



Haddam Killingworth News

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

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March 17, 2022

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Free weekly

RSD #17's Dynamic Duo: Noreen & Jay Granucci

By Kathy Brown

Back in 1971, Killingworth was part of the Clinton Public School system, and Dr. Lewin Joel, then Superintendent, and Robert LeBlanc, then principal of Killingworth Elementary School, hired Noreen Rodney as a special education teacher for grades K-4. Noreen started work on January 24, 1972.

Noreen is dual certified in Special Education and Elementary Education Grades 1-6. She has taught both special education and regular education at our schools, and especially loved teaching reading and math.

In September 1981, Noreen met the new art teacher at KES, Jay Granucci, who went from room to room on a rolling cart.

Noreen and Jay were married in 1986.

Jay Granucci began teaching art at KES. He then moved to Burr Elementary School, then split his time between Haddam Elementary School and Burr, and then moved back to Burr only when Haddam Elementary closed permanently.

In 1987, Noreen was transferred to Burr Elementary School. Soon after that, Noreen recalls, "[Redistricting] sent a part of KES students to BES. Within the next few years, a building project at Haddam Elementary School sent a section of HES students to Burr. Parents were not happy about that. I was asked to teach 5th grade for a year. It was a very difficult year because I feel that there was a great deal of community tension with parents not being happy." The following year, Noreen

Continued on page HK2



HHS Presents Historic Photos of Haddam Neck

By Elizabeth Malloy, Executive Director, Haddam Historical Society

Join the Haddam Historical Society for a PowerPoint presentation of historic photographs of Haddam Neck from the archives of the Society on Sunday, March 27, at 3:00 p.m. These will include historic house photos, people and places.

We invite you to learn more about "The Neck" and what makes it such a special place to live. To be held at the Haddam Neck Congregational Church at 408 Quarry Hill Road, Haddam Admission is free. For additional information call 860-345-2400 or email director@haddamhistory.org

Long Island Soundkeeper Raising Awareness about Deer Lake

By Clark Judge

When a news conference was called in late January to save the Deer Lake Scout Reservation as open space, an array of politicians, preservationists and advocacy groups appeared.



Connecticut Audubon was there. So was the Connecticut Forest and Park Association ... and the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust ... and the Trust for Public Land. But then there was Save the Sound, and I know what you're thinking.

Huh?

"You're probably wondering," said Bill Lucey, the Long Island Soundkeeper since 2017, as he stood before a microphone, "why is the Soundkeeper back up off the shore and hanging out in the trees up here?"

Well, as a matter of fact ... yes.

"There are two reasons I'm here," he said then. "The first one is that our organization is very committed to

preserving open space in Connecticut. We've been involved in over 18,000 acres of that work over the course of our 50-year history. The reason I'm specifically interested in that is that protecting these chunks of core forest is huge. We're losing a little bit every year, but we still have areas like this where there are big tracts of forest. And why is that important? Well, when the rain falls on this forest, it gets clean. When it travels along these streams, it cools down. And that's exactly what we need to increase the health of Long Island Sound."

That made so much sense that I looked for Lucey again this week. With

Continued on page HK5



Pictured is the Haddam Neck Schoolhouse circa 1875. It was later moved across the street in 1916 next to the Haddam Neck Congregational Church. It continued as a one room school until 1925. It is currently used as the church parish house. The house in the background is the Elijah Arnold House at 138 Ague Spring Road. Photo from the George Bradford Brainerd Collection. Photo courtesy of HHS.

In This Issue: • Community Calendar, HK3 • Haddam Garden Club, HK6, HK8 • Public Safety News, HK7



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RSD #17's Dynamic Duo: Noreen & Jay Granucci

Continued from page HK1

returned to her "happy place: third grade, and stayed there until my retirement in 2011."

That retirement was VERY short-lived.

"As I was going through the receiving line of administrators at the Board of Education celebration to honor retirees, Dr. Janice Harris whispered in my ear, 'Come work for me at HES,' and my life as a para-educator began. I guess I wasn't truly ready for retirement and still not!" explained Noreen.

"Teaching in RSD 17 has given me the privilege to work with very awesome colleagues," said Noreen. "I have met so many wonderful parents who are now dear friends. And have been privileged to teach many children of former students who never left town. I also



Photos provided by the Granuccis.

