

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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April 21, 2022

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

Free weekly

HKHS Defeats Valley Regional 6-1



Photo by Liz Griswold.

By Mike Kelly

The Haddam Killingworth High School Cougars Boys lacrosse team pushed their record to 2-0 Thursday evening, defeating both the elements and conference foe Valley Regional 6-1. Reminiscent of a scene from the classic 1980's sports movie "All the Right Moves" (reference for parents), the Cougars battled a sideways rain and howling, raw wind to come away with the victory.

After a sloppy first few minutes for both teams, HK eventually settled, breaking open the scoreless contest midway through the first period. D-pole Sam Young coasted across the midfield and found attackman Corey Phipps on the right post for the score, 1-0. On the next possession, it was brother Alex Phipps answering the bell, firing a wicked overhand scorcher

of his own, 2-0 HK (assist from Nolan Braren). With minutes left in the first, HK's Charlie Maxwell dodged out in front of the cage, rolling right to left and hammering a sidarm into the back of the net, 3-0 HK.

Midway through the second, Braren dodged left down the alley for the overhand shot, 4-0. Valley answered with a score of its own, cutting into the HK lead, 4-1. That was as close as the Warriors would get. In the final minutes of the half, Corey Phipps found Maxwell 10 yards above the right post for the score, 5-1 HK.

Following a scoreless and soaking third period, Corey Phipps found Braren for the one-timer in front of the crease, 6-1 HK. Game over. Pads to the dryers. North Branford next.

Introducing the Newest Haddam Land Trust Acquisition: The DeForest Preserve

By the Haddam Land Trust

The Haddam Land Trust is pleased to announce a new addition to our roster of conserved properties: the DeForest Preserve, a 50-acre parcel abutting the Beaver Ledges Preserve, west of Tylerville. The parcel envelops the southern reach of a magnificent beaver pond that spans the two properties and provides permanent protection for the entire pond. Additionally, along with surrounding Cockaponset State Forest acreage, the entire watershed of the pond is now a safeguarded natural habitat.



Photos courtesy of Bill Cowan.

The donation of the parcel is courtesy of the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC), whose exemplary conservation management standards have unwaveringly endured for the past thirty years.

Continued on page HK2

Softball: HKHS Defeats Morgan 15-2

By Jeff Talbott, Coach

Haddam Killingworth High School Varsity Softball team defeated Morgan 15-2 on Friday, April 8, in Clinton in five innings.

HK's D/P Brooke Hickman drove in 5 runs with a bases-loaded double and a 2-rbi single to pace the Cougars in Clinton. Keira Czarkowski had 3 hits and scored 3 runs for HK and Annabelle Zajac contributed 2

hits and 3 rbi. Kaleigh Bodak picked up her 4th win of the season, going 4 innings, striking out 7. HK is now 4-0 and Morgan falls to 1-3

Linescore

HK 5 0 2 5 3. 15/14/4

Morgan 0 0 2 0 0. 2/3/3

Batteries, HK, Bodak, Richwine (5) and Madison

LaTouche. Morgan, Edwards and Herbst



Photo by Kathleen Zandi.

In This Issue: • Education Budget Information, HK3 • Haddam Women's Club, HK6 • Wonders in Nature, HK8



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Former Residents' \$1,000 Gift to Brainerd Library Buoy Spring BreakOut Fundraiser

By Scott Brinckerhoff

Brainerd Library's spring "BreakOut" fundraising event received a generous and unexpected \$1,000 donation from four former Haddam residents who remember the town fondly and the impact it had on their family.

"Talk about serendipity," said Donna Brinckerhoff, a library board member who is helping to organize the May 15 afternoon event. "We were doing okay with donations from our local supporters, but something like this out-of-the-blue gift from Mr. Wiley and his three siblings goes beyond wonderful."

Four former Haddam residents, clockwise from top, Steve Wiley, Nancy Wiley, Bill Wiley, Libby Wiley DiNino and her husband, Chez

DiNino.

Bill Wiley was a youngster when he moved to Ponsett Road with his family in 1952. His Dad, Bill Sr., served as First Selectman from 1964 to 1969.

"The town and many local teachers helped shape our lives. We still keep an eye on what's happening in Haddam, so when we saw that the library was doing a fundraiser in their newsletter, my sisters, brother and I knew we wanted to be part of it," Bill said.

"We still remember swimming in the reservoir, boating on the river, parades and Saturday trips with Mom, Betty, to Brainerd with its smell of books, that heavy front door and the spiral stairs."

The four siblings have since moved from Haddam to Wethersfield, North Carolina, Arizona and New Mexico,

but clearly, pieces of their hearts remain in their old hometown.

Tickets for the event are available

at the library or via PayPal at www.brainerdlibrary.org.



Photo courtesy of the Wiley family.

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RSD 17 Budget: The Time Has Come to Invest in Our Schools

By Shawna Goldfarb,
RSD 17 Board of Education

On May 3, 2022, the RSD 17 Board of Education 2022/23 Gross Budget of \$45,030,679.25 will be brought to the towns of Haddam and Killingworth for a referendum. After revenue, grants and fund balances, the towns will be assessed approximately \$41,502,868.41, \$25,391,151.74 for Haddam and \$16,111,716.67 for Killingworth. Voting will take place at regular local polling places.

