

# Haddam Killingworth News

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

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February 24, 2022

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

Free weekly



## Haddam Senior Corner: Winter Tips for Seniors

By Jo Ann Woickelman, Committee on Aging

Winter tips for senior citizens:

Stay hydrated; add a slice of lemon or lime to water.  
Eat a variety of foods, especially fruits and vegetables.

Stay active — take a walk. If inclement weather, walk in the house.

Connect with others -- call a friend, have lunch at the Haddam Senior Center, or attend a Club 60 meeting.

Wash your hands.

De-stress -- reduce time spent watching news.

From Committee on Aging, your fellow seniors: Bob Thurston, Susan, Beth, Mary Lou, Sue, Mary, Marge, Gloria, Fran & Jo Ann.

## 9 Town Transit to host focus group meetings

By 9 Town Transit

Client Experience Action Plan

9 Town and CTDOT want to hear from public transportation passengers around the state about your experience riding the bus or train. We are conducting one-hour focus groups to hear about your experience taking public transportation, including what currently works well, what is not working so well, desired improvements, or other ideas. This information will help shape future programs, policies, and investments in public transportation services in ways that deliver positive customer experiences.

If you are interested in learning more about participating in a public transportation focus group meeting, please sign-up via the following link. Focus group participants will receive a \$75 gift card for their time. Please note depending on the number responses received, we cannot guarantee that everyone will be selected to participate.

Stay Connected

Get the latest news and information about 9 Town Transit by following us on Facebook or Twitter and signing up for our email newsletter. You can also always get real-time bus schedule information on our PassioGO! app available for free in the Apple and Google app stores.

## Killingworth Lions Club “Barn Raising” Benefit Concert

By Claudette Lagasse,  
Killingworth Historical Society

On Sunday, March 27, at 7:00 p.m. the Killingworth Lions, with assistance from the Killingworth Historical Society (KHS), will present a benefit concert at the HKMS Auditorium.

This concert features two internationally known bands

with Orleans as the main act and Aztec Two-Step opening the show.

KHS is planning a large-scale barn behind its headquarters at the Parmelee Farm Homestead in order to better host events and to house/display their collection of historic Killingworth artifacts.

Roughly 50% of the funding is in place and the Lions are

helping KHS reach their goal. Previous Lions Benefit Concerts included Judy Collins, Gordon Lightfoot, Richie Havens and Arlo Guthrie.

Information on how to get tickets or how your business or family can advertise in the Concert Program is at [www.killingworthlions.org](http://www.killingworthlions.org)

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# Department of Energy Requests Input from Haddam Officials

By Neil McKiernan, Chief of Staff,  
Congressman Joe Courtney

Washington, DC – In letters to regional, state, and local elected officials last week, Congressman Joe Courtney highlighted the opportunity to respond to a “request for information” from the U.S. Department of Energy on a “consent-based” process to move spent nuclear material to interim storage sites. The RFI is being conducted based on direction from Congress, which included \$20 million advocated for by Rep. Courtney in the FY 2021 omnibus that was signed into law in December 2020, to initiate a process to develop interim consolidated storage options for spent nuclear materials.

“On December 1st, the Department took the first step in the process to develop consolidated storage options for spent nuclear materials by issuing a request for information (RFI) with the goal of collecting feedback from a wide range of stakeholders all over the country

that will help them develop the consent-based process and inform their overall waste management strategy. The window for interested parties to respond is open until March 4, 2022,” Courtney wrote. “It is worth noting that DOE specifically has indicated that they are accepting comments not only from municipalities and similar stakeholders who are interested in exploring acceptance of waste, but also from entities...such as Haddam and Waterford, which want to weigh in on how burdensome the status quo is.”

Courtney is a member of the bipartisan House Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus and has long advocated for action on removing spent nuclear fuel and materials from local sites such as the decommissioned Connecticut Yankee plant in Haddam and legacy materials from the Millstone Power Plant in Waterford. With efforts to designate Yucca Mountain as the permanent repository for all spent nuclear fuel currently stalled, Courtney

has worked across the aisle to develop alternate strategies for addressing the pressing problem of removing spent nuclear fuel from local communities.

