



Haddam Killingworth News

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

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March 10, 2022

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Free weekly



Parmelee Farm Sugar House is Back

By Clark Judge

When COVID put our lives on hold two years ago, we wondered when ... no, if ... life could return to normal. Well, wonder no more.

The Sugar House is back in business at Parmelee Farm.

Yes, for the third time in four years ... and the first time since the 2020 pandemic hit ... Parmelee Farm is back to making and selling maple syrup. In fact, a group of volunteers will be there this week to bottle

and label the syrup, then return on Saturday and Sunday to sell it.

If it seems like old times, it's because it is.

"We're very happy to be back," said Tim Gannon, who oversees approximately 25 volunteers. "It was kind of depressing not to be able to do it last year, but we have a lot of the regulars that have come back."

You don't have to look far to find them. They're everywhere. People like Don Milnes and Bill Karpowicz. Terry Doyle and Bob Lavezzoli. Ed

Glynn, Dan O'Sullivan and Jeff and Diane Andrewsikas. The regulars, as Gannon put it, and they're where they were two years ago - arriving at Parmelee between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. daily and not leaving until after 4 in the afternoon.

All returned two weeks ago when the Sugar House opened for the first time since March 2020, and they immediately went to work tapping sugar maple trees throughout the

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Poem for March: Lovebirds

By Lorraine Riess

Lovebirds

He was the straightman for her acerbic barbs. To compensate he ate; to keep the peace became obese, slammed the kitchen doors and drawers though she'd repeatedly implored him not to.

On the nights he snored she foraged for the chocolate stored in her nightstand. He ignored the foil wrinkling before he dropped back to sleep.

They loved each other for fifty years.

Mercilessly.

Connecticut's Route 9 Honors Ukrainian Hero

By Philip R. Devlin

Anyone who drives on Connecticut's highways will readily note that sections of these highways are often named to honor heroic historical figures. Drive north to Middletown on Route 9 and as you enter the Harbor Park area, you will notice a sign saying, "Major General Maurice Rose Highway." General Rose was the highest-ranking American officer killed during World War II. He was part of Patton's 3rd Army. General Rose was born in Middletown. We should remember him.

A section of I-91 from the Meriden town line to Cromwell is named the "Sgt. George Ross Dingwall Memorial Highway" after the Higganum resident and Middletown policeman - and my close personal friend and neighbor - killed while pursuing a criminal in January 2000.

Certainly, most area residents have seen a sign in the New Britain area of Route 9 that reads "Taras Shevchenko Expressway." Do you realize that this section of highway in Connecticut is the

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only one named for a person who never set foot in this state? Furthermore, it is the only highway in Connecticut that honors a Ukrainian.

Born on March 9, 1814, into serfdom in Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko was orphaned at age 12. Impressed by his immense artistic talent, his owner, a man named Engelhardt, sent him to St. Petersburg to develop that talent. Eventually, his considerable artistic and literary talent earned Shevchenko his emancipation from serfdom in 1838.

Shevchenko witnessed Russia's exploitation and suppression of freedom



Photo courtesy of Philip R. Devlin.

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Parmelee Farm Sugar House is Back in Business

Continued from page HK1

property. Most trees are hooked up to gravity feeds, with others connected by lines of vacuum tubing that wind through the woods.

In all, there are 150 taps in place at Parmelee. Then there are three off-site properties. Put them together, and a record-breaking season is a real possibility.

Here's why: Prior to this week, there were two days each with 160 gallons of sap. Then volunteers collected over 200 gallons on Monday, followed by 275 more on Wednesday. Parmelee's previous one-day high – ever – was 150. Now you know why it's not a reach for the farm to break its 2020 total of 3,000 gallons of sap and 51 gallons of syrup.

"We hope to go for 60 this time," said Gannon, "but you're really at the mercy of the weather. Once it starts to turn warm, and the trees begin to bud, that's the end of the season."

We're nowhere near there. In fact, this week's forecast is ideal for making maple syrup. Mix warm days with cold nights, and sap doesn't run. It flows.

Local syrup houses typically operate from early-to-mid February, or Valentine's Day, to mid-March, or around St. Patrick's Day. But, as Gannon said, the weather makes that determination. Two years ago, volunteers started collecting in late January. But then they were finished after the first week of March.

"Typically," said Gannon, "things are getting warmer, so who knows how long we go?"

In the meantime, there's a flurry of activity in and around the Sugar House ... just as there was pre-COVID. Local tours stop by. The Scouts are expected back. A Sugaring Club at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, headed



by counselor Alan Fortin, regularly appears at Parmelee Monday and Wednesday afternoons to help collect. And, of course, there are always the volunteers.

Three months ago, no one was certain any of this would happen. COVID had yielded to the Delta variant which, in turn, gave us Omicron. It was always something to tighten the grip on everyday activities, and producing maple syrup was one of them. But after consulting his "core group of volunteers" late last year, Gannon said a decision was made to return.

"Many of us are older," he said, "But (our core group) is vaccinated and 'boostered' ... and that was key. Because last year at this time there wasn't the vaccine. I would've felt horrible if either I or one of the volunteers caught COVID and got really sick.