The Board of Education's proposed gross budget represents an increase of 5.34%. Budgets for the past 10 years have consistently remained conservative with five- and ten-year average increases at less than 1.5%. The Annual Town Assessments represent an increase of \$823,162.64** for Haddam or 3.3%, and \$126,207.03** for Killingworth or 0.08%.

When taxpayers vote at referendum, it is on the Gross Budget number. When the budget is approved, that Gross Budget is used by the Superintendent to manage all aspects of the District as needs develop, such as changes in personnel or additional supplies.

**Note this is an estimated Audited Fund Balance. Audit is still being completed.

The Board of Education's goals in this year's budget are to:

Secure supplementary resources to support student learning and social/emotional development impacted by COVID-19 interruptions to regular school practices, and make much-needed investments in Infrastructure and Operations, and produce a budget that includes priorities and feedback from our communities, and provide the on-going resources needed to fulfill the District's Mission, Strategic Plan, and Vision of the Graduate.

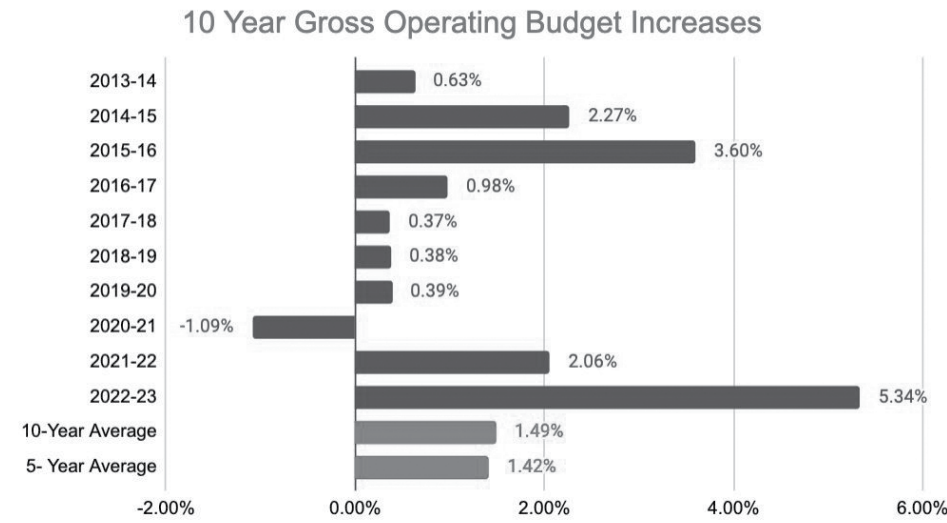
Investing in People, Operations & Facilities:

For the past 7 years, the theme of the RSD 17 budget has been to pursue reductions in the annual budget carefully and strategically so as not to impact student programming and needs. Though the Board always will need to focus on finding savings, it has reached a point where creating these efficiencies is impacting student programs. It is now time to invest in our District to impact student achievement, improve aging facilities and create efficient and compliant operations.

The budget is categorically very similar year-to-year:

- 69% for Salaries and Benefits;
- 5% for Pupil Services (including Special Education);
- 4% for Building Maintenance/Operations;
- 8% for Transportation;
- 3% for Debt/Debt Service;
- 1% for Technology;
- 3% for Learning Programs, Supplies and Tools

As a result, contractual salary increases and benefits, paired with other categories, push the budget up



approximately 3% each year, due to student needs or inflationary impact. It is the job of the Superintendent, in partnership with the Board of Education, to be fiscally responsible, redeploy assets and use fund balances in order to improve student achievement while keeping town assessments as low as possible. This year there is an estimated \$1,747,292.52 one-time refund to the Towns from the dormant Self-Insurance Medical Fund.

2022-2023 Budget Drivers

Salary and Health Benefits:

The 2022/2023 budget is reflecting a rebalancing of staff that has had great fluctuation in the past three years. Factoring in the immediate needs for our students due to Covid, the addition of Covid grants, new ways of learning, and declining enrollment, the District is at a point where we need to focus on long-term solutions for our students, staff and processes.

Salary Reductions/Additions:

We have reduced 4.4 positions, or \$228,095, due to declining enrollment, and added 6.6, or \$537,654, positions to support student, staff and District needs. The net budget effect is an increase of personnel by 2.2 positions and an increase of \$165,523.

Salary Additions explained:

Educators: With COVID-related grant money diminishing, and additional student learning support still needed, 4.5 of the 5.5 Interventionist and Counselor positions that were previously covered by a federal COVID relief grant will be funded through the 2022/23 School Budget for the Elementary and Intermediate schools.