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have colleagues now at BES who were former students of mine."

"I have had the honor of not only teaching alongside both Jay and Noreen, but I was also their student," said Becky Harkin, a 2nd grade teacher at Burr. "Jay was my Art teacher when I attended KES as a child and Noreen was my 2nd grade math teacher! Time passed and I became a teacher myself and was interviewed for my first teaching position at Burr in 2001. I was surprised as I walked in and saw Noreen Granucci in the front office. She recognized me right away, more than 15 years later! Noreen and Jay have such a passion for their jobs and this shows every day."

"Mrs. Granucci impacted our kids in her own gentle way," said Katie Packtor, the mother of two children who went through HES. "A kind-hearted woman, [Mrs. Granucci] was always someone that my kids could go to when they needed help or support. Her spirit shines in her smile, and kids recognize that kind of honest commitment. She was always working above and beyond, from welcoming the kids in the morning to managing dismissal and after-school clubs."

"Noreen is dedicated to her students, both during the school year and over the summer months when she works with students," said Paige Boudreau, Kindergarten teacher at BES. "As a paraprofessional, she gives 100 percent to her students, even after 50 years of teaching!"

On January 13, Noreen was honored with flowers and balloons by Superintendent Jeff Wihbey, BES Principal Brienne Whidden, Board Member Jennifer Favalora, Reading Coach Judy Nacca, Special

Continued on page HK4

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Local Students Excel at Colleges, Universities

From Merit Pages News

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

ROCHESTER, NY (02/28/2022)– The following local residents made the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the Fall 2021 Semester.

Greg Lynskey of Killingworth, who is in the computer science program.

Devin Gallant of Killingworth, who is in the film and animation program.

Alex Blair of Higganum, who is in the computing exploration program.

Bridget Harry of Higganum, who is in the film and animation program.

Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete," "D" or "F"; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours. Local Athlete Competes on Eastern Baseball Team

WILLIMANTIC, CT (02/28/2022)– Eastern Connecticut State University's men's baseball team is set to begin its spring 2022 season. The baseball team consists of 35 players and will compete in their first game on March 5, 2022.

Among the athletes are:

Owen Marica of Haddam, number 9,

a senior who majors in Psychology and plays shortstop/pitcher on the Baseball team.

Brian Hamm, head coach for the baseball team shared his thoughts on the season. "We have a great group of players and coaches who have worked hard during the off-season to prepare for this spring," said Hamm. "We welcomed strong first-year class transfers who make us stronger by adding depth to the team we had last spring."

For more on the baseball team, including the schedule of games, visit <https://gowarriorathletics.com/sports/baseball/schedule>.

Eastern offers a broad-based, Division III athletic program aimed at safeguarding the amateur aspects of the various sports and maintaining the proper perspective of athletics within Eastern's academic mission. By placing emphasis on the values of equity, diversity, sportsmanship, health and wellbeing, Eastern's athletics program encourages students to contribute more effectively to society and live richer, fuller lives.

HEMPSTEAD, NY (03/04/2022)– Patrick Dennis of Higganum excelled during the Fall 2021 semester, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean's List.

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 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.

Saturday, March 19

Saturday Storytime 10:00 a.m. Killingworth Library (Zoom). This week's story: My Garden by Kevin Henkes.

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

Monday, March 21

Killingworth Board of Selectmen

meeting 6:00 p.m. (remote access)
Haddam Inland Wetlands meeting 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22

Tech Time Tuesday Killingworth Library 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The one-hour program allows for two single-attendee slots, but we will also schedule for a mutually convenient day and time as needed. Please register.

Wednesday, March 23

Haddam Board of Finance Budget Review 6:30 p.m.

Killingworth Economic Recovery meeting 7:00 p.m.

"No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion" 5 Part DVD Series 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart on the Lake 194 Candlewood Hill Rd., Higganum.

The Discovery of a Masterpiece 6:30 pm via Zoom. Brainerd Library

Thursday, March 24

Gateway meeting (Zoom) 7:00 p.m.

