

# Haddam Killingworth News

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

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May 19, 2022

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Free weekly

## Killingworth Girl, Age 9, Tackles a Grown-Up Issue: Save Deer Lake

By Clark Judge

Of the more than 700 donors who contributed to save Deer Lake from a private developer, one stands above the rest – which is ironic, considering that donor stands no more than four feet high.

Meet Maeve Browne. She's 9 years old, a third-grader at Killingworth Elementary School and the unlikely face of a local fundraising campaign to protect and preserve the Deer Lake Scout Reservation as open space.

"I'm so proud of her," said her mother, Katie Browne.

She should be. It was Maeve who, against all odds, last week put into action an idea to contribute to the Save Deer Lake campaign, wound up raising \$2,659 and became the star of a Channel 8 newscast about the property's future.

In fact, when a group of fundraisers met shortly after that broadcast aired, it didn't open by addressing the progress of donations. It talked first about Maeve Browne and the impact she made with one TV appearance.

"The kids were proud of her, too," said Dennis Reed, principal at Killingworth Elementary School. "They thought she was a celebrity."

Maeve lives within walking distance of Deer Lake but had no connection with the 255-acre property outside of occasional walks there with her family and two rat terriers. But those hikes made such an impression that when she first heard Deer Lake was for sale, she admitted "shock" and resolved to do something.

The only question: What was that something? "One of those things that's bigger than us"

"I never thought that such a pretty property could actually be getting sold," she said. "So, maybe a week later, we were in the car coming home from an activity, and I asked my Mom, 'Could I do a fundraiser to save Deer Lake?'"

She hadn't done one before. She had to do one now. Her mother agreed.

"It's like one of those things that was bigger than us," Katie Browne said. "It had gotten to the point where I felt so hopeless about it that seemed like

Continued on page HK10



Photo by Clark Judge.

## Killingworth Memorial Day Parade Information



By Michael Parahus

The annual Killingworth Memorial Day parade returns this year and will be held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30. The parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. and follow a route from Killingworth Elementary School, proceeding south on Route 81. The parade will end at the Congregational Church where a ceremony

Continued on page HK3

## May 10 Busy Day for HVFC: Brush Fires, MVA, Two Fire Alarms & Wires down on School Bus

By Olivia Drake, HVFC, Public Information Officer

A busy day in May! Haddam Volunteer Fire Company responded to a total of six calls for emergency services on May 10, including a motor vehicle accident, two fire alarms, a wires-down on school bus incident, and two massive brush fires.

Continued on page HK2



Photo by Olivia Drake.

**In This Issue:** • Haddam Garden Club, HK3 • Community Calendar, HK6 • Entertainment Programming, HK7



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## HADDAM HISTORY

### HHS Program on the Early Years of Scovil Hoe: Today!

By Elizabeth Malloy, Executive Director,  
Haddam Historical Society

The Haddam Historical Society will hold its annual meeting with a presentation by Lindamae Peck on D. & H. Scovil and Company, Hoes, Gun Barrels and Ramrods: A Recap of the Early Years. The program will be held at Haddam Fire Station #1, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum. A short business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Founded in 1844 by brothers Daniel and Hezekiah Scovil, the Scovil Hoe Company was one of Higganum's most prosperous industries in the 19th century. Daniel, after touring the south and

observing the methods and tools of the slaves in the cotton fields, developed the "planters hoe" and convinced his brother, Hezekiah to go into business with him. The innovative design of the Scovil Hoe, a self-sharpening tool with a softer outer edge over a harder steel core, allowed the business to flourish. The Scovils thrived in business by achieving success in mass production, labor relations and marketing. They produced the "planters hoe" for more than sixty years, supplying markets in the south and South America. The Scovil Brothers also produced gun barrels for muskets, carbines, rifles and pistols, as well as, ramrods.

For additional information call 860-345-2400 or email [contact@haddamhistory.org](mailto:contact@haddamhistory.org)



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## HADDAM PUBLIC SAFETY

### May 10 Busy Day for HVFC: Brush Fires, MVA, Two Fire Alarms & Wires down on School Bus

Continued from page HK1

At 1:45 p.m., crews were first dispatched as mutual aid to Middletown for a multi-acre brush fire near the intersection of River Road and Aircraft Road. The fire had started on River Road due to a downed power line. Due to strong winds, the fire quickly spread to approximately 250 acres throughout the day. At 2:45 p.m., HVFC was called to assist with a bus vs. power lines on Thayer Road. The bus driver and five students aboard the bus exited the vehicle from the back emergency door.

