

Haddam Killingworth News

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

Copyright ©2021 Haddam Civic League LLC

October 21, 2021

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

Free weekly

HKHS defeats Hale-Ray 6-1

By Mike Shea, Coach

The Haddam-Killingworth High School girls soccer team defeated Hale-Ray by a score of 6-1, in their "pink game" on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. The Pink Game is in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month. The Hajek family donated the pink socks for the girls to wear in the game. The Madore family provided a large blown up pink ribbon that overlooked the field. Additionally, the lines on the field were painted pink in this honor.

Rhianna Phipps started in goal for the Cougars and made three saves, while Caroline Bonadies started in goal for Hale-Ray making one save. Emmy Kehlenbach scored the first goal, four minutes into the game with a nice shot from the right side of the box. Two minutes later Leah Chester made it 2-0 and was assisted by Tu-Lanh Criscoulo. Captain Hadley Commerford put the third goal in with a nice shot to the corner. Julia Favalora closed out the first half with a nice goal. At the half, the score was 4-0.

Later in the second half, Tulanh Criscoulo scored when she was able to grab a rebound from



2021 Haddam-Killingworth Girls Soccer team. Photo by Mike Shea.

Hale-Ray keeper. Hale-Ray was able to gain a goal off an on own goal, when a defender attempted to clear the ball. The final goal for HK occurred when Leah Chester sent a corner kick in to find

Emmy Kehlenbach, providing Kehlenbach her second goal of the game. Haddam-Killingworth improves to a score of 6-4-1.

Assistant Chief Jamie Kuchyt earns 40-years-of-service pin

By Olivia Drake, HVFC

Congratulations to HVFC Assistant Chief Jamie Kuchyt who earned his 40-years-of-service pin this month. Jamie joined the company as a junior member in September 1981 and took regular membership in October 1983.

During his tenure, he's served as a Junior Advisor, Equipment Secretary, Mechanical Engineer, Lieutenant, Captain, Second Assistant Chief, and Assistant Chief.

Assistant Chief Kuchyt is the spouse of HVFC Firefighter Teresa Kuchyt; the brother of Lieutenant Scott Kuchyt; the son of the late Martin Kuchyt, who served with the company 17 years; and the nephew of the late Robert Kuchyt, who served 43 years.

Thank you, Chief, for your service to the Town of Haddam!



Assistant Chief Jamie Kuchyt, HVFC . Photo by Olivia Drake, HVFC.

In This Issue: HKHS Sports, HK2, • Health, HK3 • Calendar, HK11

**PONDSIDE
KITCHENS**
AND HEARTH

202 MAIN STREET DEEP RIVER, CT
860.526.9567
PondsideKitchens.com

PLEASE CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT



POWER'S OUT, HEAT'S ON.

Designed to work without power, our customers rely on their fireplaces and stoves to stay warm during the winter storm season. Are you prepared for a power outage?

MANUFACTURING LEAD TIMES ARE EXTENDED. PLACE YOUR ORDER SOON!!

HKHS defeats Ledyard 94.5 – 68.5

By Alison Karam, Head Coach

Haddam-Killingworth High School Girls Swim Team extended its winning streak to 4-0 for the season after defeating Ledyard 94.5 – 68.5 at Vitale Aquatic's outdoor pool in Ledyard on Friday, October 8, 2021. Cougar girls held the lead throughout the meet after finishing first and third in the 200-yard medley relay and recorded 13 personal best swims.

Senior co-captain Jackie Flaherty qualified in a third individual event for State Championships after winning the 50-yard freestyle in 27.41. Junior Erin Marica improved her qualifying time for State Championships in the 500-yard freestyle, swimming a personal best time of 5:58.31.

Fifteen H-K swimmers scored points for the team: Aleia Goodison (JR), Aleysha Brawley (JR), Anna

Dattilo (SO), Emma Sajus (SO), Erin Marica (JR), Jackie Flaherty (SR), Johanna Houska (JR), Kristen Thebeau (JR), Layla Hayward (SO), Olivia Campo (FR), Olivia "Liv" Macaluso (FR), Peyton Tyler (SO), Shea McNamara (SR), Sofia Campo (FR), and Wesley Baucom (SR).

Top 3 finishes for Haddam-Killingworth:

200-yard Medley Relay

1st: A Relay: Kristen Thebeau, Erin Marica, Jackie Flaherty, Olivia "Liv" Macaluso



HK swimmers warm up at Vitale Aquatic. Photo by Alison Karam, Coach

3rd: B Relay: Anna Dattilo, Sofia Campo, Emma Sajus, Layla Hayward

200-yard Freestyle

1st: Aleia Goodison

200-yard Individual Medley

1st: Johanna Houska

2nd: Kristen Thebeau

50-yard Freestyle

1st: Jackie Flaherty *

100-yard Butterfly

1st: Jackie Flaherty *

2nd(tie): Johanna Houska

100-yard Freestyle

1st: Olivia "Liv" Macaluso

3rd: Peyton Tyler

500-yard Freestyle

1st: Erin Marica *

3rd: Aleia Goodison

200-yard Freestyle Relay

1st: A Relay: Johanna Houska, Peyton Tyler, Sofia Campo, Jackie Flaherty

3rd: B Relay: Layla Hayward, Olivia Campo, Shea McNamara, Wesley Baucom

100-yard Backstroke

1st: Olivia "Liv" Macaluso *

2nd: Kristen Thebeau

100-yard Breaststroke

1st: Erin Marica (JR)

400-yard Freestyle Relay

1st: A Relay: Johanna Houska, Aleia Goodison, Peyton Tyler, Olivia "Liv" Macaluso

3rd: B Relay: Layla Hayward, Wesley Baucom, Olivia Campo, Emma Sajus

* Time qualified for State Championships

HKHS defeated by Coginchaug/Hale Ray/East Hampton 18-0

By Barth Keck, Assistant Coach

On Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, Coginchaug/Hale Ray/East Hampton defeated Haddam Killingworth High School Varsity Football team 18-0 at Coginchaug.

Braden Lankarge ran for one touchdown and passed for two more in the Blue Devils' win at home on Friday (10/8) in their first-ever home game under the lights. Lankarge connected on touchdown passes of 15 yards to Jackson Hill and 34 yards to Chris Progano, and he ran for another six-yard score.

The Cougars (1-3) held the Blue Devils (5-0) to a

6-0 halftime lead, but a Jake Manning kickoff return to the opponent's 25 yard line set up the home team's first of two touchdowns in the decisive third quarter.

"That kick return kind of took the wind out of our sails," said HK head coach Tyler Wilcox. "We made several good stops on defense in the first half to keep us in the game, but the third quarter was the difference. We just couldn't get a sustained drive going, especially on the ground."

"But our kids never gave up," Wilcox added. "Coginchaug is a very disciplined team under Coach Eagle and we could have folded, but the kids never

did. We just have to learn from our mistakes and move on."

HK 0 0 0 0 0
C/HR/EH 0 6 12 0 18

After a bye week, the Cougars host North Branford on Oct. 22 at home. The Blue Devils also have a bye and return to action at Morgan on



Oct. 22. Photos by Anthony Frasco.



**Come for a Visit.
Stay for a Lifetime.**

It's never too early, but it might be too late with just a few units available!

Be our guest at one of these 2021 Open House events:

October 28th

November 18th

11:30am - 2:00pm

Enjoy a complimentary lunch

RSVP: 860.271.0721



860-662-0657
116 Christian Hill Rd
Higginum, 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>

River Valley Provisions
95 Bridge Street, Haddam, CT
860-554-5599

Fresh Seafood | Live Lobsters
Fish Fry Fridays | Specialty Meats
Fantastic Cheeses
Chef Prepared Foods Daily

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

Gift Certificates Available



Middlesex Eye Presents: Eye Have It On Good Authority That Your Vision Can Be Expanded Through LASIK

By Middlesex Eye Physicians, PE

Editor's note: This is part 3 of an 8-part series submitted by Middlesex Eye Physicians.