For example, in 2018 Courtney helped pass bipartisan legislation which, for the first time, authorized a consolidated interim storage program that will allow stranded nuclear waste stored in local communities to be moved to a remote location before a permanent repository is completed. In 2020, he helped lead a request to the House Appropriations Committee requesting funding for developing interim storage plans in the FY2021 budget, ultimately funded at \$20 million in the final FY21 spending package passed in December 2020 and being used now to initiate this process.

In addition to the letter shared below, Courtney shared an information paper outlining the latest developments on the issue and the process underway.

**Text of Congressman Courtney’s letter**

Dear Elected Official:

I am writing to provide an update on recent actions in Congress and by the U.S. Department of Energy to develop and implement a consent-based siting process to identify sites to store spent nuclear fuel. In the omnibus federal budget passed in December 2020, \$20 million was appropriated to establish a “consent-based” process to move spent

nuclear waste to interim storage sites. This approach has been successfully implemented in the country of Finland who broke ground in May 2021 for its underground storage facility.

On December 1st, the Department took the first step in this process by issuing a request for information (RFI) with the goal of collecting feedback from a wide range of stakeholders all over the country that will help them develop the consent-based process and inform their overall waste management strategy. The window for interested parties to respond is open until March 4, 2022.

It is worth noting that DOE specifically has indicated that they are accepting comments not only from municipalities and similar stakeholders who are interested in exploring acceptance of waste, but also from entities who want to explain their opposition to becoming a site and those such as Haddam and Waterford, which want to weigh in on how burdensome the status quo is. On January 20, 2022, I attended a Member of Congress meeting with Dr. Kathryn Huff, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Nuclear Energy in the Department of Energy, who briefed us on this new process. She said the Department has already received serious, encouraging responses from different parts of the country that the Department will collate and publicly report on in 2022. This

Continued on page HK3

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## 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, February 24

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

**Gateway meeting** (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. RiverCOG Office, Essex, CT

### Saturday, February 26

**Saturday Storytime** 10:00 a.m. Killingworth Library (Zoom)

### Monday, February 28

**Haddam Committee on Aging meeting** 10:00 a.m.

**Killingworth Library Association meeting** 7:00 p.m.

**The Haddam Volunteer Fire Auxiliary** 7:00 p.m. at Company #1, 439 Saybrook

Road. New members are always welcome.

### Tuesday, March 1

**RSD #17 Special Board of Education meeting** – Budget presentation 6:00 p.m.

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

### Wednesday, March 2

**Haddam BOF Budget Review meeting** 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, March 3

**RSD #17 Board of Education joint meeting** on budget with towns 6:00 p.m.

**RSD #17 Board of Education Budget workshop** 7:00 p.m.

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

**Parmelee Farm Committee meeting** 7:00 p.m.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### This Week on Valley Shore Community TV: February 24-March 2

By Chris Morgan, Public Access Coordinator, VSCTV

**Comcast Channel 18** - Valley Shore Educational Network

2/26 7:00 p.m. 2005 Haddam-Killingworth HS Lip Sync

2/27 3:30 p.m. HKTU Film Festival

**Comcast Channel 19** - Valley Shore Community Television

2/24 - 1:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. UMC of Clinton Sunday Service 2/20/22

2/24 - 5:00 p.m. Old Saybrook Meetings

2/27 - 4:00 p.m. First Congregational Church in Essex Sun. Service 2/20/22

2/27 - 5:00 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church Sunday Service 2/20/22

2/27 - 6:00 p.m. Deep River Town Meetings 2/22/22

2/28 - 4:00 p.m. A Slice of Life

2/28 - 5:00 p.m. Silver Linings Talk Show

2/28 - 6:00 p.m. Shore Things: Phil Parada Student of Tea

2/28 - 8:00 p.m. Art of Poetry

3/1 - 4:00 p.m. Clinton Meetings

3/1 - 6:00 p.m. Arts & Entertainment:

George White

3/1 - 7:00 p.m. Pete Mezzetti Show:

Chef Paul Clinton Country Club

3/1 - 8:00 p.m. Shoreline Music

Monthly: Season 6 Bonus Bits

3/2 - 4:00 p.m. Westbrook

Congregational 2/27/22

For the complete schedule and to watch programs on-demand, visit [www.vsctv.com](http://www.vsctv.com).

