# Interview Killingworth's new First Selectwoman Nancy Gorski

Continued from page HK1

before the other ... we may have to juggle both to figure out when we're ready. Looking at town property, what I'm most concerned about is that we need improvements to these buildings. But my challenge is that I don't want to raise the mill rate.

**Q:** I'm glad you mentioned that. Because rather than - or, as a supplement to - borrowing, the mill rate could be raised to finance those projects. Presently, each expenditure of \$700,000 equates to one mill rate of taxation. How much do you anticipate the mill rate increases as a result of these projects?

**GORSKI:** It's something we have to discuss with the Board of Finance. Here's the challenge: We do have money in the Capital Reserve. So do we use some of that to fund some of these projects? Could we use funding from the American Recovery Act? We already have an acting committee - the economic recovery committee - looking into that. I want to meet with them at their next meeting and say, 'Where are we going with this?' To me, and this is just my personal opinion, distributing funds to our townspeople would be a wonderful way to put money back in the economy. But the problem is: If we don't use some of that money to fund some of our big projects I'm taking that money right back in taxation. So my thought is: Are there other avenues of funding that we can use to help us get there without us impacting the mill rate?

**Q:** In recent years the town has had an aggressive road maintenance program. Do you plan to continue it and, if not, why not?

**GORSKI:** Absolutely. I want to continue that Capital Improvement plan. It works. Year after year it works. And, actually, it keeps our mill rate steady, as opposed to having big spikes to maintain the roads.

**Q:** You live north of the circle off Route 81. There are two schools there. Two churches, too. A library, ambulance service, the fire house and Town Hall ...

not to mention dozens of residences ... are also on it. The speed limit is 35 north of the circle, yet it's not uncommon for vehicles to exceed 50. Does that have your interest?

**GORSKI:** There are things that are happening in the background. I will tell you that we have posted speed signs being placed strategically to see what's happening at different speeds in different areas. I sent an e-mail this mail this morning to Stephen Krause and Rich Mulhall, our state resident troopers. Cathy had reached out to DOT to look at issues on Route 80 and Roast Meat Hill Road because when you're coming out of Roast Meat and going south you have limited visibility on both sides. You also have issues on Stevens Road and Route 81. People are coming in from Clinton at 45 miles an hour or more. So their recommendation is: First, clear vegetation on both sides of the road. That's easy. But they're also saying put in some (blinking) speed signs to see if they can reduce some of the speeding. I do plan to meet with Stephen as soon as possible. I know he was doing speeding checks on Green Hill Road, but it would be more interesting for him to be on 81. And I also have people complaining of speeding on 148.

**Q:** The RSD Board of Education has a surplus of \$1.5 million. State law requires that such a budget surplus in the next budget year be spent on students or returned to the towns. Will you, with the help of Haddam's town leaders, advocate that this happens with the next town budget?

**GORSKI:** I will. For sure. We've done that in the past. I remember several years ago returning money to the town people. I think it's important. We have other issues. I think the Board of Ed is doing a fine job for our students, but if there is excess money I think it should go back to the townspeople. We need to get it back as soon as possible, and I know that process.

**Q:** You were on the Charter Revision board

that was disbanded. There was a lawsuit filed last month challenging the town's opinion that members of its Board of Selectmen cannot hold another position in the municipal government. However, the lawsuit was withdrawn after the plaintiff lost in the election. Where does Killingworth stand on that issue now and does there need to be a clarification?

**GORSKI:** I was very disappointed, and I understood for various reasons why we dropped the lawsuit. It made perfect sense. But to me, we need this to move forward so we understand whether or not RSD 17 is indeed a portion of the town. I would argue no, but I'm not a lawyer. The problem is that we have a lot of vagaries in the charter. But in December I will charge a new Charter Revision commission, and if they want to make that clarification we should. We need clarity. We need to understand what our founding fathers who wrote that charter meant. In all likelihood, it originated well before we had a regional school board. So my question would be: Does a regional board of education - I'm not talking about Killingworth; anywhere in this state - constitute a form of government in the town?

**Q:** So you would not advocate pursuing a lawsuit?

**GORSKI:** No, we don't want a lawsuit against the town. The Town Counsel provides an opinion. They expressed that. I need somebody to weigh in at the state level as to how this works under state statutes.

