

# Haddam Killingworth News

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

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October 28, 2021

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Free weekly

## A night to remember: KAA celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Clark Judge

The Killingworth Ambulance Association held its annual banquet Sunday night, and nothing new there. It holds one every October. Except this was unlike anything before, mostly because of what it celebrated.

Its 50th anniversary.

The Killingworth Ambulance Association began in February, 1971, when a group of concerned citizens met at the local elementary school to form an emergency response team of volunteers.

Fifty years later, at least three of those persons – including the KAA's first president, Charlie Smith – took part in three hours of dinner, awards and speeches that commemorated the historic occasion at Deer Lake.

There were proclamations from Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz.

First Selectwoman Cathy Iino was there. So was a trove of past and present EMTs and board members, some dressed in KAA uniforms. There was live music, a pizza truck (Grand Apizza in Madison), beverage truck (The Bar Cart CT, LLC), hors d'oeuvres, desserts (the Sweet Baker) and a 15-minute video documenting the history of the

Ironically, it was Deer Lake that once was the site of combined picnics for the KAA and Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company nearly three decades ago.

"Everything was top-notch," Smith said of Sunday's event. "It recognized those people who should be recognized for all of their years of service – including the numbers of runs they make over

the course of a year, as well as the other nameless duties they do that no one is aware of."

Front and center was Don McDougall, who first volunteered for the KAA in 1971 and who, at the age of 87, is still an active board member. Joined by 12 members of his extended family, he was the recipient of state

proclamations read by Iino, gifts from the KAA, a congratulatory cake (vanilla, McDougall's favorite, with butter cream frosting) and a standing ovation from all those in attendance.

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(L-R) Lisa Anderson, Dan O'Sullivan, James Fretz.



Don McDougall, with extended family.  
Photos by Clark Judge.

KAA, as told by those who were there.

What's more, the celebration was staged inside Deer Lake's post-and-beam dining hall, a 5,000-square foot structure that more than accommodated the 70-80 persons who attended.

## HKHS finish Dual Meet season undefeated (107-0 since 2014)

By Matt Diglio, Coach

On Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021, the Haddam Killingworth High School Boys and Girls Cross Country teams traveled to East Hampton High School to compete in the Shoreline Mega against the rest of the schools in the conference.

Going into the meet with an unblemished dual meet record, the boys cross country squad once again finished the season undefeated with a 15-0 record on the season. This is the 8th consecutive undefeated season for the boys as they have compiled a record of 107-0 since 2014. Once again the boys team ran a tactical team race over the challenging 3.1 mile course. They defeated Hale Ray by a score of 15-50, beat Cromwell 15-50, defeated East Hampton 20-43, beat Portland 21-40 and beat Old Saybrook 20-43.

H-K boys ran as a pack at the front of the race

and were led by Alex Lara, Caleb Freeman, Tyler Robinson and Andrew Hedges who all crossed the line together in a time of 19:07 in places 4th thru 7th. Freshman Jack Cozean and Colton Merola rounded out the scoring by placing 9th and 10th overall in the race.

The girls team improved their dual meet record



Alex Lara, Caleb Freeman, Tyler Robinson and Andrew Hedges running down the final straightaway.

on the afternoon as they won four of the dual meets to finish the season with a 13-2 record. The Cougars defeated Morgan 15-50, beat Coginchaug 15-48, defeated Old Saybrook 22-38, beat Portland 24-33, but lost to East Hampton by a score of 27-28.



Kira O'Brien and Margaret Robinson running through the trails. Photos courtesy of Yvette and John Minervino.

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# A night to remember: KAA celebrates 50th Anniversary

Continued from page HK1

“Fifty years,” said the KAA’s Chief of Service Mike Haaga, “and to be still active at his age?”

Amazing. It’s great he has such a dedication to the town that he does.”

After he was honored, McDougall was approached by Smith.

“Fifty years,” Smith said. “That’s remarkable.”

McDougall bowed his head, then started to laugh.

“It was easy,” he said. “But the next 50 might be hard.”

Among others recognized Sunday were EMTs James Fretz, Dan O’Sullivan and Lisa Anderson, the top three responders from October, 2020-September, 2021. Fretz answered the most calls, with over 130 of the 459 responses, followed by O’Sullivan and Anderson, in that order.

That, too, was exceptional: First of all, because Anderson answered the most calls the past two years, including an astounding 207 in 2019-20; and, second, because Fretz is a first-year EMT, certified in August, 2020.

“How unusual is that?” Haaga said of Fretz. “I’ve had others in their first years finish in the top three. But first? I can’t remember it happening before.”

Fretz and wife Mary Robbenhaar-Fretz, who became an EMT in 2019, are members of the KAA’s board of directors and often respond to emergencies together. The two are on call from Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. but sometimes respond when others are unavailable.

In short, they’re everything the KAA was meant to be when it was formed. Considering the persons involved, that’s no surprise: Mary’s mother and father were EMTs, as well as members of the board of directors, who answered calls as a team one to two



KAA Members.

nights a week.

“James is amazingly dedicated,” said O’Sullivan, the KAA’s president. “In addition to covering two days a week with Mary, he often is filling in to make a complete crew on all other days of the week and all hours of the day. He is critical to our great response percentage, especially in light of the increasing load of calls we’re responding to.”

According to O’Sullivan, responses jumped from 277 in 2017-18 to 459 in 2020-21, an increase of 66 percent in just three years. Fifty years ago, there were fewer than 50.

“This,” said Smith, surveying Sunday night’s crowd, “is a good example of people in the community pulling for each other to make something last because it’s worthwhile. And that’s something you

think about when you’re doing the planning.

“But you don’t think about it 50 years from now. You just think about the next day. First, it’s buying that Cadillac (to become the first ambulance). And the next day it’s making sure all our drivers are EMS certified. And the day after that it’s putting up the building. And the next step after that is to make sure professionalism is carried through generation after generation. It’s a lot like raising child.”

But this child is so grown up that, 50 years later, Killingworth literally can’t live without it.

“There were lulls in staffing,” Smith said in the video that ended the evening, “and there were lulls in funding at certain points. But we recovered. And look where we are now, baby.”

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# Chamber to host virtual addiction webinar series

By Sierra Lopez

(Middletown, CT.) Chairwoman, Maureen Westbrook of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce announced that the Middlesex Chamber will be hosting a free virtual addiction webinar series, "Facing the Holidays II."

The addiction webinar series will be held virtually on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

This virtual webinar on addiction will be presented by the Chamber's Recovery Employment

Program (REP), Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council (MCSAAC) and the Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS).

Join our presenters for a discussion on the effects people in recovery face during the holidays. Topics such as depression, alcohol consumption, family dynamics, coping through the day, and the effects people face when they're first released from prison will be discussed. This information will ultimately help those that struggle with addiction have a drug-free or alcohol-free holiday.

Presenters:

- Harry Burr – Brown and Brown Insurance
- Peter Faulk – Sober World
- Reverend Robyn Anderson – Ministerial Health Fellowship
- Daryl McGraw – Formerly Incarcerated
- Reverend Robin Ross – How Can We Help

To register for this free educational webinar, visit [www.middlesexchamber.com](http://www.middlesexchamber.com).

## HADDAM TOWN NEWS

### Haddam First Selectmen forum now available online

By Kent Jarrell

The Candidate Forum for the two candidates for the office of First Selectman of Haddam, Republican incumbent Robert McGarry and Democrat Sean Donlan, was taped on Thursday morning October 21, 2021 and is now available online and will also be shown on Valley Shore Community Television.

The Forum was sponsored by Brainerd Memorial Library and moderated by Library Director Tom Piezzo and Library Trustee Kent Jarrell, who is a former Washington D.C. journalist. Questions were compiled for the candidates from comments from members of the Haddam community and a review of

issues facing the town.

Issues discussed included the town budget, taxes, green initiatives, the Higganum Community Sewer Project, town ownership of property, and the candidate's vision for Haddam.

The video of the Forum can be found at the Library's website at <https://brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org/>. Valley Shore Community Television will air the video on cable (Comcast channel 19-Frontier TV channel 6089) and offers on-demand access at Haddam First Selectman Candidate Forum 2021 (cablecast. tv) or by using the Cablecast Screenweave App for Roku, Apple TV, and Fire TV.

## GIRLS SOCCER 2021

### HKHS and Morgan tie 1-1

By Mike Shea, Coach

Morgan High School brought their undefeated soccer record to Haddam-Killingworth High School on Monday, Oct. 18, 2021.