HKTU and VSCTV are available on

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## GOVERNMENT NEWS

### Department of Energy Requests Input from Haddam Officials

Continued from page HK2

meeting took place with Dr. Huff and the bipartisan Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus, of which I am a member.

I have attached a memorandum with more details of the DOE process, in case your community wishes to weigh in to the RFI. My congressional office district director, Ms. Ayanti Grant, is point of contact on this issue in Connecticut, and

Ms. Samantha DeVito is my Legislative Assistant in Washington who is assigned to spent nuclear fuel issues. If you would like to follow up with a call or meeting, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY

Member of Congress

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Sunday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

# Local Students Excel at Colleges, Universities

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

MEDFORD, MA (02/11/2022)– Tufts University recently announced the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester. Dean's List honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater:

*Catherine Celano of Killingworth Class of 2023*

*Eli Houlton of Higganum Class of 2024*

WEST HARTFORD, CT (02/14/2022)– The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the students who have been named to the President's Honors List and the Dean's List for Fall 2021.

*Emily Bagnoli of Killingworth was named to the*

*President's Honors List and the Dean's List*

*Hattie Hall of Killingworth was named to the President's Honors List and the Dean's List*

*Gabriella Kulmacz of Higganum was named to the President's Honors List and the Dean's List*

*Brandon Hernandez of Killingworth was named to the Dean's List*

WEST HARTFORD, CT (02/14/2022)– More than 395 students were named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at the University of Saint Joseph.

“Once again, USJ students proved that they are committed to academic excellence,” said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D. “These students are the future nurses, teachers, social workers, scientists,

actuaries and leaders our community needs. The entire University community is proud of their accomplishments.”

The following local students made the list:

*Jenna Griffith, of Higganum, majoring in Nursing.*

*Alyssa Sheltra, of Higganum, majoring in Nursing.*

*Marie Emerson, of Killingworth, majoring in Child Study.*

*Brianna Livingston, of Killingworth, majoring in Nursing.*

To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.50 or higher for the semester, with no grade lower than a “B”

## HADDAM GARDEN CLUB

### HGC Offers Scholarship

By Susan Rutty

The Haddam Garden Club is offering a \$500 scholarship to graduating seniors from Haddam who will be pursuing an education in environmental, horticultural or agricultural science, landscape design or related fields.

Any student attending local high schools or who are home schooled are encouraged to apply.

Applications are due by April 15th for

consideration. A transcript of the student's record is also required. Presentation of the award is planned for the Haddam Killingworth Senior Awards Night to be held in May.

Please contact President Debbie Karpf for an application or for any questions you may have.

Phone: 860-345-0077

Email: [msfroller@aol.com](mailto:msfroller@aol.com)

## COMMUNITY

### Eversource to Trim Trees in Haddam

Haddam Town Alert

Eversource has begun an extensive tree trimming effort in Haddam which is expected to take six months. They'll be working on almost every road in town. The map shows where the work will be done. (Tree trimming in Haddam Neck was done in 2020 and 2021.) Eversource states 63% of the outages we had last year were caused by trees or branches hitting the power lines.

More information can be found through this link. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Corsa, Haddam Tree Warden, 860-345-2110.



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# Musings from a Millennial: On The Way To Conciseness

By Meghan Peterson

**Editor's Note:** The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the rest of our staff. We welcome supporting or opposing views on any published item.

*"Concise - Latin concisus, from past participle concidere to cut up; from com + caedere to cut, strike"*

Like the month we are about to bid adieu, the theme forefront for me as a mama of young kiddos is conciseness. As February is short and sweet, so too, children's way of being revolves around concepts of short and sweet. Let me explain...in brief.

A funny thing happened on the way to motherhood.

I realized that kids do not take kindly to long-winded conversations. They express their ideas with the utmost conciseness. They get to the point. They "use few words...free from elaboration and superfluous detail."

"Mommy, I am hungry!" "Mommy, I am tired!" "Mommy, I don't like this dinner!" "Mommy, I have to pick my nose now!" "Mommy, I am not

tired!" "Mommy, I don't want to eat that!"