Are you an eye-deal candidate for LASIK?

Blurry vision is the result of the cornea not being shaped in a manner that allows light to be focused on the retina. Our cornea is supposed to be a circular shape and if it isn't, then glasses or contacts are needed in order to see clearly.

Are you someone who wakes up wondering where your glasses are or can't see because you haven't put in your contacts?

According to the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, as high as 99% of patients who have had LASIK surgery achieved 20/40 vision or better! Over 10 million Americans have

had LASIK surgery since the 1990's. Overall complications are extremely low (0.03%). For people 40-49 years old, LASIK can save up to \$10,000 in the long run.

Woop woop, sign me up!

Whoa, first you need a screening appointment. At this appointment you will have an eye exam, during which necessary images and measurements will be taken of your eyes using state of the art technology. The LASIK trained ophthalmologist will evaluate the health of your eyes, the thickness of your cornea and the corneal structure of your eye. This pre-surgery information will guide the re-shaping of the cornea during the procedure itself.

I don't even like touching my eyes...will I freak out during LASIK?

Each patient is prescribed an oral sedative to be taken at the surgery center. The doctor will use eye drops to numb the eye, then a flap is made by a cool laser. While the patient focuses on a light, the cornea is shaped as needed: rounded, flattened, etc. The flap is then put back in place, with no stitches and serves as a natural bandage. The process is about 10 minutes per eye.

LASIK is permanent and can eliminate or reduce dependency on glasses or contacts. This procedure can even be done on patients over the age of 75. LASIK does not prevent cataracts.

A life without glasses/contacts is well worth it for many people. Although not covered by insurance, FSA or HSA funds may be used to cover the cost.

ENTERTAINMENT

Blue Fire Stage announces auditions for Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.!

By Rebecca Degnan

(October 9, 2021) — We are so excited for auditions for Blue Fire's performance of Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.! Actors ages 12-15 should sign up for either Tuesday, November 9, 2021 OR Wednesday, November 10, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Actors should also be available for a callback (if needed) on Thursday, November 11, 2021. Auditions will take place at the Blue Fire Rehearsal Space located in the former Haddam Elementary School (272 Saybrook Road, Higganum). Actors will enter through the glass doors in the back of the building (past the basketball courts).

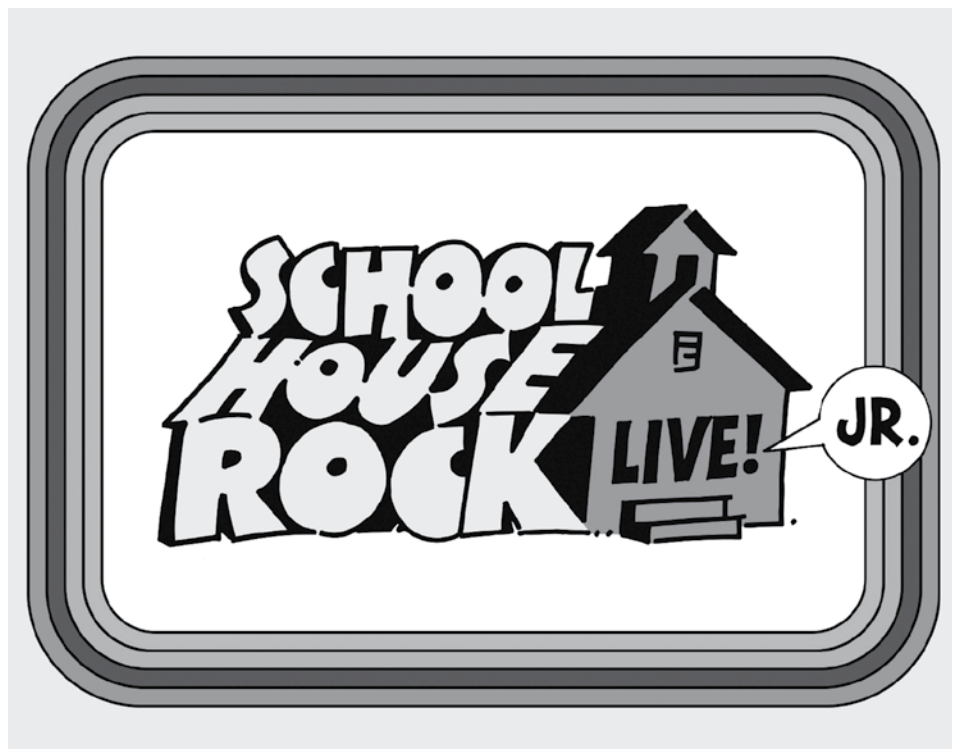
Audition materials and details are available on our website at: www.bluefirestage.org/auditions

We are so excited to see everyone's awesome talent! See you soon!

COVID REQUIREMENTS: Actors must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 in order to audition, rehearse or perform. Proof of vaccination will be required upon arrival at auditions in order to attend. Masks are required at

all times indoors. Actors must maintain social distancing of 3 feet at all times. Actors should not attend auditions, rehearsals or performances if they have any symptoms of Covid-19.

DATES/SCHEDULE: Our first read-through will be Monday, November 22. Rehearsals will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. starting November 30. There will be no rehearsals during winter break, December 22 through December 30. Our tech week is February 7, 8, 9 and 10 – all tech week rehearsals are mandatory. Performances are February 11 and 12, with a snow date of February 13. Mandatory strike will be February 13 (if no snow date is needed) or February 14 (if snow date needed). There will be 3 Saturday workshops which are required for all actors who are performing with Blue Fire for the first time. The dates/times for those are November 20, January 8 and February 5 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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

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



Owned &
Operated by
Teri & Chuck
Everett

G'S TREASURES AUCTION OLD SAYBROOK VFW

FRIDAY 10/22, PREVIEW: 1:00

EARLY BIRD: 5:30, AUCTION: 6:30

Early bird featuring tools, boxlots, etc.



Auction will include collectibles, slag glass lamp, mirrors, early fire extinguisher, artwork, pottery, jewelry, small furniture and much more.

See auctionzip.com auctioneer ID 39531 for listing and pictures.

Everyone welcome!



2021 Candidates Haddam Board of Finance

We reached out and asked candidates to respond to a set of questions. Updates from all candidates are welcome and will be published as Letters to the Editor. The questions posed to the candidates were:

- Tell us a little about yourself.
- Why are you running for the position?
- What do you see as the important issues facing your town and how would you address them in your role?
- What are the key things you love about this town and its people?
- Additional thoughts to leave voters with?

Full Term

Steve Bayley (D): My wife and I moved to Haddam 10 years ago after we purchased a house and were going to start a family. I have worked in educational technology for the last 20 years and for the last 13 years, I have worked at UConn Health in the School of Medicine. I have a Bachelor's degree in History as well as a Master's degree in Business Administration.

I am concerned about the financial success of the town of Haddam and its future financial challenges. Are we getting the best services for the price we are paying? Taxes had been flat but recently went up, are more services being offered, are better services being offered? Can the town afford to bond more projects without going further into debt? I know a majority of the town budget is the Region 17 school budget but I feel the town budget has been rubber stamped for a number of years without a real critical view if the best services are being offered at the best prices. Haddam has the highest marginal mill rate compared to local towns with either the same services or less services. I want to make sure our tax dollars are being spent wisely and if I am fortunate to be elected to the Board of Finance I will ask the hard questions and sharpen my pencil.