Eight minutes into the game, Morgan's Eve Gardner scored to put Morgan up 1-0. The score would remain through the first half. In the second half, the Cougars showed who they are, putting more pressure on the Morgan and getting more scoring opportunities. Fifteen

minutes into the second half, Leah Chester passed to Hadley Commerford to tie the score at 1-1. Both teams provided a good battle having to give up to clock, as time ran out.

In goal for HK was Brianna Nugent, who made seven saves. Morgan had Angelina Comiskey in goal who made 10 saves.

HK moves to a record of 6-4-3 and Morgan moves to 9-0-5.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

### Thursday, October 28

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

### Friday, October 29

Spooky Riddle Walk at Killingworth Library: Friday, October 29th 10:00 a.m.-noon and from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; and Saturday, October 30th from 10:00 a.m.-noon. Register in advance.

### Saturday, October 30

Household Hazardous Waste Collection 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. HHW Facility, Essex, CT Rt 9 Exit 4  
Saturday Story Time KW Library 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday, October 31

**28th Annual HKYFS Pumpkin Run**  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 10:45 a.m. Kids Fun RaceHKHaddam  
For info : [www.jbsports.com/hk-pumpkin-run](http://www.jbsports.com/hk-pumpkin-run)

### Tuesday, November 2 ELECTION DAY

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

### Wednesday, November 3

Wiggle Wednesday – Killingworth Library 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Toddlers. Register 860-663-2000

Sacred Heart spiritual book study 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 194 Candlewood Hill Rd., Higganum, CT 06441.

### Thursday, November 4

Haddam P&Z Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Killingworth Parmelee Farm Comm. Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Haddam Park & Rec. Meeting 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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

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# 2021 Candidates for Haddam Board of Selectmen

We reached out and asked candidates to respond to a set of questions; if a candidate did not respond, their name is listed, so that you know who is running for each office. 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?

## Candidates for First Selectman

**Bob McGarry (R):** I've been honored to serve as your First Selectman for the last two years. And what a two years it has been! Taking a new job is always challenging; there's so much to learn. And if that wasn't enough, the pandemic made everything more exciting.



Bob McGarry (R)

Most of you know I'm a retired Coast Guard Commander and have been a leader delivering government services my entire adult life. I've worked at the federal, state and local government levels. My wife Vivienne and I live in Haddam Neck. We own Cold Goats Farm, raising sheep and Angora goats. Vivienne has taken over most of the day-to-day farm operations to allow me the time I need to be First Selectman.

I believe in giving back to the community. I've been a member of the Haddam Neck Fire Department for 24 years and served as its Chief for 19 years. I'm one of the Haddam Neck Fair Directors, served on the Board of Finance for three years and volunteered with the East Hampton Ambulance Association.

I'm seeking a second term because I have the depth and breadth of experience needed to address the issues we face. I'm proud of what has been accomplished during my first term but there's still more I'd like to get done.

The revitalization of Higganum Center – I said this was a critical issue when I ran for office two years ago. It still is and will likely remain one for years to come. We've made considerable progress. We developed an innovative concept plan for the community septic system on the HES grounds to serve Higganum Center. The plan was approved by the state agencies that regulate septic systems – DEEP and the Department of Public Health (DPH). The septic system falls under the much less stringent DPH regulations and we received a \$128,000 grant from DPH to design the system. We just selected the engineering firm, Jacobson and Associates, to do the design. I expect we'll have the design by the end of the year. We have a purchase and sale agreement with the Rossi Lumber Co for their property. The environmental analysis of the property is wrapping up and the Rossi is doing the remediation. There is a local business interested in purchasing approximately two acres of the property along Saybrook Road for retail development. We used a state grant to fund an environmental analysis of the Scovil Hoe property that is currently owned by the state. We've applied for a \$1.8 million clean-up grant from the state which we're likely to get. We have interest from a successful developer to partner with us. (A town meeting is required to approve the purchase of either property when we get to that point.) The Higganum Cove is going to be a key piece to draw people to the center. We've spent a lot of time and money to clear out brush and improve access to it.

Our infrastructure– In the last two years we've made significant improvements to our infrastructure but there's still more to do. I've already talked

about the community septic at HES. We've made impressive progress with our roads. We've done major drainage work on and paved eight miles of roads, chip sealed four miles, and paved four gravel roads (two miles). Paving the gravel roads has the bonus of getting us more funding from the state each year for road maintenance. Design work is completed for the work on Candlewood Hill Road by the state garage and work should start on that next year. The Dublin Hill bridge was completed and the Tylerville water project is essentially complete with only one residence and one business left to connect. We received state funding and are proceeding with the repair of the weakened culvert on Beaver Meadow Road. The design is done for the Bridge Road sidewalks, we have the easements we need from the residences and businesses and will put the project out to bid soon for construction



Sean Donlan (D)

next year. The same is true for the Haddam Center sidewalks on Saybrook Road.

Viv and I love Haddam. We find its natural beauty very calming in our hectic lives and something we need to protect. It was a great place to raise our children in large part due to the quality of the schools and the recreational opportunities. We enjoy family friendly events like the Haddam Neck Fair and River Days and enjoy seeing the community come together to make those events happen.

Two years ago, I told you my top priority was to reduce the divisiveness we were experiencing. One of the first things I did was contact the Haddam Bulletin and open communications with them. That was the first of many steps. My fellow selectmen, Sean and Kate, deserve credit as well for their efforts. I knew we succeeded when someone told me "Town government is boring now. There's no drama; you're just quietly getting things done." I hope you agree we've made progress in this and in many areas. Respectfully, I ask for your vote.

**Sean Donlan (D):** I am married to Kristin K. Donlan and have three children: Emma 21, Andrew 19 and Kate 15. I own my own law firm with an office in Old Saybrook. I have a strong belief in serving my community and have followed through with that belief as listed below:

Haddam Board of Selectman 2007- 2009, 2011-2013, 2013-2015 and 2015 to 2017; Haddam Democratic Town Committee 2002 to present; Chairperson of the Haddam Democratic Town Committee 2010 to 2016; Vice Chairperson of Haddam Democratic Town Committee 2007 to 2010; Elected and served on the Haddam Board of Finance 2005-2007; Served on Haddam Economic Development Commission 2002-2005; Served as Chairman of the Haddam Commission on Wages and Salaries of Elected Officials 2006; Served on Haddam Charter Revision Commission 2004. Massachusetts National Guard from 1996 until 2000; Knights of Columbus 2007 to present – Received Honor of Fourth Degree in the Knights of Columbus in 2013; Haddam Lions' Club 2002 to present; Higganum Sportsmen's Club 2004 to 2013; Middlesex County and Connecticut Bar Associations 1998-present; Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association; Board of Director Haddam Little League 2010-2015; H-K Recreational CAT USA swim President 2010-2012; Haddam Little

League Coach 2005-2017; H-K Recreation Girl's and Boy's Basketball Coach 2005-2017; 2009-2013; H-K Recreation Soccer Coach 2005-2017; H-K Travel Girl's and Boy's Basketball Coach 2014-present.

The First Selectman is the most important elected position in our Town's government because the First Selectman sets the agenda and tone for moving Haddam forward. In order to achieve the collective goals that all us residents have for Haddam in the near and distant future the First Selectman must be a proactive forward-thinking leader that finds or makes a way to get it done. Without aggressive action the First Selectman is relegated to a position of reacting and defending and we as residents lose control of our future and are at the whim of outsider developing our town for their best interest. I have spent my entire career advocating and protecting my clients and ask for your vote to continue to do the same for all of us in Haddam.



Kate Anderson (R)

The financial burden onto the homeowner taxpayer has been a major issue in Haddam and as the Town and Educational budgets continue to grow this issue is becoming more important. We must identify secluded low impact areas in town to create an industrial area to attract businesses shifting the tax burden away from homeowner. As

First Selectman I will not continue to look at the same obvious locations in Haddam, instead will find potential locations by being creative, working with the State officials and making this a reality. The quality of life in Haddam is not befitting the quality of our residents. When you ask yourself 'what do I get for our taxes?' you should be able to easily answer that question. Haddam does not provide nearly enough programs, fields, parks or activity options instead relying on the regional school system and Killingworth for the same which puts the existence of these options out of our control. The center of Haddam is potentially going through some major changes and making the correct decisions is vital as these decisions will impact the future of Haddam center for decades. As First Selectman this will be a priority and I will advocate that the center of Haddam resembles what all of us as residents want and not leave it to a developer to decide.