"Mommy, is it bath night?"  
"Mommy, is God always with us?"  
"Mommy, why does the snow melt?"

Short questions require short answers. Short attention spans necessitate an approach of brevity.

Children's mastery over the art of conciseness is in marked contrast with my millennial generation's lifestyle. I generalize, of course. As millennials, we revel in memes, the instant nature of Instagram, the quick click of a Facebook posting. Yet, we find it embarrassingly challenging to distill exactly and precisely who we are, what we stand for, and why we are here - in ways that that have real meaning and substantive application.

Do we stand for liberty? For justice? For equality? For all people?

Perhaps it is best not to ask the millennial parent these questions. Just ask her children. Chances are, they will tell you concisely - and freely - what they are all about.

# Recipe: Sloppy Joe Casserole

Courtesy of [cookingprofessionally.com](http://cookingprofessionally.com)

Time: 55 minutes  
Yield: 8 servings

Everyone has fond memories of Sloppy Joe Day in their school cafeteria and enjoying that rich, meaty, umami sauce on a tender roll. This Sloppy Joe Casserole takes those same nostalgic flavors and gives them a new, home-cooked spin: the sweet and savory beef drapes over tender pasta and bright peppers. Sloppy Joe Casserole even adds sweet, creamy, and sharp cheese to the mixture, elevating the classic flavors to new heights. Enjoy a delicious stroll down memory lane!

**Ingredients**

- 2 tablespoons oil, neutral-flavored
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can petite diced tomatoes
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
- salt, to taste
- ground black pepper to taste
- 2 cups frozen whole-kernel corn
- 1 (16-ounce) package penne pasta
- 1 1/2 cups Colby-Jack cheese, shredded

**Directions**

- Step 1 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
- Step 2 Grease a 9x13-inch casserole dish.
- Step 3 Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat on the stovetop.
- Step 4 When the oil is shimmering, add the ground beef and sauté until golden brown.
- Step 5 Add the onion, green bell pepper, red bell pepper, and garlic.
- Step 6 Stir and cook the mixture until crumbly, about 5-7 minutes.
- Step 7 Add the tomatoes, ketchup, brown sugar, mustard, salt, and pepper, and stir.
- Step 8 Cover the skillet, reduce the heat to low, and let simmer for 10 minutes.
- Step 9 While the mixture simmers, cook the corn and pasta according to package directions.
- Step 10 Drain the pasta and the corn.
- Step 11 Add the pasta, corn, and cheese to the skillet and stir.
- Step 12 Pour the mixture into the prepared casserole dish.
- Step 13 Bake for 20 minutes.
- Step 14 Serve hot.



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# Route 9 Getting New Exit Signs

Haddam Town Alert

Connecticut Department of Transportation has started to replace all of the exit signs along Routes 9. The project is scheduled to be completed in March 2022.

**New Route 9 Exits**

- Exit 1A: I-95 North
- Exit 1B: I-95 South
- Exit 1: Essex Road and CT-154 from 9 North (Change from exit 2)
- Exit 1C: Essex Road and CT-154 From 9 South: Exit 1C (Change from exit 2)
- Exit 4: CT-154 (Change from exit 3)
- Exit 5: CT-154 (Change from exit 4)
- Exit 7: CT-80: Exit 7 (Change from exit 5)
- Exit 9: CT-148 (Change from exit 6)
- Exit 11: CT-82 (Change from exit 7)
- Exit 14: Beaver Meadow Road: (Change from exit 8)
- Exit 16: CT-81 (Change from exit 9)
- Exit 19: CT-154 (Change from exit 10)
- Exit 21: CT-155 (Change from exit 11)
- Exit 22: Bow Lane and Silver Street (Change from exit 12)
- Exit 23: CT-17 (Change from exit 13)
- Exit 24A: DeKoven Drive on Route 9 South (Change from exit 14)
- Exit 24B: Washington Street (Change from exit 15)
- Exit 24C: CT-17 & CT-66 (Change from exit 1)
- Exit 25: CT-99 from Route 9 North (Change from exit 18)
- Exit 27: CT-372 (Change from exit 19)
- Exit 29A: I-91 North (Change from exit 20N)
- Exit 29B: I-91 South (Change from exit 20S)