At 2:50 p.m., HVFC was toned out again for a fire alarm at The Village plaza on Killingworth Road. Crews returned to the same location at 6:55 p.m. for another fire alarm.

At 5:40 p.m., HVFC was dispatched to a three-car motor vehicle accident on Killingworth Road near Haddam Fire's Station 3. Two patients were transported to Middlesex Hospital with minor injuries.

At 11:50 p.m., Haddam Fire was requested back to the brush fire in Middletown, as flames began to spread southeast of Freeman Road and headed toward Higganum. Crews were on scene working to control the fire until approximately 3:30 a.m. Personnel from DEEP, South Fire District, and other protective agencies will continue to monitor the area throughout the day.



Photo by Olivia Drake.

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# BOS May 9, 2022 Meeting

By Edward Munster

**Editor's Note:** These are notes taken unofficially. The unapproved minutes can be at the official town website: [www.haddam.org](http://www.haddam.org)

This regular meeting of Haddam's Board of Selectmen on May 9, at the Haddam Town Hall was called to order by First Selectman Bob McGarry at 6:30 p.m. Also in attendance were Selectmen Sean Moriarty and Kate Anderson and Administrative Assistant JoAnn Ricciardelli. First Selectman McGarry opened the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Ann Riebold who had passed away this very morning of May 9. He pointed out that Ann had been a longtime employee of the Town and had only recently retired.

The minutes of the regular BOS meeting of April 11th and April 14th were both unanimously approved. During Public Comment Scott Larson, President of the Haddam Volunteer Fire Department, requested that an administrative assistant be hired because of the amount of paperwork that is needed to run the Fire Department. He pointed out that the officers of the department volunteer to be fire fighters not paper handlers.

In his Selectman's Report to the town, McGarry stated that there has been no change in the status of the Rossi property and that the environmental study is in the process of being completed.

McGarry remarked that there was a good turnout for the open house at Scovil Hoe on May 11 and that the Sec. 8-24 Review by PZC stated this project is in full compliance with the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. McGarry pointed out that the Scovil Hoe Project will go before a Town Hearing on May 11 which will be followed by a town meeting on May 18 along with the Town Budget for approval.

McGarry also stated that the sidewalks on Bridge Road have been marked out and that the work will

proceed soon. Work on the Haddam Center sidewalks is expected to start by late May. The work on the Rte 154 bridge just south of Coyote Blue, a state project, is expected to start soon and be complete by Nov 30th. It will involve alternating one-way traffic at times during his project. The Beaver Meadow Road culvert project has been delayed because of the need for Frontier to move the power lines across the street so that the work can commence.

McGarry stated that he would be on vacation May 19-27.

The Covid daily-case rate has been increasing recently; of particular note, was that some people in the town hall and election officials who were at the RSD17 referendum had come down with positive tests. The number of reported cases has gone from 58 in February to 14 in March but back up to 62 in April.

The DOA seized 10 dogs from a single residence in Haddam.

The Town has applied for a Federal Lands Access Program Grant for \$315,000 to repair Pinebrook Road in Haddam Neck. FLAP Grants are used to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands. In this case it involves the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge which is partly in Haddam Neck.

Selectman Kate Anderson reported that the Farmer's Market is scheduled to begin at HES on June 3. It will run every Friday into August.

Brenda Buzzi gave a report from Board of Education this month.

Tax refunds for \$14,728.48 were approved.

As a matter of new business McGarry asked the Board for a motion to issue a proclamation to honor Maurice Adams who passed away about two weeks ago. He praised Adams for his interest in positive improvements in town, the ideas he provided at BOS meetings and his being a big proponent for transparency in government.

# Killingworth Memorial Day Parade Information

Continued from page HK1

will be held after the parade with state and local officials as well as veterans in attendance. A military guard will be present, Taps will be played, and we expect a flyover will occur around the time of the ceremony. We encourage all who watch the parade to gather at the Congregational Church to take part and observe the brief ceremony.

Prior to the parade, a brief honor ceremony will be held at the Memorials in front of Town Hall and volunteers in conjunction with the Killingworth Lions Club will place flags on all veterans' graves in the cemeteries around town. A small ceremony will be held at Evergreen Cemetery on Green Hill Rd. (near the Killingworth/Madison town line) at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 29.