**Q:** What's the best advice you received before taking this job?

**GORSKI:** Be open minded. Just because you have an objective in mind, remember that there are other people who may not agree with you. If nothing else, be sure to listen and continue to formulate the process going forward. I have to listen more and talk less. I need to learn from townspeople what they want. I can't be headstrong. I've got to make sure people come to me, and I'm ready to listen.

## HADDAM TOWN GOVERNMENT

### December 13, 2021 Haddam Board of Selectmen Meeting

Continued from page HK2

of Haddam Lions Club announced that the club proposes to construct an electronic sign for the center of Higganum to display notices of interest, meetings and town and organization events.

Finally, Town Planner Bill Warner made a presentation about a CT Communities Challenge Grant from DECD. The grants range from \$1 to \$10 million per project with a minimum match from the town of 50%. This grant availability is a recent development, and applications for this grant must be submitted by January 14, 2022. Warner described possible uses of the HES property and the Rossi property. These possible uses are based on suggestions from the charettes

which took place approximately two years ago. Warner and McGarry both emphasized that making this application does not obligate the Town to purchase the Rossi property. The overall goal of the application for Haddam is to create vibrancy in Higganum Center. Some of the ideas noted include a multi-generational park and playscape, a community center and a senior center, multi-use trails and boardwalk from Higganum Center to the Cove, a new pharmacy, preservation of an existing historic building and a dog park. Warner emphasized that all of these concepts were items which the community has said it has wanted by virtue of community meetings over many years.

### HDTC announces caucus to be held Jan. 5, 2022

By Peter Baird, HDTC

A Democratic caucus shall be held in the Town of Haddam, CT for the purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates for the Haddam Democratic Town Committee (HDTC) on Jan. 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Old Town Hall, at 21 Field Park Drive. Nominations will be accepted

between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Voting shall begin at 7:30 p.m. Masks are required.

If you are interested in serving on the HDTC please either attend the caucus or send an application to the email below. Applications can be obtained by emailing haddamdems@gmail.com.

860-662-0657  
116 Christian Hill Rd  
Higganum, CT 06441



Always Fresh Eggs, Steaks, Burgers, Sausage, & MORE!

- 5th generation Family farm offering custom cutting!
- Self-Serve Available • Pre-Orders Available

Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SycamoreFarm116>

## Total Hair

Hair cuts and styles for the whole family

**Celebrating 30 years in business**  
- Lori Aiello  
**860-663-2805**  
[www.TotalHairKillingworth.com](http://www.TotalHairKillingworth.com)

Open Tues, Wed, Fri 9-5; Thur 12-8; Sat 8-4  
The Courtyard, 176 Rte. 81, Bldg 2  
Practicing COVID-19 safety precautions.

## Teri's Package Store

8 Killingworth Rd.  
Higganum, CT  
860-345-4038

## HWS Package Store

1610 Saybrook Rd.,  
Haddam, CT  
(next to Cooking Co.)  
860-345-4070



## Lance Scaping

**COMPLETE LAWN CARE**

- Landscape Installation
- Snow Removal • Cleanups • Mulching
- Walkways & Retaining Walls

**860-345-7769**





**Owned & Operated by Teri & Chuck Everett**

## 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.

### Friday, December 24

**First Congregational Church of Haddam & Higganum Congregational Church** are having a Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Haddam.

**Christmas Eve Service** at Valley Bible Church 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Vigil** at St. Peter Church 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve service** at First Congregational Church of Haddam 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Vigil at St. Lawrence Church** 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at Haddam Neck Congregational Church 5:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service** at Haddam Neck Covenant Church 5:00 p.m.

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** at Congregational Church of Killingworth 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Mass at St. Lawrence Church** 10:00 p.m.

### Saturday, December 25

**Midnight Mass at St. Peter Church** 12:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Mass at St. Peter Church** 9:00 a.m.

**Mass at St. Lawrence Church** 9:00 a.m.

### Monday, December 27

**Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary** will meet on Monday, December 27 at 6:00 p.m. at Company #1, 439 Saybrook Road. They will hold a short business meeting as well as enjoy their annual Christmas party. Members are reminded to bring a grab bag gift and their food item.