Middle School, District Administrator and staff positions:

The budget includes a proposed re-investment of an Assistant Principal at the Middle School, a position that was eliminated three years ago, and an Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, a position that was eliminated two years ago. The Assistant Principal at the Middle School will allow improvements in instruction, student achievement and school climate. The Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources will have the primary role of leading Human Resource Management for the District's almost \$31 million annual investment in more than 300 employees. This person will also be a

Pupil Services:

At just over 13% of the proposed gross budget, Pupil Services varies year-to-year depending on student Special Education needs. In 2019, the District hired Effective School Solutions (ESS) to provide support for students with identified Special Education needs and, in some cases, prevent expensive out-placements. Since engaging with ESS, several out-placed students have returned to attend HK schools, saving the District tuition and transportation costs. For the first time in several years, the Pupil Services budget will be decreasing.

Capital Fund and Debt Service:

In Connecticut, Regional School Districts own and maintain the school buildings as opposed to municipal or local school districts, which include building costs in their town budgets. This year, state statute has increased allowable allocations to the Capital Fund from 1% to 2% to cover planned maintenance. We have funded at 2% for an increase of \$854,980.98.

The State offers school districts reimbursement for specific capital projects, such as the 2018 High School Energy Project and the 2020 Field House renovation. However, delays at the state level have left the District without expected

needed backup to the Superintendent. In addition, the District will add three staff positions to Central Office operations, needed to fill holes in our operational functioning.

Health Insurance Benefits:

The District's health insurance, CT State Partnership II Plan, will raise rates by approximately 8% this year or add \$427,170 to the budget over last year's health insurance costs.

Utilities:

The District is seeing a large increase in Utilities as a result of the inflationary rise in fuel prices. Not only does this affect our heating oil and diesel, but also maintenance to our buildings and grounds.

Continued on page HK5

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HK Drama Club Presents Beauty and the Beast: May 6-7

By Madeline Keithan, HK Drama Club Media Relations Chair

Haddam-Killingworth High School presents Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," an enchanting musical for all ages, at 7:00 p.m. May 6 & 7, 2022 at the HK High School auditorium. Performances will not be live-streamed because of royalty restrictions with Disney, but in-person tickets (\$15 each) are available by calling 860-345-8541, through the cast and crew or at the door.

Audiences will be swept away into the world where Belle feels trapped in her provincial town and where the prince is truly trapped in the body of a hideous beast. If the beast can learn to love and be loved before the final petal falls from the enchanted rose, the spell will be broken and the Prince will be himself again. If not, he and his entire household will be doomed to forever inhabit their isolated castle.

This magical musical is a story that comes to life with unforgettable characters, extraordinary sets and costumes, and a fan-favorite score including, "Be Our Guest," "Gaston," "Human Again," and the Tony-winning title song, "Beauty and the Beast."

Directed by Marcy Webster, the show stars Payton Kasperzyk as Belle and Tyson Glazier as The Beast. Jake McGoey stars as the Villainous Gaston with his trusty sidekick Lefou, played by



Jackie Flaherty. The enchanted castle is home to lifelong friends Lumiere (Michael Vaughn) and Cogsworth (Madeline Keithan) along with Mrs. Potts (Ava Loughlin), Chip (Chase Lenart), Babette (Pooja Badami), and the opera loving wardrobe, Madame de la Grande Bouche (Sami Pach). Join Maurice, played by Charles Petrie, as

he searches for his daughter Belle, motivated by love and the belief that her future is destined to be happy.

The show's success hinges on the talented and lively ensemble including Tarin Degan, Libby Riggs, Tori Carlson, Alexa Johnson, Julia Thelen, Shylee Emigh, Kateri Sonski, Samantha Height, Jayani Bennett, Val Freibauer, Ella Cawley, Sarah Pierce, and Ryan Botteon. Student crew includes Stage Manager Nikki Ackerman, Assistant Stage Manager Olivia Tucker, Assistant to the Director Abby Jones, Student Director Liaison and Lighting Operator Ryan Thompson, Props Master Grayson Norman, and his assistants Amanda Ketchedjian and Molly O'Neal. The crew is rounded out by creative and talented HK students Olivia Swanson, John Guarino, Kaylee Arnold, Emma Lopez, Emma Wilkos, and Saige Merwin.



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RSD 17 Budget: The Time Has Come to Invest in Our Schools

Continued from page HK3

reimbursements, diminishing the Capital Fund to \$751,592. This year's Capital Projects include investments such as water filtration at KES and Cafeteria replacement at HKHS and are expected to cost approximately \$900,000.

For large building projects, the Board must secure town approval to bond for funds to make necessary improvements or repairs.

Town Assessment and Refund Assessment:

Haddam and Killingworth pay a share of the budget based on the number of students enrolled from each town on October 1st of the prior year. This "Average Daily Membership" (ADM) is driven by how many students from each town graduate, enroll in pre-K/Kindergarten, choose to attend school out of the district or homeschool, and students who move in or out of the district. This year's budget assessment represents a similar share for each town compared to 2021/22 due to a steady decline in student enrollment from the previous school years. Haddam's share of the 2022/23 assessment is 61.2% based on 1,097 students enrolled in October of 2022, and Killingworth's share is 38.8% based on 696 students.

