

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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February 17, 2022

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Free weekly

Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report

By Michelle Ford, KVFC

In 2021, the 52 active members of the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company (KVFC) volunteered nearly 6,400 hours of their time serving the community.

In total, members responded to 424 incidents (13% increase from 2021) including:

- 32 Fires (structures, vehicles, brush/vegetation)
- 220 Medical
- 35 Motor vehicle accidents
- 8 Hazardous material concerns
- 30 Mutual Aid Responses
- 9 Carbon monoxide incidents
- 9 Electrical (wiring problems, downed powerlines)
- 56 False Alarms (detector malfunction, accidental activation, etc.)
- 25 Miscellaneous (animal rescue, severe weather, public service assistance, good intent, etc.)

In addition to more than 1,900 hours spent responding to calls, KVFC members dedicated more than 2,200 hours honing their skills in training and drills and nearly 2,300 hours inspecting and cleaning the equipment and facilities. "In 2021, our training was focused on hose line advancement and search and rescue," stated Assistant Chief/Training Officer Michael Carri. "As we are in the early stage of 2022, the



Photos courtesy of KVFC members; except Memorial Day parade photo by Olivia Drake, HVFC.

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Junior Colonials/ Westbrook Fife and Drum Corps: Music and Camaraderie

By Meghan Peterson



Photo by Meghan Peterson.

Every Monday evening at 6:00 p.m., you will find a dedicated group of parents and children gathered at the Higganum United Methodist Church (248 Saybrook Road, Higganum) for several reasons: music, community, and a vision of continued appreciation for town, state, and country.

Lisa Williams, Director of the Junior Colonials Fife and Drum Corps (part of the Westbrook Fife and Drum Corps), explains that the group was founded in 1961 in order to "educate its members in musicianship and in the heritage of the fife and drum movement." Although Westbrook-based, the group now meets in Higganum at HUMC.

The Church space provides ample room for different practice sites to suit the musicians' needs. For example, the fifers practice upstairs; the drummers practice downstairs. Parents are

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COVID-19 and Its Ripple Effects on High School Sports

By Kevin Cavrell

When COVID-19 struck in March of 2020, I think it is fair to say that none of us expected it to ultimately have the massive effect on our everyday lives that it inevitably did. Over the course of two years, we have learned how to adapt and live with the changes that the pandemic has brought upon us. Everywhere we go, we see masks, sanitizer bottles, among many other precautionary measures that we as a society

have now adopted as the new normal. One of the biggest challenges put forth by the pandemic has been how to successfully maintain and encourage in-person learning. RSD17 has been fortunate to be one of the few school systems across the state that has stayed open since September of 2020. As a student in the district with younger brothers spread across three different schools within RSD17, I have seen the

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Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company 2021 Annual Report

Continued from page HK1

Training Division plans to focus this year's training around firefighter safety and survival."

This year the KVFC welcomed five new members: Patrick Dooley, Michelle Ford, Logan Morrow, Lisa Sizer, and Matt Herman, an EMT and former Deep River firefighter, all of whom are certified firefighters with the State of Connecticut. In addition to the expanding Company roster, several KVFC members became certified in a variety of fire service skills: Michael Carri (Trench Rescue Technician, Rope Rescue Technician and Fire Service Instructor 3), Ben Chasse (Pump Operator), Patrick Dooley (Firefighter 1 and EMT) whose grandfather was a past KVFC Chief, Michelle Ford and Logan Morrow (Firefighter 1 and 2), Graig Judge (Firefighter 2), and Lisa Sizer (EMR). Several members celebrated anniversaries: Ralph Knockwood (40 years), Andy Kuczma (35 years), Pete Cumpstone (20 years), Paul Jacobs (20 years), and Michael Carri (20 years). The Department mourned the loss of former member David Brown, former member/Fire Commissioner Yale Gordon, as well as former Fire Commissioner Bryan Mahoney. According to KVFC Chief Donnie Venuti, "Like 2020, 2021 was a challenging year, however, we were extremely fortunate to welcome five new members and continue to provide excellent training and services to the Town."

This year the COVID-19 protocols were constantly monitored as the pandemic continued and most members took advantage of being offered early access to the vaccine. In addition to modifying protocols around COVID-19, first responders are seeing that our Town is not immune to the statewide increase in opioid-related emergencies and continue to carry and administer

NARCAN, a life-saving drug which can reverse the effects of an overdose. According to former Chief Dick Bauer, "Our approach to medical response has changed forever. Our protocols have become more stringent and we are more deliberate in how we handle these calls which were previously considered more routine."