I want to make sure the town is offering the best

services with the possible tax burden to the taxpayers in town. For example, the transfer station in town is open less often than other area towns although our mill rate is the highest, why is that? I know there is not one large expense or one large area that will lower taxes or stabilize taxes. It is a few dollars here, a few dollars there, oh that is only \$500 that is not much in an \$8-\$9 million budget. I have experience with balancing budgets and will bring a fresh perspective to the town budget. Does the town have a full time paid fire and ambulance department? Does the town have a full time paid police department? Does

the scarcity of filled store fronts throughout town, high taxes are contributing to those vacancies.

I love how everyone helps each other out in town and there is a strong sense of community. I have seen it locally in my neighborhood as well as throughout town. Recently, when a student tragically passed away, the community support was overwhelming to witness.

I also enjoy the rural setting of the town but still have Higganum Center and Tylerville in town for shopping, services and a place to eat.

Making sure the town of Haddam spends taxpayer dollars wisely will be my number one focus if I am fortunate to be elected to the Board of Finance. I humbly ask for your vote on November 2nd and thank you for reading this article.

Gigi Simko (R): The oldest child of a U.S. Navy veteran, retired Colonel Gigi Simko was born in Illinois and grew up in Guam, Italy, Connecticut and California. Gigi graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs with a Bachelor of Science in biology and commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Webster University, St. Louis. She completed a fellowship in force structure management in Arlington, Virginia, and is board certified in healthcare management through the American College of Healthcare Executives.

In August 2020, Gigi joined Connecticut Children's in Hartford as a senior manager of practice operations. Prior to that, her active duty military career spanned 24 years. Assignments included Texas, California, Delaware, Ohio, Washington, D.C., England, and Florida. She deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation

Continued on page HK6



Steve Bayley (D)



Gigi Simko (R)



Joseph Centofanti (R)



Marjorie DeBold (D)



Sandy Olsen (D)



Mark Lundgren (R)



Jenny Law (D)



Richard Wells Jr. (R)

the town provide curbside trash pickup or curbside fall brush/leaf pickup? Why does Haddam lack these services other towns may have with a higher marginal mill rate in Haddam? The town has run in the black (excess revenue and/or lower costs) for a number of years, why does the town over budget and not find that sweet spot of costs versus revenue and not overtax taxpayers? Finally, with the highest marginal mill rate of local towns, businesses will open up in other towns instead of Haddam. Look at

KAREN PERRY AT LAW, LLC
 Wills, Trusts, Real Estate and Land Use
 860-306-5486
 KAREN.PERRY@LAW.COM
 255 ROUTE 80
 KILLINGWORTH, CT 06419

Jack's **COUNTRY RESTAURANT**
Proudly Serving Quality Breakfast Since 2011
 Open: Monday - Friday 6am until noon
 Saturday & Sunday 7am until noon
 Visit us on Facebook, Instagram and at www.jackscountryrestaurant.com
860-345-4446

Town & Country Nurseries

Come Check Out Our Garden Center

| | |
|---|---|
| Indoor Farm Store! CATO CORNER FARM CHEESES, HONEY, EGGS, MAPLE SYRUP, POTATOES, ONIONS, GOURMET CANNED GOODS AND MORE! | FALL IS FOR PLANTING SHRUBS & TREES PERENNIALS SPRING BULBS |
| Gift Shop Fall & Halloween Décor Garden Décor Locally Made Gifts and Goods | Florist SHOP ONLINE HADDAMFLORIST.COM |

Open 7 Days A Week

1036 Saybrook Rd. Haddam (860)345-8581 townandcountryhaddam.com

Middlesex Eye Physicians
 The Eye M.D.s

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dr. Roger Luskind, MD | Dr. Kristy Mascarenhas, MD |
| Dr. Peter Shriver, DO | Dr. Scot Yap, OD |
| Dr. Raji Mulukutla, MD | Dr. Dorothy Robison-Collins, OD |

Middletown 860.347.7466 Westbrook 860.669.5305

www.MiddlesexEye.com

2021 Candidates Killingworth Board of Finance

We reached out and asked candidates to respond to a set of questions. Updates from all candidates are welcome and will be published as Letters to the Editor. The questions posed to the candidates were:

- Tell us a little about yourself.
- Why are you running for the position?
- What do you see as the important issues facing your town and how would you address them in your role?
- What are the key things you love about this town and its people?
- Additional thoughts to leave voters with?

Douglas Lefko (R): I have lived in Connecticut for 15 years, the last 2 in Killingworth. After searching for our home for two years, my wife Laura and I settled here because we felt that the town had a strong sense of community and we loved the beautiful rural atmosphere. We have raised 3 boys together who are now grown and raising families of their own; between them they have given us seven terrific grandchildren. In our spare time we love to work on our home, gardens and take care of our 2 dogs, 2 cats, 2 miniature donkeys and 4 chickens. We both love to cook and enjoy the many great restaurants in Killingworth and on the shoreline.

For the last 15 years I have worked in the technology and collaboration business space in a leadership position, currently as the Northeast Regional Vice President for a national technology company. I have a Bachelor's Degree in English and Organizational Business Management and a Masters Degree in Leadership with a minor in Adult Education.

I currently am a member of the Board of Finance and have enjoyed working with the other members of the board on the budget and issues that face

Killingworth. I believe that the Board of Finance position transcends politics and party. In my view, the position has a responsibility to the taxpayers of the town to ensure that their tax dollars are spent wisely.

My first job out of college was for the Town of Huntington in New York and one of my roles was to focus on crafting the capital budget for the town which had a population of 200,000. I met with each department head to review expenditures and meet the approved budgeted number for each department. This was a great challenge as well as an incredible learning

it must address the fact that Town Hall has not been properly maintained for some time and needs to be renovated. Also, the Fire Department Building needs renovations and improvements. I have recently been appointed to the Economic Recovery Committee by the Board of Selectmen. In my research, I believe we can spend some of the funds that we are receiving in the American Rescue Plan which allows the funds to be used for "Capital investment in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs" and also allows for the "purchase or remodeling of public buildings."

While these funds cannot be used to reduce taxes, the funds can be utilized for capitol expenses. These projects are essential to continue to provide crucial services to the Killingworth residents.

Killingworth is a small town with large sense of community. It is steeped in tradition and history. The beauty of the area and the open spaces are a huge plus. The people have been welcoming and inviting and I bump into someone new and interesting daily. This is a terrific community and a great place to live.

I think that it is the duty of the Board of Finance to ensure that we keep Killingworth's spending in line and continue to ensure that the town is affordable for everyone.

Annie Stirna (D): I am Annie Stirna and I am running for reelection to the Board of Finance. I have lived in

Killingworth for over 20 years. I am very active in volunteer efforts that are the lifeblood of this town. I am a Board member of the Killingworth Division of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Chairwoman of the Alternative Housing Committee, and I was recently appointed to the Economic Recovery Committee. I have been a Rotarian for

Continued on page HK7



Douglas Lefko (R)



Annie Stirna (D)



Dave Miller (CP)



Todd Blewett (R)



Tara Amatrudo (D)



Harvey Derosa (CP)



Sara O'Brien (R)



Ray Szumilas (CP)

experience which I believe gives me a unique skill set on Board of Finance.

I want to continue to bring my experience in both the private and public sector to help the Town of Killingworth achieve its strategic fiscal plan and ensure that the town keeps spending at a rate that is sustainable while maintaining essential services.

One of the key issues for the Board of Finance is that

KJ Welding LLC

Mobile Services
Railings: Residential & Commercial
Equipment Repair
Aluminum, Stainless Steel
Pipe Certified, G9 Licensed

Office/Fax 860-345-8743
Cell 860-508-0611
kjwelder@att.net
HIC #0631508

Ken Pellegrini
116 Filley Rd
Haddam, CT 06438

RLD Heating & Cooling, Inc.