While Memorial Day marks the beginning of the summer season, it should be remembered what the purpose of Memorial Day is. Memorial Day is held in remembrance of soldiers who fell in combat risking their lives for their country. It is about gratitude. As FDR once said, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy, forget in time that men have died to win them." The modern Memorial Day observance began with the end of the Civil War where, in four years of fighting, more than 622,000 Americans, from the North and the South, had died. That started a tradition of placing flowers on the graves of the fallen to

honor their memory...a tradition that continues today at Arlington National Cemetery and across our country with the placement of American flags on veterans' graves.


We welcome any groups, organizations, teams, to march in the parade. We encourage and welcome decorations and floats and vehicles. Red, white and blue are the colors of the day. Signage on your float or vehicle of "We Honor the Fallen" are encouraged. If you wish to join the parade, the staging for the parade will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Killingworth Elementary School. No pre-registration is necessary to march; just assemble at the KES staging area where the parade organizers will place you in the parade. Should you have questions about marching or any aspect of the Parade, please reach out to Charlie Smith at 203-430-5887.

Ample parking is available along the parade route next to the firehouse, Town Hall, at the Little League field along Recycle Way, and at St. Lawrence Church near the end of the parade route. Route 81 will be closed to vehicle traffic from KES to the Circle during the parade. We invite all to come out and join us in celebrating the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Get your group or team ready to march, decorate a float or a car or your tractor! See you at the Parade!! Memorial Day...Monday May 30th!

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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## Thursday, May 19

**Killingworth Special Board of Finance meeting** 7:00 p.m. Emergency Operations Center.

**HK Hall of Fame Online Auction 2022** (May 12 – 31) Online auction runs from May 12th starting at 3:00 p.m. and will end on May 31 at 4:00 p.m.

**Toddler Tunes** – Brainerd Library 10:00 a.m.

**Love2Sign with Jaye** – Killingworth Library 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Dungeons & Dragons** – Killingworth Library 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Mystery Book Club** – Killingworth Library Join us as we discuss Sycamore Row by John Grisham. 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Extra copies will be available at the circulation desk.

**2022 HKHS and Killingworth Library Student Art Show** Killingworth Library transforms into an art gallery for the month of May, as we welcome back the HKHS Art Show! The show itself runs through May 31.

Haddam Historical Society Annual meeting – A presentation by Lindamae Peck on D. & H. Scovil and Company, Hoes, Gun Barrels and Ramrods: A Recap of the Early Years. The program will be held at Haddam Fire Station #1, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum, CT. A short business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

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

## Friday, May 20

**Music with Margie** - Margie Warner returns for songs and fun this spring! 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Killingworth Library. Sessions will be held outside, weather-permitting. Space is limited, so please register in advance.

## Saturday, May 21

**HKHS Girls Lacrosse Bake Sale** 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with 2 Sales Event Locations:

Haddam outside of Jack's Country Restaurant 26 Killingworth Road, Higganum

Killingworth outside of the Copper Skillet 184 CT – 81, Killingworth

**Saturday Storytime** 10:00 a.m. Killingworth Library. Saturday Storytimes are now an in-person event! We will meet either in the reading garden, if the weather is nice, or the children's room. This week's story: What Not to Give Your Mom on Mother's Day by Martha Self Simpson.

**Haddam Women's Club Town Wide Tag Sale** 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Spots at HES and map of tag sales around town. Contact Karen to reserve a spot. (860) 301-4447.

Haddam Historical Society Tag Sale - (part of Town wide Tag Sale)

**Thankful Arnold House Museum**, 14 Hayden Hill Road, Haddam 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Camp Bethel Tag Sale** - We will be beginning our season with a huge tag sale to benefit our Camp Bethel Helping Hand Society, 124 Bethel Rd. Haddam. It will be held on the Chapel grounds inside the Camp gates from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The rain date will be Saturday June 4, 2022. Everything from household goods, holiday decorations, tools and hardware will be included. Items are gently used and brand new. All are welcome!

**Saturday Storytimes** – Killingworth Library 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Join us this week as we read Gilbert Goldfish Wants a Pet by Kelly S. DiPucchio.

## Sunday, May 22

**Shad Museum** – Open every Sunday until June 12 – The Haddam Shad Museum will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 212 Saybrook Road, Higganum. Free and open to all.