As the year progressed, the KVFC voted in a new chief, career Guilford firefighter and 15-year KVFC member, Donnie Venuti. The KVFC participated in Haddam's Memorial Day parade, served up breakfast and lunch at the Parmalee Farm artisan market, and participated in the Westbrook Fire Department's 100th anniversary parade. The KVFC honored long-time member and retired City of Middletown Police Sergeant Paul Schilling with the annual Chief's award which recognizes one member who has made significant contributions to the KVFC during the prior year. Paul was recognized for his 30 years of service with the KVFC where he has held numerous positions, including his current role as Secretary. Presenting the award, then Chief Bauer noted, "What I appreciate most about Paul is his pride, dedication and leadership; he handles many of our 'behind the scenes' initiatives such as the Benevolent Committee, Nominating Committee and is our Department Secretary. He also remains very active with emergency responses, training and maintenance activities – a true asset to the KVFC on multiple fronts."

Despite significant supply chain issues, the KVFC took delivery of a new brush truck which, once outfitted, should be ready for service by this spring. As approved by the Town, the Company signed a contract to replace the cab and chassis on the 1994 Rescue Truck 8-9 and to retrofit the box which

houses all the equipment. The Company hopes to have the new rescue truck in service by mid-2023.

Looking ahead to 2022, the KVFC has established committees to plan a community celebration for the Company's 75th anniversary and to undertake a long-overdue by-law revision. In addition, the KVFC will continue to work with the Town to revise the member pension plan.

The KVFC is thankful for our residents and businesses overwhelming response to the December 2021 annual mailing, the Town and local advocates for passing an ordinance which meets the maximum tax abatement allowed under State statute, and to the Board of Fire Commissioners, Board of Selectmen, and all agencies which support the organization throughout the year.

The KVFC relies on dedicated volunteers from the community and any members interested in serving are encouraged to contact the department by email at FireChief@TownofKillingworth.com

Fire Safety Reminder: Please remember to clearly display your house numbers on your house and/or at the end of your driveway so that first responders can quickly and easily identify your property in the event of an emergency. According to the Town of Killingworth's General Legislation, Chapter 404 §404-2, all residential, commercial or industrial buildings shall have the street number affixed to the building. The numbers shall be at least three inches in height and contrast in color to the building. If the building is more than 50' from the road, the street number must also be affixed to both sides of the mailbox, post or fence, so that the property can be clearly identified.



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COVID-19 and Its Ripple Effects on High School Sports

Continued from page HK1

effects that COVID has had on schooling firsthand. And while I might be the first person to tell you how the pandemic has affected in-person learning, that is not the focus of this segment. Instead, I would like to bring to light how COVID has changed not only sports, but the entire climate of extracurricular activities

To truly understand the impact that COVID has had on high school sports, I spoke with Haddam Killingworth High School track and field/cross country coach, Matt Diglio. When asked if he believes that COVID has affected the overall interest and engagement of younger students, Diglio said, "I believe that COVID (and online school) absolutely had an effect on athletic participation at the high school level... I have observed it not only in the sports I coach (track and cross country), but also know it has affected other sports teams at H-K as well as other sports and schools throughout the state. In cross country, our team went from around 60-70 (athletes) for the several years prior to COVID, to around 40-45 this past fall, as well as having zero sophomore boys on our team currently. In spring track, our team would start with more than 100 combined boys and

girls in the years before COVID, and this past spring I think we had around 75 or so."

The pandemic and our sudden switch to learning remotely have undoubtedly taken both mental and physical tolls on the students of RSD 17. With unusually low sports signups, it is apparent that encouraging incoming students to participate in both sports and extracurricular activities should be a priority. Sports, as well as other activities, have always been an outlet for the vast majority of HKHS students, and with the sudden increase of technology in our lives, it is important to keep sports alive in the HK community.

