

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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August 25, 2022

For breaking news go to HK-Now.com every day

Free weekly

A Labor Day Tradition - Come to the Haddam Neck Fair: September 2-5!



Photo courtesy of the Haddam Neck Fair.

By Dianne McHutchison

The 110th Haddam Neck Fair opens on Friday, September 2 at 4:00 p.m. and runs through Monday, September 5. As a major Connecticut Agricultural Fair, we work to maintain a family-oriented, small, country atmosphere for visitors.

One of the highlights of the Fair are the exhibits entered by children and adults in many departments. The following departments have entry times only on Thursday, September 1st from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Haddam Neck General Store, 4H and Educational Booth Exhibits, Arts and Hobbies, Baked Goods, Canned Goods, Fancy Work and Quilts, Flowers and Horticulture,

Photography, Spinning, and Fiber and Vegetables and Fruit.

The entries for cattle, rabbits, goats and sheep are mail-in only and the application can be found on the Fair website or in the 2022 Haddam Neck Fair Book.

The Haddam Neck Fairgrounds are located at 26 Quarry Hill Road in Haddam Neck. GPS users must use the East Hampton Zip code, 06424.

All exhibits must be removed between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 5.

For additional information about entering exhibits, please visit the Fair website at www.haddamneckfair.com

Catching Up With Marissa Lehmacher, Children's Librarian & Head of Youth Services at BML

By Meghan Peterson

As many in our Haddam and Killingworth communities may know, the libraries are vibrant sites of conversation, programming and of course – reading - for adults and children alike. Library staff help to make this all happen. Haddam Killingworth News/HK-Now.com recently spoke with Marissa Lehmacher, Children's Librarian at the Brainerd Memorial Library in Haddam (920 Saybrook Road).



Photo by Meghan Peterson.

MP: Tell us a bit about your personal background (e.g., where do you hail from? where do you currently live?)

ML: I grew up in Killingworth and currently reside just over the River in East Haddam with my husband, our three young children, and a feisty Siamese cat.

Continued on page HK3

Back To School For Haddam & Killingworth!

From Regional School District 17 Superintendent Jeff Wihbey to the Board of Education

We are excited to get the 2022-2023 school year off and running here at RSD 17. There is no better sound than the excitement of children getting off the buses and going into the school hallways during the opening days. We are all looking forward to having the kids and staff back from summer break.

Our primary focus is to return to normal operations. We are working hard purposely to create a sense of normalcy for the kids as they head back to school.

In conjunction with CDC and CSDE guidelines, it is now deemed safe to return to pre-pandemic school operations. This means that on the buses, in the cafeteria, at recess, and in the classrooms, we

will be going back to our pre-pandemic procedures. This will allow our teachers and leaders to focus all of their attention on managing education and student life, versus masks, social distancing and other mitigating strategies. I can assure you that we will continue to work closely with our local health directors to monitor the state of local conditions as well.

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Catching Up With Marissa Lehmacher, Children's Librarian & Head of Youth Services at BML

Continued from page HK1

MP: Educational background?

ML: I went to Sacred Heart Academy for high school and then attended Providence College where I received bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Women's Studies. After returning to CT, I worked in the field of social work for ten years and then decided to make a career change. I obtained my MLS from SCSU and have been happily working at Brainerd Memorial Library since 2013.

MP: Title/Position at BML?

ML: I am the Children's Librarian and Head of Youth Services at BML where I design, plan, and implement programs and activities for youth, work on collection development, assist patrons with library resources and services, and collaborate with other organizations in town.

MP: What drew you to work at BML?

ML: I started working at BML to gain experience in the library world as I was finishing my MLS. At the time, I wasn't certain of what population I wanted to work with or what type of library setting I wanted to work in. Starting at a smaller library close to where I lived made sense. After spending time at BML and getting to know the library community here, it began to feel like home. I love BML's historic architecture, our dedicated staff, and, most of all, our awesome patrons who make each day fun and exciting.

MP: What do books mean to you?