I am incredibly happy my wife and I chose Haddam to raise our family. The people in Haddam are fantastic, such an incredibly talented, loyal and caring community that is just waiting for an opportunity to come together make their own contribution. Haddam's location and natural beauty is extraordinary. We can walk out our doors and enjoy an environment and space that others drive hours to enjoy.

This is an important election as Haddam must take control of our future. I ask for your vote and your confidence to lead and advocate for you and to work with you to keep Haddam such an amazing place to live for another lifetime of residents. Thank you for your consideration.

## Candidates for Selectman:

**Sean Moriarty (D):** I have been a Higganum resident for over 30 years. I am married to Tanya Buzzi Moriarty and have grown children, Erin and Christopher, both educated in the H-K school system., I have served as a basketball coach for the Haddam Recreation Department and referee for its soccer league. I also coached boys and girls Haddam-Killingworth Travel Basketball teams.

I began public service when I joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 1985 as a Military Policeman. I served in the Middle East during the Persian Gulf War in 1990. I was hired at the Middletown Police

*Continued on page HK6*



# 2021 Candidates for Killingworth Board of Selectmen

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- What are the key things you love about this town and its people?
- Additional thoughts to leave voters with?

## Candidates for First Selectman

**Nancy Gorski (R):** My husband Les and I relocated from Buffalo, NY to Killingworth in 1999. We have two grown daughters. We hosted the Killingworth Lights Spectacular with the Killingworth Women's Organization for 10 years, decorating our home with thousands of lights and welcoming local residents into our yard to enjoy the lights, cookies and hot cocoa provided by the KWO.

Professionally, I worked in the pharmaceutical industry for nearly 40 years, retiring in June of 2020. I became active in town politics in 2005. I served six years on the Board of Education, eight years on the Board of Finance, and two years as Selectman. I am currently serving on the Charter Revision and Conservation Commissions.

Based on my background and previous experience in town, I felt that I had something of value to offer the taxpayers of Killingworth. Now that I am retired, I also have the time to do just that.

**Public health and safety:** We need to address the concerns of residents with impacted wells from PFAS, work with the state to identify a source, and implement a plan to remediate it. Additionally, with an increase in crime in CT and in our area, we need to work closely with the resident state trooper to learn what can be done to protect not only our residents, but our local businesses.

Our family made the decision to settle in Killingworth in 1999 after recognizing what a beautiful area it is. We've also come to love the spirit of its residents. We have so many volunteers and see neighbors helping neighbors all the time.

I plan to meet with as many townspeople and stakeholders as possible between now and the election. I welcome every resident's input as this is every resident's town.

**John Samperi (CP):** Hello. I am the First Selectman candidate endorsed by the Killingworth Conservative Party. I am in my 16th year as a Killingworth resident. I have a wonderful blended family life with wife, Deborah, children, Kimberly, Daniel, Bethany & Kelly, and my grandchildren, Simon & Rory Brown, who both went to the Regional 17 school system from kindergarten through high school. (Thank you to all the great teachers they had, despite the last two years being very trying). My daughter Bethany and her two boys live in Killingworth. I graduated West Haven High in 1972 and received various trade accreditations and certificates of continuing education. I have owned my own business since 1988, I am an HVAC contractor.

I am enjoying my 50th year as a registered Republican, I voted for President Nixon, or as Charlie Morgan would say, Tricky Dick. My civic involvement includes serving as a lifetime member of the NRA, a Connecticut Farm Bureau associate, founder of the West Haven Land Trust, and an open space activist. I coached youth football, girls and boys soccer, and umpired for the ASA Men's Softball League.

After watching the other First Selectman candidate just sit there and do nothing for 16 years I believe that is long enough to serve and accomplish nothing. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that I will do a better job at the First Selectman's position than the other candidate in the race. I've been able to cut the mill rate in my Fire Commissioners seat by three mills and increased productivity and did not have one death in the fire district and I maintained that 3 mill rate decrease for the 4 years that I served. Also, as a Councilman-at-Large I represented 54,000 people and was responsible for over a \$100m budget

stop working for what I believe in.

I will always put others' best interests before my own, and I love the Lord with all my heart and soul. Our motto for the KCP is we want government out of our lives, we want government out of our pockets, we stand for the flag and we kneel for the cross. Vote Row C November 2nd. Thank you.

## Candidates for Selectman

**Louis Annino Jr. (D):** A lifelong, fourth generation resident of Killingworth, I have had the privilege of growing up in this town, attending its schools and later owning a home and raising my family here.

I have spent better than half my life volunteering at some level in public service. I have served as an Officer in the United States Navy, a volunteer coach, on church councils, and spent over 20 years as a commissioner of Planning and Zoning and for the past decade as Selectman. I believe very strongly that as Americans we all have a responsibility to participate in our government. I also believe that with all the great things we enjoy living in this country, we have a responsibility to give something back.

As a Selectman and formerly a Commissioner of Planning and Zoning, my record of balancing the growth needs of this town along with maintaining its rural character speaks to my commitment to Killingworth.

I believe my record as Selectman speaks for itself. During my tenure as selectman, I have played a leadership role in fiscal responsibility. I led the charge for development of a strategic capital plan while carefully managing our precious operating dollars (your

taxes). This has led to a nearly flat operating budget over the same period while allowing for responsible capital planning that will ensure the quality of our town roads, municipal facilities and services for the future. In addition, I have worked to strengthen municipal services through staff accountabilities and improvements in interdepartmental communication. It is on this basis I continue to ask for your vote for me as Selectman.

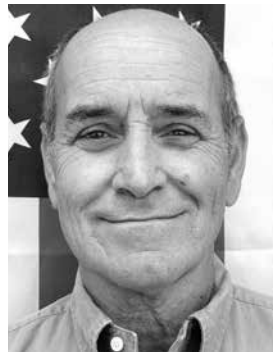
One important issue that I see facing the town is the condition of our municipal facilities. Specifically I am speaking of our town offices and emergency response buildings. Virtually all are well outdated and in need of capital improvements. To bring the current town hall and fire stations up to reasonable conditions will take millions of dollars to achieve. I do believe this needs to be done but I also believe there are phased approaches to achieving these necessary upgrades. This can be done through smart planning and design focused on incremental investments that are within our current capital means to fund.

A second concern is the health of our town commercial district. As we all have experienced, there is much more pressure on our main road arteries (RT 80 & especially RT 81) that travel through our town center. This has led to growth in our commercial district which is a very good thing. However, if we do not proactively plan for the "harmonious" expansion of these roads and this area we will be faced with a commercial district that is less than desirable. I propose that we take the initiative to consider plans that create "traffic calming" features, interconnecting pedestrian infrastructure, and other enhancements that will make Killingworth's commercial district a destination rather than a congested choke point or superhighway. This can cost effectively be accomplished through proactive planning with the various state agencies such as DEEP, CT DOT, and the regional planning agencies now and before the

*Continued on page HK7*



Nancy Gorski (R)



John Samperi (CP)



Louis Annino Jr. (D)



John Psenicnik (CP)



Eileen Blewett (R):



Jamie Mowat Young (D)

and sat in that city council with 12 Democrats and we all got along just fine which shows my ability to work well across the aisle.

The infrastructure is the biggest thing that every resident gets to use, besides the educational system, and because of my experience in the construction industry I will oversee each project with the road foreman, Walter Adametz and will be hands-on in all construction sites.

I will cut the mill rate in my first term.

On day one I will begin to form a police commission of ex-policemen, active policemen and citizens to oversee the coverage of the town and to see that all the citizens have the protection they pay for.

I will make our local government more efficient by supplying our town employees with the proper tools for a more safer and productive environment.

I've always enjoyed farming, hunting, fishing, and the outdoors. So, of course, the beautiful town of Killingworth falls right into what I love most in my life.

I have made strong friendships with 99% of the people here, but the 1% of liars, cheaters and rumor spreaders, I could do without. My wife Deborah and I would love to spend the rest of our lives here.

The Killingworth Conservative Party has put together the most qualified slate of candidates who will lead the town of Killingworth into the future. We have three successful business owners John Samperi of Samperi Heating and Cooling, John Psenicnik, owner of Tire Express and owner Harvey Derosa of Realty Associates, Advanced Pest Control and North East Management Group among others and Dave Miller, former business owner and Regional 17 bus driver, he and his wife Pat are two of the pillars in this town; and last is Ray Szumilas, who is one of the hardest working people I've ever met, and who works for the Lee Co.