### Tuesday, December 28

**Tech Tuesday KW Library** – Have questions about your smartphone? The Internet? Downloading e-content? How to use a laptop, or Word, or...? If you have any questions about Tech Time, please contact the library at 860-663-2000.

**Killingworth Economic Recovery Meeting** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (remote access)

### Thursday, December 30

**Haddam ZBA Meeting** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

## CAMPUS CORNER

### Thomas Williams of Haddam initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

*Merit Pages News.*

LEXINGTON, VA (12/13/2021)– Thomas Williams, a native of Haddam, was recently initiated into the Bryant University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed more than 1,100 new initiates from 41 universities during November 2021.

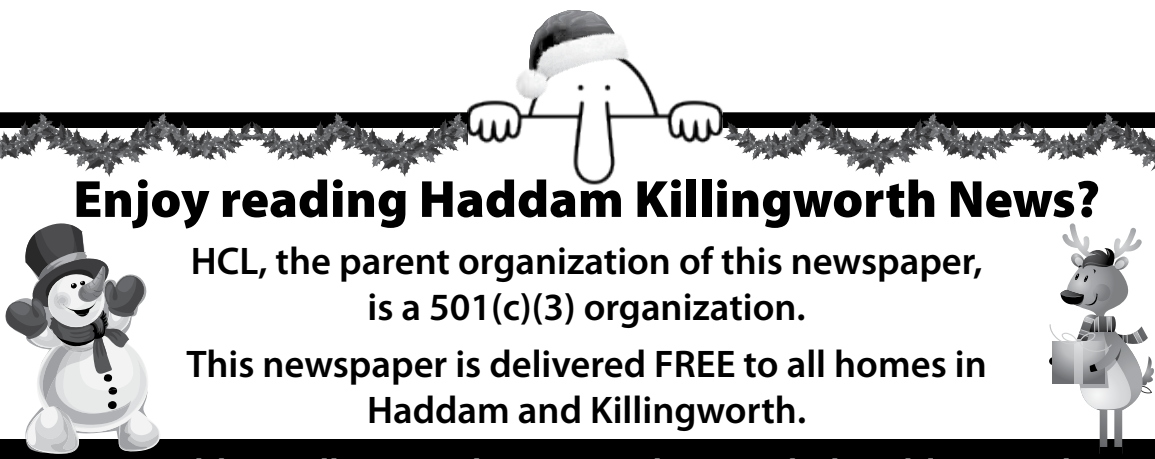
Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35% of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of

the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

## OBITUARIES

**Richard Lee “Catfish” Livingston**, 65, of Haddam, passed away Friday Dec. 3, 2021.

**Dorothy Costanzo Marinaccio**, 86, beloved wife of 64 years to Joseph Marinaccio of Killingworth, passed away December 7, 2021.



**Enjoy reading Haddam Killingworth News?**  
HCL, the parent organization of this newspaper, is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
This newspaper is delivered FREE to all homes in Haddam and Killingworth.

**Support Haddam Killingworth News with a tax-deductible contribution.  
Send your donation to HCL; P.O. Box 15; Higganum, CT 06441**

## Middletown Rug Cleaning Co.

**Save Gas!**  
Aerus-Electrolux Vacuums  
Local Sales & Service

Let us help you with  
**YOUR RUGS**  
**15% OFF**  
All Walk-Ins



*Specializing in Orientals*  
**We Clean: Wall to Wall • Upholstery • All Area Rugs**

**860-345-RUGS (7847)**  
207 SAYBROOK RD. • HIGGANUM

## LEGAL

### TOWN OF HADDAM LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the Town of Haddam. The second installment for Personal Property, Real Estate and the total Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills on the October 1, 2020 Grand List becomes due and payable on January 1, 2022 with a grace period to February 1, 2022. After the grace period, if still unpaid, the bill becomes delinquent and is subject to interest from the original due date at a rate of 1.5% of such tax each month. A minimum interest charge of two dollars would apply to all delinquent taxes. Payments may be made to the order of TOWN OF HADDAM and sent to TOWN OFFICE BLDG., TAX OFFICE, 30 FIELD PARK DR., HADDAM CT 06438-1196 or use the preprinted envelope supplied with the first installment. If receipt is desired, include a stamped self-addressed envelope and a phone number and mail directly to the Tax Office at 30 Field Park Drive. Payments may also be made in person at the Haddam Tax Office room 202 or on our website [Haddam.org](http://Haddam.org). Office hours: Mon- Wed. 8:30AM to 4PM; Wednesday closed to the public; Thurs. 8:30AM to 6:00PM; Fri. 8:30AM to Noon. Call 860-345-8531 x 207 with questions.