HKHS is arguably best known for its success in track and cross country, and while the effects of COVID have already been highlighted by Coach Diglio, it is important to acknowledge that this is not just a track and cross country issue. As Diglio (who also works in the Guilford school system) mentioned, COVID has (similarly) affected other sports teams at HK, as well as other sports and teams throughout the state. I interviewed Tyler Wilcox, head coach of the HKHS football team. Wilcox spoke about the statewide and national impact that COVID has had on sports, highlighting the 2020-21 school year in

particular. Regarding the issue, Wilcox says, "Some professional leagues were able to continue operating because of testing and various protocols, while high school sports were shut down indefinitely causing thousands of student athletes to miss their respective seasons. This was particularly difficult for last year's senior class. These athletes never had the opportunity to step on the field one last time."

Clearly, the impact that COVID has had on sports affects people on many different levels. Sports are a big part of many, many people's lives, and with the trying times brought along by the pandemic, we now see teams struggling to fill rosters, athletes with great potential losing interest in their respective sport as well as the benefits of physical activity, and team sports beginning to dwindle from our community. As a tightly-knit district with a strong history and high expectations regarding sports, it is important that we encourage the youth of our community to participate in sports and extracurriculars, even if it is a 30 minute soccer practice once a week. The benefit of playing sports and other team-oriented activities is essential for the growth and development of our youth, and maybe they'll even have a bit of fun along the way.

ARTS

Arts Center Killingworth and Spectrum Art Gallery Receive CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant from CT Humanities

By Barbara Nair, Executive Director, Arts Center Killingworth

Connecticut Humanities, the statewide, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), has awarded the Arts Center Killingworth and Spectrum Art Gallery and Store an \$11,400 CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant (CTCFOSG).

The Arts Center and Spectrum Gallery will employ the grant money in a variety of ways with a keen focus on the growth and development of new and innovative programming. Investment in the latest and most efficient technologies is also crucial, with new technology platforms including video conferencing, social media, and other forms of outreach between the organization and the communities they serve.

"We are truly thankful for this generous gift," noted Barbara Nair, Executive Director of the organizations. "With Covid-19 and the subsequent Delta and Omicron variants, traffic into the Gallery and attendance for classes and workshops have been severely impacted. Less traffic means less revenue to develop and offer programs. But with this generous grant, we'll be able to increase our programming and implement the best technologies to provide new and relevant art experiences – both in-person and online!"

The Arts Center and Spectrum Art Gallery was one of 624 organizations in Connecticut that were awarded CT Cultural Fund support totaling \$16M

from CT Humanities. The CTCFOSG are part of \$30.7M of support allocated to arts, humanities, and cultural non-profits through CTH over the next two years by the CT General Assembly and approved by Governor Ned Lamont. The CTCFOSG will assist organizations as they recover from the pandemic and maintain and grow their ability to serve their communities and the public.

This grant was administered by CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.



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Editor's Note: Information from Merit Pages News unless otherwise indicated.

SMITHFIELD, RI (02/08/2022)-- Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement:

Luke Lamontagne, class of 2024, from Higganum, has been named to the President's List for the fall 2021 semester.

The President's List is an academic distinction reserved for Bryant's highest achievers who earn a GPA of 4.0 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work.

Congratulations to Luke on this outstanding achievement!

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (02/07/2022)- Isabella Young, of Killingworth, CT, was named to the University of Utah's Fall 2021 Dean's List. Young's major is listed as Psychology BA.

Young was among more than 9,600 students named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at the U. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

DURHAM, NH (02/04/2022)-- The following students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for the fall 2021 semester:

Marly Laberge of Killingworth, CT (High Honors)

Autumn Coady of Killingworth, CT (Honors)

Veronica Chrzanowski of Haddam, CT (Highest Honors)

Morgan Bowles of Higganum, CT (High Honors)

Natalie Pontbriand of Higganum, CT (Highest Honors)

Students named to the Dean's List at the University

of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

PAUL SMITHS, NY (02/04/2022)-- Paul Smith's College is pleased to announce that Rebecca Durinick of Haddam, CT has been named to the fall 2021 Adirondack Scholars list.

Congratulations on earning this academic achievement, Rebecca!

TAMPA, FL (02/04/2022)-- Nikole Clementel, of Haddam, earned dean's list honors at The University of Tampa for the Fall 2021 semester. Clementel is majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice BS. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

SMITHFIELD, RI (02/08/2022)-- Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement.

The following students have been named to the Deans' List for the fall 2021 semester.