ELECTIONS

Haddam Registrars: Party Transfer Reminder

By Raymond Skarsten & Kate Wessling, Haddam Certified Registrars of Voters

State, District and Municipal Primary August 9, 2022

May 9, 2022 is the last day that an enrolled elector can transfer from one party to another and be eligible to vote in a state, district or municipal office primary of the new party.

However, this does not apply when switching from unaffiliated to a party membership. If you are unaffiliated and want to vote in the state, district and municipal primary, you can transfer prior to 12:00 Noon on the last business day before the primary, which is Monday, August 8, 2022.

Call 860-345-0979 or email registrar@haddam.org with any questions.



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Saturday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

RSD #17's Dynamic Duo: Noreen & Jay Granucci

Continued from page HK2

Education teacher Tania Shaw, Art Teacher Jay Granucci, 2nd grade teacher Tracey Penney and all of the room 12 second graders.

On January 18, Noreen was honored by the Board of Education at their January Meeting. "Superintendent Wihbey announced that I had worked for eight principals, seven superintendents, taught for 65,975 hours and spent 9,090 days in the classroom!" said Noreen.

On January 24 (the actual 50th anniversary), Noreen was honored AGAIN by all of her BES colleagues, "and showered with gifts from them all and a delicious vanilla cake which was enjoyed by all."

Noreen isn't the only Granucci dedicating decades to our district. Jay has been working here for 41 years.

"Mr. G taught our kids art, but he also gave them confidence, encouraged their creativity, and fostered their unique skills," said Katie Packtor. "I owe a debt of gratitude to both Noreen and Jay."

Jay is well known for his fantastic art shows each year at the elementary schools.

"[BES principal Brienne Whidden] asked me when she first came to Burr if I would be interested in doing a whole school art installation to help make our school look more kid-friendly," said Jay.

"Our first art installation was a butterfly mural, where each child designed their own butterfly. I gave it the title, 'Until you spread your wings, you have no idea how far you can fly.'"

Then he started looking for an idea for another

permanent installation. "After research, I found an idea inspired by the artist Dale Chihuly, who is an amazing glass sculpture artist, which in this case would involve using recycled bottles," said Jay.

Jay's excitement about art is infectious. "Mr. Granucci truly cultivated the love I still have for art today," said Audrey Gaynier. "While I do not have art in my professional career in the Coast Guard, I have found joy in oil painting on nautical and aeronautical charts. I am so lucky to have been a student of Jay Granucci."

"[Jay] is so creative and goes above and beyond what an art teacher can do with his students," said Paige Boudreau. "He meets my students where they are, and helps my students create the most beautiful art pieces. Jay is always looking out for the teachers' well-being and is extremely supportive of the teachers in the building."

"Mr. Granucci is one of the most talented and dedicated professionals I have worked with," explained Michele Tackett, former Kindergarten teacher, BES. "What was most admirable was how he was able to balance family life with his career. Always putting in many hours beyond the school day, I remember him putting up artwork in the late afternoons while happily carrying his youngest child on his back! He and Mrs. Granucci always wore a smile despite the demands of teaching with a growing family."

"It's truly amazing how he brought out the best in each child," said Samantha Merwin, parent of a former HES student. "He has so much patience and talent. The district is blessed to have had his leadership for so many years."

Jay spent hours planning the new art installation for Burr.

"I played around with ideas that would be the

most effective, eye catching, and how the kids could each participate as well as how it would need to be best constructed," explained Jay. "I thought colored permanent markers were the way to go for adding color to the recycled bottles, but I wasn't satisfied with the intensity of the colored markers when applied to the bottles. I knew acrylic paints would have to be my next option, as it is the only type of paint that would adhere to the bottles."

Luckily for Jay he had a huge supply of acrylic paints in a rainbow of colors that overflowed from a cabinet since combining schools and losing grades 4-6 to the Intermediate and Middle Schools. "The acrylic paint ended up being the perfect choice for painting the bottles," said Jay. "I asked for bottle donations from parents, and we were able to collect over 1000!"

Next came the actual painting.

"Over the course of about a week, every child, K-3, with their smocks protecting their clothes, painted multiple bottles in every color of the rainbow," said Jay. "The next step was cutting the bottles."