## Monday, May 23

**Music with Margie** – Killingworth Library 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Margie Warner returns for songs and fun this spring! (Please note change in day – this session of Margie will be held on a Monday.) Sessions will be held outside, weather-permitting. Space is limited, so please register in advance.

**Killingworth Board of Finance meeting** 7:30 p.m. (remote).

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

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

**Killingworth Zoning Board of Appeals Special meeting** 7:00 p.m. Town Office Building.

**Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary monthly meeting** 7:00 p.m. at Company #1, 439 Saybrook Road. Members will finalize plans for their annual Memorial Day Clam Chowder Sale.

## Tuesday, May 24

**Spring Storytime** at Brainerd Library 10:00 a.m.

**Coding for Kids** 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - Killingworth Library is excited to offer an introductory coding class, recommended for ages 8-13!

**Killingworth Economic Recovery meeting** 7:00 p.m. Location TBD.

## Wednesday, May 25

**HaRRP informational community meeting** - 6:00 p.m. at Brainerd Memorial Library in Haddam and on Zoom (Meeting ID 894 3051 9040 – no passcode needed). The Higganum Congregational Church and The First Congregational Church of Haddam have contacted IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Service) and are in the process of completing the application to become a co-sponsor to resettle a refugee family in Haddam.

Haddam Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 p.m.

## Thursday, May 26

**Toddler Tunes** – Brainerd Library 10:00 a.m.

**Love2Sign with Jaye** – Killingworth Library 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Dungeons & Dragons** – Killingworth Library 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**The Middletown Garden Club flower show** - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown, The public is invited free of charge.



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## Camp Bethel to Reopen for Worship, Retreats, & Rentals

By Justine G. Salvatore, President, Camp Bethel Helping Hand Society

Camp Bethel at 124 Camp Bethel Road, Haddam, will be reopening for Sunday Worship Service, facility rentals, Church retreats, a new Community Work-Study program, Summer Bible Camp with Tidal River, and our Annual Camp Bethel Association Camp Meeting Program on July 30 – August 7, 2022.

Camp Bethel was founded in 1878 and is listed on The National Register of Historic Places. Camp Bethel is

an interdenominational Christian seasonal campground.

We will be beginning our season with a huge tag sale to benefit our Camp Bethel Helping Hand Society. It will be held on the Chapel grounds inside the Camp gates on Saturday, May 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The rain date will be Saturday June 4, 2022. Everything from household goods, holiday decorations, tools and hardware will be included. Items are gently used and brand new. All are welcome!

## COMMUNITY

## HVFC Auxiliary Holds Annual Clam Chowder Sale: May 30

By Betty Cernan

The Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary will hold their annual clam chowder sale on Monday, May 30. This event is held across from the town green immediately following the Memorial Day parade.

A cup of chowder is \$4; a quart will

be sold for \$10. Quarts should be ordered in advance by calling 860-345-8245, and they must be picked up by 11:00 a.m. in the kitchen.

The Auxiliary has been selling the chowder on Memorial Day since 1969. Members appreciate the Fire Department's help with the chowder for over 50 years!

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

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## This Week on Valley Shore Community TV: May 19-25

By Chris Morgan, Public Access Coordinator, VSCTV

**Comcast Channel 18** - Valley Shore Educational Network  
5/21 5:15 p.m. HKTV Documentaries  
5/22 8:15 p.m. Teen Talk  
**Comcast Channel 19** - Valley Shore Community Television  
5/19 - 1:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. UMC of Clinton Sunday Service 5/15/22  
5/19 - 5:00 p.m. Old Saybrook Meetings  
5/21 - 6:00 p.m. Talk of the Town/ Sports Talk  
5/22 - 4:00 p.m. First Congregational Church in Essex Sun. Service 5/15/22  
5/22 - 5:00 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church Sunday Service 5/15/22  
5/22 - 6:00 p.m. Deep River Town Meetings 5/10/22  
5/23 - 5:00 p.m. Silver Linings Talk

Show - Mothers Day  
5/23 - 6:00 p.m. Shore Things: SCORE  
5/23 - 8:00 p.m. Art of Poetry  
5/24 - 4:00 p.m. Clinton Meetings  
5/24 - 6:00 p.m. Arts & Entertainment: Palace Theater  
5/24 - 7:00 p.m. Pete Mezzetti Show: Carol Gadsten - Holy Advent Church  
5/24 - 8:00 p.m. Shoreline Music Monthly: Steve Knauth & David Gregoire  
5/25 - 4:00 p.m. Westbrook Congregational 5/22/22

For the complete schedule and to watch programs on-demand, visit [www.vsctv.com](http://www.vsctv.com). HKTV and VSCTV are available on Comcast Xfinity channel 18 & 19, Frontier TV channel 6089 & 6090, or on Apple TV, Roku, & Fire TV by using the free Cablecast Screenweave app.