Refund:

When were the schools built?

Killingworth Elementary- 1948
 additions added in 1968 & 1989
 Central Office- 1954
 Burr Elementary-1973
 High School - 1974
 Middle/Intermediate School- 2007

At the end of every fiscal year, the District typically ends the year with a positive balance remaining in the budget. The unspent Audited Fund Balance is then credited to the following year's town gross budget obligation. The 2020/21 estimated Audited Fund Balance of \$600,000** will be credited to Haddam and Killingworth. We will apply the balance of the self-insurance fund of \$1,747,292**, thereby lowering the budget and assessment for each town.

**Note this is an estimated Audited Fund Balance. Audit is still being completed.

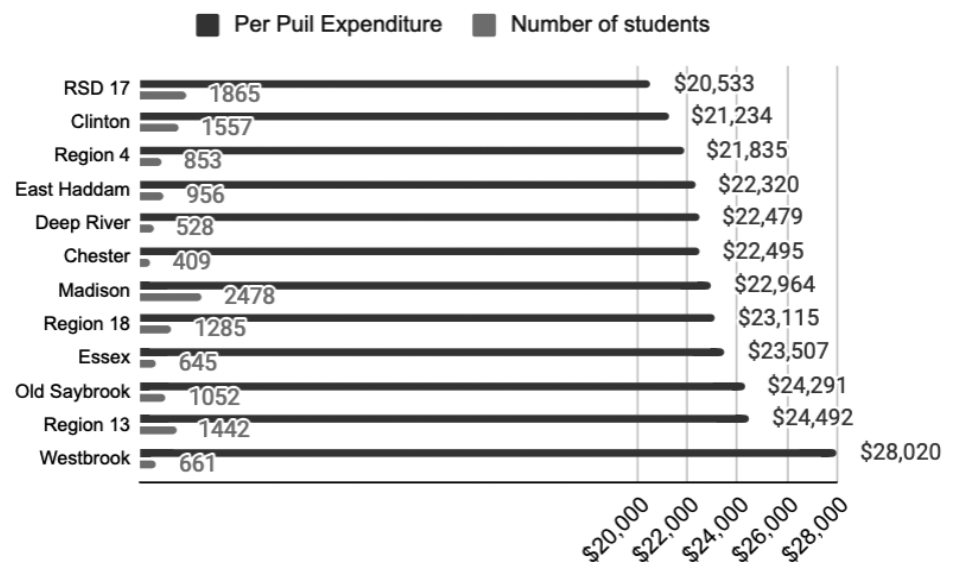
It's all about Long-Term Sustainability...

The 2022/23 budget continues to represent a commitment to our students and our towns. With 67.31% of the budget made up of fixed costs, the District has managed to keep increases to a minimum through reallocating resources, strategic planning and thoughtful spending. Through careful budget planning, RSD 17 continues to remain below most neighboring towns in per pupil expenditure and less than the state average of \$20,740. School continues to be more critical than ever to Haddam and Killingworth children. The investments we make now in our students will pay dividends by creating compassionate, critical thinkers who will contribute to improving our society.

Haddam BoE Representatives
 -Brenda Buzzi, Jen Favalora, Shawna Goldfarb, Hamish MacPhail, Corey Roberts, Peter Sonski

Killingworth BoE Representatives -
 Lisa Connelly, Joel D'Angelo, Nelson Rivera, Suzanne Sack, Kathy Zandi

2020-21 Per Pupil Expenditure Comparison



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Haddam Women's Club: New Name and Spring Events

By Dawn Alger, Treasurer, HWC

A familiar name around town is getting some buzz for a big change, and this change may be causing some confusion. After 40 plus years of existence, the "Haddam Junior Women's Club" has officially become the "Haddam Women's Club".

The club, a local chapter of a state-wide non-profit organization (Connecticut Junior Women, Inc.) was created to provide local women with an opportunity for civic and social activities. Over the years, the descriptive 'junior' has become confusing, since that label intended to differentiate the group from 'senior' women, but not necessarily to exclude anyone. The club is open to any woman over the age of 18 from Haddam, Higganum, Haddam Neck or from surrounding towns that do not have a chapter of their own. The club meets monthly, and hosts fundraisers throughout the year that enable the group to support an annual college scholarship and to make donations to many organizations and social service agencies in our town. The group hosts

annual pie/bake sales, the town-wide-tag-sale, food/fund drives and participates in many other events in town.

The new name also comes with a new logo, designed by club member Alicia Cope, which highlights Haddam's location in our state and the love this group has for our town. The new name and new logo were initiated by the current membership to refresh the club's image and build recognition of the club for the next generation of civic-minded women in our town.

The club has a new event on the calendar, a vendor craft fair taking place at the Haddam Elementary School on Sunday, May 1, intended to provide gifting-ideas for Mother's Day or a fun day with Mom. The vendor's fee is \$25 for a table-spot and the event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission for shoppers is free (donations to the club will be accepted), and the club is accepting non-perishable food items to be donated to the Haddam Food Bank and the HK Backpack Program at this event. To sign up as a vendor for the craft fair, contact

Sarah Chambers through our Facebook messenger account, or email HaddamJrs@gmail.com.