- Exit 31: CT-372 & US-5 & CT-15 (Change from exit 21)
- Exit 32: CT-372 and Worthington Ridge Road (Change from exit 22)
- Exit 33: Christian Lane from Route 9 South (Change from exit 23)
- Exit 34: To CT-71 & CT-372 from Route 9 South (Change from exit 24)
- Exit 35: Ellis Street from 9 South (Change from exit 25)
- Exit 35A: Ellis Street from 9 North (Change from exit 25)
- Exit 35B: Columbus Boulevard from 9 North (Change from exit 26)
- Exit 36A: Chestnut Street from 9 South (Change from exit 27)
- Exit 36B: CT-72 from 9 South (Change from exit 28)
- Exit 36: CT-72 from 9 North (Change from exit 28)
- Exit 36C: East Main Street from 9 South (Change from exit 28A)
- Exit 38: CT-175 & Ella Grasso Boulevard (Change from exit 29)
- Exit 39: CT-71 (Change from exit 30)
- Exit 40B: I-84 East (Change from exit 31)
- Exit 40A: I-84 West (Change from exit 32)

**New Route 17 Numbers**

- Exit 22: Main Street Extension, from 9 South
- Exit 22A: Main Street Extension, from 9 North
- Exit 22B: Route 9 South

## HADDAM SENIOR NEWS

### Haddam Club 60

The club is open to anyone in Middlesex County age 60+. The club meets on the first and third Mondays at 1 pm, September thru June. Meetings are currently held at the Community Center, 7 Candlewood Hill Rd, Higganum (next to Veteran's Museum). Following is this year's schedule:

- March 7th 1st Selectman McGarry will speak
- March 21st David Levasseur, local historian will speak on Witches of Killingworth
- April 4th business meeting
- April 18th Peter Castellani, self-massages
- May 2nd business meeting
- May 16th Judge Lewis, probate judge
- June 6th business meeting -election of officers
- June 20th Senior picnic

All are welcome, get to know your fellow seniors. Any questions, please call Mary Pierce at 860-685-1783.

*From the Haddam Committee on Aging and your fellow seniors; Thurston Bob, Susan, Beth, Mary Lou, Sue, Mary, Marge, Gloria, Fran & Jo Ann*

### Judith P. Lentz 1935-2022



Judith P. Lentz of Killingworth, age 86, passed away peacefully at the Middlesex Hospital Comfort Care Unit on January 10, 2022 after a short illness. She was born August 27, 1935 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, the daughter of Waino I. and Laina Makela

Pernaa. She grew up in nearby Ashby and attended Ashby High School where she graduated valedictorian. She graduated from Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio in 1957 where she majored in biology. She then earned a Master of Science degree in 1961 from Cornell University. She then worked for four years as a Research Assistant in the Department of Biology at Yale University. She married Thomas L. Lentz on June 17, 1961. In 1966, they moved into an eighteenth century house in Killingworth, Connecticut. They enjoyed restoring the house, rebuilding a barn, and collecting antiques to furnish the house. In 1964, they bought property on a hillside with a beautiful view in Topsham, Vermont and later built a cabin there that was enjoyed by the family over many summers.

Judy and Tom had three children, Stephen (Erica), Christopher (Julie), and Sarah (Ronald). Their grandchildren are Joshua, Kira, Callie, Ian, and Grace. She is survived by her sister Janet Coulombe and brother Wayne Pernaa. Judy enjoyed flower gardening, identifying wildflowers, watching birds, and especially caring for her beloved sheep and cats. She was involved in dyeing wool with natural plant dyes, weaving, and making crafts with the Fibre Arts Guild. She had a gift for making flower arrangements, which adorned church services and received many awards.

Judy was very active in many of Killingworth's affairs and organizations. For her contributions, she was named the Killingworth Lions Club Citizen of the Year in 1993. She was Judge of Probate for the District of Killingworth from 1988 to 2005. She was President of the Killingworth Nursery School, Program Director of the Platt Nature Center, and on the Board of Directors of the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust. She was a member of the Evergreen Garden Club, Historical Society, and Scholarship Committees. She taught preschool at the Red Barn Children's Center in Clinton. As Judge, she performed many marriage ceremonies. In the Congregational Church in Killingworth, she was the first woman Trustee, served as Church Clerk, Deacon, Advisor to the Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group, and on the flower committee. She very much enjoyed working in these groups and attending church with her many friends. Donations in her memory can be made to the Congregational Church in Killingworth or to the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust.