Photos by Clark Judge.


"I didn't want to take that chance this year, so I called Don, Bob and a few of the guys and said, 'How are you feeling about doing it this year?' And they said, 'We're vaccinated. Let's go.'"

And so they have ... just as they did two years ago ... with all proceeds from sales going back into the sugaring program and additional enhancements to Parmelee.

"I expect we'll be bottling, labeling and displaying Thursday because of the weather (snow is forecast for Friday),"

said Gannon, "and Saturday we'll be ready for sale (at 10:00 a.m.). In the past, we've sold out every weekend because the product tastes so good.

"Because of the demand, we ended up last time limiting sales to two bottles at a time per person. And we're probably going to do the same this year. But we could still sell out in a couple of hours. So, tell people to come early Saturday if they want to get some. It's so rewarding to see people happy."




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Connecticut's Route 9 Honors Ukrainian Hero

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in his homeland of Ukraine and campaigned publicly and openly in his writings for Ukrainian independence. Some of his poems openly satirized the family of Czar Nicholas I. The czar promptly sent Shevchenko to prison in 1848, where he suffered until his premature death one day after his 47th birthday on March 10, 1861.

Shevchenko's most famous poem is "Katernya," the story of a young Ukrainian girl who is seduced by a Russian soldier. Katernya gives birth to a baby fathered by that Russian soldier and is ostracized by her village. Eventually, she commits suicide.

So impactful was "Katernya" that lines from Shevchenko's poem have been memorized by many generations of Ukrainian women to this day. Images of deceived and abandoned Ukrainian women who have suffered under Russian dominance became metaphors for the country of Ukraine itself being used and dominated by Russia.

These powerful words continue to motivate Ukrainians. If you wish to understand the powerful passion that is driving the resistance in Ukraine today against seemingly overwhelming odds, look to the literature of Taras Shevchenko, their national hero. Statues of him are everywhere in Ukraine; his gravesite there is the Ukrainian version

of our Arlington Cemetery. His writings and paintings are the foundation of the Ukrainian independence movement and of all Ukrainian literature—sure proof that the written word can still galvanize a nation.

So, the next time you drive by the Shevchenko sign on Route 9 in Connecticut, salute or blow a kiss to the memory of a man whose incredible personal courage in the face of Russian oppression still drives the amazing resolution and determination of the Ukrainian people to this day to liberate themselves from Russian oppression. It was most appropriate for our state to honor the memory of this great man with a sign on Route 9.



COMMUNITY

Tickets Now on Sale for 2022 H-K Hall of Fame Dinner

By Elaine Jackson, HK Hall of Fame Committee

Tickets are now on sale for the 14th Annual Haddam-Killingworth Hall of Fame induction dinner to be held on Thursday, May 12, at 6:00 p.m., at The River House in Haddam. Tickets are \$40 each. There will be a cash bar and an Online Silent Auction.

This year's six inductees are:

Louis Annino, Sr.'s service to his hometown of Killingworth includes founding Killingworth Youth League with Rocco Reale in the 1960's. He was a Little League Coach and umpire for over 25 years, in addition to Killingworth's Midget Football Coach. He was an officer and trainer at Jr. Sailing Academy of CT, and served on the HK Board of Education, and Town of Killingworth Parks & Recreation. He was Killingworth Citizen of the Year 2000. Mr. Annino served multiple terms as Selectman in Killingworth.

Hollis Burr's service to her hometown of Higganum includes involvement in the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary since 1966. She is involved with Tobacco Flywheelers Tractor Show with her family. She is a lifetime member of Haddam Congregational Church and on many committees with these organizations.

Marijean and the late Carl Conrad – The Conrads' service to our local Haddam community ranges from Brainerd Library Board of Trustees to Haddam Historical Society, Haddam Garden Club and Old Burial Ground Thirty Mile Island. This couple has dedicated many hours to all of these organizations.

Virginia Evensen's service to our community of Haddam includes Girl Scout Leader, Teacher &

Superintendent of Sunday School for First Church of Christ Haddam; Board of Directors of Brainerd Library and Haddam Public Health. Chairperson for many committees at her church, especially the Bread for Heat program for which she baked and sold bread as a church ministry, with proceeds going to the Haddam Fuel Bank.

Richard Hickish (posthumously) – The late Mr. Hickish's volunteer service to the Town of Haddam includes Board of Selectmen, Board of Education (10 yrs.), Board of Finance, Haddam Historical Society, and Democratic Town Committee. March 21, 2001 was declared Richard Hickish Day in the Town of Haddam by then first Selectman, the late Anthony Bondi.

Terry Smith's service to our community of Haddam includes being an active member of the Haddam Historical Society where the children of Haddam are fortunate to have Terry in charge of the 5th grade Kite-Making program. Terry has been a member of many committees at the Haddam Historical Society. He is an active member of the Higganum Congregational Church, serving on many committees, where he was instrumental in establishing lines of communication between the Higganum Congregational Church and First Church of Christ Haddam resulting in both congregations forming a new church in September of 2021.