It's time to get comfortable
We install, sell and service heat pumps, central air, high efficiency furnaces and boilers, on demand tankless water heaters and conventional water heaters. Plus much more!
Call for a FREE ESTIMATE
(860) 663-3181
24-Hour Service

Raymond DesJardins
Killingworth, CT 06419
www.rldheatingandcooling.com
Lic. No. S1-389522

Don't forget to like us on Facebook
@rldserviceyoucantrust

REFLECTIONS CAR WASH

Leaf the Dirt Behind!!

Touchless Automatic
4 Self-Serve Bays
Vacuums & Shampooer
Open 24/7

711 Saybrook Rd
Middletown, CT
860-347-WASH
reflections-carwashct.com

YORK TREE SERVICE LLC

HIGGANUM, CT
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

► We Will Beat Any Written Estimate! ◀

ROOFING & SIDING Masters LLC

• Roofing • Siding • Windows •
• Chimney Repairs • Remodeling •
• Additions & New Construction •

Serving CT homeowners for over 25 years!

860 969-1617
LICENSED & INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES
www.CTRoofMasters.com

10% OFF
*Roofing, siding, windows, chimney repairs only

2021 Candidates Haddam Board of Finance

Continued from page HK4

Iraqi Freedom.

Gigi served on the Board of Governors of the American College of Healthcare Executives from 2018 to 2020 and on regional boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Inc. in California, Delaware and Ohio. She also served as ACHE Regent for the Air Force and ACHE Regent-at-Large for District 6.

Significant Military Decorations: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Matt McEwen (D)

Joseph Centofanti (R): I have served on the Board of Finance as an alternate and regular member for the past 12 years and have served as Chairman since November 2014. I am seeking reelection to continue serving the Town of Haddam. I have lived in Town for over 15 years.

I am a partner at PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP (a public accounting firm) with almost 35 years specializing in providing audit, consulting and forensic accounting services to cities, towns and state agencies. In addition to being a CPA, I am also a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Forensic CPA (FCPA), Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) and a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). In addition, I was formally an adjunct professor at UCONN teaching Governmental Accounting and Auditing

in UCONN's graduate program.

Over my professional career, I have provided services to over 100 different municipalities. This has provided me with detailed knowledge of municipal operations and the challenges faced by cities and towns across the State. I assist towns on a daily basis with the same types of issues faced by the Town of Haddam and, therefore, am able to bring these solutions and strategies to the Town for consideration. Being on the forefront of the constantly evolving municipal environment, I am in a position to provide the Town information on a proactive basis to allow, where possible, the Town to address the ever changing environment we work in.

I am running for reelection to the Board of Finance to continue being part of the Team in building cost-conscious responsible budgets, rebuilding and strengthening the Town's infrastructure while maintaining our strong financial position. Our strong financial position has allowed the Town to issue bonds at very low interest rates, to keep the tax rate flat for 4 years, and to limit the tax rate increase to be less than 1/2 of a mil for the 2022 budget. This financial strength and flexibility has allowed the Town to take advantage of opportunities as they arise and to provide support when needed to our Town's residents.

The most important issue facing the Town is managing the Town's capital and infrastructure needs. Some

of the larger items are the community septic project, future use of HES, and the potential purchase of

the Rossi property. Our capital plan also includes many other capital needs in the short-term, such as replacement of fire trucks, building maintenance projects, and continued improvement of our roads. This is balanced with continuing to ensure that supporting the operational needs of the Town's taxpayers, including education, in a way that continues to minimize the impact on the taxpayer. The Town has received significant federal funding (ARPA) that, if approved, may allow the Town to further these projects and address some of the other capital needs included in the Town's capital plan.

My role in addressing these issues as a member of the Board of Finance is to continue to work on both the operating and capital budgets and the related strategies to finance them. This will put the Town in the best position possible to meet the needs and wants of the community in an efficient and cost effective manner.

The key things about the Town and its people that has distinguished it from other towns is the community spirit and the willingness of the people to help others. In my experience, most times help is offered without being asked for. In addition, our location is such a beautiful place. Every time I tell someone where I am from, the first comment is that the area is beautiful. I tell them that it is not just the area, but the community itself that makes it an awesome place to live.

I have enjoyed serving the Town and sharing my experience and expertise as part of the Team that works to make our Town the great place it is to live. I feel that a lot has been accomplished in

the past 6 years including an AAA bond rating, road improvements, updating our public works fleet, purchase of HES and other projects. The complexity of local government operations and federal and state requirements continue to increase. We have some challenges ahead as well as some great opportunities to make the Town of Haddam an even better place to live. I would like to continue to be part of the Team to help the Town navigate through the challenges and work to make sure the opportunities to improve the Town are accomplished. Thank you for your consideration and I would appreciate your support in November.

To Fill Vacancy for 2 years

Marjorie DeBold (D): My husband, Dick, and I moved to the Higganum part of Haddam 57 years ago. The town's location, its country setting, and its caring population were important factors in our decision to settle here. It has been a continuing pleasure for me, first as an elementary school teacher in the local schools from 1968 to 1992. Early on I was eager to take an active part in town government; Haddam was small enough to depend on volunteers' work to carry out many responsibilities and I wanted to be part of that action. Over the years I have been pleased to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Committee on Aging. I was privileged to serve as First Selectman from 1993 to 1997. I continue to be a member of several local organizations benefitting our town, the Haddam I call

Continued on page HK8

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

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

DRY CLEANING
TAILORING
SHOE REPAIR
RUGS, LEATHERS & FURS

RELIABLE CLEANERS & TAILORING

860-526-4077
191 MIDDLESEX TURNPIKE, CHESTER
BRING IN THIS AD & GET 10% OFF DRY CLEANING

BARTON'S LANDSCAPING
Since 1989

Lawn Mowing & Maintenance
Patios & Walkways
Hydroseeding • Tree Work
Mulching & Plantings
Excavating

Brian Barton
189 Turkey Hill Road, Haddam, CT 06438
860-345-4052

PETER H. CHARBONNIER, ESQ., LLC
97 MAIN ST. • CHESTER, CT 06412
PETER@LAWFORLOCALS.COM
860-526-1780
WWW.LAWFORLOCALS.COM

Celebrating 20 Years in Chester!

I look forward to addressing your concerns in the following areas of law ...

REAL ESTATE:
Refinance • Purchase • Sale • Reverse Mortgage

SMALL BUSINESS:
Formation • Consulting • Purchase • Sale • Corporation • LLC

WILLS & PROBATE:
Probate Administration • Living Wills • Estate Planning

◆ PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1992 ◆

WIESE
Enterprises, llc.

Firewood
Cut, Split, Delivered

18 Leon Burr Road, Higganum, CT
Jack and Lisa • 860-345-2529

CROMWELL
COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES
AUTOMOTIVE

Middlesex Chamber
Business of the Year

263 Main St Cromwell, CT 06416

Emissions Testing
...Diesels TOO!

Auto Repairs
Auto Sales
Tires • Alignments
Monthly Specials

New & Used Snow Plows
Sales & Service
SnowDogs
#BOSS

(860) 613-2355

WWW.CROMWELLAUTOMOTIVE.COM

We Deliver **Now Hiring**

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

2021 Candidates Killingworth: Board of Finance

Continued from page HK5

many years and I work with refugee resettlement. I have a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, worked in a midsized public accounting firm for several years and then as Controller for Hunter's Ambulance, Inland Book Company, and TPA Books owner of Atticus Bookstores and Chabaso Bakeries. I have been a self-employed accountant for over 20 years. I am a proud mom to two sons and a dotting nana to a six year old grandson who is starting kindergarten in Rhode Island and four year old twins who live right here in town.

I have truly enjoyed these past four years working in a bipartisan manner for the good of the town. As a fiscal conservative I am extremely proud of keeping the mill rate stable and continuing to grow the general fund. A lean budget kept our town fiscally healthy while ensuring the town continued to operate at the highest level of efficiency even as we were challenged with a worldwide health crisis.