Haddam Tax Collector Kristin Battistoni, CCMC

### TOWN OF HADDAM LEGAL NOTICE

A Democratic caucus shall be held in the Town of Haddam, CT for the purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates for the Haddam Democratic Town Committee (HDTC) on Jan. 5, 2022 at 7pm in the Old Town Hall, at 21 Field Park Drive. Nominations will be accepted between 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Voting shall begin at 7:30 p.m. Masks are required.

If you are interested in serving on the HDTC please either attend the caucus or send an application to the email below. Applications can be obtained by emailing [haddamdemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:haddamdemocrats@gmail.com).

### TOWN OF HADDAM LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Haddam on January 4, 2022 (snow date January 5, 2022) at 7:00 PM at 439 Saybrook Road (Higganum Firehouse) to endorse candidates for the Haddam Republican Town Committee.

### TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republicans electors of the Town of Killingworth on January 6, 2022 at 7 pm at the Killingworth Fire Department, 33 CT 81, Killingworth to endorse candidates for the Republican Town Committee. Please contact Laura Lefko, KRTC Vice Chairman at (860)452-4288 with any questions.

### TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Killingworth, Connecticut. Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on: January 6, 2022, at 7:00 pm, at Killingworth Library 301 CT-81, Killingworth, CT to endorse candidates for The Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.

Dated at Killingworth, Connecticut, on the 16th day of December, 2021

Killingworth Democratic Town Committee  
Annie K. Stirna  
Chairperson

**YORK**  
**TREE SERVICE**  
HIGGANUM, CT LLC

**860-754-7007**

Tree Removal • Stump Grinding • Chipping  
Brush Hogging/Clearing • 75ft Bucket Truck Service  
Emergency Storm Work • Snow Plowing

**860-754-7007**

FULLY INSURED/LIC #HIC0648142  
Garrick York, owner

# Letter to Residents from Killingworth Economic Recovery Committee

By John Mancini, Chair, Killingworth Economic Recovery Committee

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has impacted nearly every part of life: social distancing has become a necessity, businesses have to adjust to new health and safety protocols, schools have to balance remote and hybrid teaching models, travel is reduced, and there is a reduction in workforce. During this time, federal, state, and local governments responded to community needs by reallocating money from their general funds to expand assistance to communities.

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law. This ARPA established Fiscal Recovery Funds, which are intended to provide support to state and local governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19. Under this Act, Killingworth will receive approximately \$1.8 million.

Killingworth has the flexibility to determine, as a town, how best to use the payments it will receive under the ARPA to meet the needs of the community and population. As such, the Killingworth Board of Selectmen voted on July 12, 2021, to establish the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC): a bipartisan

committee that has been charged with analyzing Killingworth's economic, social, and health needs resulting from the pandemic. This Committee will convene monthly to discuss recommendations for the allocation of these funds, which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen and ultimately be put to a town vote. All funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024.

While the ERC is continuing to review the ARPA to determine any limitations there may be on spending and all rules and processes surrounding the appropriation of these funds, we do know, in very broad terms, that this funding can be used to cover costs associated with:

- Supporting public health response.
- Addressing negative economic impacts including, but not limited to, offering assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, as well as aid to affected industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
- Making needed investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
- Supporting government services.

The ERC will be holding a town hall on January

19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Killingworth Volunteer Fire House (361 Route 81), wherein the ERC will discuss the funding received by the town, possible spending opportunities, and the role of the ERC. While public comment will be welcome at the town hall, the ERC also encourages residents to provide input and suggestions for this spending based upon individual impressions of community impact and needs following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comments/suggestions can be emailed to [economicrecovery@townofkillingworth.com](mailto:economicrecovery@townofkillingworth.com) and should be submitted no later than February 18, 2022, to ensure timely review.