Joseph Zaiantz is from Haddam Neck. His volunteer service to both Haddam Neck and Haddam includes Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire Department for 48 years as a firefighter/EMT. He has held many offices in this department, Assistant Director Haddam Emergency

Management. Board of Director Haddam Public Health. He was a Meals on Wheels driver in Haddam for 12 years. He founded the Haddam Shad Museum in 1994.

NOTE: Tickets for the dinner must be purchased by May 1, 2022. No tickets will be sold at the door. If you are interested in reserving a table or purchasing tickets, please contact Elaine Jackson or Lisa Wiese at hkhallloffame09@gmail.com

In addition, congratulatory ads may be purchased for the program booklet. The deadline for ads is May 1, 2022. Prices are ¼ page \$25, ½ page \$50, Full Page \$100. Please contact Elaine Jackson at hkhallloffame09@gmail.com Please make checks payable to HK Hall of Fame. Send to PO Box 24, Higganum, CT 06441

For more information, please contact Howard Burr or Elaine Jackson at hkhallloffame09@gmail.com



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Spectrum Gallery Exhibit March News

By Barbara Nair, Executive Director, Arts Center Killingworth

Spectrum Gallery Exhibit: People and Animals in the Landscape

Discover new and original artwork at Spectrum Art Gallery and Store in its newest exhibit, People and Animals in the Landscape. Established and emerging artists from throughout Connecticut, the Tri-State Area and New England present artwork that includes animals and people that enhance and give depth to their pieces. Exhibition begins with an Opening Reception Weekend, Saturday, March 26 (1:00-6:00 p.m.) and Sunday, March 27 (1:00-5:00 p.m.) with the six-week show running through Sunday, May 8, 2022. Spectrum Art Gallery, 61 Main Street, Centerbrook. Spectrum Gallery Hours: Wed-Sat (12:00-6:00 p.m.) and Sun (12:00-5:00 p.m.). More information call (860) 767-0742 and visit spectrumartgallery.org

Call for Artists

Essex Green Summer Arts Festival. Seeking artists and fine artisans for the outdoor festival on the Essex Town Green, Saturday, June 18 (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) and Sunday, June 19 (11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). Submit early; space fills. Deadline June 6, 2022. Fine artisans may submit work for consideration for sale in the Store at Spectrum Gallery, 61 Main St., Centerbrook.

Madison Green Autumn Arts Festival. Seeking artists for outdoor festival on the Madison Town Green (Boston Post Road/Route 1 and Copse Road) Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022 (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) and Sunday, Oct. 9 (12:00-5:00 p.m.), rain

date Monday, Oct. 10 (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). Fine artisans may submit work for consideration for sale in the Store at Spectrum Gallery, 61 Main Street, Centerbrook.

Adult Classes and Workshops

Classes and Workshops held online or at Spectrum Gallery at 61 Main Street, Centerbrook. Register and pay at spectrumartgallery.org or call (860) 663-5593. Spectrum Membership starting at \$45 per year provide 10% discounts on art instruction and select Artisans Store items.

At Gallery: How to Paint a Cardinal in Watercolor with Bivenne Harvey Staiger.

Learn to paint a cardinal in its natural setting in watercolor. Instructor demonstrates each stage of the painting process and offers individual attention. Many exciting watercolor painting techniques are demonstrated and discussed. An ability to create a contour (outline) drawing from a reference provided by instructor is helpful, but not necessary. Students may also use their own reference. Material list is available upon registration. Sunday, March 6, 2022. 12:30-4:30 p.m. \$75. Members save \$7.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers sought to help at gallery show installations, festivals, and other events and programming throughout the year. No experience necessary. Teens earn community service credit. Call (860) 663-5593 or email artscenterkillingworth@gmail.com. Visit the volunteer page for more information and other volunteer opportunities at spectrumartgallery.org/volunteer

Goodspeed Accepting Virtual Submissions from Local Musicians

By Dan McMahon, Goodspeed

Goodspeed Musicals will be accepting virtual audition submissions for instrumentalists with a vast versatility and knowledge of styles for our orchestra. Theatrical bass, guitar, percussion, reed doublers (flute, clarinet & saxophones), trumpet, trombone, violin, cello, keyboardists and harp players should apply. Musicians employed by Goodspeed are required to be members in good standing or become members of the American Federation of Musicians Local 400.

All first-round auditions are by virtual submission. Please submit audio and/or video recordings and resume to Resident Music Director, Adam Souza (asouza@goodspeed.org) and Artistic Administrator, Kristan McLaughlin (kmclaughlin@goodspeed.org) by March 18, 2022. Submissions should be representative of your current abilities.

Interested candidates should submit at least two (2) contrasting pieces for each instrument, including all doubles. Submissions should be no more than two (2) minutes per instrument. Online links, YouTube performances or similar online platforms are acceptable.

Goodspeed reaffirms its commitment to non-discrimination and a flexible, imaginative audition policy. Musicians of all ethnicities are strongly encouraged to audition.