John Bruder, Class of 2025, from Haddam, CT

Luke Lamontagne, Class of 2024, from Higganum, CT

Jillian Collingwood, Class of 2022, from East Hampton, CT

Ethan Gromala, Class of 2022, from Killingworth, CT

Joshua Kearney, Class of 2022, from East Hampton, CT

Thomas Williams, Class of 2023, from Haddam, CT

Molly Anderson, Class of 2024, from Killingworth, CT

Sandra S. Williams



©Ronni Nienstedt 1990

Sandra S. Williams, 84, of Higganum, Connecticut passed away Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Connecticut.

Sandy was born in Taunton, Massachusetts on November 11, 1937, to Thomas and Frances (Howard) Sheridan. She was married nearly 62 years to and is survived by her husband Donald Williams, 88. She is also survived by her three children: Andrea Williams, Beth-Anne Fair and her husband Robert of Killingworth, Connecticut; and Douglas Williams and his wife Aimee of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as well as her five grandchildren: Nathaniel and Evan Fair, and Corey, Logan, and Delanie Williams.

In addition to family, Sandy dedicated her life to a variety of roles. She started out working in bookkeeping and accounting for larger businesses. At age 45, she quit the corporate world. Quite by accident, when she became a school bus driver for Regional School District 17, she began a twenty-nine-year run at a job she loved and came to say it was the best job she ever held. Students and parents often referred to her as Mrs. Williams, a respectful reflection of who she was.

She also had a great passion for Morgan horses, one of the earliest developed breeds in the United States. An early riding accident led Sandy to learn to drive a horse, beginning a shared interest with her husband Don which eventually developed into her farm business: Siridian Farms. She and her favorite horse, the stallion Siridian Marhawk (Sam), did it all: show ring, combined driving, and competitive trail driving. She has been well respected in the Morgan horse world for being a skilled trainer and two-wheeled cart driver.

In respect of Sandy's wishes, there were no calling hours or funeral. At her request, her ashes will be spread on her farm with her second favorite stallion, Sam.

Those who wish to send memorial contributions may do so in her name in these preferred ways:

- Non-profit organizations that specialize in the Morgan horse retirement living.
- Haddam-Killingworth High-School's athletic program to Lynne Flint by email at lflint@rsd17.org or phone at 860-345-5728.

You are welcome to share your memories or express your condolences online by visiting www.biegafuneralhome.com.

HADDAM LIBRARY NEWS

Friends of Brainerd Memorial Library Offer Baby Gift Bags

By Robbie Marshall, Assistant Director, Brainerd Memorial Library

The Friends of Brainerd Memorial Library in Haddam would like to welcome new babies to the community and introduce them and their families to the library with a baby gift bag!

If you, or someone you know, has a new baby, please stop in, or tell them – to pick up a baby gift bag!

Gift bags are at the Circulation desk and the Children's Department desk.

We hope new patrons will take a little time to explore what BML has to offer!

Please visit our website & Facebook Pages to sign up for our E-newsletters and discover Children's activities and events.

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PCS

Junior Colonials/ Westbrook Fife and Drum Corps: Music and Camaraderie

Continued from page HK1

there for the youth as needed, standing, watching, and listening. Ultimately, however, the Jr. Colonials convene and sit at a long table – at an independent distance from the adults – and get right down to business.

The young musicians listen attentively to guided instruction from their teacher, Anna Williams. “How is everyone?” she asks kindly, as she approaches. “Have we been practicing?” Answers vary, with the refreshingly candid humor only children can provide: “Yes;” “I could not quite find the time;” “A little bit.” Anna looks at them all with a twinkle in her eye. She begins by overseeing a warm-up for the entire group. Next, the corps splits into two sections – one older, the other younger. The older ones leave to practice their drum rudiments and songs. Meanwhile, Anna directs – with patience and attentiveness – the younger children to practice single strokes and paradiddles (Left,

Right, Left Left or Right, Left, Right Right taps) on their drum pads. They practice individually as well as together. Toward the end of the practice session, the fifers join the drummers and play several songs. Every week, they conclude by playing the National Anthem of the United States of America.

When you hear this group of merry fifers and drummers play, you can feel the joy in the room. You can hear the love of music, of history, of country – a recognition of timeless principles - that these kids bring to life through their playing and camaraderie.