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## Baseball: Valley Regional Defeats HKHS 9-1



Photo by Rita Civiello.

By Mark Brookes, Coach

The Haddam Killingworth High School Varsity Baseball team was defeated by Valley Regional in Deep River on Thursday, May 9, by a final score of 9-1.

Colin Carver had 3 hits and held HK to 1 run on 4 hits to lead Valley Regional to its 11th victory. Blake Kamoen led HK with 2 hits.

Lucas Kamoen  
 HKHS 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 4 1  
 Valley 0 0 1 2 3 3 0 9 8 0  
 Batteries: HK- Liam Gordon, Lucas Kamoen (5), Blake Kamoen (6) and Nick Glynn. Valley - Carver, Hutchinson (6) and Beighau. WP Carver LP Gordon

\*Records: HK (9-6), Valley (11-2)  
 \*at time of publication.

## Softball: HKHS Defeats Valley Regional 17-7

By Jeff Talbott, Coach

The Haddam Killingworth High School Varsity Softball team defeated Valley Regional on Tuesday, May 3, with a final score of 17-7.

HK blasted 4 Home Runs, one each from Cheyenne LaTouche, Annabella Zajac, Ivy McNeil and Caley Napoletano. Freshman Caley Napoletano's was a grand slam, she had 6 RBI on the day. Kaleigh Bodak and Bella Richwine each had 3 hits for HK. Valley Regional's Sammy

Pierce had 4 hits for Valley, including a home run. HK moves to 13-1 on the year while Valley Regional slips to 5-8.

Line score  
 HK 1 4 8 2 1 1 0. 17/17/2  
 VR 0 1 1 4 0 0 1. 7/7/2

Batteries. HK Brooke Hickman, Kaleigh (3), Hickman (4) and Maddy LaTouche.

VR Anna Benson, McKenzie (5) and Sammy Pierce

WP HK Hickman (2-0), LP VR Benson (5-8)



Photo by Jeff Talbott.

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## Boys Lacrosse: HKHS Defeats North Haven 4-2

By Mike Kelly

The defending 2021 Shoreline Conference Champion HK Cougars Boys lacrosse team defeated out-of-conference foe North Haven Saturday afternoon, May 7, 4-2, pushing their season record to an impressive 10-1. As evident by the final score, the game was a defensive grind, with both teams unwilling to allow anything easy.

North Haven scored first, taking the 1-0 advantage. The Cougars answered quickly, however. Middle Nolan Braren found attackman Cory Phipps open above the right post for the stepdown, 1-1. From that point forward there would be little scoring from either side for more than a quarter, as defenses dug in on both sides. HK's LSM Jack Insalaco had a monster game, seemingly everywhere

on the field the entire day—hoovering up loose balls and picking off lazy passes.

The Cougars finally broke the ice late in the third, when attackman Aaron McLeod grabbed a rebound off the right post and fired it home, 2-1 HK. Midway through the fourth quarter Alex Phipps did some work on his own, shaking his defender with a silky dodge and spin from above the right crease for the strike, 3-1 HK. The goal would prove timely, as a few minutes later North Haven scored during a man-up situation to inch closer, 3-2 HK. With time winding down, the Cougars defense came through in the clutch, as they have all season long. D-pole Sam Young scooped up a loose ball, took it coast-to-coast, and found C. Phipps open for the score, 4-2 HK. Old Saybrook awaits.



Photo by Liz Griswold.

## Girls Lacrosse: HKHS Defeats Morgan 7-5; JV Wins 13-2

By Janice Calvi-Ruimerman

It was a banner game for Goalies Rhianna (Rhi) Phipps and Gabrielle (Gabby) Williams on Thursday, April 28, on Morgan's home turf. With the Junior Varsity leading the charge, the JV Haddam Killingworth High School team crushed Morgan 13-2. Goals were tallied by Aly Campbell (4), Jaimey DiNapoli (3), Sarah Birkmeyer (3), Brooklyn Bailey (1), Madalynn "Maddy" Catalano (1) and Ella Connelly (1). Morgan was no match as Gabby saved 5 out of the 6 shots on goal, while Morgan gained only 1 shooting goal and a second on an open penalty shot.