Haddam Killingworth News

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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, March 10

Haddam Board of Assessment Appeals meeting 1:00 p.m.
Killingworth Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote access).
Haddam Park & Recreation meeting 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 12

Saturday Storytime 10:00 a.m.
Killingworth Library (Zoom).
This week's story: How to Catch a Leprechaun by Adam Wallace.
Haddam Board of Finance Workshop 9:00 a.m. Old Town Hall.
Lenten retreat Day 10 :00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sacred Heart On The Lake Retreat Center, 194 Candlewood Hill Rd. Higganum, CT. 06441
St. James Annual Corned Beef Dinner 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Please order dinner ahead, please call Wayne 860-345-4172 or call Elaine 860-424-6178 or email elainjack835@gmail.com.
Killingworth Board of Assessment Appeals meeting 9:10 a.m.
Monday, March 14
Killingworth Board of Assessment Appeals meeting 6:00 p.m.
Haddam Board of Selectmen meeting 6:30 p.m.

Killingworth Board of Selectmen meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote access).
Killingworth Park & Rec. meeting 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15

Killingworth Planning & Zoning meeting 7:00 p.m.
Tech Time Tuesday Killingworth Library 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
RSD #17 BOE meeting - Community input on budget. 6:30 p.m.
RSD #17 Board of Education Budget workshop following Community input.

Wednesday, March 16

Haddam Board of Assessment Appeals meeting 5:00 p.m.
Haddam Board of Finance - Regular Meeting & Budget Review 6:30 p.m.
Killingworth Alternative Housing meeting 7:00 p.m.
"No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion" 5 Part DVD Series- Wednesdays, March 9 – April 6, 2022. 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart on the Lake 194 Candlewood Hill Rd., Higganum.

Thursday, March 17

Mystery Book Club – Killingworth Library 6:30 p.m. Join us as we discuss When You See Me by Lisa Gardner.
Haddam Planning & Zoning meeting 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Board of Finance Auditor RFP 11:00 a.m.

MEMORIAL DAY 2022

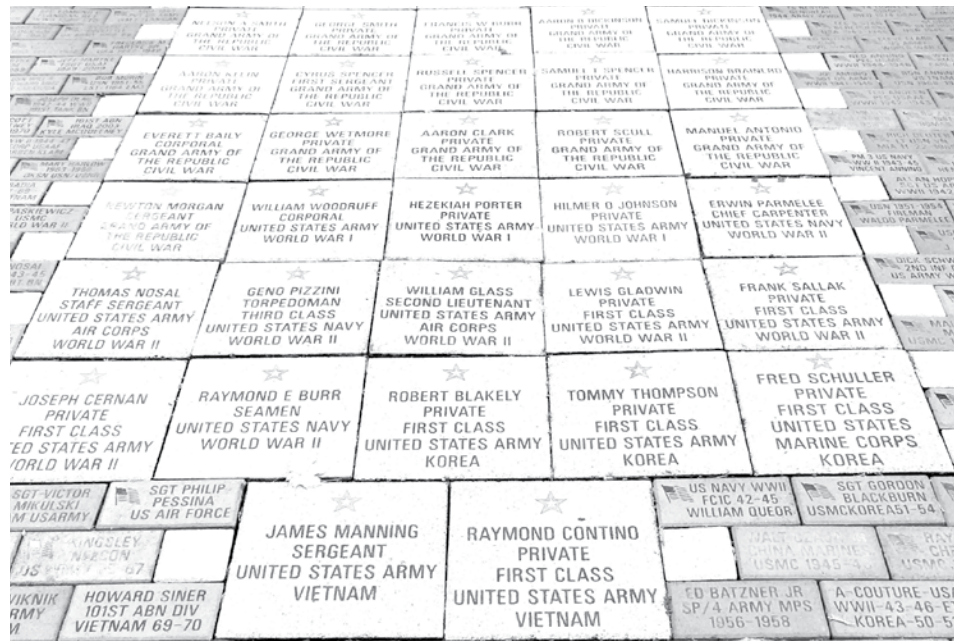
Order Veterans Personalized Bricks for Memorial Day 2022

By Rick Annino, Haddam Veterans Museum

Each Memorial Day, the Haddam Veterans Museum places an order for 4 x 8 inch red engraved bricks to be placed in the Memorial Walk in front of the Museum. These bricks are to honor any veteran who has been honorably discharged from any branch of the Armed Services. They do not have to be a resident of the Town of Haddam and the bricks will be placed by Memorial Day.

The bricks are \$55.00 each. This

is not a fund raiser and they are sold at cost. All orders must be received by April 15, 2022. Forms are available here by clicking on the link: ENGRAVED BRICK ORDER FORM, 2022 at hk-now.com. Additional forms are available at the Town Hall or by contacting Rick Annino at 860-250-2011 or rannino@comcast.net. Please make checks payable to the Haddam Veterans Museum and mail to Rick Annino, 671 Little City Road, Higganum, CT, 06441. You may also call Rick if you have any questions.



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Cliftons Return to Deer Lake for Camp This Summer

By Clark Judge

Once upon a time, and not that long ago, it looked as if the Deer Lake summer youth camp was in for a significant overhaul. The Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the group that owns the 255-acre Deer Lake reservation, would run the camp this summer while it sought to sell the property.

At least, that was the plan. Not anymore.