Youth membership in the Jr. Colonials ranges in age from 5 to 18. According to Chris and Sarah Page, parents of sons Ryder and Waylon who play in the corps, the group has recently grown by an additional six to seven families in town. When COVID shutdowns in Connecticut began in 2020, the corps could no longer practice at the Westbrook site. Through conversations with Pastor

Ahn of Higganum United Methodist Church, Chris was able to secure a practice location there.

Lisa Williams’ daughter, Anna, began with the Jr. Colonials 13 years ago and now carries the torch of instruction at that long table in the center of the room described earlier. In addition, Lisa’s son, Jim, has been playing for 25 years and is a proud member of the Connecticut Valley Field Music. Jim also teaches fife. Lisa explains that getting involved with fife and drum is all about “music immersion.” While the “sweet spot for learning fife and drum is between 7 and 9 years of age,” Lisa notes that it is a good idea for children younger than that to begin seeing what practices are like. Lisa and Sarah recommend that folks begin the “music immersion” process by watching fife and drum videos as well as attending, observing –

even participating in - practices as often as desired. The group does not charge any dues.

Together, Lisa, Chris, Sarah, Jean Potvin (Treasurer of the Junior Corps), work to cultivate the Jr. Colonials’ work and role in events such as civic parades and other community events. In fact, the group is excited to be practicing for and looking ahead to, playing in the St Patrick’s Parade on Sunday, March 27 in Mystic.

For more information on how to become a part of and/or support the Jr. Colonials Fife and Drum Corps, write an e-mail or give a call to:

Lisa Williams:
wjcfdc@gmail.com
203-392-1283

Chris Page:
AwakePatriot@hotmail.com
203-215-7628

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, February 17

Red Cross blood drive 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Saint Peter Church Hall.
Killingworth Board of Selectmen meeting 6:00 p.m. (remote access)
Killingworth Library Mystery Book

Saturday, February 19

Haddam Board of Finance Budget Workshop meeting 9:00 a.m. Old Town Hall
Saturday Storytime 10:00 a.m. Killingworth Library (Zoom)

Monday, February 21

Presidents Day

Tuesday, February 22

Haddam Inland Wetlands meeting 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 23

Haddam Board of Finance Review meeting 6:30 p.m.
Haddam Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 p.m.
Haddam Sustainability meeting 7:00 p.m.
Spiritual Book Study 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Sacred Heart on the Lake Retreat Center

Killingworth Economic Recovery meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote access)

Thursday, February 24

Haddam Zoning Board of Appeals meeting 7:00 p.m.
Gateway meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. RiverCOG Office, Essex, CT

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

Member of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

HVFC Auxiliary 2022 Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

By Elaine Jackson, HVFC Auxiliary

Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary Educational Assistance Program: \$750

The applicant must be a graduating high school senior whose parent/guardian is a member of the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company # 1 or its Auxiliary. The applicant may also be a

member of the Junior Fire Company. The applicant or parent/guardian must have been a member of one of the above organizations for a minimum of twelve months.

Our purpose is to provide assistance to a qualifying graduate for further study and to reward those who have enriched communities by volunteering. There are no stipulations

regarding whether it will be a one, two, three or four year program; but the student must attend full time.

No applicant will be considered for the scholarship without submitting a completed application to the Guidance Department at Haddam Killingworth High School by April 15, 2022.

Applications can be found at the HK Guidance office and/or contact Elaine

Jackson elainejack835@gmail.com or Hollis Burr ehburr105@aol.cm. Non-HK students – please include your high school transcript.

Optional – letters of recommendations may be included. These may be copies of letters previously submitted for other scholarships or college applications.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Calling All Knitters - We Need Your Help

We need your help to knit blankets, gloves, hats and/or scarves for adults and children in need.

My husband, Ray Dennis of the Haddam Lions and I will be returning this June to the Rosebud Lakota Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, one of the poorest reservations in our country.

Last Fall, our friends at the Middletown-based Artists for World Peace collected and donated over 5,000 individual pieces of new winter clothing to tribal members. We delivered and distributed them at three different communities on the reservation.

In June with the help of a team of 35 eyecare and healthcare professionals and volunteers, our "Native Eyes" free eye clinic will be providing free eye exams and eyeglasses to about 1000 tribal members including children.

With your help we can keep these folks a little bit warmer by knitting one or more items. If interested please email me at roedennis@comcast.net. I do have some donated yarn to give out for this project.