Important issues of the upcoming term will be the Economic Recovery Funds. Bipartisan representation of the Board of Finance is important to the oversight of this committee. Also, I feel it is important to address the repair and possible replacement of the aging Town Hall and Fire Stations. We should stay the course on maintaining our roads,

recreational facilities, and continue to fund at the highest level our social service organizations such as HKYFS, HK Recreation, Parmelee Farm, and the Library for the good of our townsfolk.

I love the rural nature and open space of our town. I love that neighbors help neighbors and when we have no power for days we can always count on each other for what we need. I especially appreciate all of the volunteer organizations-KWO, Helping Hands, HK Backpack Program, Killingworth Land Trust, Lion's Club-who work for the good of all townspeople.

I feel my financial background in both public and private accounting and four years of experience on the Board of Finance make me uniquely qualified for this position. I hope you will honor me with your vote for reelection on November 2.

Dave Miller (CP): U.S. Air Force-Vietnam era; graduated from Geneva College after military service; retired Captain of the KVFD; taught high school English then entered the business world of Fortune 500 companies performing various sales & marketing functions (Coca-Cola, Planters Peanuts, Peter Paul); Founded and sold a Graphic Arts supply business (10 Yrs); currently a school bus driver at HK (Region 17).

I am running to promote fiscal responsibility thereby stabilizing tax

rates in the town.

Important issues facing our town: Too high taxation covering property, schools & salaries in the town hall. These need to be cut at the expense of the few who are benefiting.

Killingworth is a beautiful rural residential living space with an admirable spirit of volunteerism in all sectors of town life.

Vote Conservative and save your hard earned dollars.

Todd Blewett (R): My wife, Eileen, and I first moved to town in 1997 because we fell in love with the rural setting and the "old fashioned" family values we found here. We raised 4 incredible children and put them through the HK school system K-12. Now adults, we find our kids scattered around the country and globe, but still well grounded in their values. Eileen and I love living in Killingworth and the friends we have made through the years.

Professionally, I have 30 years of successful Sales and Sale Management experience in the pharma/biotech sector. I studied Chemistry at the University of Connecticut and worked as a Chemist for a couple years following school.

There are two drivers for my decision to run. When my kids were young, I was active as a coach and Scout leader, but now I am looking for new ways to give back to the town. I am inspired by

Eileen who gives so much of her time to town and school board activities, as well as so many incredible friends in the KVFD and KAA.

In recent months, I have listened in on many Board of Finance meetings and one observation I made is that some long serving members of the Board actively discussed budget and spending issues without actually investigating these first hand. One example was purchasing some new equipment for the fire department. The Board debated this without actually going to the fire department to understand the impact of the outdated equipment. I can promise I will spend the town's money like it is my own, and personally look into expenditures to understand the cost and impact of spending verses not spending the money.

The town is approaching a critical juncture in our financial health. Delayed planning has left us with a badly neglected town hall in desperate need of repair, and a fire department building that also needs to be updated. We can no longer kick the can down the road on these issues. It is time for informed, well intentioned debate to find a plan to meets the needs of the town at a reasonable price point.

The town faces several capital needs that have been for ignored for years that now need to be addressed. Along with

Continued on page HK9



Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SERVING THE CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY
& SHORELINE SINCE 1964

Basic Workers' Compensation Myths Debunked

By Attorney Alexander J. Sarris

Myth #1 - I got injured at work but it was just an innocent accident and nobody did anything wrong so I should not pursue a workers' compensation claim.

Workers' compensation in Connecticut is a no-fault system. That means an injured worker has no obligation to show evidence of fault or negligence by the employer to pursue a workers' compensation claim. To the contrary, it is common for valid claims to be filed after an innocent accident regardless of whether the employer could have done anything to prevent the incident from taking place altogether.

Myth #2 - My work injury isn't too bad and I would only consider filing a claim if my condition worsened to the point where I cannot work at all.

While there are plenty of catastrophic work accidents that result in immediate and serious injuries to the worker, it is much more likely that an employee will suffer a work injury that may not keep him or her out of work entirely right away. In that scenario, it is actually worse to delay filing a claim - particularly if there has not been any medical treatment either - as the delay can increase the likelihood the claim is challenged.

Myth #3 - I don't think I should file a claim for my work injury because I don't want my health insurance premiums to go up or to be fired due to the claim.

Connecticut law requires companies conducting business within the state to carry workers' compensation insurance precisely for work injuries to its employees. This burden is carried by the employer - not the employee - and there are protections in place by law that subject an employer to legal consequences if it terminates the employment of one of its own workers for filing a workers' compensation claim.

If you have any questions regarding workers' compensation, please call **Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, P.C.** for a legal consultation.

WITH OFFICES CONVENIENTLY
LOCATED IN MIDDLETOWN & OLD SAYBROOK

CALL US TODAY FOR A CONSULTATION:

860-316-2741

www.dpapc.com



Largest Papyrus Card/Gift Store in Middlesex County



Stick
or
Treat



Walk up or Drive In Flu Clinic

Saturday, October 30th
9am-12pm

Flu vaccines & Sweet Treats

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

2021 Candidates Haddam Board of Finance

Continued from page HK4

home.

Having been a member of the Board of Finance in the past, I recognize its role in establishing a budget to present to the townspeople for consideration, one that will meet the needs for running the town successfully, at the same time being one which will not overburden the taxpayers. It will be a pleasure to work with other members of the Board and the administration, building the budget and monitoring spending throughout the year. Of equal importance, I recognize that addressing future needs requires good capital planning. I believe the Board of Finance has an important role in working with others, planning for positive growth within our town, and making sure that proposed accomplishments be carried out in a judicious way.

Haddam is a wonderful place to live. Even so, there are some issues that need addressing. Some of the issues facing our town include:

- maintaining and improving the great quality of our schools,
- protecting our environment and educating our residents, sometimes through recreational programs, about the benefits of caring for the environment,
- providing a community septic system in the village part of Higganum that will allow greater commercial development to service the needs of our residents,
- finding appropriate uses for the closed elementary school and other unused public facilities throughout town,
- planning for successful resilience of the Tylerville area over the next few years, as major construction and change goes on there,
- keeping our roads in safe travel condition, and
- encouraging economic development that is beneficial to the town and, importantly, to its tax base.

Several of the above items have been suggested to me by fellow residents. I find it important to listen to the ideas of others; they are generally serious concerns. As a Board of Finance member I believe I will be part of a group that, working together, can help with the budgeting process, one that will facilitate beneficial improvements for our town, the Haddam I call home.

When we moved to Higganum I loved the beauty of the town, its abundant forest area, and the beauty of the old house we moved into. As I became part of the school system, I came to love the children I taught, their families, and the staff with whom I worked. I

enjoyed having a village center where most of my day-to-day needs could be met. The friendliness of Haddam residents made me want to take part in making sure that things went well for us all. Indeed, I was amazed by knowing that so many townspeople volunteer in so many different ways, looking out for the health, safety and welfare of us all. I wanted to be, and still desire to be, an active participant of our town. I look forward to helping develop our town into one with an even better quality of life, the Haddam I call home.

It is a pleasure for me to seek to rejoin Haddam's Board of Finance for a two-year term. And I ask for your consideration and your vote in November.

Alternate – Full Term

Sandy Olsen (D): I am essentially a lifelong resident of Connecticut. For 2 years I attended University of Maine at Orono, while living on an organic farm homestead. I returned to Connecticut, and in 1980 I started working for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. After 33 years of state service, I retired in 2013.