In the Varsity game, the cold was surely felt by all, but Morgan's

offense was easily subdued by the Varsity defense. Rhi Phipps and her defensive line of Captain Kyla Mazzotta, Ava Ramino, Peyton Tyler and Te'a Norman held Morgan tightly, giving up only 5 goals of their 17 shots. Possession players Captain Yumi Imai, Georgia Cancroft, Sophie Ramino, and Samantha "Sammy" Ruimerman, surely gave Morgan a run for their money. Goals for Varsity were racked-up by Captain Grace Cassidy (3), Audrey Wrinn (3) and Seanna "SeaSea" Ruimerman (1) with a 7-5 victory under the lights.

Great game, Lady Cougars. Way to keep those sticks up and defend GOAL, even in the cold!

## Golf: HKHS Ties North Branford 184-184

By Kelly Brown, Assistant Coach

On Thursday, April 28, the Haddam Killingworth High School Golf team tied North Branford 184-184 in a League Match on the Black Birch Golf Course (course rating 34.2).

Haddam-Killingworth:  
Andrew Fleig, 44  
Jacob Maier, 44

Andrew Crayton, 48  
Gabe Barile, 48  
North Branford:  
Robert Cappella, 45  
Jack O'Brien, 46  
Dakota Cooper, 46  
Blake Pearson, 47

\*HK Record: 3-1-1 (3-0-1 Conference)  
\*at time of publication.

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# Musings from a Millennial: Breaking Away from Hiatus Culture

By Meghan Peterson

“hiare – Latin verb meaning to gape; to yawn”  
As we progress through spring and look toward what is traditionally vacation season (i.e., summer), the word “hiatus” comes to mind for this mama – although, it does not enter the mind of my boys. That is certain.

Even as they yawn, my Baby and Four-Year-Old remain determined and steadfast in playing “Mommy, we are not tired! as they pause, take stock of the yawn they thought I had not detected, realize their “weakness” was detected by Mom, pretend the yawn away, and run away from me before I can catch them to bring them indoors for bath time.

As I chew on this word, “hiatus,” I observe ways in which a culture of “hiatus” has attempted to take hold. I will explain.

“Hiatus” has multiple meanings, including “a break in or as if in a material object; gap; interruption in time or continuity; break” and derives from the Latin verb “hiare,” meaning “to gape or to yawn.”

Parents know what it is to yawn. I sure do. Why? Simple. There is no such thing as a “hiatus” from parenting; it is a job you do not get to sign into or out of on your time sheet. For their part, kids do not take “hiatuses” either, but for different reasons than jaded adults long to do so. They do not fatigue to the degree or extent we do. This comparative point is not about issuing a judgment on adults. Rather, it functions as a recognition that hiatuses do not go hand in hand with the lifestyle of youth – in general.

As a matter of course, kids need rest times. They

need down time. They need moments during which the clutter of activities and duties abate. But hiatus connotes an abrupt stop, a time and space of discontinuity, of “interruption” – the likes of which may be antagonistic to conditions of consistency, continuity, routine in which children thrive and flourish.

Imagine, from a child’s perspective, for example, if his activities were suspended, “interrupted” for months or years on end without warning. Wait, that happened.

Imagine if conversation, education, faith, music, sports, theatre disappeared and went away “on hiatus” for an unmarked, unspecified amount of time. Wait, that happened. We will see effects and consequences of said mass “hiatus” in years to come.

When viewed from this lens, the tangible applications of hiatus give us pause as to its merits – if any existed at the outset. Why? Simple. Kids require – indeed, demand and deserve – consistency, continuity of play, imagination, learning. The world is their classroom. When their world goes on “hiatus,” when their world becomes abridged and constricted, so, too, do opportunities for knowledge-gathering, liberty-practicing, and wisdom-seeking become threatened.

Back to Baby and Four-Year-Old. They insist on playing beyond the temporal marker of bath time and engage in this active rebellion against any semblance of a “hiatus.” But maybe they have it correct after all. There is a reason (perhaps myriad!) that children have boundless energy. Hiatus culture is not one of them.