My experience in politics, small business, farming, honesty, hard work, and common sense will benefit all those that live and work in this town. I never



# 2021 Candidates for Haddam Board of Selectmen

Continued from page HK4

Department in 1987 and rose through the ranks from Patrolman, Sergeant and Lieutenant. I was promoted to Captain in 2011. I retired from the Middletown Police Department in 2018 and now work in the Safety and Security Department at the East Lyme school system.

I have been involved in Haddam town government since 2007. I have served on the committee that drafted the Haddam Town Code of Ethics, the Infrastructure Committee, and the Board of Finance. I am currently serving as a member of the Board of Selectman. I am proud to have worked collaboratively for the past two years in guiding our town and helping move much stalled projects forward. I will continue to work in this manner to make Haddam an even better place to live.

I care deeply about Haddam and its future. I have served on the Board of Selectmen since 2019. I would like to continue to represent the citizens of Haddam on the important matters facing our town.

The most pressing issue in Haddam, as in many towns, is promoting economic growth that is in line with the character of the town. We have begun to address this issue as a Board of Selectmen by advancing the wastewater treatment plan for Higganum center, realistically looking at the Scovil Hoe property as true economic generator and attempting to find tenants for the Haddam Elementary School. I look forward to seeing these projects through to their conclusion.

Haddam has been recently named as one of "15 best small New England towns you need to visit ASAP" by Country Living. We have the opportunity to make Haddam a ecotourism destination and as a selectman I look forward to working with the very dedicated group of people making this happen.

I truly love the character of Haddam. It retains its New England small town feel while looking forward to the future. The beautiful natural surroundings and history make Haddam a very special place. The people of Haddam are well informed and involved in the issues that face the town. This type of passion and involvement is very valuable to me on the Board of Selectmen. Without input we and I cannot be sure that I am representing the true wishes of the people of Haddam.

I just want to say that I truly appreciate the opportunity to be your voice on the Board of Selectmen. I have learned so much in the past two years and I look forward to being a part of Haddam's very bright future.

**Kate Anderson (R):** Hi, everyone! My name is Kate Anderson, your Republican candidate for re-election to the Board of Selectmen. Over the last two years, I have thoroughly enjoyed working as selectwoman and would be grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the town. I have truly discovered a new passion working on this board. Every day, I learn something new about Haddam's history, the townspeople – and myself!

A lifelong Higganum resident, I've served on a number of town committees, including chairing the Economic Development Commission, and

help plan events like the farmers' market and River Days. I've spent the last decade of my professional career working in the architecture, engineering, and construction industry. I'm celebrating my fifth year with Gilbane Building Company where I help win new projects valued at up to \$200 million across America for public and private clients. Working for one of the largest construction managers in the U.S., I have the advantage of seeing the latest trends, forecasts, new technology, funding opportunities, and management systems that can help guide my decisions for the town.

Two years have really flown by, and I'm looking forward to continuing working on the many exciting and potentially challenging projects spanning Haddam. Coming up in Tylerville (as of the time this is published) will be the addition of sidewalks and two new rotaries, the Swing Bridge renovation, and new apartments on Saybrook Road. In Higganum center, work is continuing as we design a community septic system, clean up Scovil Hoe, find a use for the former HES, and assess the Rossi property for possible purchase (subject to a town meeting). Higganum Cove and the connecting Swan Hill Trails also have a naturally strong potential to be an anchor in town. We have a valuable opportunity to re-elect a cohesive board that is already up to speed on upcoming and ongoing projects, and I'm confident our current board can continue successfully overseeing these projects along with any new ones.

Unfortunately, a myriad of challenges related to Covid will continue to have effects for a while, many beyond our control. The reality is, we've seen some projects get delayed or even canceled, and a few businesses closed. The good news is, we're making positive progress on a number of important initiatives as I noted earlier. It will be more important than ever to support our local businesses while keeping these new projects moving along.

Some of the broader areas that continue to challenge us are rising costs and communications. While many costs associated with a town's operating budget are simply out of our control (insurance, gas/electricity prices), we continue to work incredibly hard to find alternative sources of revenue to fund larger projects. We've secured grants/funding for the community septic design; Beaver Meadow Road culvert repair; Haddam and Tylerville sidewalks; and Scovil Hoe environmental assessment with a pending grant for the environmental clean-up. Altogether, this accounts for over \$4 million in outside funding for these important projects. I should also mention some of these projects have the potential to bring in significant tax revenue when complete.

As far as communication, we have a diverse, multi-generational population who prefer communication through a variety of formats, so it can be tricky making sure we're reaching everyone with news and updates. The launch of the HK Everbridge emergency management alert system, First Selectman McGarry's monthly updates in HK Now and Haddam Bulletin, and regular reports from the Board of Education at monthly Board of Selectmen

meetings are just a couple ways we're working to increase communication between the town, residents, and various boards.

(key thing you love about this town) The answer really is: the people. New and old residents alike consistently comment on the natural camaraderie we have in town. I've heard about cookies on newcomers' doorsteps, dinners for families in need, reuniting lost pets, and many other "feel good" stories. When a call for help goes out, we respond.

Part of me can't believe that we're already approaching another election season! I said last election that despite our different opinions, I know we all share one common goal – to do what we think is best for our town – and I strongly believe that First Selectman Bob McGarry, Selectman Sean Moriarty, and I have demonstrated our sincere commitment to this goal. I admire the leadership we've upheld, especially considering all we have been through together in this last year, and hope you'll consider re-electing the Board of Selectmen on November 2.

## LEGAL

### LEGAL NOTICE Town of Haddam NOVEMBER 2, 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Electors of the Town of Haddam are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, for the following purposes:

To cast their votes for:

- First Selectman
- Selectman
- Town Clerk
- Board of Finance Full Term
- Board of Finance to Fill Vacancy for Two Years
- Board of Finance, Alternate Full Term
- Board of Finance Alternate to Fill Vacancy for Two Years
- Board of Assessment Appeals
- Planning & Zoning Commission Full Term
- Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate Full Term
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Zoning Board of Appeals, Alternate Full Term
- Zoning Board of Appeals, Alternate to Fill Vacancy for Two Years
- Board of Education

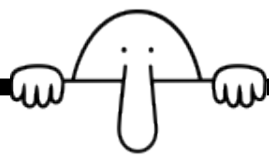
Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places is as follows:

Location of Polling Place	Voting District
<b>Higganum Firehouse Complex</b> 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum	1st District
<b>Central Office</b> 57 Little City Road, Higganum	2nd District
<b>Haddam Neck Firehouse</b> 50 Rock Landing Road, Haddam Neck	3rd District

Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following central location: Higganum Firehouse Complex, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum  
Election Day Registration will take place only at the following location:

Higganum Firehouse Complex, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum  
Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

Dated at Haddam, Connecticut, this 25th day of October, 2021.  
Scott R. Brookes, CCTC, Town Clerk



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# 2021 Candidates for Killingworth Board of Selectmen

*Continued from page HK5*

need is critical. Solid plans with endorsements of the various supporting agencies lead to grants and other means of creative funding.

Perhaps the most pressing item is the recent payment of \$1.8 million to the Town of Killingworth as the result of the American Rescue Plan 2021. This is a significant windfall of revenue to this town and will require careful consideration as to how these funds are to be invested. I hope and will advocate that whatever is done it is an investment in our future. I am strongly opposed to investing in any depreciating assets such as roads, vehicles, etc. Instead, it should be in a form that will continue to pay dividends to the taxpayer's long into the future, things like improved schools, infrastructure, and housing. To do this will require nonpartisan engagement and input from our residents at all levels of planning. Further it needs to be led by those with a proven history of strategic planning, creative design and the ability to get things done.

The thing that I most admire about this town is its rural character, quiet neighborhoods and peaceful open spaces. The people of Killingworth who have historically lived in this community, accept that to enjoy these benefits there are trade-offs such as driving a bit farther to shop, to work or go to school. While the people of Killingworth may enjoy their peace and quiet and even perhaps be somewhat reclusive, what I admire most is that we are a community of volunteers. When something really needs doing, when a neighbor really needs help, when action really needs taking, the people of Killingworth are there. This is something I find incredibly inspirational and makes me proud to live in and be part of this great town.

While I have some bold thoughts and ideas I also believe I have the experience both as a town leader and a professional to make these things happen.

My experience as a Registered Professional Engineer and nearly 30 years of facilities management experience including Yale University, Bayer Corporation, and currently as the Chief Facilities Officer at the University of New Haven, combined with my experience in public service make me uniquely qualified for the position of Selectman. This experience includes budget and staff management, strategic planning, road, facility and infrastructure planning and maintenance, emergency management as well as a track record of creativity, leadership and integrity.