Later in May, the club will host the annual town-wide-tag-sale on Saturday May 21. For \$25, tagsalers can reserve a spot at HES or can put their address on the map. Maps are printed and available beginning at 8 a.m. at HES. Typically the event brings hundreds of shoppers to town to visit an average of 50-70 tag sales. Proceeds from this event (and others throughout the year) help to fund the annual scholarship to a college-bound graduating student from Haddam or Higganum. To sign up for a tag sale, contact Karen Revis at 860-301-4447 or through the Facebook event page.

The last business meeting of the year is on Thursday May 5 beginning at 7:30p at the Haddam Volunteer Firehouse multipurpose room, and is open to all interested in learning more about the club. Questions about becoming a member can be sent to HaddamJrs@gmail.com or dawnalgerct@yahoo.com.

Support For BeFree Solarize Customers

Information from a Haddam Town Alert

BeFree Solar is no longer operating in Connecticut and is not fulfilling workmanship warranties. If you believe your BeFree-installed solar PV system is not working properly, the Connecticut Green Bank (Green Bank) is recommending that you take the below steps based on how you obtained your system.

If You Own Your System (including systems financed with the Green Bank's Smart-E Loan)

Contact Bill Colonis, Green Bank Project Manager at (860) 258-7828 or Bill.Colonis@ctgreenbank.com (with copy to SmallSolar@ctgreenbank.com). Bill will help determine the type of issue (e.g., equipment warranty, workmanship, etc.) and work with you to identify the next steps for your situation.

If You Have a Loan Through a Third-Party Lender

The same steps as above should be followed unless your loan agreement provides specific steps for addressing system repairs.

If You Have a Lease Through CT Solar Lease II Systems financed through the Green Bank's CT Solar Lease II program carry warranty and insurance

coverage for the duration of the lease term. Simply call the program's customer service provider at (866) 305-4239 between 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday – Friday to troubleshoot your issues. If you have difficulty getting assistance, contact Bill Colonis at the information above. Please note that if your system issue is determined to be outside of the scope of the warranty or insurance coverage, some labor and/or equipment fees may apply.

Contacting the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP)

After you pursue the steps above, you may want to register a complaint with the DCP. This will create a record of your issue, document your specific problem(s), and allow DCP to provide any further recommendations. To register a complaint with the DCP, please visit the DCP website or call (860) 713-6300 and follow the prompts or visit the website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Agency-Administration/About-Us/Contact-Us>

Connecticut Green Bank is here to help you with your concerns. We will work with you through the steps outlined above to provide guidance in addressing your issues and getting the help you need.

HKHS SPORTS

Baseball: HKHS Defeated by Morgan 4-3

By Mark Brookes, Coach

The Haddam Killingworth High School Varsity Baseball team was defeated by Morgan in Higganum on Friday, April 8, 2022, by a score of 4-3.

Garbinski went the distance striking out 6 and drove in the winning run in the seventh with a sacrifice fly. Nick Glynn had two hits for HK.

Morgan 0 0 0 0 3 1 4 6 1
HK 0 0 0 0 3 0 3 5 2

Batteries: Morgan- Garrett Garbinski and Wyatt Luke. HK- Ryan Erskine, Alex Sheehan (6), and Nick Glynn. WP Garbinski LP Erskine

*Records: M (1-3) HK (1-2)
*at time of publication

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ENTERTAINMENT

This Week on Valley Shore Community TV: April 21-27

By Chris Morgan, Public Access Coordinator, VSCTV

Comcast Channel 18 - Valley Shore Educational Network

4/23 7:00 p.m. Portland vs HK Boys Basketball
4/23 1:30 p.m. HKTV Film Festival

Comcast Channel 19 - Valley Shore Community Television

4/21 - 1:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. UMC of Clinton Sunday Service 4/17/22

4/21 - 5:00 p.m. Old Saybrook Meetings

4/24 - 4:00 p.m. First Congregational Church in Essex Sun. Service 4/17/22

4/24 - 5:00 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church Sunday Service 4/17/22

4/24 - 6:00 p.m. Deep River Town Meetings 4/12/22

4/25 - 4:00 p.m. A Slice of Life - Bird Houses

4/25 - 5:00 p.m. Silver Linings Talk Show

4/25 - 6:00 p.m. Shore Things: Tanya Porcelli

4/25 - 8:00 p.m. Art of Poetry

4/26 - 4:00 p.m. Clinton Meetings

4/26 - 6:00 p.m. Arts & Entertainment: New Haven Symphony

4/26 - 7:00 p.m. Pete Mezzetti Show: Better Business Bureau

4/26 - 8:00 p.m. Shoreline Music Monthly: Steve Knauth & David Gregoire

4/27 - 4:00 p.m. Westbrook Congregational 4/24/22

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, April 21

Toddler Tunes – Brainerd Library. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. Ages 2-5, siblings welcome. Outdoors, weather permitting.