Because of the complexity of cutting the bottles into thin spirals, Jay and a few of the school's paraprofessionals took on that task. "I would estimate the finished sculpture weighs about 40-50 pounds," explained Jay. "The kids were so excited to see it finally take shape during the permanent installation process."

"I have had the privilege of working with the Granuccis for many years at RSD17," said Jenn Leavitt, former teacher at HES, now at HKMS. "As a community, we are so lucky to have two educators from the same family who encourage students to believe in themselves and have confidence that everyone can achieve a high level of knowledge with hard work. They are truly two gems of this community."

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Long Island Soundkeeper Raising Awareness about Deer Lake

Continued from page HK1

the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America voting to sell the 255 acres that comprise its Deer Lake property to a private developer, I wanted to hear more – especially since the Council won't close on the reported \$4.625-million offer until after March 31. So, I approached Lucey, a Connecticut native who spent years living in Vermont, Guatemala, Alaska and Hawaii working at the municipal, state and federal levels of government and who now resides in Killingworth. This is what I learned:

Q: Why is Save the Sound interested in a land preservation project?

Lucey: Save the Sound has been involved with land conservation and preservations for decades. We are currently involved with efforts to save Plum Island from private development and create a place where the public can visit some of the last wild coastline of Long Island Sound. We are also working with local groups in the Oswegatchie Hills, which hold some of the last remaining coastal forest along the Niantic River. We have worked with water companies in the past to prevent land from being sold to development and are involved with planning efforts now to create more hiking opportunities on company lands. There is a direct correlation between contiguous forest and water quality. If the watershed is degraded, it will degrade Long Island Sound. If you want to clean up Long Island Sound, you have to restore the damaged watersheds that empty into it. It is far cheaper to protect intact forests and wetlands than to restore them after they are damaged.

Q: So, then, this is about more than saving 255 acres of open space. It's about protecting an ecological balance over a far greater area?

Lucey: If you look at the state of Connecticut from Google Earth, you can see a green triangle running from Middletown down the Connecticut River to Old Saybrook and over to North Branford, angling back to Middletown. The coast is intensely developed, but the interior for the triangle is a mix of state forest, state park, Connecticut Water Company-protected land and several land trust properties. There are, of course, many subdivisions across this area, but it holds some of the remaining core forest near Long Island Sound. Many of the river systems in this area are short coastal systems. Watersheds need protected headwaters to keep the water clean. The added benefit of contiguous forest is the quality of wildlife habitat. Certain bird species, like warblers and thrushes, will only nest in larger chunks of forest. The trees shade the streams in the heat of the summer and capture nutrients and pollutants before they wash into the streams.

Q: What is the environmental impact we could face if the land is developed?

Lucey: Road runoff, with its salt, sand, dirt, little oil drippings, brake dust and tire particles all degrade water quality. More development brings more hardened surfaces like rooftops and driveways. New developments create higher demand on water resources and sewage disposal, adding to the nutrient load to groundwater, streams and ultimately Long Island Sound. More houses in core forest increases bird strikes to windows and pets like cats and dogs



Photos by Clark Judge.

chase off and kill wildlife, creating impact zones around each new housing unit. Having intact systems means that bobcats and snakes keep rodent populations down, birds eat garden and tree pests, and coyotes keep deer populations under control. Areas without these intact predator guilds end up with ecosystems that become unbalanced: too many deer, invasive pests, etc. Where I lived in Alaska all the major predators on land and in the water were present and kept a dynamic check and balance on the entire system. It was world-class wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing. We have seen some recovery in Connecticut, and there are still vestiges of the former natural grandeur that once existed. However, as development increases, you see a general degradation of the ecosystem function. Hunting-and-fishing-quality drops. There are fewer reptiles and amphibians and a lower biodiversity of bird species. People spray for weeds and ticks and apply fertilizer to the landscape. I moved to Killingworth because it reminded me of growing up in Wilton, Connecticut. When I was a child, we would see box turtles and wood turtles, lots of snakes, amazing insects like Luna moths and all kinds of wildlife that seem to be gone from that area now as the town has been heavily developed. Once an area is developed, it is very difficult for many of these species to survive. This is called creeping incrementalism. Each generation accepts a slightly more degraded situation as normal and enjoys less and less publicly accessible land. Once the property is privately developed, no-trespassing signs will go up and yet one more place will be closed off to the public. Compared to the Western U.S. and Alaska, Connecticut is intensely developed and covered in private land. From my perspective, it is already over-developed and people's access overly restricted. Losing yet another parcel of land continues that relentless march to reduced opportunity for future generations to see and enjoy the increasingly-rare forests of southern New England.