I moved to Haddam in 2008 and in 2020 I agreed to fill a vacant position on the BOF. I believe it was and continues to be important for me to step forward to serve our town. As a current member of the BOF, I have been attending the BOF virtual meetings and will be attending future ones in person. I am continuing to learn how to be part of a team that oversees the financial processes for the town, and will continue to seek and implement cost savings measures when possible, and maintain overview of the current budget. It has been a pleasure working with First Selectman McGarry and the other Board of Finance members to prepare and review future budgets. Haddam has to have high quality services at affordable costs, and this is my goal as a BOF member.

I have always enjoyed the beautiful natural surroundings of our state and especially the Connecticut River Valley. My love of walking, hiking, kayaking, and gardening continually remind me how blessed we are to live here in this community.

Mark Lundgren (R): I currently serve as an Alternate to the Board of Finance and would like to continue.

My ongoing goal is to be the Fiscal Conservative Voice that resonates what the Citizens of Haddam want and need. I also serve on Haddam's Economic Development Commission and am the Secretary of Haddam Elderly Housing Corporation.

I am very concerned about the health of Tylerville businesses during the three years of construction coming

up. And more long term, the need for more elderly housing. I have no doubt that the Board of Finance will be asked to help, at some point, with both these issues along with the yearly budgets needed to run our Town smoothly.

I have over forty years of experience in the managing of our Town, small business and elderly housing. Please vote for me, better yet please vote for the entire Haddam Republican Team.

Alternate – Fill Vacancy for 2 years

Jenny Law (D): I grew up in Haddam in the 70's and 80's. After college, I lived in New York, Pennsylvania and California then returned to Haddam in 2017. I love the change of seasons, the hiking, the orchards, the opportunity my kids have to see where I grew up and the ability for them to go to school at Haddam-Killingworth.

I spent 30 years working in the apparel industry. Many think it's glamorous and there are fun aspects to it. But the day-to-day business is one where I had to work within strict cost margins in order to hit tight price points.

My jobs required working across departments and also with our suppliers in order to produce a good product while keeping all concerned happy. In my last apparel job I managed a department of ten technical designers. This required juggling a lot of schedules, keeping many personalities satisfied and often getting the job done using some creative solutions.

Currently I work at Brainerd Memorial Library at the adult circulation desk. I love interacting with our patrons. It's great to check in with people, learn about their experiences and of course, get them their materials. This past year and half during Covid has been especially challenging, but I have still connected with our patrons and hopefully kept them well supplied with books and media.

While living in California, my family survived the Great Recession through a combination of tenacity and disciplined budgeting. I know how to stretch money and spend it where needed, rather than on impulse. Having lived through a stressful financial time, I am circumspect when it comes to spending. While some expenditures are necessary, I will always fully consider the need.

Between when I left Haddam in 1988 and returned in 2017 I noticed that some things hadn't changed at all while of course, some things had. I don't recall having any pizzerias in 1989, so I view having a choice right here in Higganum Center a plus, especially coming from urban California where there seems to be infinite choice. Seriously though, in order for Haddam to grow and improve its mill rate, the town needs considered and intentional development. We have a fantastic natural setting, potential river access, great hiking trails and vacant buildings that could be utilized to help Haddam progress.

As an alternate for the Board of Finance, I bring native and outsider experience as well as a respect for budgets. I believe the Board benefits when its members come from various backgrounds and experiences. The Board also profits when new people join as those people bring a fresh perspective. I look forward to working with other members and helping to move Haddam forward.

Richard Wells Jr. (R): The reason I am running for Haddam BOF Alternate is I believe my qualifications are ideally suited to this role, as well as the fact that I have been very pleased to serve our town in this capacity during the past fiscal year.

I was a sales executive in the packaging, point of purchase display and supply chain industry for 38 years, retiring in 2018. Budgets and forecasts were a significant portion of sales administrative duties throughout my career so I found the BOF Alternate role to be familiar and intuitive. My desire to serve another term as a BOF Alternate dovetails well with a travel schedule that allows me to be available for most meetings, both web based and in-person.

Finally, as a Haddam resident since 1984, I very much enjoy serving our community in this capacity. It is a way to show gratitude for the outstanding living environment our town has provided to me and my family throughout the years.

WHEN IT COMES TO MEDICARE,
YOU HAVE CHOICES.

Are you or a loved one enrolling in Medicare this year?

Sign up today for an appointment at www.nutmegpharmacy.com or by calling your local Nutmeg Pharmacy.



Looking to schedule your 1st, 2nd or 3rd Covid Vaccination?

Call the Covid Hotline at 1-877-678-4455 or go to www.nutmegpharmacy.com and click the Covid-19 tab

2021 Candidates Killingworth: Board of Finance

Continued from page HK7

this, there is the on-going issue of PFAS in well water that will have an unknow financial impact to the town as well as those residents. It is time for some common sense planning.

Killingworth is a wonderful town to live in. Everyone is friendly and accepting of others. We have a wide range of outlooks and opinions, but we need to remember that after the impassioned debate is over these are friends, and we all want what is best for the town.

Tara Amatrudo (D): I am a lifelong Connecticut resident and have lived in Killingworth since 2013. My partner and I have 6 year old twins in 1st grade at KES. A teacher at heart, I have been in education for my entire career – 10 years as a special education teacher and 9 years as a school administrator. I have spent my last six years as a high school principal with a strong commitment to serving my school communities. I earned both my BA and MA in Special Education from Southern CT State University. I earned my 6th Year Professional Diploma in Educational Leadership from the University of Connecticut in 2012. In my personal time I enjoy going on backyard adventures with my children, reading in the sunshine, and tending to my chickens and other pets. I also like exercise, cooking, and home improvement projects.

While I have always appreciated the small-town essence of this community, I have grown to truly care about and rely on my neighbors and all the of the individuals who keep this town running. It's important to me to give back to this community that gives so much to me and my family. Service has always been an important value to me, and the opportunity to work alongside my neighbors to ensure the fiscal sustainability of our beautiful town is a responsibility that I would be honored to hold. Specific to this role, I believe I have a level of understanding of complex budget processes that will allow me jump right in to the work that needs to be done.

As our community begins to recover from the COVID pandemic, I know many residents will be concerned about our economic recovery and how it will impact them. We will need to work to ensure responsible use of our Economic Recovery Funds,

which should be overseen by a bipartisan committee that is able to listen to and represent the needs of our townfolk. While I would seek to continue to fund our social service organizations such as HKYFS, HK Recreation, Parmelee Farm, and the Library that our town has grown to heavily rely upon, I would do so in a manner that would allow us to hold steady on the maintenance of roads and recreational facilities and address the critical repair needs at the Town Hall and Fire Stations. As a taxpayer with the many financial pulls that come with having a young family, having a stable mill rate has been important to our financial wellbeing, and I would seek to maintain that rate into the future.

My partner and I were attracted to Killingworth's small-town sensibility and environmental beauty, and we continue to enjoy and appreciate the tranquility of the land we are so lucky to inhabit. Having access to undisturbed nature has brought wonder and joy to our lives daily since coming to town. Even more importantly to us is the connections we have made with our neighbors – whether chatting in the coffee line, sharing some fresh eggs, or borrowing a needed tool, I love the sense of knowing the folks around me. With my children now entering KES, I am excited for all of the new connections we are destined to make.

I feel that my experience as a high school principal gives me important expertise in managing a public budget that requires the highest degree of sustainability and fiscal responsibility as we manage multiple short and long-term priorities. Above and beyond all else, I have demonstrated a commitment to listening and understanding all my community members' needs and to ensuring the transparency of all budget decisions. With your vote on November 2nd, I would be honored to do the same for you.

Harvey Derosa (CP): I chose Killingworth for my home along with my family over 20 years ago. It was the right decision. It was my intention and plan to retire. My clients of over 40 years chose differently, I remain active in the financial and real estate management and consulting industry.

I am a graduate of the University of New Haven degreed in both business and finance.