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HADDAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Board of Appeals, Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing at the Haddam Town Hall, 21 Field Park Dr., Haddam, CT on May 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item (s):

**A.** Variance to allow a free standing pylon sign with integrated illumination within the Tylerville Village district zone.

**Applicant:** Kara Kennedy **Location:** 1598 Saybrook Rd – Map 49/lot 31-A

**B.** Variance to allow a side setback of not less than 5ft (20ft required) to allow construction of a garage.

**Applicant:** Craig and Diane Murphy **Location:** 999 Saybrook Rd – Map 31/lot 78

Said applications are on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam.

## 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 June 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item(s):

Public Hearing and Meeting:

1. Proposed special permit and site plan review to allow 32 unit multi-family housing project with a modification of the parking requirements. 4 Brookes Court Haddam CT/ Map 49 Lot 68-4.

**Applicant:** Elm Tree Communities

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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## COMMUNITY

# Condolences to Anna Riebold’s Family

Haddam Town Alert,  
from First Selectman Bob McGarry

With great sadness, I’m writing to let you know Anna Riebold passed away Monday, May 9, at home surrounded by her family members. Ann recently retired from the Assistant Town Clerk position. She was a long-term employee who held many positions in her 35-year career with the town. She loved her work, her fellow employees,

and most of all, the people of Haddam. Ann was extremely knowledgeable and professional and she was a character. I learned much from her and truly enjoyed working with her. I’ll miss her as I’m sure many of you will.

Services for Anna were Thursday, May 12, at Biega Funeral Home, opening to the public at 9:30 a.m. The service will be at 11:00 a.m. at the Funeral Home and the burial will be at the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

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It's All Right Here

# Killingworth Girl, Age 9, Tackles a Grown-Up Issue: Save Deer Lake

Continued from page HK1

nothing short of a Hallmark movie miracle could get this done.

“But I’m a true believer in that it doesn’t matter how old you are ... or how rich or poor. Every person can make a difference if you put your heart into it. In my heart, I always said: No, there’s always something that can be done. If she’s motivated to do this, she should know that she can try to make a difference. I’m just glad she was motivated.”

After considering her options, Maeve decided on a Pajama Day at school to raise money. In essence, everyone – students, teachers, administrative staff, even Dennis Reed himself – would be asked to wear pajamas on April 28 (KES Pajama Day) and consider contributing to the Save Deer Lake drive.

“Any contribution is appreciated,” Maeve wrote on a hand-made poster entitled “Operation Save Deer Lake.” After gaining clearance from Reed and District 17, flyers were sent home, pajamas readied and local news teams alerted by someone (nobody still knows whom) that a unique fundraiser was underway in Killingworth

“I was blown away by her determination,” said Reed, “and how put-together her thoughts and proposals were.”

“This is what we teach”

Then last Tuesday arrived, and so did the news crews. Maeve’s father found a note that afternoon attached to the front door of the Brownes’ home, asking to interview his daughter. He contacted his wife, who drove to the school ... gained permission to pull Maeve out of class for 20 minutes ... and stood by as her daughter charmed her TV audience.

“When I picked her up,” her mother said, “she said, ‘Are we going to the doctor?’ I said, ‘No, you’re going to be on the news.’ She said ‘What?’ I don’t think she has a full grasp of the reach and inspiration she’s had on people.”

She should now.

“I didn’t know that I would get that far with this,”



Maeve said of the interview. “I was kind of like ... scared ... but I was excited at the same time.”

Later that day, she watched herself on TV.

“So, what did you think?” she was asked.

“I was happy and proud,” she said. “Sometimes older people underestimate kids. The next day one of my best friends ran up to me and said, ‘Thank you for saving my camp.’”

That hasn’t happened. Not yet. More fundraising is needed before Pathfinders, Inc., a local nonprofit trying to buy Deer Lake, can be approved for purchase by its owner, the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boys Scouts.

But Maeve Browne’s work is complete. She wanted to make a difference, and she has – becoming an inspiration for a grassroots movement that one conservation

director described as “astounding.”

“This is what we teach,” said Reed. “It’s part of the fabric of our community. We teach how to help each other. We teach there’s more out there than just yourself, whether you’re helping a friend who’s in need on the playground or taking something big out to the community and making an impact.

“What’s remarkable about this, though, is the passion that’s behind it. If there’s one child out there with that much passion, imagine how many people feel that way about the property.”

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