Q: What, if anything, makes this particular property unique?

Lucey: This property in Killingworth is an integral part of the mosaic of protected land that includes

Chatfield Hollow State Park, Cockaponset State Forest, Connecticut Water Company land, and Killingworth Land Trust parcels. Much of this regional acreage is available to hikers, birders, hunters and anglers. The areas that are closed to the public, like drinking water lands, provide high quality habitat to a variety of creatures that spread out from the protected areas into the large chunks of publicly accessible forests such as Deer Lake, affording people the opportunity to see and interact with all manner of creatures. The Deer Lake property is part of the Connecticut Blue Blaze Trail system, has an ongoing project bringing back American chestnut trees, and was given funds from Audubon to create a bird sanctuary. It is a mix of habitat types important to a wide variety of wildlife. The current low-key development on the site provides campers and Scouts a place to camp out, have fires, catch fish and other critters and enjoy a beautiful landscape.

Q: What exactly can Save the Sound do, and what do you anticipate happening on or before March 31?

Lucey: All we can do is raise public awareness and encourage the Connecticut Yankee Council to accept a market value offer to conserve the property. The land was donated to them (the Boy Scouts), but they seem to feel that they should capitalize on it and get the most money they can from a sale. I personally believe this is contrary to the mission of the Scouts. They are a non-profit, not a real-estate business, though they seem to be the latter now as they liquidate their holdings. I understand there are fewer Scouts now than in times past, but Deer Lake is an easy way to make a couple of million bucks and still have the local Scouts be able to use the grounds by engaging with the Trust for Public Land. My son is a Cub Scout, and I was a Scout ... as was my father. The Scouts are supposed to be dedicated to public service. I no longer feel that is the case after observing the inflexibility and creation of false deadlines for a quick sale when they know the public is against it. The property is used by hundreds of Connecticut's children every year, and there is a reasonable offer on the table from the Trust for Public Land. So why not just do the right thing?

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Creating a Sense of Place

By Terry Twigg, HGC

Garden designers speak of capturing the “sense of place” when they plan a garden. What, exactly, do they mean? It’s the emotional response you have to certain spaces when the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. I think it’s a sense of history and yet timelessness, a certain serenity and feeling of belonging created by a perfect juxtaposition of proportion, planting, and purpose. We might look at a hundred-year-old farmhouse and not think much of it, but one with an equally old maple tree in the front yard almost compels us to imagine the skinny sapling planted when the house was built, and the decades of change both have witnessed. The “place”

Continued on page HK8

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

By Chris Morgan, Public Access Coordinator, VSCTV

Comcast Channel 18 - Valley Shore Educational Network
 3/19 7:00 p.m. Mr. HK 2022
 3/20 7:00 p.m. Mr. HK 2022
Comcast Channel 19 - Valley Shore Community Television
 3/17 - 1:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. UMC of Clinton Sunday Service 3/13/22
 3/17 - 5:00 p.m. Old Saybrook Meetings
 3/20 - 4:00 p.m. First Congregational Church in Essex Sun. Service 3/13/22
 3/20 - 5:00 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church Sunday Service 3/13/22
 3/20 - 6:00 p.m. Deep River Town Meetings 3/8/22
 3/21 - 4:00 p.m. A Slice of Life
 3/21 - 5:00 p.m. Silver Linings Talk Show
 3/21 - 6:00 p.m. Shore Things: Aging in Place
 3/21 - 8:00 p.m. Art of Poetry
 3/22 - 4:00 p.m. Clinton Meetings

3/22 - 6:00 p.m. Arts & Entertainment: Saybrook Stage
 3/22 - 7:00 p.m. Pete Mezzetti Show: Max Sabrin Old Saybrook Fire Dept.
 3/22 - 8:00 p.m. Shoreline Music Monthly: Season 6 Bonus Bits
 3/23 - 4:00 p.m. Westbrook Congregational 3/20/22

For the complete schedule and to watch programs on-demand, visit www.vsctv.com. HKTU 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.