In mid-January, the Connecticut Yankee Council pulled an abrupt about-face. It agreed to lease the camp this summer to Pathfinders, Inc., a local non-profit steering committee to benefit outdoor education programs, in a move that keeps the youth camp ... as well as directors Mark and Patty Clifton ... in place for 2022.

Campers past and present hailed the news as a short-term victory and wondered what – if any – impact it could have on the sale of Deer Lake. That's up to the Connecticut Yankee Council, which last month agreed to sell to a private developer ... unless its offer, reportedly \$4.625 million, is exceeded by March 31, 2022.

The only other offer on the table is from the Trust for Public Land, a non-profit that seeks to preserve Deer Lake as open space.

What happens in the next month remains to be seen, with politicians and preservationists scrambling to find a solution to keep the property as open space. What is certain, though, is that the summer youth camp that seemed headed in a different direction isn't going there.

Not yet. Maybe not ever.

"We are thrilled to be connected with the Cliftons and Deer Lake," said Kelly Webster, whose two daughters attend the camp. "Our girls were ecstatic when we shared the news that the camp was happening. We were holding out hope."

Nevertheless, with the future of the camp in doubt as late as December, Webster approached her 10-year-old and asked if she was interested



Photo courtesy of Clark Judge.

in another camp this summer. The response was immediate.

"It's Deer Lake or nothing," she told her mother. "I don't want to go anywhere else."

She signed up for four weeks this summer.

BACK FOR ANOTHER SUMMER

In 2021, the Deer Lake summer youth camp had its most successful season ever. In eight weeks running from late June through mid-August, over 1,000 campers spent parts of their summers there, with waiting lists running 40-50 deep each session.

Compare that to, say, the 598 campers who were there in 2019, and you begin to understand how high the bar was raised.

That should have been cause for celebration, but there was none. Shortly after the summer ended, the Connecticut Yankee Council announced that it would sell the Deer Lake property. Moreover, it notified the Cliftons that it planned to retain exclusive use of the day camp and that they were out as directors.

But that was then, and this is now ... and now the Council has abandoned that idea, struck an 11th-hour deal with Pathfinders and the rest you can guess: Mark and Patty Clifton are where they didn't expect to be months ago.

Back at Deer Lake.

"It's been a roller-coaster ride," said Patty Clifton. "When I heard (the Connecticut Yankee Council) wanted to rent this to Pathfinders, all I could think of is the image of the kids arriving every morning and talking, playing and gathering around the flagpole. Everybody should see it."

Everybody can. What follows is what families need to know:

Dates: June 20-Aug. 12, with two one-week sessions and three of two weeks each.

Daily Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Ages: Grades K-8 for Day Camp; Grades 9-11 for Wilderness School.

Open House: Sunday, May 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

How to Register: Log on to deerlakedaycamp.org and click on the link to get into the registration system.

Little about the camp differs from prior years. It typically averaged 50 counselors and seven skill-area directors, with approximately 180-190 campers per session. That shouldn't change. But this will: Camp pay. It's expected to go up ... substantially, in all likelihood.

"It has to be increased," said Patty Clifton. "I won't come back unless we can pay (the staff) better, as close to minimum wage as possible."

Normally, preparations for summer camp would have begun last fall, sometime around late October or early November. But because of the uncertain future, nothing was done until a contract was finalized in January. That has Clifton scrambling to catch up, but it beats the alternative. In fact, when she met with counselors shortly before Christmas, she became emotional when telling them there was a chance they could return in 2022.

"When I updated them," she said, "I was beginning to lose it. And I could see they were, too. I apologized for falling apart, but I was so happy. In my heart, I kept stressing about our camp families. We knew it wasn't going to end for them."

And it hasn't. As of this week, 771 campers are registered for this summer ... and that happened in fewer than two weeks.

WHAT'S NEXT?

So where does that leave the sale of Deer Lake? That's a separate

issue. There's been an outpouring of public support to keep the property an open space, with 1,500 followers on a Save Deer Lake Facebook page and a raft of politicians – including U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, state Rep. Christine Goupil, state Sen. Christine Cohen and Killingworth First Selectwoman Nancy Gorski – endorsing its preservation at a late January news conference.

"I am not anti-development," Cohen said then. "I am anti-developing Deer Lake."

What happens there will be decided by money that can or cannot be raised in the next month. In the meantime, the Deer Lake summer camp returns for another year, looking and operating much as it has the past three-and-a-half decades.

"You must be happy," a pedestrian walking on to the Deer Lake campus told Patty Clifton late one afternoon.

It was Susan Willis, a mother of five who sent all five of her children to the summer camp – including four who went on to become counselors. She'd been walking her seven-year-old German shepherd when she saw Patty shoveling snow off the steps of the camp's dining hall. So, she approached.

"Our entire family is connected to Deer Lake," Willis said later. "This has been a standing summer tradition for us."

That message was communicated to Clifton that day, with Willis telling her how her daughter reluctantly registered her 6-year-old son – a boy who attended Deer Lake the previous two summers – at another camp. But when she heard a contract had been brokered to keep the Cliftons and camp in place, she changed direction.

She signed him up to Deer Lake and forfeited the deposit at the other camp.