Mystery Book Club – Killingworth Library 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Join us as we discuss Two Girls Down by Louisa Luna.

Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission meeting 7:00 p.m.

Tweens and teens Dungeons and Dragons! Held every Thursday at Killingworth Library from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., this game session will run from April 21st to June 9th.

KVFC Board of Fire Commissioners meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote)

Friday, April 22

Spring Into Hope Happy Hour 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation, Inc. invites our community members to our Spring Into Hope happy hour fundraising event. This celebration at the Polish Falcons Nest 519 in Middletown, CT will feature musician Mark Peryga, free appetizers, silent auction and raffles. Enjoy the evening with your friends and family! If you have any questions or would like to donate a raffle prize or food, please contact Marie Field at 860-301-9598 or email NBFMF@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 23

Saturday Storytime 10:00 a.m. Killingworth Library (Zoom). This week's story: The Curious Garden by Peter Brown.

National Drug Take Back Day 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Do you have unwanted or expired medication in the cabinet at home? Haddam and Killingworth will be participating in the National Drug Take-Back on Saturday, April 23. Over the counter and prescription pills can be dropped off at either Killingworth Pharmacy or Nutmeg Pharmacy. For more information, please feel free to reach out to HK Youth and Family Service at (860) 345-7498 or email beaves@hkyfs.org. Thank you and be safe!

Killingworth Library Plant a Seed of Kindness Day 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday, April 25



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Killingworth Board of Selectmen meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote).

Killingworth Library Association meeting 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26

Spring Storytime - Brainerd Library 10:00 a.m., outdoors weather permitting. Ages 2-5, siblings welcome.

RSD #17 Board of Education meeting 7:00 p.m. HKIMS.

Killingworth Board of Finance Public Budget Hearing 7:00 p.m. Killingworth Elementary School.

Killingworth Board of Finance meeting 7:30 p.m. Killingworth Elementary School.

Wednesday, April 27

Middle School Game Night – Brainerd Library 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Middle School Game Night is a monthly event where we hang out and play Nintendo Switch games and occasionally some cool retro games! Controllers will be provided, but participants can also bring their own controllers if they want. Players are welcome to bring their own consoles, handhelds, or laptops, or use the ones provided by library staff. This program runs from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., but participants are welcome to stay a little later if they want to keep playing.

Haddam Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 28

Toddler Tunes – Brainerd Library. Thursdays 10:00 a.m. Ages 2-5, siblings welcome. Outdoors, weather permitting.

Love2Sign with Jaye – Killingworth Library 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Fun, interactive sign language classes for children ages 6 months to 6 years old. Program dates are April 28; May 5, 12, 19, and 26; and June 2 and 9. Please register for each session that you can attend – 860-663-2000.

Dungeons & Dragons – Killingworth Library 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tweens and teens: play Dungeons and Dragons! Held every Thursday, this game session will run from April 21 to June 9. Dungeon Master Anastasia will lead the way. Attendance is limited to five players, so please register in advance. All five players will carry through the entire session. Register in advance – 5 spaces available. For more info call 860-663-2000

Haddam Zoning Board of Appeals meeting 7:00 p.m.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HADDAM ANNUAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to legal voters and/or taxpayers of the Town of Haddam that the Annual Budget Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Haddam Volunteer Firehouse, Community Hall, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum CT 06441

Dated in Haddam, Connecticut this 21st day of April 2022

Joseph Centofanti, Chairman
Board of Finance

TOWN OF HADDAM PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF DECISION

It was decided at the Town of Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on April 7th, 2022 meeting at 7:00 p.m. to approve the following:

1. Special permit approval to allow for an addition to the existing building for office space, retail and professional services including a side yard modification and lot line revision. Approval includes the condition that the Town Engineers comments be addressed.
Location: to 1572 Saybrook Rd **Applicant:** DBP, LLC - map 49/lot 69

2. Amendment to the special permit for The Truck Bar to allow change in business hours to
Monday -Thursday 8am-10pm, Friday/Saturday 8am-midnight, Sunday 8am-8pm. **Location:** 66 Killingworth Rd map 14/lot 29-1 **Applicant:** Merle McKenzie

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Boys Tennis: HKHS Defeats Old Saybrook 3-2

By Rod Pakus, Coach

On April 13, the Haddam Killingworth High School Tennis team defeated Old Saybrook in Higganum.

H-K's strong singles play was too much for Old Saybrook to overcome, despite their strong showing in doubles, and allowed the Cougars to walk off the courts with a 3-2 match win.

The trio of Freshman Bryce Leiberman, Sophomore Co-Captain Eddie White and Senior Co-Captain Joey Mercier swept the singles matches and provided enough cushion to absorb the tough losses in doubles play. Old Saybrook's doubles teams got off to a fast start, winning the first set in

both matches. Their lead proved too much for the Cougars doubles teams to overcome and they closed out both matches in straight sets.

Individual match scores are as follows:

Old Saybrook at Haddam-Killingworth

#1 Singles Bryce Leiberman (H-K) d.