Please note that ERC communications are not intended to serve as a promise or binding contract between the ERC and the groups/individuals who participate in the town hall and/or who email the ERC. The ERC is simply looking to obtain public input on the town impression of our community needs so that we can best represent the town and advise the Board of Selectmen accordingly regarding the proposed expenditure of these funds.

## EDUCATION

### 2021 Haddam-Killingworth High School Holiday Telethon Information

By Sophia Ramino

Haddam, Connecticut - December 23rd, 2021: Haddam-Killingworth High School's television production studio will broadcast its 33rd annual telethon, benefiting the Connecticut Cancer Foundation. The Connecticut Cancer Foundation, a non-profit organization, financially assists Connecticut cancer patients and their families with basic living needs. The Foundation also funds cancer research. This special event will occur live on Thursday December 23, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Encore presentations will air daily from December 23 to January 3 at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Connecticut Cancer Foundation has participated in various events throughout the Valley Shore community. The very well-known No Shave Connecticut is just one of their fundraisers that bring attention to the forgotten hardships of cancer. Through your generous support,

the Connecticut Cancer Foundation can keep its promise of making a difference.

The telethon can be viewed live on Comcast Channel 18, on Frontier Channel 6090, and online at [holidayshow.rsd17.org](http://holidayshow.rsd17.org) on December 23, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. You can call in your pledge to (860) 554-5490 during the broadcast - operators will be standing by to take your phone calls.

Every year, the students and staff of Haddam-Killingworth High School provide a heartfelt opportunity to raise money and awareness to positively benefit and promote a nonprofit organization in the Valley Shore community.

Please help us make this 33rd Holiday Show very special by supporting HKTV and the Connecticut Cancer Foundation. For more information, please contact Mrs. Kasha Topa-Finberg at [hktv@rsd17.org](mailto:hktv@rsd17.org)



Back-row from left to right: John Guarino, Liam Hoddinott, Aidan Law, Andrew Melnick, Sophia Ramino, Shelby Welsch, Jackson Pray, Logan DiCicco, Nate Kelly and Braden Civiello. Front-row from left to right: Michael Broccoli and Alec Sicurella.



#### Riebold Sanitation, LLC

Septic Tank Pumping • Real Estate Inspections  
Septic Repair and Installation • Neighborhood Discounts on Pumping

Family owned and operated for 3 generations  
from Fred to Richie to Eric since 1947

Higganum, CT 860-345-2708

[rieboldsanitation@yahoo.com](mailto:rieboldsanitation@yahoo.com) [rieboldsanitationllc.com](http://rieboldsanitationllc.com)



23 Killingworth Road, Higganum, CT

860-345-3607

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 8:00 pm

Saturday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

# HOMETOWN HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE

**Hi-Way Package Store**

**Locally Owned**

**Under New Management**

Happy Holidays from Bob and the Staff at Hi-Way Package

Home town store with a world class selection

18 Killingworth Road, Higganum, CT | 860-345-2315  
Mon-Thur 9am-8pm, Fri-Sat 9am-9pm, Sun 10am-5pm

**Happy Holidays**

**Gift Certificates Available**

**Quality of Yesterday  
New Image  
AUTO  
Knowledge of Today**

General Repairs 24 Hour Towing

- Now Making Hydraulic Hoses
- Tire/Wheel Alignment Service
- Engine & Transmission Diagnosis & Repair
- 24 Hour Towing-(860) 304-0934

Make sure and drop your letters for Santa in our North Pole mailbox!  
Starting Monday after Thanksgiving

969 Killingworth Road | Higganum, Connecticut 06441  
www.newimageautoc.com | Phone: 860-345-4185

Celebrate the holidays with traditional specialties and gifts

**Christmas at the Sundial**

Baumkuchen, Christstollen, Marzipan and Lebkuchen, etc. from Germany; French Truffles, Chocolate Specialties and Ginger, Shortbread cookies from Scotland, Fine Teas, Tea accessories & Gifts

Hours: Open Fri., Sat., Sun. 12n-5pm, Nov. 26 through Dec. 24 (close 3pm Dec. 24) (Mon-Thurs. for mail orders & pick-ups)  
www.sundialgardens.com

**SUNDIAL GARDENS TEA SHOP**  
59 Hidden Lake Rd, Higganum, CT  
860-345-4290

**River Valley PROVISIONS**

FRESH ORGANIC ALL NATURAL

**10% OFF**  
with a purchase of \$50 or more  
with this coupon

**GROCERY • BAKERY • MEAT • SEAFOOD**

**95 BRIDGE RD, HADDAM**

**860-554-5599** **www.RVPFOOD.COM**

Family owned & operated since 1990

**ALAN'S**  
SMALL ENGINE SERVICE

We want to extend our warm wishes to you this holiday season. Have a safe and enjoyable time with family and friends.