OBITUARY

Susan Elizabeth Rutty



Susan Elizabeth (Edmondson) Rutty, 77, of Haddam, beloved wife of Wayne M. Rutty, passed away on Tuesday March 8, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. She was born in Manchester, daughter of Rev.

James V. and Katherine Laura (Hill) Edmondson. Susan was an office manager for the Connecticut Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America for 27 years before retiring in 2007.

Susan retired early to enjoy making memories with her grandchildren and to pursue her interests in her community. She was always involved in her two son’s activities starting her involvement with the Boy Scouts as a Den leader for her sons. She was an active member of the Haddam Club 60, Committee on Aging in Haddam, Haddam Neck Fair where she was a director and treasurer for many years. Susan was instrumental to the revitalizations of the local Red Hatters Society and the Haddam Garden Club. Susan and Wayne enjoyed the many years traveling the country in their Airstream Trailer with friends to WBCCI Airstream Club activities. In 2020 Susan was honored to have been inducted into the Haddam-Killingworth Hall of Fame for her years of outstanding service to her community.

Susan is survived by her husband of 58 years Wayne; sons, David and his wife Kimberly of Wethersfield, Michael and his wife Lianne of Chester; four grandchildren, Justin, Katelyn and her fiancé Jordan Zima, James, and Samuel; brother, John Edmondson and his wife Bari of Haddam; sister, Kathy Sandberg and her husband Steve of Coventry; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The funeral service was held on Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 3 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St. Middletown. Calling hours were held prior to the service from 12 to 3 p.m.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to the Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank c/o: Haddam Social Services; 11 Jail Hill Rd; Haddam, CT 06438 or CT Humane Society; 701 Russel Rd; Newington, CT 06111. To share memories or express condolences online please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HADDAM Zoning Board of Appeals PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING

The Zoning Board of Appeals Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing and Meeting at the Haddam Town Hall, 21 Field Park Dr., Haddam, CT on March 31, 2022 at 7:00 to act upon the following item (s):

Public Hearing and Meeting:

1. Request for a variance allowing the existing garage to be enlarged by 5ft, this addition encroaches on the side yard setback requirement of 20ft and reduces it to 15ft. Applicant: Irene Alesh - Property: 27 Filley Rd Haddam CT - Map 46/lot 15B
2. Request for a variance to allow the installation of a pool 5ft from the north side yard. The installation creates a 15ft encroachment to the side yard setback requirement. Additionally a portion of the pool will sit within the 50ft Inland Wetland review area. Applicant: Brent Veiga - Property: 13 Summersweet Drive, Higganum CT - Map 41/lot 15-45

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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Arrest Made in Merchant House Burglary

Information submitted by Haddam Resident Trooper Joe DeAngelo

On February 3 and February 6, 2022, respectively, Troopers responded to The Merchant House property (which is no longer in business) in Haddam for two separate reports of burglaries to a secured storage building on the property.

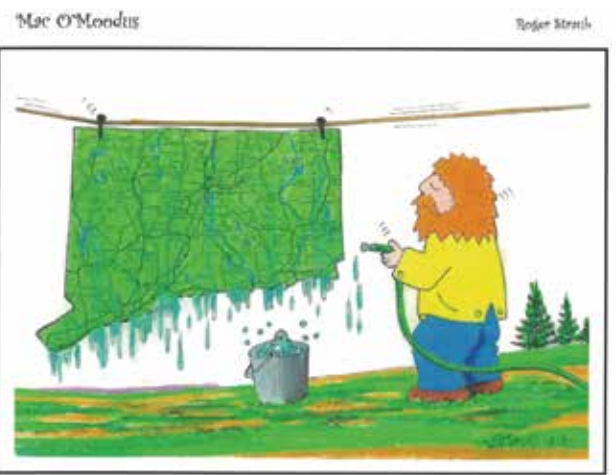
Through investigation and with help from the public, a suspect was positively identified as Daniel Winslow, age 46, of East Haddam. An arrest warrant application was drafted and subsequently approved by the State's Attorney's Office at GA-9: Middlesex Superior Court.