I live in town with my wife Vickie, a nurse, ready to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Our two daughters are professionals. One is an educator, the

other is an attorney. My children followed my lead in providing services that can guide people in positive directions with the excitement of an inherited work ethic.

I have been asked and agreed to be a candidate for a seat on the finance board for a number of reasons. We are amidst many new changes in federal and state methods of governance. These challenges will soon precipitate to increased costs at each level.

Ultimately, increased costs will reach the level of local governments and put a major strain on municipal attempts at equitable financial management.

All of us run our households on a budget, sometimes, not always, there is some money left over that we can save, reallocate or spend.

Killingworth finances are on an annual proposed budget for the town including the education department. The items in each department's proposed budget are in no way fixed, each department's budget can vary.

In extreme cases weather, snow storms or catastrophes can cause the need for a budget amendment, but what happens if proposed budget items are not stressed? What happens to the excess funding within the budget?

Are managers who are able to operate under budget returning excess funding to be reallocated or added to the town's reserves? Probably not.

Are department administrators acknowledged for cost control, advanced labor and equipment utilization? Probably not.

The effects of increased financial management techniques can and will provide benefits. Each municipal department, educational system, town employees and taxpayers can reap the benefits of operational cost awareness and savings reassignment without the need to default to just raising taxes.

Voting has consequences. It has been proven over and over again.

With your help and your vote I look forward to being able to serve the residents of Killingworth and offer proven ideas and approaches to how our town is financed. My commitment to our residents is sincere.

Sara O'Brien (R): Originally from Western Pennsylvania, I moved to Killingworth after graduating from Quinnipiac Law School in 2017. I

Continued on page HK10

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



2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Brainerd Library to host virtual candidate forum for First Selectman candidates

By Kent Jarrell

The Brainerd Memorial Library in Haddam is sponsoring a Candidate Forum for the two candidates for the office of First Selectman of Haddam: Republican incumbent Robert McGarry and Democrat Sean Donlan. This will be a virtual event. Scheduled for Thursday morning, October

21, 2021, the forum will be moderated by Library Director Tom Piezzo and Library Trustee Kent Jarrell, who is a former Washington D.C. journalist. The forum will be taped and be immediately made available for public viewing on the internet. HK-Now will provide a link to video footage of the forum once it becomes available.

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



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

David Scovel
Higganum
Free Estimates
Insured

Hate Dirty Windows?
We Love 'em!

Window Cleaning
Power Washing
Roof Cleaning
Solar Panel Cleaning

860.301.2807
david@ICanDoWindows.com

I Can Do Services, LLC

2021 Candidates Killingworth: Board of Finance

Continued from page HK9

practiced as a litigator for approximately two years before transitioning to an in-house counsel position with UnitedHealthcare's privacy legal team. My husband, Dan O'Brien (a Killingworth native and volunteer firefighter), and I enjoy working on home improvement projects, gardening, and making maple syrup with our friends at the Welter Farm. I also have a passion for cooking, especially experimenting with new ingredients and recipes. Growing up in a small farming community, I learned self-sufficiency, creativity, and the value of a community. While I have only been a resident of Killingworth for four years, the peaceful, welcoming nature of this town has made it feel like home.

Since moving to Killingworth, I have been involved with several organizations at the state and local level. As a member of the Connecticut Bar Association, I have served on the Young Lawyers Section Executive Committee for four years and currently hold the position of Treasurer within the organization. Here in town, I served for two years on the Killingworth Land Conversation Trust Board of Directors, and currently I am an active member of the Killingworth Republican Town Committee and of the Killingworth Women's Organization. I have also been appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve on the Economic Recovery

Committee.

I am excited and eager to hold a position on the Board of Finance. As a member, I will keep my focus on the people of this town by maintaining open lines of communication to understand the needs and desires of constituents. Killingworth is funded by the tax dollars of its hardworking residents, and I believe everyone deserves to be proud of and benefit from the allocation of those funds. I believe that every one of us has made the choice to make this town our home, and that our local government should be supporting that choice with every decision it makes. As an elected member of the Board of Finance, I will continue to encourage and support the good works of this town (both paid and volunteer) and to serve the best interests of all towns people.

Our town is currently on the road to recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, through which we have learned a lot as individuals and as a community. This is our chance to change. We need to balance the need of providing quality services to our town, while ensuring responsible spending habits, whether internal or contracted, paid or volunteer. Having seen transfer stations in other towns, ours is certainly one of the most user friendly and accessible; however, our model could be revised to better support town users and limit overall costs. Additionally,

our town continues to face issues of public health and safety, which will need funding to support reconciliation, including addressing those residential wells affected by PFAS and the increase in local criminal activity.

This town is truly a community. In my experience as a resident of this town, regardless of beliefs, political affiliation, personal/professional background, we all share a common goal: to make this town a better place. Everyone I have met in this town has a passion, whether it be for providing a place for others to gather for an event or meal, offering assistance to those in need, preserving the history and conservation of land, or educating our youth. This diverse set of interests, skills, and opinions is what encourages our continued growth and inherent strength as a community.

Party affiliation should not be a line in the sand. This election isn't about party; it's about protecting our freedoms, supporting our residents, and ensuring everyone's safety. Regardless of your affiliation, regardless of who you vote for, please be sure to come out and vote on November 2nd. Your voice and opinion counts, and it begins at the polls.

Ray Szumilas (CP): I bought a piece of property in Killingworth in 1998 with my wife at the time. We general contracted the building of the house. Using my various skills in the trades we were able to move in in 2000 with a good percentage of equity. I learned a great deal of how to deal with contractors and the town.

We had two sons, Aleksander and Oliver, who have lived in Killingworth their whole lives. I am a five year member of the vestry at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Killingworth. I am a former USPTA certified instructor. I keep active and volunteered in Little League when my sons played baseball.

I am now the sole property owner and wish to be able to keep my home as long

as it's affordable to live in Killingworth.

To that end I want to get involved with the board of finance. While I am not a CPA or tax lawyer I fully understand how the taxes affect my quality of life. I can bring a more pragmatic approach to spending other people's money that, in the past, has seemed to not have been a consideration at all times. For example, the push to buy the Venuti property, that would have brought virtually no return on the money spent.

I believe public funds should be treated with the same caution as personal finances and there should always be a check on unnecessary spending.

The main reason for Killingworth's high property taxes is the lack of tax base. The majority of taxes come from residential property leaving each home owner to question what they get in return. Killingworth has no paid police or fire department. We have no refuse collection. So, it always brings up the question of what we get for our high taxes. I understand that the school budget is about 83% of the budget. There is very little to cut in the way of the town budget. However, allowing the tax base to increase with some commercial investment would help alleviate the burden to homeowners. And, as always, keeping an eye on the money the taxpayer has entrusted to the local government is the top priority. I am not for adding large manufacturing or commercial sites.

I enjoy living in Killingworth because I like the quietness of the town. Killingworth has always been family oriented, making it a stable place to live.

I hope to bring my belief that public monies should be treated the same as my personal finances – that any money spent must be always at the advantage of the "owner" – the Killingworth taxpayer.



HIGGANUM HARDWARE

Now isn't the time to Fall behind on your landscaping. We are fully stocked up on rakes, bags, grass seed and plenty of lawn care essentials! Not only that, we have plenty of pest control products to keep your home pest free.

On Oct. 23rd and Oct. 24th we are giving sugar pumpkins with every purchase as long as supplies last. Bring the kids and pick out a good one. Propane still available at \$3.29/gallon.

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

Is your organization holding an event?
Let us help spread the word!

Write to us at:
 HK-NowEditors@Outlook.com

all about blinds
 Custom Window Treatments

SHUTTERS - SHADES - DRAPERIES
FREE MEASUREMENTS and CONSULTATION
 allaboutblindsct.com 860-267-8330 East Hampton, CT



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 rieboldsanitationllc.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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, October 21

Mystery Book Club KW Library 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Join us as we discuss *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger.