112 Bridge Rd, Haddam | 860-345-2022  
alansct.net  
Hours: M-F 8am-5:30pm, Sat. 8:30am-3pm

**PIZZERIA Da Vinci**

davincict.com

Buy a \$25 Gift Certificate & get a \$5 Gift Certificate for yourself.

Buy a \$50 Gift Certificate & get a \$10 Gift Certificate for yourself.

25 Falls Road Moodus, CT  
Sun & Tue-Thur 3pm - 9pm; Fri-Sat 11am - 9pm; closed on Monday  
860-873-2299

7 Killingworth Rd, Higganum  
Tue-Sun 11am - 9pm; closed on Monday  
860-345-2251

**Aj's RESTAURANT AND PIZZA**

Hours: Monday to Sunday 11a.m. to 9p.m.

**Outdoor Patio Dining**

Route 81, Village Plaza, Higganum, CT 06441  
860-345-2737

Follow us on Facebook: ajspizzact  
our website: www.ajspizzahigganum.com

**HIGGANUM SMOKE SHOP**

**Holiday Sale**  
**20% OFF**  
All Gifts and Novelties

Hours: Mon - Thur 11-9, Fri 11-11, Sat & Sun 12-9  
26 Killingworth Road, Higganum, CT  
Sajid Sheikh 347-741-0583

**Dino's Pizza Restaurant**

Unlimited Menu & Daily Specials  
Greek, Italian & American Cuisine

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**  
TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS,  
NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

For a Great Holiday Idea  
Give a Gift Certificate from Dino's.

Rt. 81 (Rt. 9 - Exit 9), Higganum, CT  
Phone: 860-345-2990  
Closed Tuesdays

# Elm Tree Communities, LLC breaks ground on Blueway Commons

Continued from page HK1

designed to flow like the river. Blueway Commons will offer residents a resort experience with innovation, community, wellness, and a connection to the natural environment.

The project will be completed over a 15-month construction period, with the first residents scheduled to move in in the winter of 2022.

Blueway Commons property's community amenities will include:

- 2,500 square foot community center.
- Secure package system for residents.
- Digital access control systems throughout the community
- A state-of-the-art fitness center.
- Co-working spaces and a lounge area.
- A community gathering room for resident use.
- An outdoor lounge area with grills and fire pits.
- The community will be pet-friendly and feature an outdoor pet exercise area.

Robert McGarry, the First Selectman of the Town of Haddam, said: "We are excited about the

economic growth that Haddam is experiencing, and we welcome Mr. Hartmann and Elm Tree Communities' new Blueway Commons development as an integral part of that growth."

Gary Coursey & Associates of Atlanta, Georgia, is the project architect, and The Associated Construction Company of Hartford, Connecticut, is our construction manager. Elm Tree Communities has contracted with Real Page and Lease Labs as the technology partners for the development.

**Editor's Note:**

The following town officials were present: First Selectman Robert McGarry, Selectman Kate Anderson, and Town Planner Bill Warner, as well as

members of the P&Z Commission (Steve Bull, Larry Maggi, Dan Luisi, Gina Block), Town Clerk Scott Brookes and State Rep. Christine Palm.



**Lukas Welburn**  
860-559-9033

Residential

- Plumbing service
- Well pumps
- Well tanks
- Water treatment
- Water heaters
- City/Well

www.mrwaterct.com  
Lwelburn@mrwaterct.com

License #PLM0289737-P1 Licensed and Insured

► We Will Beat Any Written Estimate! ◀

## ROOFING & SIDING Masters LLC

- Roofing • Siding •
- Chimney Repairs •

Serving CT homeowners for over 25 years!