Logan Medbury (OS) 6-0, 6-0

#2 Singles Eddie White (H-K) d.

Daniel Steindl (OS) 6-1, 6-0

#3 Singles Joey Mercier (H-K) d.

Victor Fuda (OS) 6-1, 6-4

#4 Singles NM

#1 Doubles Kapij/Forrestt (OS) d.

Luzietti/Wessinger (H-K) 6-3, 6-4

#2 Doubles Nichols/Miselli (OS) d.

Stevens/Lirot (H-K) 6-1, 6-4

#3 Doubles NM



Gypsy Moths and Emerald Ash Borers Killed Trees that Attract Pileated Woodpeckers

By Scott Brinckerhoff

The devastation caused by gypsy moths and emerald ash borers killed oaks and other trees throughout our region, but birds like this pileated woodpecker are finding a bonanza of insect life in the dead wood. This male was hammering away at a tree on the edge of Cockaponset forest and later moved to another oak, shown here, and began excavating a nesting cavity. He was joined briefly by his mate, but whether she approved of his efforts isn't clear yet.



Photo taken on March 31 by Scott Brinckerhoff.

HADDAM PUBLIC SAFETY

HVFC Responded to Seven Calls for Emergency Services Yesterday

By Olivia Drake, HVFC Public Information Officer

Haddam Volunteer Fire Company responded to a total of seven calls for emergency services on April 8, including two motor vehicle accidents, a utility pole fire, a "smell of gas" investigation, and three medicals.

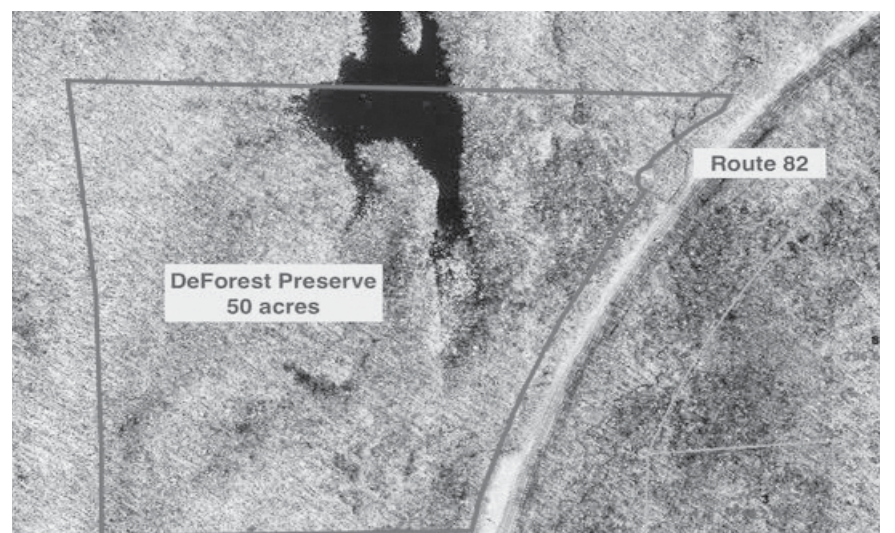
Among these calls was a rollover into Bible Rock Brook at 3:40 p.m. Upon arrival, both occupants were out of the vehicle, and they were evaluated on scene for injuries. Both patients

were transported to Middlesex Hospital.

While investigating the vehicle, firefighters noticed a substantial oil and fluid leaking into the brook. Crews climbed into the creek with multiple absorbent booms and attempted to contain and trap the oily fluids. Firefighters also placed a boom at the end of a historic culvert that diverts the water in a tunnel under Saybrook Road. One lane of traffic was closed during the incident.

COMMUNITY

Introducing the Newest Haddam Land Trust Acquisition: The DeForest Preserve



Continued from page HK1

CRC's desire to permanently protect this property inspired the donation to the Haddam Land Trust as the local authority in land management. We are indebted to the CRC for their selfless commitment to conservation and for their trust in us as permanent steward.

The preserve was named to celebrate the exceptional conservation ethic of the

DeForest family, who, over many years, donated much of their land in Haddam, including this parcel, to ecologically-minded organizations, and whose entire 260-acre property is now permanently protected.

The DeForest Preserve will join 34 other properties and 1,100 total acres under management by the Haddam Land Trust.



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COMMUNITY

Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt Show: May 7-8

By Elizabeth Malloy, Executive Director, Haddam Historical Society



The Annual Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt Show will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 8, 12 p.m. to 5 pm. The scenic 19th century church overlooking the Connecticut River is located at 408 Quarry Hill Road in Haddam Neck. More than 100 new and antique quilts and quilted items will be displayed in the church.

This year we are again combining the show with the Ladies Aid Plant Sale and Bake Sale. There will be a “bits and pieces” sale of fabrics and notions in the adjacent parish house along with a quilt raffle, basket raffle and local crafts.

We are accepting quilt entries until April 22, 2022. Email elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com for entry form.