My message has been and continues to be very simple: To serve the people of Killingworth. This includes: managing our tax dollars responsibly, keeping our town and roads safe, maintaining its rural character, ensuring our children receive quality education from our schools, providing commercial opportunities supporting the needs of the town and making available balanced and varied housing opportunities.

## **Graig Judge (R)**

**John Psenicnik (CP):** I've lived in Killingworth for 31 years. I have successfully operated my own business since 1985, and I am presently the owner of Tire Express in North Haven. I've known John Samperi for over 15 years and it is a pleasure to run with him. I truly believe with his experience we can make Killingworth a more fiscally responsible town; a safer one as well.

I have been a successful businessman operating several companies over the past years while creating jobs. I believe this puts me well above any of the other candidates running for this seat. I believe that John Samperi, I and the Board Finance will reduce the cost of doing business in this town. This will eventually reduce the overall tax burdens.

For a person like me who has never used the transfer station in 31 years and has no children in the school system, like most people who live here, they get up in the morning, early, and go to work

out of this town. The only thing we see and use are the roads. The town workers do a good job but John and I and our Board of Finance know we can improve the infrastructure because of our business experience. The taxes I pay for what I receive are too high and the team I'm running with will reduce them.

The best thing I love about Killingworth is I drive up my long driveway and all I see is woods. I know a hand full of people and see no one except when people like John Samperi come up my driveway, and I like it that way.

I've been a lifelong Conservative and Republican, and have served as the Vice Chairman on the Killingworth Conservative Party since its founding. I do hope that you support this amazing slate that John Samperi has put together. Thank you for your support. See you November 2. Vote Row C

**Eileen Blewett (R):** I have been a resident of this beautiful community for over 24 years. My husband and I moved here on a whim and have never looked back. Together we became deeply involved in our community. Community ties and involvement have always been the core of who I am. We live in a town that cares deeply for one another and reach out to assist every chance we get. That is something that I am very proud of. I currently serve on the Board of Selectman and Board of Education. I am also very involved in volunteer work with the KWO, Helping Hands food pantry, HK Backpack program and Killingworth Scholarship Association. We have raised our 4 beautiful children here and have given them the strong foundation of community to live very happy and productive lives as young adults.

I have the privilege and honor to currently serve on the Board of Selectman. It is a position that I take very seriously. It has been an interesting two years and I have learned a lot and extended my voice to represent the voices of community members. Many have reached out to share a thought, idea or concern and I value and respect each one. I hope to continue and expand that work. I will continue to work diligently towards a fiscally responsible budget. I never lose sight of the beauty of this rural community and commit to maintaining that beauty. I have a great deal of respect for my fellow members of the Board of Selectman and their devotion to this town. But in many ways, we have been sidetracked by the impact of COVID 19 and now it is time to move ahead with many key projects for our town. Projects that I very much want to be a part of and have the desire to see to completion. The last year has taught us about the importance of our health department and first responders and the absolute strain it puts on our resources. We must work to always protect the safety of this town. I am strongly dedicated to this work. I have the great privilege to know many people in this town and listened to many things that they have to say. I represent their voice on the Board of Selectman.

Killingworth faces many key issues that need immediate attention. The needs of our Fire Department and Ambulance Association are long overdue. We must create a path to determine the next steps for getting our dedicated volunteer fire department what they need to be safe and effective in their work. The condition of the Town Hall is completely unacceptable, and I intend to continue to push for a plan. The Town Hall is the face of this community, and this must be a priority. The town also has the American Rescue funds to consider. The committee that was created will explore the options for the spending of these funds. The communication with the community will be paramount in this task. The completion of the revisions to the Town Charter is another critical priority. The Charter Commission has a large task, but it is vital to the function of Killingworth. It goes without saying that we must continue to create a fiscally efficient and responsible budget to the community that represents the needs of the town.

The true foundation of Killingworth is community

outreach and involvement. Through the good and bad times this community is there to lend that helping hand and it never stops amazing me. The people of Killingworth are passionate about their thoughts and ideas and value the importance of others. This town represents kindness and respect – two virtues I cherish.

**Jamie Mowat Young (D):** I'm excited to run with Lou Annino, Jr. on the Democratic ticket to serve on Killingworth's Board of Selectmen.

My husband, Brian, and I made Killingworth our home 23 years ago because it's rural and well maintained, with a terrific corps of engaged residents and an outstanding school system. We are raising our three sons here and enjoying the beautiful landscape and community activities.

I have a graduate degree in ethics, and a law degree with a specialization in mediation and contracts. I strive to find common ground and bridge differences. I've led complex undertakings, streamlined organizations and procedures, and navigated large bureaucracies. I worked as Associate Legal Counsel to Governor Rell and in the departments of Energy and Environmental Protection and Transportation under Governor Malloy. I was frequently tapped to resolve sensitive, complicated, or cross-agency challenges. Before I studied law, I worked for over a decade in universities, leading teams and streamlining projects with multi-million dollar budgets. I love conquering challenges and getting things done with good cheer. And, I am known for my integrity.

I grew up with my sisters in an Air Force family that was active in the VFW, community, and church. That upbringing built public service into my core. It compels me to jump in and help when a need arises. It prompts me to provide assistance behind the scenes. It led me to serve on state and local councils and community organizations such as the United Way, KWO, and the KVFC Auxiliary. It also led to serving on Killingworth's Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Water Pollution Control Authority, Charter Revision Commission, and the Representative Policy Board of the Regional Water Authority.

Who else am I? A reliable and creative problem solver, a caretaker, an environmentalist, a believer in prayer and elbow grease, a klutz, and someone who loves our town.

I love Killingworth and its people. I want to devote my experience and skills to the preservation of Killingworth's best qualities and the creation of a bright future. I believe my moderate and integrative approach suits the community well.

I bring a practical but creative Killingworth-centric perspective. I understand the laws and procedures of municipal, regional, and state governments and agencies. I can work with colleagues regardless of party. I can make tough budgetary calls. I ask for your vote in November to give me the opportunity to serve you on the Board of Selectmen.

Overall, Killingworth is in great shape, but we face both short- and long-term issues. We have all experienced the increasing traffic down our main corridors, and the dangers and inconvenience that come along with it. Some of our town facilities are sorely outdated. The drop in enrollment in our school system has been sharp, and that poses questions about how we will continue to support the strong education we count on for our kids. Every day, I hear more urgent calls for alternative housing that is accessible to young families and older residents who want to downsize. Some of our households and public buildings have been found to have PFAS in their water, and we need to find both immediate and permanent solutions to that. In a somewhat longer time frame, the statewide crisis in managing our waste system has huge implications for Killingworth.

*Continued on page HK9*



# Summary of September 2021 Meetings

By Jen Favalora, RSD #17 BOE

**2021-2022 School Year:** Interim Superintendent, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, reported on a busy start to the school year including an update on student transportation issues that have been experienced at RSD17 and by most school districts throughout the state. With six less drivers for the District's thirty-four bus runs, our bus company, STA, has pulled four drivers in from other districts to assist our runs. Additional adjustments have been made by moving away athletic events to later in the day when school runs have ended, and the District has opted to use another company for out-of-district student transportation in order to relieve another STA driver to be used in-district.

**Strategic Planning:** Over the span of three days, the Board held fourteen in-person focus groups with community members, leaders, teachers, staff, administrators, and parents, all facilitated by an HYA associate to collect data and report major themes from across all groups that the Board should consider when forming its 3- 5 year strategic plan. Additional focus groups will take place virtually in October with students, alumni, and additional community members and leaders. A community survey will be available in early November and the link will be posted on the front page of the RSD17.org website. Data collected from these surveys and focus groups will be reported to the Board and incoming Superintendent Wihbey in December and the final plan will be presented to the community before the end of the school year.

**Summer Curriculum Work:** The Curriculum Committee reported that 45 staff members participated in Curriculum work through the

summer on 35 projects across nine disciplines. Additionally 153 students participated in Summer Learning Opportunities, either on-line or in-person, from Kindergarten Jumpstart and iReady Reading and Math support, to credit recovery for High School students with positive outcomes reported at each level.

**Emergency Repairs:** The Facilities Committee explained \$35,000 in unexpected repairs and remediation that was reported at the start of the year. A heating compressor unit and heating pipes needed to be replaced at KES and a water tank seal needed to be replaced at HKI/MS. Additionally, asbestos was found during a renovation in the HKHS Cougar Cafe and remediation was completed. The full Facilities Assessment being performed by Tecton Architects will be presented to the Facilities committee on October 18th.

**Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee gave a fiscal report on the District's Cougar Cubs Daycare program. What began nearly 15 years ago as a program for just staff members, has grown into a successful community daycare that has reached capacity with 25 children of staff and 37 children from the community. This program also

serves as a benefit to our High School Early Child Development program. The Committee also reported on tracking unexpected COVID Expenses for the 2021-2022 school year. To date the District has incurred unexpected expenses to purchase tents and for temporary staff to help with employee vaccine compliance.

**On our website:** USDA federal funding will again provide free school breakfasts for Pre-K through 8th grade students, and free school lunches for all grades throughout this school year. Information on this program and the school menus can be found on the RSD17.org website under District→Food Services.

## HADDAM TOWN GOVERNMENT

### Cell Phone Service in Haddam

*From Town of Haddam*

A major wireless carrier has expressed interest in upgrading cell phone service along Saybrook Road. Homeland Towers leases a number of potential cell phone tower sites throughout Haddam. Two of these sites are owned by the town and the others are privately owned. Raymond Vergati, the Regional Manager for this area from Homeland Towers, called First Selectman Bob McGarry to let him know that Homeland is currently working with a carrier for a site to be located in the Jail Hill area and in

Tylerville.

"This is great news that is long overdue," McGarry said. "As much as we all count on our cell phones these days, having a dead zone along such a busy road is a major public safety concern. And, as we've seen in recent storms, our landline phones aren't as reliable as they used to be. Cell phones provide a needed backup."

Vergati explained if all goes accordingly it will be about 18 months before the towers and equipment are up and running due to the time required for regulatory approval and construction.

## HKHS FINE ARTS EVENTS

### Save the Dates!

*By Donna Hayward, Principal*

Fall Play "Clue": Friday and Saturday, November 5th and 6th, 2021  
 Southern Region Music Festival Submissions (Honors level students): November 2021  
 Scholastic Visual Art Competition Submissions: December 2021  
 Winter Choral Concert: Thursday, December 9th, 2021  
 Winter Band Concert: Thursday, December 16th, 2021  
 Shoreline Arts Competition Submissions: January 2022  
 Southern Region Musical Festival

(Accepted Students): January 14th and 15th, 2022  
 One Act Play: Thursday, Feb 10th, 2022  
 AllState Auditions (Selected Students) February 5th, 2022  
 Solo and Ensemble Chorus Concert: Thursday, March 17th, 2022  
 AllState Music Festival (Accepted Students): March 31st-April 2nd, 2022  
 Spring Musical: Friday and Saturday, May 6th and 7th, 2022  
 Spring Art Show Opening: Thursday, May 12th, 2022  
 Spring Band and Chorus Concert: Thursday, May 19th, 2022

*Elect*  
**John Samperi**  
*for First Selectman*

**John Psenicnik**  
*for Selectman*  
 &  
*for Board of Finance*

**Dave Miller**  
**Harvey Derosa**  
**Ray Szumilas**

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# 2021 Candidates for Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Continued from page HK7

As a Selectman, I would advocate for a DOT/ regional planning analysis and grants with input from our business community to more proactively address the increased flows in traffic while not detracting from Killingworth's ambiance. Before offering my opinion on the status of infrastructure, I would need to deliberately engage the research, reports, and recommendations regarding the structural needs of the town hall and fire houses and balance that with strategic capital planning and resources and any necessary updates by experts. I would not want to recreate the wheel and would listen to stakeholders and the other Selectmen. I would seek grants to assist with any of the associated costs. I would apply that same diligence to all areas of town needs. I would further reach out to sister municipalities in Connecticut and other states to learn about alternative approaches that might inform our recommendations.

I love the winding trails among the trees, the howl of coyotes, the sight of bats looping over vernal pools, the helping snowplow of a neighbor,

the teamwork of volunteers, the sunny farms of Killingworth, the maple syrup made at Parmelee, and the evolving small businesses providing even more reasons for shoppers to stay in town. I love that the first responders know us and arrive quickly.

I love that our townspeople came together to form the KWO, HK Backpack Program, the Killingworth Ambulance Association, and so many more groups to sustain our community. I love that when ballfields were badly needed, Mr. Auer grabbed his truck and dug in; when trails needed to be cleared, Mr. Dodson and Andy Annino stepped up; when a town center was longed for, the emerging team of volunteers of what would become the Parmelee Farm Committee began their visionary endeavors. Gardening, coaching, meals, preserving history, supporting school activities, granting scholarships, ... the list of needs met by Killingworth volunteers is long and compelling. Our town continues to flourish because of the creativity, dedication, and teamwork of volunteers. What better environment exists in which to both raise my kids and dedicate my skills?

Plus, I love that the houses are far enough apart

that my kids' bagpipe lessons don't invite noise complaints.

My legal, labor, land, administrative, and contract expertise and background in the Departments of Transportation and Energy and Environmental Protection will complement Lou Annino's comprehensive strengths on our Board of Selectmen. I intend to work hard on the team to: learn; maintain the safety of our residents and enhance housing options; support economic development and environmental preservation while maintaining Killingworth's rural essence; work with other entities to efficiently improve our roads and infrastructure; research alternatives when issues arise; and efficiently manage the town budget.

It takes good listening, care, and strong leadership on the Board of Selectmen to support volunteers, balance competing interests, strategically plan, and maintain our infrastructure. I hope you'll give Lou Annino, Jr., and me the opportunity to do just that.

## POLICE NEWS

### Arrest made in July hit-and-run that killed Higganum student

Info from police report

On Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, police arrested Thomas A. Cretella, age 27, of Higganum for the hit and run accident on July 29 that killed a student, later identified as Gianna Vincelett, age 14, who would have been a freshman at Haddam Killingworth High School a month later.

Gianna Vincelett and a friend were bicycling on Route 81 in Higganum around 10:30 p.m. on July 29, riding in accordance with State Statutes, when Gianna was struck from behind by a vehicle that evaded the scene of the accident. Gianna was taken to the hospital where she died

from her injuries. A vigil was held in town on August 7.

On the night of the hit and run, debris from the evading vehicle was located on the roadway and grassy area off the northbound travel lane. The debris was later determined to be from a Hyundai Santa Fe. The CT State Police then sent out a press release asking for the public's help in locating and identifying the vehicle.

On July 30, Troop F received a call from Janessa Cretella, who explained that her stepson's vehicle matched the vehicle description and had fresh damage on it. In a follow-up call from Detective Stanger, Ms. Cretella explained that Thomas did not remember anything from the night of July 29, and that police and EMS had responded to her residence at 4:30 a.m. due to Thomas being unresponsive from an "apparent heroin overdose."

Cretella later told police that on July 29 he traveled to East Haven, used heroin, then drove home to Higganum. Cretella said he did not remember much of the drive home, and did not remember if he was involved in a collision.

After more than two months of intensive investigation by the CT State Police, Troop F patrol personnel, detectives within

the Central District Major Crime Squad, and the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Squad, Cretella is being charged with negligent homicide with a motor vehicle, as well as evading responsibility, and

improper passing. Cretella is being held on a \$250,000 bond. He was arraigned on Oct. 18, 2021.

To read the entire CSP report, go to [cspnews.org](http://cspnews.org)



Thomas A. Cretella. Photo by CT State Police.



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

# Let the ballot box decide in Killingworth

Dear Editor:

In my opinion, recent letters questioning the legality of several candidates for office on the Killingworth Republican ticket this November are erroneous.

Eileen Blewett, a current Selectman and member of the RSD 17 Board of Education, is running for re-election to both positions, which she has held in tandem for the past two years without complaint. I notice none of the attacks on her have addressed any of her many substantive actions as a Selectman or member of the Board of Education. She is a tireless volunteer who has given nearly innumerable hours to benefit our town and our regional school system among many other worthy causes that benefit our town and residents. One would hope that more residents had her drive, time and dedication to our residents.

The Town of Killingworth Charter clearly states that no Selectman may also hold a simultaneous position on another town board, THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY TOWN ORDINANCE OR CHARTER PROVISIONS. The RSD 17 Board of Education is NOT a town board, was not established by town ordinance or charter provision but rather was

instituted through the Connecticut General Statutes and referendums of the respective towns. Sadly, the Town of Killingworth and town counsel nevertheless, desire to continue this charade of attempting a legal maneuver to deny Ms. Blewett the opportunity to serve in both positions should the voters of Killingworth desire to re-elect her to both. Sadly, this will now cost the Killingworth taxpayers money to fight to impose their errant view upon Ms. Blewett and the Town of Killingworth.