"Parents, including more than my daughter, are relieved," said Willis. "I know the future of Deer Lake has not been determined, but we have something of a reprieve where families can say at least this summer the camp is there for us."

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Voices from Ukraine

By Peter Baird

Over the last several years, I've had the pleasure of working with several Ukrainian academics. I found them to be delightful—smart, funny, full of life and totally Western in their outlook and in their vision for Ukraine. I consider them friends.

As I'm sure everyone reading this knows, on February 24, 2022, Ukraine was invaded, unprovoked and without justification, by Russia from the north, east and south. While the Ukrainians and their leaders have fought with bravery and determination, they are hopelessly outgunned and outmanned.

Of the four individuals I worked with, one left the country, with his wife and children, to stay with relatives in Poland on February 22, just two days before the war started. Of the three remaining, one lives in Kharkiv on the Russian border, one in Dnipro in the center of the country, and one in Mykolaiv on the Black Sea in the south. Kharkiv and Mykolaiv have seen terrible war. So far, Dnipro remains safe. Each has been messaging me daily, stories of bravery and love and desperation and abject fear.

Darya, in Kharkiv and Sasha, in Dnipro are young researchers without children. Natalya, in Mykolaiv, is a single mother with two teenagers. Some of these messages and conversations have been in English (which they all speak) and some in Russian, a language I know a bit from studying in college. Any translation errors are mine. My comments are in parentheses.

Feb 23rd

Natalya (Mykolaiv): Hi, Peter. We have a state of emergency. Our local authorities say the Russians are coming. I have an international passport, but my children do not. I need to get them urgently, but I can't get it so fast. I'm

not sure what to do.

(I tell her to keep her children safe and be ready to go if she needs to).

Natalya: tomorrow I will stock up on provisions. I'll get food, water, flashlights, matches, candles...

Feb 24th

(I message my friends that the war has started, and ask if they're ok)

Natalya (Mykolaiv): We are very scared. Grandmother called; the airport is being trashed. There is a nearby military town. I see the bombs and explosions from my apartment. My nerves are stretched like strings....

(and later)

Planes fly so close! I'm terribly afraid of the sound of an airplane in the sky! This is my phobia. My blood boils in my veins when they fly close....

Sasha (Dnipro): It's sirens, all the time, but so far no war comes to us. I go to the metro but it's so cold there, and everyone cries and is scared. I'm always on edge.

Darya (Kharkiv): Peter! Oh my God. Here was just a wave of panic, people were running to the subway—we decided to stay in the subway for the night. The city introduced a curfew, after 10 pm you cannot go out. I'm very scared... I can't leave this city, it's just me and my best friend... my family is far away.

(later)

We hear explosions again. No one sleeps....

Feb 25th:

Natalya (Mykolaiv): It begins again. We will be strong. The night promises to be very hard. My children are my support.

(She later sends a video of her children and her in a dirt cellar... the boy looks scared, but resolved. The girl has eyes the size of saucers, but she tries to smile when she sees her mom is filming her)

Sasha (Dnipro): Unfortunately, or fortunately, I have a great love for our country. I am not going anywhere! and if necessary, I will stand with the warriors on the battlefield. I'll be a nurse or a military man, I don't care! Anger develops every hour. It's horrible! I understand that the Russians are not to blame, it's all the authorities. But alas, the Russian government has hung a huge stigma on its people ... for a millennium.

(Sasha is in her 20's, a petite young woman with big eyes and even a bigger smile)

Darya (Kharkiv): It's very cold here. Little heat. I really want to go home. I want my family, but they're far away and there's no safe escape. I hope this ends soon...

Feb 26th:

Natalya (Mykolaiv): We are a very peaceful people. For us it is a tragedy.

I imagine when the war ends, and all people will exchange glances with each other. We will walk past people and people will walk past us. And looking into the eyes of every passerby, we will see courage, pride and a single grief and a single victory.

(Reading this, my heart breaks. I tell my three friends that many of the Western capitals are lit up in colors of the Ukrainian flag tonight)

Natalya: Thank you for being with us! I'm sure God hears the prayers of the world.

Sasha (Dnipro): you have no idea how nice it is to see this! We all rejoice at seeing all this. You are so good

Darya (Kharkiv): Thank you for your support. When you ask me if I'm ok, I read it as "I love you, and all will be well."

Feb 27th:

Natalya (Mykolaiv): I'm at home now. But we run to the basement then home, from the house to the basement.

I have no more strength. I have small food supplies, no cash, credit cards are blocked, the stores are closed, and the few stores that are open have empty shelves, there are no provisions in the city. Peter!

Sasha (Dnipro): My mom acts strangely. She says it's not a real war, and to not worry. And she says "so we're Russian now, who cares?" I think she's in shock.

(I tell her that her bravery and the bravery of her nation is remarkable, beyond anything I've ever had to show)

Sasha: I hope you really, really hope that you never have to show courage like this.

Darya (Kharkiv): The war is so close to me now. Very close to the house where I live now. Guns are constant. Sometimes there are huge explosions. I don't know what to do but be brave.... and fight. I asked how to shoot a gun. They said they will give me one....

Feb 28th:

Natalya (Mykolaiv): I was scrolling through the photos on my phone and I caught myself thinking as if I am now 80 years old, and I look at these photos and think how cool I was.