The accused, who had been recently incarcerated on unrelated charges, was arrested and charged accordingly. He remains in the custody of the CT Department of Corrections, pending further court

proceedings.

Troopers would like to take a moment to thank the public for their assistance in providing information which greatly assisted in identifying and apprehending the accused.

Trooper reports reflect arrests, not convictions. Visit <https://www.jud2.ct.gov/crdockets/SearchByDefDisp.aspx> to learn the outcomes of criminal and motor vehicle arrests. All trooper press releases are consistent with state and federal guidelines under the Public Information Act.



Keep Connecticut Clean

HADDAM PUBLIC SAFETY

HVFC Battled Structure Fire on Hidden Lake Road

By Olivia Drake, HVFC Public Information Officer

At 9:45 p.m. Feb. 22, 2022 Haddam Volunteer Fire Company responded to a structure fire on Hidden Lake Road in Higganum. Upon arrival, crews encountered heavy fire and smoke from the backside of the home.

Crews from Middletown South District, Killingworth, Haddam Neck, Chester, Durham, and East Haddam provided mutual aid and assisted with extinguishing the fire and shuttling water to the scene.



Photo by Olivia Drake.

No one was home at the time of the incident. The cause of the fire is under investigation with the Haddam Fire Marshal.

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Creating a Sense of Place

Continued from page HK6

can be as grand as the Taj Mahal or as intimate as an urban courtyard. It doesn't have to cost a fortune: the porch of a dilapidated farmhouse, overflowing with colorful flowers growing in recycled tin cans, could have a powerful sense of place, while the most expensively landscaped corporate campus almost certainly will not. That indefinable something actually triggers a physical response, too: blood pressure moderates, endorphins flow, and immune systems improve.

So, how do you bring a sense of place into your own garden? The starting point is always the physical attributes of your site. Is it urban or rural, open or sheltered, dry or damp, steeply sloped or bulldozed flat? Can you include the "borrowed landscape" of a distant view, or must you construct a private enclosure that turns its back on noisy neighbors or an ugly industrial plant? What plants are already there, and which new ones will thrive? Whatever the quirks, celebrate them.

You're more likely to succeed if you work with what's already there rather

than try to force an idea borrowed from somewhere else. I love the strictly symmetrical gardens of medieval Europe and wanted to create something similar in my own courtyard.

Accordingly, I built a row of classical columns to define the north side, and imagined tightly groomed beds in straight rows. But the garage pushes the entrance to one corner, and the retaining wall bends unevenly along the south side, so a path to the front door was always going to divide the courtyard into irregular halves. Then, too, my budget limited me to the rough stone already there, rather than imported cut stone or antique brick. Following the cues on site got me a slightly meandering stone path, perfect for a cottage garden. And so, the formal beds I had planned were discarded in favor of relaxed abundance, which suits my little house better than the original design ever could have.

Also consider how you will use the space. Function is a key factor when creating a sense of belonging, and it doesn't take much: a simple table and chairs fill an empty corner of the yard with promises of family dinners under the stars: a bench invites you to sit and take note of the branches of a flowering tree or the sound of nearby running water. Fill your space with elements that speak of home: a swing under the largest tree; a sturdy cedar fence around a vegetable garden; a place of honor for your mother's roses. Make sure every

path has a destination and every gate has a purpose. If they don't, you'll feel uneasy, even if you don't know why.

As much as possible, follow nature's guidance. An artificial waterfall rising abruptly in the middle of flat lawn is jarring, but the same waterfall on higher ground in a corner seems to have always been there. Follow nature's example by planting in clumps and drifts, not singly or in rows. Even in quite formal gardens, the effect will be more harmonious, and human intervention downplayed. Nobody ever created a sense of place with a row of arborvitae and mulch!

Obviously, it helps if your property has some age to it. Older houses were more likely to be built of local materials, in a style dictated by the climate and the occupants' way of life, and successive generations will have left their mark in outbuildings, stone walls, old flowerbeds, and mature trees. All of these features give you a head start on history. But a newly built tract house, identical to every other house on the street, can still be planned and planted to create a world all its own within even the smallest lot. As you design, try to reflect your personality; complement the scale and age of your house; choose plants suited to your growing conditions; and incorporate natural materials as much as possible. You'll be well on your way to creating a sense of place.






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