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# Reports: August-December 2021

by Jessica Condil, Director of Senior & Social Services

In August 2021, the Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced a total of 33 Adults & 9 Children. In addition to food, Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced 1 family with gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores in town. Haddam Senior & Social Services serviced 5 individuals with paperwork assistance. Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank serviced 8 families with clothing. The Senior Van serviced a total of 6 medical appointments for the month of August and an average of 3 seniors who attended the weekly shopping trip. The Haddam Senior Center distributed 107 CRT meals for the month of August and had 117 visitors.

In September 2021, the Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced a total of 43 Adults & 16 Children. In addition to food, Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced 4 families with gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores in town. Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank serviced a total of 1 family for fuel assistance (oil). Haddam Senior & Social Services serviced 1 individual with paperwork assistance. Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank serviced 11 families with clothing. Haddam Social Services performed 1 wellness check for September. The Senior Van serviced a total of 11 medical appointments for the month of September and an average of 4 seniors who attended the weekly shopping trip. The Haddam Senior Center distributed 120 CRT meals for the month of September and had 117 visitors. 14 Seniors attended the monthly field trip.

In October 2021, the Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced a

total of 28 Adults & 12 Children. In addition to food, Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced 3 families with gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores in town. Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank serviced a total of 2 families for fuel assistance (oil). Haddam Senior & Social Services serviced 3 individuals with paperwork assistance. Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank serviced 7 families with clothing. Senior Van serviced a total of 6 medical appointments for the month of October and an average of 4 seniors who attended the weekly shopping trip. The Haddam Senior Center distributed 107 CRT meals for the month of October and had 117 visitors.

In November 2021, the Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced a total of 28 Adults & 12 Children. In addition to food, Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced 3 families with gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores in town. 27 Thanksgiving Baskets were given to families. Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank serviced a total of 2 families for fuel assistance (oil). Haddam Senior & Social Services serviced 3 individuals with paperwork assistance. Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank serviced 7 families with clothing. Senior Van serviced a total of 6 medical appointments for the month of November and an average of 3 seniors who attended the weekly shopping trip. The Haddam Senior Center distributed 108 CRT meals for the month of November and had 146 visitors. Field trip: 6 seniors attended.

In December 2021, the Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced a total of 32 Adults & 16 Children. In addition to food, Haddam Emergency

Food Bank serviced 4 families with gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores in town. 16 Families were provided with Christmas gift assistance. 24 Christmas Baskets were delivered by the Lions Club and 22 Christmas Baskets were given out by Haddam Food Bank. Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank has serviced a total of 4 families for fuel assistance (3 oil; 1 pellets). Haddam Senior & Social Services serviced 3 individuals with paperwork assistance. Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank serviced 9 families with clothing. Haddam Social Services performed 1 wellness check for December. The Senior Van serviced a total of 5 medical appointments for the month of December and an average of 3 seniors who attended the weekly shopping trip. The Haddam Senior Center distributed 72 CRT meals for the month of December and had 105 visitors. 21 seniors attended Christmas breakfast at Jack's in Higganum.

\*As of 3/16/2020 all CRT meals have been a grab-and-go or frozen meal due to COVID-19. Meals are distributed on Mondays for the week and are available for pick up Mondays at noon. As of September 2021, all meals have resumed in-person at the meal site.

## Caleb & Martin, Pug/Chihuahua-Mix Brothers

By Judith Levin

Meet Caleb and Martin. These beautiful brothers are up for adoption. They are being adopted out separately and do not have to go together.

Both are 1 1/2 years old, weighing approximately 13 pounds. They are Pug/Chihuahua mixes that are neutered, good with kids, dogs, and kitties too.

Both love to cuddle, play, run and be with their people. Treats are an all-time must!

If you are interested in either of these cute little guys, email: Bnb4dogs@aol.com



Photos courtesy of Judith Levin.