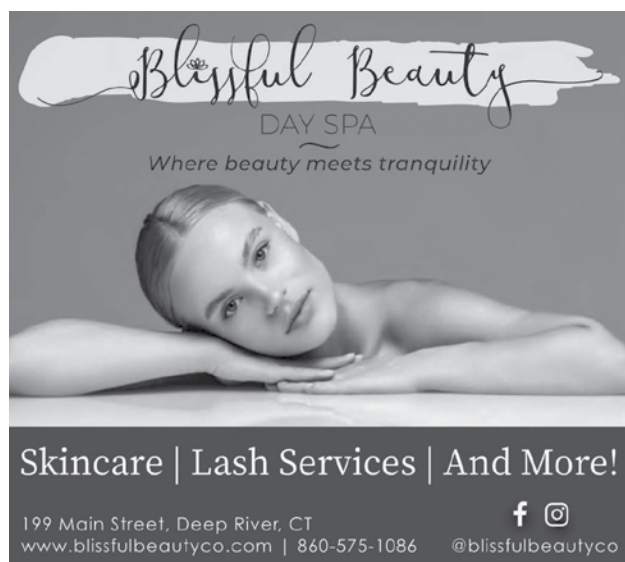
This war is like a wall that has grown between the past and the present, and of course with the future.

We are now in the apartment, there is a strong wind outside the window, the sound is similar to a flying plane. The day has come for me when I realize that I am afraid of the sound of the wind outside the window.

But I look at my children and I am amazed at their courage and resilience, I clearly understand that my children are stronger than me, they are my lifeline. I feel like I'm small compared to them.

Sasha (Dnipro): Today we were in the church all day, we brought more things

Continued on page HK10



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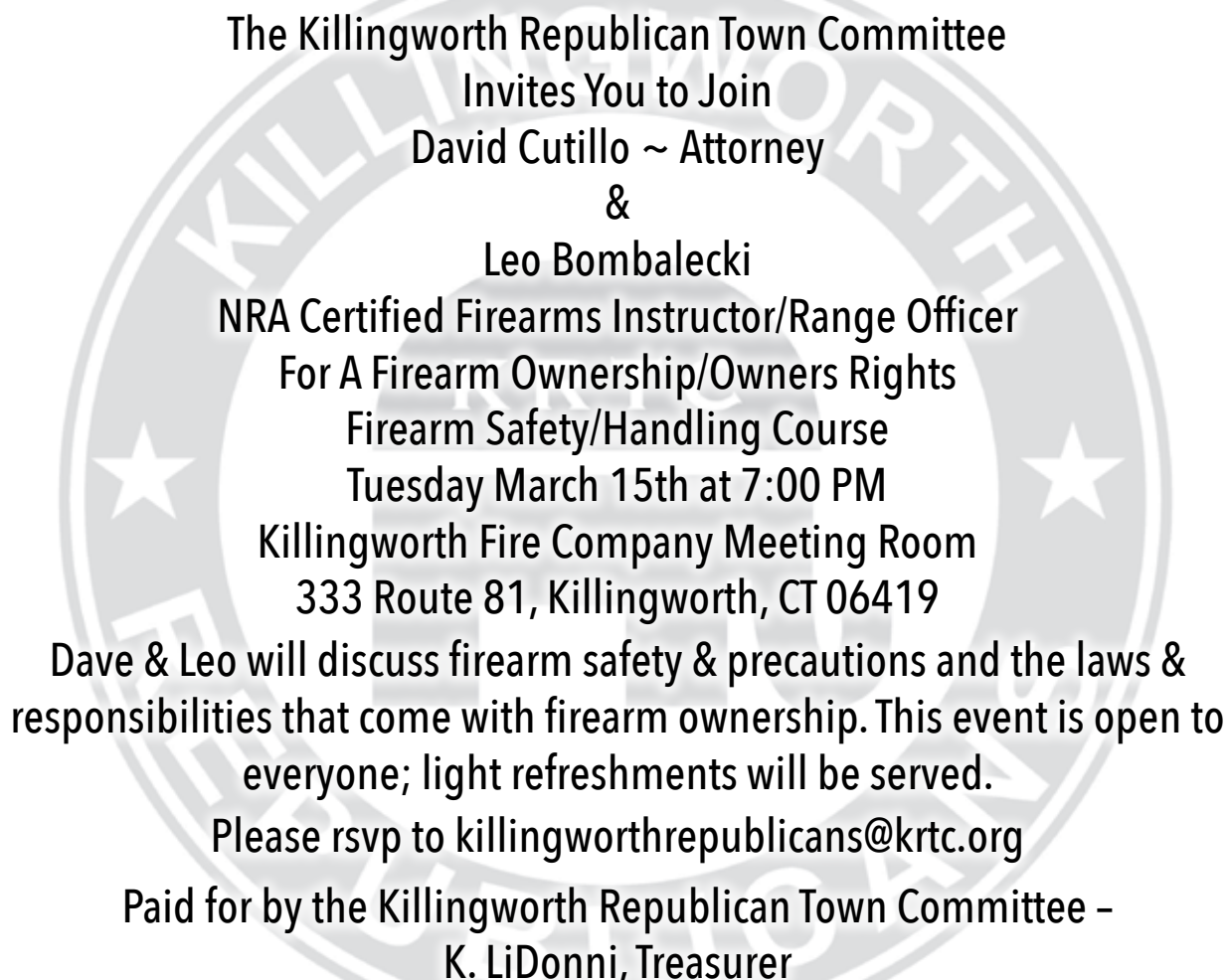
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Share the News About Your Event or Fundraiser for FREE on HK-News/Now

By Sharon Challenger

Getting the word out about events and fundraisers can be time consuming but most organizations recognize that publicity is always helpful. In fact, publicity can make the difference as to whether or not your event is a success.