**860 969-1617** **10% OFF**

LICENSED & INSURED FREE ESTIMATES www.CTRoofMasters.com

**Light It Up Electrical Services, LLC**

Residential/Commercial  
**Call Today For A Free Estimate!**

Theresa Ruvolo  
Higganum, CT  
860-849-0043  
info@lightituptoday.com

Fully Insured E1-0202594

Offerdahl Emerson & Company, LLC is seeking an experienced **seasonal tax preparer** to join our growing and established firm. This position requires a tax professional with strong analytical skills. This position is needed from February 1, 2022, through April 15, 2022. Prior experience preparing quality 1040's a requirement.



# Haddam Killingworth News

PO Box 15, Higganum, CT 06441

**Staff and Contact List**

Anthony Giamei,  
Managing Editor

Kathy Brown,  
Senior Editor

Sharon Challenger,  
Composition Editor

**Reporters:**

Deb Thomas, Austin Mirmina,  
Sally Haase, and Phil Devlin  
Ed Munster, Advertising Manager

**Interested in writing for us?**  
**Write to us at**  
**HK-NowEditors@Outlook.com**

Businesses interested in advertising in Haddam Killingworth News should call Ed at 860-345-2225, or e-mail e.munster@comcast.net.

Businesses interested in advertising in East Haddam News should call Michelle at 860-615-9955 or e-mail sales@easthaddamnews.org.

Send all requests, content and comments to: **HK-NowEditors@outlook.com**

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

Member of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

**LINDA'S TEAM**

We Sell Houses. You Make Them Home.

**LINDA B. O'HARA**

**WILLIAM RAVEIS**  
REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE

www.LindasTeam.com

860.209.7044 • Linda.OHara@raveis.com

860.388.3936 • 33 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT

860.345.6700 • 577 Saybrook Road, Middletown, CT

860.209.7044 • 558 N Roast Meat Hill Rd., Killingworth, CT

239.331.4008 • 850 5th Ave. South Suite C, Naples, FL



**HIGGANUM VETERINARY CLINIC**

92 Saybrook Road, P.O. Box 598  
Higganum, CT 06441  
Phone: 860.345.3366  
Fax: 860.345.2557  
Office Hours By Appointment

**House Calls • Farm Calls**  
**All Animals from Cows to Chickens, Reptiles, Cats, Dogs, Goats, Pigs, Birds**

Follow us on Facebook  
higganumvetclinic.com



**Are you a retiree with extra time?**

**Are you a stay-at-home Mom/Dad?**

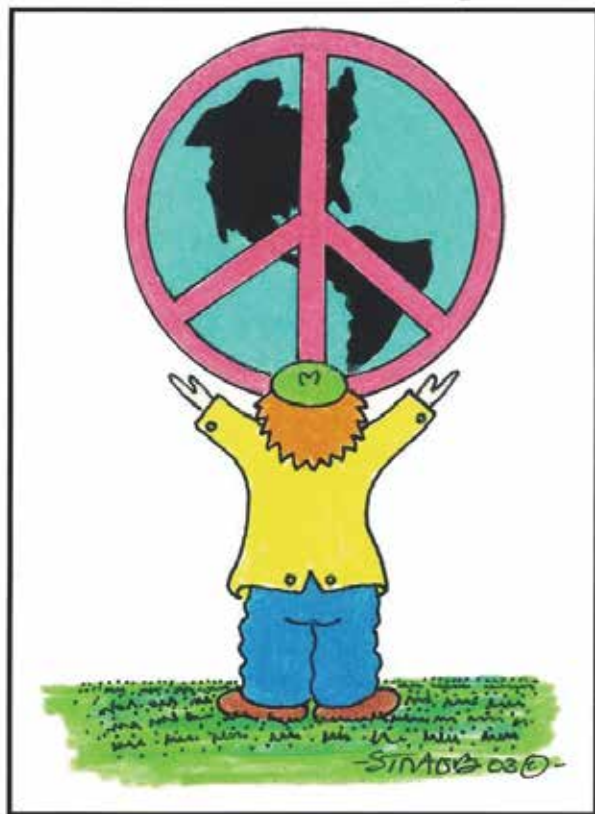
**Need to beef up your resume?**

**Would you like to help your community?**

We're looking for volunteers like you to help with Haddam Killingworth News, and our online website, HK-Now.com. We need help perusing social media for story ideas, writing stories, editing stories, and posting them online. If you're interested or just want to learn more, please send us an email at HK-NowEditors@outlook.com

Mac O'Moodus

Roger Straub



Peace on Earth

www.redshedstudios.com

# HVFC Christmas Party 2021!

By Sharon Challenger,  
HVFC Auxiliary

Local children and families eagerly lined up at the Haddam Volunteer Firehouse on December 11, 2021 to see Santa arrive in our HVFC firetruck! His reindeer had the night off and we're sure they enjoyed a little break.