With sincere thanks,
Roe Dennis

KILLINGWORTH GARDEN CLUB

Killingworth Evergreen Garden Club Announces 2022 Scholarship Applications Available

By Susan Adinolfo

Since 1984, The Killingworth Evergreen Garden Club has awarded scholarships to residents for the following academic curricula:

- Horticulture
- Landscape Design
- Landscape Architecture
- Environmental Science
- Master Gardener's Program
- Applicants must be a high school

graduate or adult planning to attend a two- or four-year program.

This year up to \$1,000 in scholarship money is available. Scholarship applications must be submitted by May 1, 2022 and are available at the Haddam-Killingworth High School Guidance Department or the Killingworth Library.

For further information please contact Sue @ 860-663-1223.

COMMUNITY/SPORTS

Terriers Boys Ice Hockey to host "Hockey Fights Cancer" game: February 19

By Robin Thebeau

The Terriers Boys Ice Hockey team will host a Hockey Fights Cancer charity game on Saturday, February 19 at 4:50 p.m. at Champions Ice Rink in Cromwell. The team will wear purple jerseys to show support for all types of cancer. Additionally, the Terriers team members have identified the person they are skating for (those who are

fighting and those who have fought cancer). The team has raised over \$8000 for the American Cancer Society and is currently in 2nd place nationally in the Hockey Fights Cancer fundraiser. The Terriers Boys Ice Hockey team is a co-op with Haddam/Killingworth, Middletown, Plainville, and Rocky Hill. The HK High School has six boys on the team.



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HADDAM PUBLIC SAFETY

Haddam Troopers Need Help with Merchant House Burglary

The Haddam Resident Troopers Office is investigating a commercial burglary at The Merchant House (1583 Saybrook Road) which occurred Feb. 1, 2022 at approximately 11:50 a.m. in the Town of Haddam. Forced entry was gained and taken was a Craftsman standing drill press and other assorted tools. Surveillance footage from a nearby business depicts a light-colored SUV (possibly a Mazda) as the suspect vehicle.

Anyone with information or that may be able to identify the vehicle is asked to contact TFC DeAngelo #825 at joseph.deangelo@ct.gov or 860-399-2100. Calls/messages can be kept confidential.






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ENTERTAINMENT

This Week on Valley Shore Community TV: February 17-23

By Chris Morgan, Public Access Coordinator, VSCTV

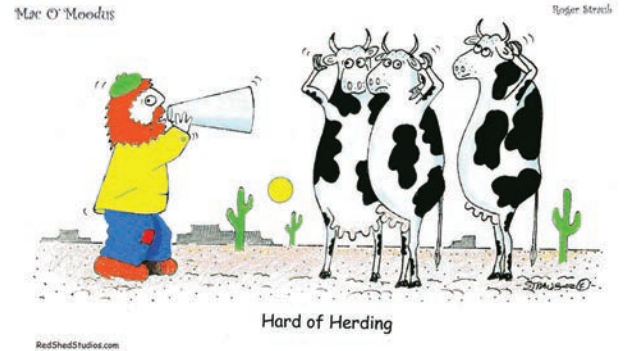
- Comcast Channel 18** - Valley Shore Educational Network
- 2/19 7:00 p.m. HKTV Film Festival
 - 2/20 6:45 p.m. Haddam-Killingworth HS Chorus Concert
- Comcast Channel 19** - Valley Shore Community Television
- 2/17 - 1:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. UMC of Clinton Sunday Service 2/13/22
 - 2/17 - 5:00 p.m. Old Saybrook Meetings
 - 2/20 - 4:00 p.m. First Congregational Church in Essex Sun. Service 2/13/22
 - 2/20 - 5:00 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church Sunday Service 2/13/22
 - 2/20 - 6:00 p.m. Deep River Town Meetings 2/8/22
 - 2/21 - 4:00 p.m. A Slice of Life
 - 2/21 - 5:00 p.m. Silver Linings Talk Show
 - 2/21 - 6:00 p.m. Shore Things: Phil Parda Student of Tea
 - 2/21 - 8:00 p.m. Art of Poetry
 - 2/22 - 4:00 p.m. Clinton Meetings
 - 2/22 - 6:00 p.m. Arts & Entertainment: The Actors Fund
 - 2/22 - 7:00 p.m. Pete Mezzetti Show: Max Sabrin Old

Saybrook Fire Dept.