The timing of the raising of the issue of Eileen Blewett's dual service is also suspect. Why was this not raised two years ago? This summer, Ms. Blewett, raised the issue of the make-up of the Charter Review Commission as a clear violation of state statute. Her suggested remedy to the illegal composition was rejected. Only after this Charter Review Commission issue was raised was an "investigation" urged of Ms. Blewett's dual service, which the charter's own terms do not prohibit. This very curious timing smacks of retaliation.

As to Graig Judge, he is a local businessman and long-time volunteer on the Killingworth Fire Department. He also loves and has served

Killingworth well for many years. The charter does not prohibit him from running for both positions and then choosing to serve the town as selectman if elected to both positions.

It is high time for the people of Killingworth to decide these issues at the ballot box rather than resorting to legal maneuvers.

Sincerely,  
Andrew J. O'Neill  
Killingworth Resident  
October 18, 2021

## Bob Siegrist for Town Clerk of Haddam

I strongly support and endorse Bob Siegrist for the office of the Town Clerk of Haddam. As a lifelong resident of Haddam, he comes from a family that has taught him the values of being engaged and advocating for our community. He grew up participating in and continues to be actively involved, while continuously honing the skills needed to support the town of Haddam.

The office of Town Clerk is more involved than distributing marriage licenses and dump stickers. That's why it's essential for the town to have a qualified person with the knowledge, background, and skills to thrive in the administration of that office and implement it appropriately. Honest and sensible, equitable, and forthright are just a few traits that are commonly used to describe Bob and are essential for this job. It is very important to have an individual who is articulate, organized, and familiar with ALL the responsibilities necessary to do the job of Town Clerk. Having known Bob for many years, I've come to learn he is a genuinely a reasonable and practical person and an all-around nice guy.

Bob has shown consistently that he has garnered diverse support in his service to our community. Including The Connecticut Business and Industry Association, and The American League of Conservation Voters to names a few. This clearly illustrates his bilateral approach to important issue and affability.

Bob Siegrist is the best and most qualified candidate for the office of Town Clerk of Haddam. Not only does he have the depth of knowledge and organizational skills needed but he has the dedication and diplomacy required to do the job.

Mr. Pablo Luis Arroyo  
Haddam, CT  
October 19, 2021

## Proud to endorse Democratic slate

It is often said that all politics is local, a saying which highlights the importance of our upcoming local elections. Along with stone walls and town meetings, participatory democracy holds a revered and iconic place in historic Killingworth. This fall's election cycle is no exception.

The 2021 Democratic slate in Killingworth is one I am proud to endorse. It includes tried and true candidates with years of experience in the positions they are again seeking and several new candidates who bring their own special strengths and work backgrounds to the slate.

Our ticket is headed by a dynamic duo running for selectmen, Lou Annino, Jr. and Jamie Young. Lou is running for his sixth term as selectman after years serving the town as Commissioner of Planning and Zoning. He is an executive administrator at the University of New Haven and a Registered Professional Engineer. Lou knows the importance of long-term planning, our town's infrastructure, and the need for

fiscal responsibility. Jamie will bring years of legal experience in state government, environmental issues, and mediation to the position. She has a knack for focusing on the essence of an issue and defusing tense situations. Both Jamie and Lou have volunteered in different capacities over the years as a natural part of living in our community.

From the experienced to those stepping up for the first time, our candidates know that working together works for all. They are part of the Democratic ticket because they want to solve problems and plan for Killingworth's future. They are happy to reach out to others to get the job done.

Please join me in voting for Lou and Jamie as selectmen as well as the rest of the Democratic ticket. Vote Row A all the way on November 2.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Amoia  
Killingworth  
October 13, 2021

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# Blewett responds to challenge

There has been much said online and in public forums about my dual roles on the Regional Board of Education and Board of Selectman. I have been both humbled by the outpouring of support and disheartened by some of the personal attacks against me.

Two years ago, I was approached to run for the Board of Selectman, I was honored by this and agreed to run. At the time, because I was a member of the Regional BOE, I did my due diligence and discussed the situation with both the First Selectman and the lawyer that represents the BOE. I was told by both parties that there was no reason I could not hold both positions. I won the election and have served with complete devotion for the last 2 years.

I hope everyone understands that the wording in the Charter has not changed in the past two years, nor has the definitions outlined in the

Charter changed. Therefore, why now does the definition of those words suddenly take on a different meaning? There was a recent legal opinion against holding both roles and this is being challenged. Challenged because it has been acceptable for me to hold these roles over the past two years. I was elected by this community, so I have a moral imperative to ask the question. Most shameful is the need to attack me personally implying I have done something wrong. I have not. The suggestion that somehow, I have broken the law is simply wrong. Others have questioned my integrity and commitment to Killingworth, and this is shameful. It is not who we are as a community. Those who know me, know that I do not serve and volunteer because I seek acknowledgement. In fact, it is exactly all this attention that chases people away from public service.

I love this town and love the Regional School District that educated my children. I have served with passion and dedication for the past two and four years respectively. I think it is very important that you hear this directly from me.

*Most sincerely,  
Eileen Blewett  
Killingworth*

# Concentration of personal power in Killingworth's government

Two candidates for Board of Selectmen on the Killingworth Republican slate are seeking more than one office. Our town charter prohibits a selectman from holding another town office, but even if it did not, we should be wary of having the same person in multiple positions of authority in Killingworth's town government.

There has been a direct historical relationship between abuse of power and such concentration of authority within governments. We do not need to allow that to happen in Killingworth. The prohibition in our town charter is there for a good reason.

*Robert G. Fahrenholz  
Killingworth*

# Planning for Haddam's future

Sometimes it seems like we're a town divided, but we must come together because we have too much work to do. My name is Mike Karam and I am running for Haddam Planning & Zoning. I moved to Haddam several years ago because I fell in love with our story, our character, our land, and our people. Lately however, our future is being challenged and there doesn't seem to be a plan to protect it.

In the last few years, we have witnessed our elementary school close, our bank sit vacant, and historic buildings be demolished for commercial boxes to rise in their place. This isn't just an evolution of our story; it's a critical inflection point for us to really think about the signal we are sending, and the town we want to create.

As a community, we came together to define a collective vision for Haddam with the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) four short years ago. Overwhelmingly, we wanted to create a family friendly town that respected our past, protected our unique character, and positioned Haddam as an eco-tourism destination.

However, through a flawed process we changed our prohibited-use regulations to allow spot zoning in Higganum Village and have since seen businesses move in that don't align with our POCD vision. When you can walk into town and get a tattoo, a vape pen, a bottle of liquor and a gun from the soon to open gun shop in Higganum Village, but you can't get an ice cream cone or take your child to a playground, it doesn't exactly send a family friendly message. And it certainly doesn't reflect our eco-tourism ambitions. I am not saying gun, tattoo, and liquor stores are all bad, but a concentration of such businesses in an already small commercial district could be viewed as less friendly to families and could squeeze out diverse businesses that we all could benefit from.

We deserve better. The time for change is now. We must preserve and protect the soul of Haddam before it's too late. Please vote Mike Karam for Haddam P&Z on November 2nd.

*Mike Karam  
Haddam  
October 16, 2021*

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# Killingworth Town Campus improvements

Voters expect progress every two years when you are elected to office. Cathy Iino was elected as First Selectman in 2009. After years of discussion to update town hall, a referendum was put to vote in 2012 for a \$3.5 million addition. The referendum failed, and the town hall modulars, originally installed in 2000, continue to deteriorate. At the last Board of Selectmen's meeting Ms. Iino proposed spending \$11,000 to re-side these already far past end-of-life buildings. We must move quickly to determine whether to replace the modulars or consider a less-expensive renovation. Eileen Blewett and I will work together to identify options and will put forth a plan to update town hall to ensure the

safety of all those using the facility every day.

Water contamination critically needs to be addressed. PFAS remediation in residential wells has begun with the installation of state-funded filters. However, this remains an issue on town campus where high levels of sodium have also been an issue since the 1970's. The town has spent thousands of dollars on bottled water instead of seeking to identify filtration solutions to resolve the issue. Our fire department is using sodium contaminated water to wash trucks and bottled water to clean personal gear. Much needed improvements to Fire Hall 1 cannot proceed until this issue is resolved.