Blue Fire Stage Company added to the celebration by providing festive music for Santa and the guests.

In addition, the Haddam Fire Company Auxiliary provided raffle baskets for guests to take chances on.

Thank you Santa for coming to Haddam so our families could enjoy your company!



Santa and Ruby Proto. Photos by Olivia Drake, HVFC.



Northeast Feed & Supply

## Not your average feed store.

Carrying Blue Seal, Kalmbach feeds, local meats, milk, eggs, hand made goods and so much more!

968 Killingworth Road Higganum CT | 860.301.4557  
Hours: Mon- Friday 9-7, Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-3



Largest Papyrus Card/Gift Store in Middlesex County

### Holiday Heart Syndrome

Holidays are stressful enough on our patience and our hearts. Holiday Heart Syndrome is described as a cardiac rhythm and/or conduction disturbance associated with heavier than usual alcohol consumption.

Individuals who suffer with this syndrome often binge drink on weekends and/or holidays. Recovery requires early detection and abstinence from alcohol. The most common rhythm disorder that the person will suffer is Atrial Fibrillation, characterized by dizziness, fainting, difficulty in breathing, fatigue, and weakness on slight exertion. It is important to know that 35% of Atrial Fibrillation cases around the holidays are a direct result of increased alcohol consumption, most of which will end on its own, with 20-30% of the cases reappearing within 12 months.

This can be triggered with even moderate increase in alcohol consumption, especially if the person has a chronic alcohol habit. Chronic alcohol consumption has long been associated with heart issues, and now with increased marijuana usage, similar reports are beginning to surface. The one reason is that alcohol stimulates epinephrine production which has a direct effect on heart muscle stimulation. Studies show men who consume greater than 27 standard drinks per week, or women who consume greater than 20 drinks per week will have a much higher incidence of death, stroke, and thromboembolism. Alcohol increases the severity of sleep apnea as well.

So, it is important to enjoy the holidays, but do so with your health in mind. Your friends at Nutmeg Pharmacy wish you all the happiest and most enjoyable Holiday Season, but stay responsible.

#### Hours of Operation

Mon-Fri 8:30 AM-8:00 PM  
Saturday 8:30 AM-4:00 PM  
Sunday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Telephone: 860-345-3607  
Fax: 860-345-3611

Web: www.nutmegpharmacy.com

## HADDAM VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE

### HVAS received surprise donations at Food Drive held on Nov. 13

By Rene Karas

The Haddam Volunteer Ambulance Service held a holiday food drive on Saturday, November 13, 2021 to benefit the Haddam Food Bank.

HVAS would like to thank all of those that came out to meet our

donated to the drive. Suffice it to say, there was not a dry eye among the volunteers. The selfless acts of these boys were beyond our expectations given their young ages.

Thank you Gage Goralnik and Owen Rizzo. Your kindness and generosity are appreciated and further demonstrates how special our community is.

If you have ever thought of becoming a volunteer, now is your chance. HVAS offers a ride along program for those considering volunteering, a mentor program and continuing education for its members.



volunteers, tour our ambulance and support the food drive.

We would like to recognize two of our local students for their kindness and generosity.

During the food drive, a group of boys on bikes came by and stopped to ask what we were doing. After we explained our mission, one of the boys put his bike down and proceeded to empty his pockets of several dollars and some change to donate to the drive. A second boy indicated he would also like to donate but would need to go home to get his money. He came back a little while later and also



Please contact us at (860) 345-2500 or via e-mail at info@haddamambulance.org or visit our website at www.haddamambulance.org

EMS is more than a job, it's a calling. Thank you for the privilege to serve you.