Haddam P&Z Meeting 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 23

Paper Shredding Event 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Essex HHW Facility, Essex, CT Route 9 Exit 4

Meandering in the Meadows - Brainerd Memorial Library 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Call at 860-345-2204 or email library@brainerdlibrary.org

Saturday Story Time Killingworth Library 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Register 860-663-2000

Monday, October 25

Killingworth ZBA Meeting (remote) 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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

HVFC Auxiliary Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 439 Saybrook Road. Members will finalize plans for their November 7th Vendor Fair.

Tuesday, October 26

Tuesday Tech Time Killingworth Library 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Register in advance.

Killingworth Economic Recovery Comm. Meeting (remote) 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 27

Wiggle Wednesday - Killingworth Library 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Ages: walking toddlers through age 5. Register 860-663-2000

Sacred Heart spiritual book study (Oct. 6 - Nov. 3) 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 194 Candlewood Hill Rd., Higganum, CT 06441.

Haddam Conservation Comm. Meeting 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Haddam Sustainability Meeting 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Haddam Conservation Comm. Meeting 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 28

Haddam ZBA Meeting 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

CARTOON



Love is in the Air
www.redshedstudios.com

OBITUARIES

William A. Distefano, 72, of Higganum, beloved husband of Angela (Fortuna) Distefano, passed away on Tuesday October 5, 2021.

Kelly Family ORTHODONTICS
Gillian R. Kelly, DMD, MSD
Michael T. Kelly, DMD, MS

THINKING ABOUT BRACES OR INVISALIGN?

Now you can find out what your options are, directly from your phone with our VIRTUAL CONSULT!



SUPPORT YOUR local HADDAM ORTHODONTISTS

MIDDLETOWN OFFICE 561 Saybrook Road
Middletown, CT 06457
860.346.9259

CROMWELL OFFICE 26 Shunpike Road
Cromwell, CT 06416
860.635.2675

WWW.KELLYFAMILYORTHO.COM
office@kellyfamilyortho.com

Smiles FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Inventories on wood, gas & pellet stoves, inserts & fireplaces are LOW! There is a shortage of raw materials to manufacture these supplemental heating products. If you are considering purchasing supplemental heat sources to reduce your oil and electric prices, start the process now!

A 50% deposit now will lock in prices and secure product/installation for you.



FIREWORKS
HEARTH & HOME

112 BRIDGE RD
HADDAM, CT 06438
860 345-4221

Wood, Gas, Pellet, Inserts, Stoves & Fireplaces
Sales, Service, Chimney Cleanings, Masonry Work & MORE!

Why go it alone?



Residents Enjoy:

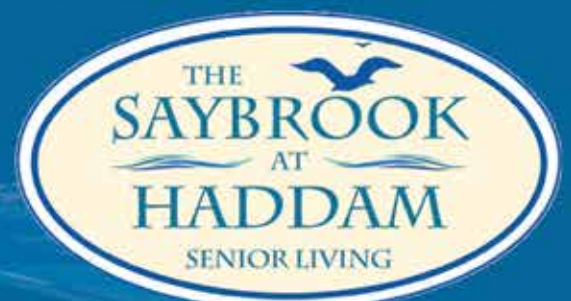
- 3 chef-prepared meals daily
- Social activities
- Exercise programs
- 24/7 nursing staff
- Transportation

Families Enjoy:

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

Featuring studio, one and two-bedroom units. Please call 860-345-0090 for availability or to schedule your tour.

CONNECTICUT'S PREMIER SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY
1556 Saybrook Road, Haddam
TheSaybrookAtHaddam.com



HVFC Welcomes Marc Perras into regular company



Marc Perras, HVFC. Photo by Olivia Drake, HVFC

By Olivia Drake, HVFC

HVFC welcomes Marc Perras to our regular membership! Marc previously served as a HVFC Junior Division Member. He was sworn in on Oct. 4. The Junior Division is comprised of 14- to 17-year-old cadets who learn alongside firefighters

and perform support functions at calls. The company accepts up to 10 Junior Members at any given time. Juniors receive training and protective turnout gear. Once a Junior member is 18—like Marc—he or she has the opportunity to join the regular membership. Welcome Marc!

KVFC

KVFC Auxiliary Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

By J. Clemente, KVFC

Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary is hosting a fundraiser: Krispy Kreme original glazed doughnuts for \$10/dozen!

Preorder your doughnuts by texting Kathy at 860-304-1840 by October 31, 2021, and pick up Election Day (Nov. 2, 2021) at Killingworth Elementary School (KES) between 8:00 a.m. to noon.

HEALTH

Health and Wellness Fair Thank You!

By Marie Field

The Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation, Inc., together with the Polish Falcons of America Nest 519, would like to say thank you to all the local community members and participating agencies and businesses that attended the Health and Wellness Fair on Tuesday, 9/28/21 in Middletown. We were so glad to see that the rain, with some heavy downpours, did not stop people from attending the event. It was an incredible evening of sharing local resources and services of traditional and alternative wellness opportunities, with live demonstrations and interesting and upbeat talks. By the end of the evening, the general sentiment was to make this an annual event; I agree!

Shop Local *in Tylerville*



River's Edge
Home Center

Gianna & Lou Milardo

100 Bridge Road, Haddam, CT 06438
860-345-8453 • info@RiversEdgeHomeCenter.com
RiversEdgeHomeCenter.com

WE CARRY THE QUALITY BRANDS YOU WANT!
Cabinets • Vanities • Countertops
Carpet • Hardwood • Tile • Vinyl
All things remodeling!

**Follow us on
Facebook &
Instagram**

Middletown Toyota

Your Toyota Headquarters.



**TOYOTA 2021
TACOMA-TRD
SPORT**



**TOYOTA 2021
VENZA-XLE**

2 years or 25,000 miles free service with any new Toyota
Bring in this ad for a \$700 discount!

Middletown TOYOTA

"The People Pleasers"

634 Newfield Street, Middletown • 860-347-7294 • MiddletownToyota.com

We Speak English, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Pakistani & Arabic
Sales: M-Th 9-8:30, F 9-6, Sat 9-5
Service: M-Th 7-7, F 7-5, Sat 7-2



TOYOTA
Let's Go Places



I LOVE My Middletown
TOYOTA

Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is hosting a Shop and Sip Preview Night on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, to kick off the Holiday Village at ReStore pop-up shop.



ReStore

Holiday Village at ReStore will feature a wide range of holiday decorations, including 25th Anniversary Middlesex Habitat for Humanity ornaments by Woodbury Pewter and an exclusive candle by Get Lit Candle & Co.

The pop-up shop, featured inside Cromwell ReStore, will run from November 3 through December 31, 2021.

Ticket Cost: \$25 General Admission, \$50 VIP

Purchase tickets at - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/166809494689>

Tickets will not be available at the door.

The fun and festivities will feature: Refreshments | Music | Cotton Tote Bag

VIP Guests will also receive the exclusive, small-batch, handcrafted & poured, environmentally friendly candle by Get Lit Candle & Co and Event T-shirt

Sponsored By:




Essex Savings Bank | O,R&L Commercial, LLC | Valerie Ann Votto, LLC | Bogaert Construction Co., Inc. | Carlson's Landing Restaurant
David Evangelisti & Dan Taylor-Stypa | New Haven Middlesex Association of Realtors

Cromwell ReStore
Located @ Cross Roads Plaza
34 Shunpike Road, Cromwell
Hours: Wed-Sat 10am-4pm

Holiday décor donations are still being accepted at the ReStore Cromwell Wed - Sat, 11 am - 2 pm. Donation pick-up service is available for large items. For questions or to schedule a pick-up, call 860.398.6488.