Fire Hall 1, built in 1971, is no longer large enough

to house our fire-fighting equipment. Upon visiting there, the configuration of the trucks reminds me of the game Rush Hour; you have to determine the best way to get the car out, or in this case, the best way to get the trucks out. Our first responders must walk sideways to fit between the trucks. They deserve better, and we must put together a plan for it to happen.

Nancy Gorski  
Killingworth



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## WORD PUZZLE

### Autumn

Find and circle all of the Autumn words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - an Albert Camus quotation.

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L O N G E R N I G H T S N A A U C N
T O R U E S T U N Y R O K C I H R I
M S O A Y Q E N I S I A O T R W O K
R C Y H N E U V S T E R F H E O P P
C E A A C G K I A S N O A A B R S M
K N D N D S E R N E D S R N M C O U
S C Y L N R G L U O L P M K E E C P
Q R A K E I E R E T X G I S V R T S
U Y D T M A N T S A E F N G O A O E
A D Y D S I V G R T V S G I N C B P
S N R N G Y W E H O E E N V W S E T
H I E L P P A E S P H A S I V O R E
B W T Y L L I H C T E S P N R F L M
F T S E V R A H Y E L O I G C R E B
A A U H A L L O W E E N E F I O S E
A F L S E V A E L W O L L E Y S L R
L O B L W E C H E S T N U T S T R D
    
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- |           |           |            |               |
|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| ACORN     | EQUINOX   | NOVEMBER   | SEPTEMBER     |
| APPLE     | FALL      | OCTOBER    | SHORTER DAYS  |
| BIRD      | FARMING   | ORANGE     | SQUASH        |
| MIGRATION | FEAST     | LEAVES     | SWEET         |
| BLOWING   | FROST     | PIE        | POTATOES      |
| LEAVES    | HALLOWEEN | PUMPKIN    | THANKSGIVING  |
| BLUSTERY  | HARVEST   | RAKE       | TURKEY        |
| DAY       | HAYSTACK  | RED LEAVES | WINDY         |
| CANNING   | HICKORY   | SCARECROW  | YELLOW LEAVES |
| CHESTNUTS | NUTS      | SCHOOL     |               |
| CHILLY    | LONGER    | SEASON     |               |
| COLD      | NIGHTS    |            |               |
| CROPS     |           |            |               |

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# In support of Steve Bayley

When I read Steve Bayley's summary of his qualifications as a candidate for the Haddam Board of Education in the October 14th edition of the Haddam Killingworth news, my immediate reaction was, "Yes, and then some." After reviewing Steve's goals for fostering an educational framework within which opportunities are provided for students from all backgrounds and of all interests and abilities to thrive and succeed, I agreed that this was exactly what the future of our school district requires to remain relevant and on top of its game. Steve's understanding of the need to prioritize the management of our kids' increasingly complex struggles to balance social awareness and emotional health is especially important in this age of often inflamed political passions. Steve Bayley has the knowledge, empathy and passion to make him the ideal addition to the Haddam Board of Education.

The Bayleys are exactly the kind of neighbors one hopes to find in a small, close-knit community like Haddam. I actually "met" Steve before I even laid eyes on him. After living in Killingworth for 18 years, I moved to Hidden Lake last year. A snowstorm hit one night while I was in the middle of my move and then next morning I arrived with a car full of boxes to find that my driveway had been cleared of snow. Steve! A few days later as I was settling in, a warm plate of fresh-baked cookies appeared, courtesy of Steve's wife, Elki. I've been fortunate to share their friendship ever since. Kind. Considerate. Dependable. Those are the kinds of adjectives one wants to describe the folks who live next door. Although I was delighted to learn

that the Bayleys and I fall on the same side of the political fence, I know that Steve's sense of community encompasses all of his neighbors, regardless of their beliefs. He wants the best for every child in Haddam.

My daughter is a sophomore at the high school and my son is in seventh grade at the middle school. I am fervent about their education and about everything that touches on our children's development and welfare. I helped coach HK sports for several years and have taught Sunday School at North Madison Congregational Church since my kids were in pre-school. Our children are our future. There is nothing more important than providing an all-welcoming academic environment which challenges and helps them to meet the demands of a changing world. Steve Bayley knows this to be true and has the chops to make it happen. Please support his candidacy for the Haddam Board of Education.

Jeff Ignatuk  
Higganum  
October 17, 2021

# HVFC participates in ladder operations drill

By Olivia Drake, HVFC

Members of Haddam Volunteer Fire Company participated in a ladder operations drill Oct. 18 at the Haddam Fire Training Facility. Firefighters practiced ladder lifts in teams of two to four people and worked to raise a 24- and 35-foot ladder.

Crews also practiced leg locks— a method of hooking a leg onto a ladder so a firefighter can work safely hands-free.



Photo by Olivia Drake, HVFC.

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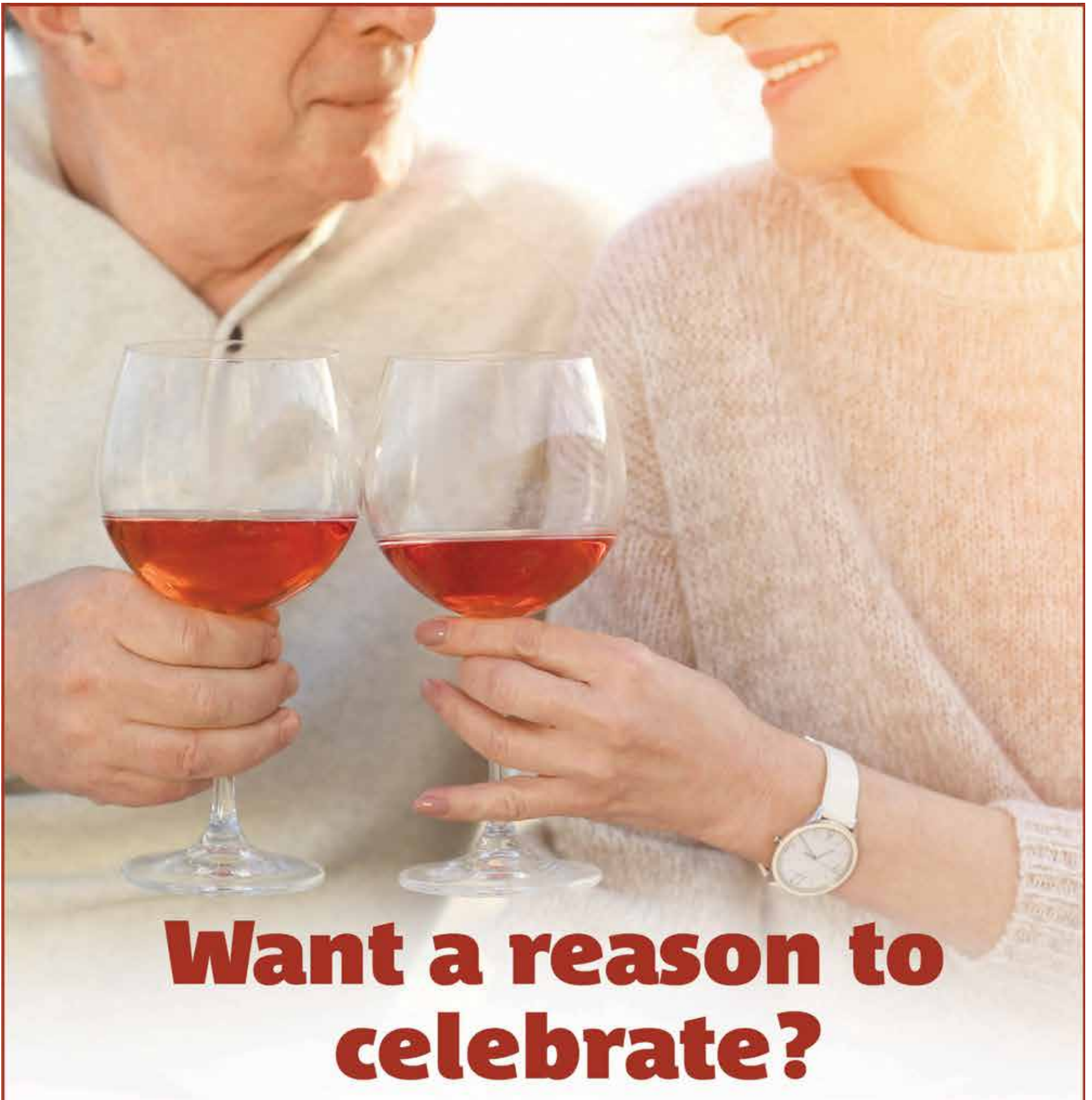
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