- 2/22 - 8:00 p.m. Shoreline Music Monthly: BEPW
- 2/23 - 4:00 p.m. Westbrook Congregational 2/20/22

For the complete schedule and to watch programs on-demand, visit www.vsctv.com. HKTV and VSCTV are available on Comcast Xfinity channel 18 & 19, Frontier TV channel 6089 & 6090, or on Apple TV, Roku, & Fire TV by using the free Cablecast Screenweave app. Links to download the Cablecast Screenweave app are on VSCTV's homepage.

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Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate and Middle School: 2022 Luminarias of Hope

By Michele Ouellette, Lead Teacher for Student Life, HKIMS

The start of a new year leads many of us to consider our hopes, dreams and goals for the future. This is no different for the staff and students of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate and Middle Schools (HKIMS), who recently devoted time during their Advisory and Second Step lessons to create luminarias to display their hopes and dreams for 2022.

The idea for Luminarias of Hope was brought to us last year by our wonderful PTO. Last year's luminaria display was so moving that our students requested that we make it an annual project to help us thoughtfully begin each New Year. This project ties nicely into our Advisory and Second Step programs where we dedicate time to social and emotional learning.

Wishes for unity and world peace; an end to the Corona Virus; accepting others for who they are; good health for friends and family; and improvement in basketball skills, are some examples of the many hopes, dreams and wishes expressed by our students. Upon completion, the luminaria bags were illuminated with tea-lights and set-up in the auditorium for socially distanced viewing. Students and staff walked the luminaria path in silence, taking in their classmates' and teachers' hopes and dreams. Families of students were invited in after school to view the display as well.

After stopping by during the day to take pictures of the display for the yearbook, Nicole Harlow, an Intermediate School parent, had this to say: "I



Photos by Michele Ouellette.

returned tonight so my family of four could walk through together and was again struck by the sometimes tender, sometimes heart-wrenching and sometimes childishly innocent messages written on the paper bags. I'm so proud of all the students (and staff) for opening the windows of their hearts and minds and allowing their peers and families to look in. What a wonderful way to encourage self-expression—for all those who wrote those earnest messages of hope—and to nurture a feeling of community—for those attending school and for the families who came in the evening! Thank You!"

Our sincerest appreciation to the wonderful HKIMS PTO for funding this project.

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CORONAVIRUS NEWS

Middlesex Health to Allow One Visitor at a Time

By Amanda Falcone, Public Relations Director, Middlesex Health

Due to a decrease in Connecticut's COVID-19 positivity rate, Middlesex Health is loosening its visitor policy. The changes go into effect today.

All Middlesex Health locations, including Middlesex Hospital, outpatient locations and ambulatory settings, will now allow patients one visitor at a time unless they are on respiratory precautions, such as presumed or confirmed COVID-19 patients. Patients on respiratory precautions, such as presumed or confirmed COVID-19 patients, will not be allowed visitors unless they qualify as an exception, as detailed below.

All visitors must wear a face mask at all times, including in patient rooms, and they will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival.

Per recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), face masks are still required in health care settings. You must wear a mask while at a Middlesex Health facility regardless of whether you've been vaccinated.

Visiting hours at Middlesex Hospital, located at 28 Crescent Street in Middletown, are 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. — both on the weekdays and during the weekend. Visitors must register at the front desk in the hospital lobby and be 16 or older unless granted special permission.

Visiting hours for Middlesex

Hospital's inpatient behavioral health unit are different. Patients staying on this unit may receive visitors seven days a week from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. They are allowed one visitor per day, and their visitors must be 16 or older.

One visitor can accompany Middlesex Health's Emergency Department patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They can enter through the Emergency Department entrance. Pregnancy and Birth Center patients may have one visitor at a time in addition to their primary support person.

There are some exceptions to these rules. They include:

Visitors making compassionate care visits

Individuals visiting patients with disabilities as a designated support person to support disability needs

Birth partners for Pregnancy and Birth Center patients

Pediatric patients

Clergy visits (Members of the clergy should not visit patients who are on special respiratory precautions unless it is a compassionate visit.)

Visitors arriving under these special circumstances may visit 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If they arrive when the hospital lobby is closed, they should go to the Emergency Department main entrance.

For more information about Middlesex Health's revised visitor policy, please visit MiddlesexHealth.org/visitorpolicy