For information call 860-930-8520 or 860-267-4513.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Seven Dead in CT in Three Weeks: Thoughts on Wrong-way Driving Accidents

By Philip R. Devlin

Editor’s Note: In East Windsor on March 24, a teen was charged in a wrong-way driving incident on a highway ramp at 3:53 p.m. on Interstate 91 (he was traveling southbound on a northbound off-ramp and collided with another vehicle head-on).

In late February, there were two wrong-way crashes in Connecticut that resulted in six deaths. One crash occurred on I-91 near Meriden where a car was traveling south in the northbound lanes. The other accident killed four women in Hartford on I-84. In both instances the wrong way driver was in the left lane, traveling at night. On March 23, 2022, yet another wrong way driver on I-84 claimed a motorist’s life. That’s seven dead Connecticut motorists in less than a month.

Personally, I have encountered a wrong way driver on highways in Connecticut on four occasions. The first time occurred in August of 1995 on Route 8 near Winsted, CT. Our family was returning from a visit to Gettysburg and Hershey, PA. We were driving south on Rt 8 in the right lane — a 2 lane divided highway — when all of a sudden, we

encountered a car going north in the passing lane. Very scary.

On two other occasions, I have encountered wrong way drivers while traveling on Rt 9 north from Old Saybrook. Once again, these drivers were going south in a northbound lane on a limited access, divided highway. Once again, both drivers were in the left lane. In both instances other drivers crashed into these people later on, and there were fatalities. Both wrong way drivers had entered the highway by going up the exit ramp at Beaver Meadow Rd in Haddam.

The most recent wrong way encounter happened to me when I was traveling south on Rt 5 in East Hartford two years ago. Once again, the wrong way driver was in the left-hand lane going north in a southbound lane on a limited access highway.

Deaths from wrong-way crashes have been rising in recent years, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety said in a recently released study that looked at the number of wrong-way crashes on divided highways nationwide.

Wrong-way driving crashes have caused 2,008

Continued on page HK10

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Seven Dead in CT in Three Weeks: Thoughts on Wrong-way Driving Accidents

Continued from page HK9

deaths nationwide between 2015 and 2018; that is an average of about 500 per year, compared with an average of 375 deaths per year from 2010- 2014, an increase of more than 33% in the four most recent years included in the study.

On February 25 in Goleta, California, a very brave California highway patrolman got a report of a wrong-way driver coming his way. Officer Leal deliberately crashed his Chevy SUV patrol car into the side of a wrong way driver on California 101,

stopping her. It was 3:30 a.m., dark, and the driver was drunk. He probably saved someone's life by risking his own.

The worst wrong-way accident in recent memory actually occurred at 1:30 in the afternoon on the Taconic State Parkway in Mt. Pleasant, NY. Diane Schuler, a 36 year-old mother of two, was driving a Ford Windstar van while intoxicated. Schuler, her daughter, and her three nieces were all killed, as well as three people in the car that she struck, while going the wrong way—a total of eight dead in one



Photo by Olivia Drake.

accident. Schuler was traveling at 85 mph when she crashed. How her five year-old son survived a crash like that is a miracle.

Some factors to think about and to learn from concerning wrong way accidents:

60% of wrong way drivers are impaired by either alcohol or drugs. Other factors include elderly drivers who have visual problems or get confused. Weather can sometimes play a role as well.

About 70% of these accidents involving wrong way drivers occur at night.

The vast majority of these accidents involve a driver in your left lane, as these drivers think they are in their right lane.

Usually, wrong way drivers are driving alone. If passengers are present, often that other set of eyes can alert the driver to his/her mistake.

These accidents have an extremely high fatality rate as the crashes are usually head-on at highway speeds; furthermore, survivors often have horrific injuries requiring multiple surgeries and lengthy, painful recoveries.

Annually in Connecticut there are 39 crashes killing 49 people—1 every 9 days—the highest of any New England state; many others suffer terrible physical and mental injuries.

The most dangerous state for wrong

way crashes is Texas, which averages 446 wrong way crashes with 609 fatalities each year—more than twice the statistics of California which has a much bigger population than Texas.

The safest places involving wrong-way accidents are Washington, D.C. (avg. of 0) and both Vermont and New Hampshire (about 2 each on avg.)

The absolutely most dangerous place for a wrong-way accident to occur is on a curve on a divided limited-access highway. You cannot see the car or its headlights coming at you until the very last moment; therefore, it is of the utmost importance for safety always to be in the right lane when rounding a curve on a highway, as the chances are very high that you won't be in the lane in which you'll find a wrong-way driver; furthermore, the right lane affords you room in the breakdown lane to take evasive action if necessary.

Finally, area drivers should always be alert when taking the Aircraft Rd exit (Exit 10) off of Rt 9 south—a popular Higganum exit. This exit has a blind curve as you drive on it. It would be very easy for a car to enter this exit the wrong way from Rt 154. A good idea would be to favor the right side of the exit ramp and, if driving at night and there is no vehicle in front of you, turn on your high beams so that a wrong way driver might notice you before it is too late.



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April 28 - RSVP by April 22 | June 23 - RSVP by June 17
May 12 - RSVP by May 6 | July 14 - RSVP by July 8

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