Many groups budget for marketing and advertising costs. What some do not consider are the opportunities for free promotion.

Haddam Killingworth News/HK-Now offers our readers the opportunity to help people and organizations "get the word out" regarding your news, events and fundraisers.

This service is free. Most people don't know that Haddam Killingworth News reaches over 12,000 households weekly! If just two people per household browse through the paper, it means at least 24,000+ sets of eyes may come across your event and calendar entry.

<https://hk-now.com/events/>

On our online edition HK-now.com entries are published as soon as we receive them. Placing the information online has the advantage of getting the word out rapidly. No waiting for the next hardcopy edition – but the good news is, your event will most likely appear there also. All this is

St. James Episcopal Church Holds Corned Beef Dinner March 12

By Elaine Jackson

Come join St. James Episcopal Church in Higganum for our Annual Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 12, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The dinner includes Corned Beef & Cabbage, potatoes & carrots, & homemade desserts. Take out only as of now. Tickets are Adults \$18, Seniors \$15 Children Ages 6-12 \$12, Location: Corner of Rte 81 & Little City Rd. in Higganum.

Please order dinner ahead, please call Wayne 860-345-4172 or call Elaine 860-424-6178 or email elainjack835@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY

Haddam Food Scrap Program is Moving Along!

By Linda Talbott

Thank you to all Haddam, Higganum and Haddam Neck residents who are participating in the Food Scrap Recycling program at the Haddam Transfer Station. Every month, Blue Earth Compost (BEC) sends us a report and in January, the first FULL month of the program, we recycled more than 1 ton of food scraps at the Haddam Transfer station! We started with three BEC 32 gallon bins in December and now are up to six.

Starter kits are still available at the Haddam Town Office Building as are extra rolls of 3-gallon compostable bags. Free Transfer Station FOOD SCRAP ONLY passes are also at the Town Office Building.

Any questions: HaddamSustainabilityCommittee@gmail.com

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HADDAM Planning and Zoning PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing at the Old Town Hall, 30 Field Park Haddam CT on March 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item(s):

Public Hearing and Meeting:

1. A special permit request to allow a 6700 sq ft addition to the commercial building to 1572 Saybrook Rd for office, retail and professional services. Applicant: DBP LLC - map 49/ lot 69

Said application is on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam. Planning and Zoning Commission, Haddam CT

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Voices from Ukraine

Continued from page HK7

for the children, and helped sort out other things. My heart aches for our warriors. I pray for victory. We'll never be Russian, ever.

Darya (Kharkiv): I went to bed at 7 pm. I know that they start shooting in the morning, it is now 4 am and outside the window they are bombing very heavily. I see fireballs, explosions, it seems like bombs just ring us. Kharkiv fights for all Ukraine. And for Europe.

March 1:

Natalya (Mykolaiv): I'm on the border of Moldova.

(what???)

There was a pause in the fighting. Only one bridge in Mykolaiv remains. Three women and our four children got into my small sedan and drove through the city. We saw soldiers, buildings destroyed, some roads were impassible. When we got to the bridge they lowered it, and we

drove across. We sit now at the border, it's going to be a long wait, but we're safe.

Darya (Kharkiv): Good morning J. Each day I praise God to be alive. They shoot at night and in the morning, but I'm already used to it. Today I am going to a safer apartment, we will live there until the end of the war. Now it's dangerous even in the subway—one of the stations was destroyed with people inside.

(hours later)

Now explosions everywhere. We ran to the basement. Planes scream over us. Bombs, bombs, bombs. My God....

March 2:

(My friend from Mykolayiv has been at the border to Moldova, waiting to cross, for 24 hours now, but they're inside the country, just not through customs. It's freezing, but they feel safe. She sends me her location sometimes

on her phone. When they're finally through customs, they plan to rest and sleep, and then go to Romania, and then "as far away from Russia as possible." The children with them are 16, 13, 9 and 7 years old. She doesn't think Putin will stop with Ukraine.

—

I don't hear as much from my friends in Dnipro or in Kharkiv lately, but Darya lets me know every day that she's still alive. And she asks me if I'm ok.

Darya's life is running to shelters, then to the apartment for clothes and quick meals, helping distribute food and erect defenses, it's a cycle. On March 2, she sent me videos comparing her ice skating (clumsily) in the main town square two weeks ago, and the bombed out ruin it is today. She often starts her messages to me by saying "If I survive this..." She's 25 years old.)

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