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# The Armchair Gardener

By Terry Twigg

Snowbound! Tomorrow I'll be able to walk around and admire the shapes of bare branches against white, and in a few weeks, it will be time to start next summer's seeds. But today I'll build a fire, sweep a bare spot on the deck to spread some seeds for the clamoring birds, and imagine myself in other places, other gardens. I've been researching the best gardens from six continents and dozens of countries. Each is shaped by its culture and climate, and each is perfect in its own distinctive way. Come along with me to visit a few:

**Sissinghurst (England).** In a country famous for its gardens, Sissinghurst is the acknowledged prize. English gardens are the closest relatives to our New England gardens, and we have adopted elements common to grand houses and cottages alike: borders crammed with flowers, planned more or less successfully to produce a succession of blooms from spring through fall; backdrops of fences, hedges, or evergreen plantings; larger spaces divided into garden "rooms." England's colonialist history is evident in its gardens, which glory in plants collected from all over the globe. If you can't get to Surrey any time soon, visit Hollister House in Washington, Connecticut. This Sissinghurst-inspired garden covers "only" two and a half acres, and its owner had to build tall brick walls,

not having any convenient castle ruins already in place, but it brilliantly captures the exuberance of the classic English garden.

**Kenrokuen (Japan).** At the other end of the garden design spectrum is the very controlled, meticulously edited Japanese approach. There are flowers, but they are far less important than spatial relationships. The placement of every rock is carefully considered. Trees are pruned, not just to shape and show off their most striking branches, but often to frame a view through them. An English garden's design tempts you to discover what's beyond; Japanese elements invite you to stop and meditate. A serene Japanese courtyard garden is as close as the Center for East Asian Studies at Wesleyan University. For a larger strolling garden, visit the Roger Williams Park in Providence, R.I.

**Hummelo (Netherlands).** The home base of Piet Oudolph, a Dutch garden designer whose gardens broke the mold. Starting in the 1980s, Oudolph turned away from traditional design in favor of gardens that featured native perennials, lots of grasses, and a strong prairie influence. The effect is difficult to describe, but once seen, not to be forgotten. To my eye, success lies in what is not included. For example, our native ironweed or goldenrod can look ragged and rangy next to large-petaled aristocrats like roses. But plant them in a sea of feathery grasses, and they're immediately at home. Rangy and ragged are suddenly harmonious, and even ethereal. Without the distraction of showy hybrids, their modestly-sized natural forms are better appreciated. It's magic. Hummelo closed to the public a few years ago, but the High-Line, one of Oudolph's most famous gardens, is as close as Lower Manhattan.

**Huntington Desert Garden (California).** With more than 5000 varieties of cactus and succulents on ten acres, this is one of the oldest, and widely considered finest, showcases for desert plants. Plants ranging from twenty-ton cereus to tiny lithops ("living stones" look remarkably like pebbles) show Nature's many fascinating solutions to the problem of sustaining life in very hot, dry climates. Many have large, colorful flowers, albeit only during the brief spring wet season. Most cannot survive a New England winter, though there are a few exceptions. One is our native Eastern Prickly Pear, *opuntia humifosa*, quaintly nicknamed Devil's Tongue, no doubt by some barefooted colonial

who had the bad luck to step on one. Most hot-climate cacti store water in their fleshy leaves as a strategy to survive dry spells, but the Devil's Tongue reverses the process: since water expands as it freezes, causing plant cells to burst, this cactus shrivels up as winter approaches, emptying itself of water. What a clever adaptation! We can also grow *yucca filamentosa*, which maintains a subdued but stubbornly green presence even in a blizzard. In its native range, along the east coast from Virginia down to the Gulf of Mexico, it is the only food source for the yucca moth, but up here its tall white flower spikes are visited by hummingbirds. You won't find any cactus gardens close enough for a day trip; they're found in Zone 10 or higher. If you're curious, your best bet is the vast conservatory at the New York Botanical Garden.

Whether you visit distant gardens in person or via books and internet searches, you're sure to come away with new ideas for your own outdoor spaces. If you're paying attention, you're sure to learn something about the lives of the people who built them, the climate challenges they face, and the aesthetic principles they have developed. Bon voyage!

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