ML: Books are doorways to other places. They engage, inspire, provide knowledge, teach empathy & understanding, provide a sense of identity, and allow for escape. Books are pure magic.

MP: What do you like to do when you are not working at the library?

ML: When I'm not working at the library, I enjoy spending time with my loved ones at our family homes in Vermont and Nantucket. Hiking, swimming, beach combing, gardening, photography, and exploring historic places are my favorite pastimes. My kids and I are currently on a quest to visit and photograph all of Vermont's historic covered bridges. We've seen about a third so far and often find really great swimming holes at each location.

MP: What fun kid library programs/activities should we be on the look-out for?

ML: We have our summer reading ice cream social coming up at the end of this month (August 30, 5-7:00 p.m.). We'll have make-your-own sundaes, fun crafts, and giant bubble making. We're also gearing up for our back to school and fall programming which includes our weekly story and music times, our Fall Festival that the Friends of the Library sponsor, and various autumn-related activities throughout September and October. Music with Margie will also be returning starting in October. Be on the lookout for new programs such as an environmental club for teens, a Pokémon club for tweens and new book clubs! During the month of September, Brainerd Memorial Library will celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month by hosting activities for children including make your own library card holder, library card bingo, decorate a library bookmark, and fun prizes!

MP: Any other fun factoids about you to share with our readership?

ML: A goal of mine is to visit every National Park, Monument, and Historic Site that is a part of the NPS. I'm kind of a geek about it and have a "Passport to Your National Parks" book where I collect cancellation stamps at each location. I also hope to thru hike the Appalachian Trail someday.

KILLINGWORTH

Killingworth Transfer Station Permit

By Nancy Gorski, Killingworth First Selectman

Starting September 1, 2022, you must display a current, blue sticker on your vehicle's windshield to bring your trash to the transfer station.

A sticker is good for only one vehicle. Each household is entitled to stickers for two vehicles.

To obtain stickers, you must complete a Killingworth Transfer Station Permit Application

Submit your completed application to receive stickers at the:

- Tax Collector's Office, Town Hall, during regular business hours. Bring current registration for each vehicle.
- The Transfer Station office, during normal hours of operation.

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Anthony Giamei, Managing Editor
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Reporters: Phil Devlin, Sally Haase, Clark Judge and Deb Thomas
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August 8 BOS Meeting Recap

By Edward Munster

This regular meeting of Haddam's Board of Selectmen on August 8 at the Haddam Neck Firehouse was called to order by First Selectman Bob McGarry at 6:30 p.m. Also in attendance were Selectman Kate Anderson and Administrative Assistant JoAnn Ricciardelli.

First Selectman's update: Regarding the Rossi property, McGarry stated that the town has received Opinions of Probable Cost for the remediation from the consultants that differ in some places with the town's own consultant's opinion. The differences will be negotiated with Rossi.

Scovil Hoe: The town has signed the Purchase and Sales agreement for the Scovil Hoe property and DOT has signed it. At this point the town is still waiting for the approval by the State Attorney General.

Swing Bridge: The American Bridge Company expects to start work in late August or early September on the approaches on the Haddam side of the river. There will be a ground-breaking ceremony sometime in the next several weeks. The Bridge Road sidewalks are moving along. The mailbox at 71 Bridge Road will be moved.

Beaver Meadow Road Culvert: Some work had started on the Beaver Meadow Road Culvert but is being held up because Frontier needs to move a power pole. This is no change from last month. Haddam Center sidewalks are progressing.

Former Haddam Elementary School site: State Rep. Christine Palm submitted a request to the State Bond Commission for a \$480,000 bond/grant from DECD for roof replacement/repairs, a multi-generational park and other improvements at the HES site. This has been approved. The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Capital Budget has \$400,000 for the roof replacement. Haddam received a \$280,000 bond/grant which was submitted to the Commission by State Sen. Norm Needleman for the Higganum Cove Park. Once it is approved, this will continue the improvements to the cove per a master plan that has been drafted.

Higganum Center: The town just submitted a STEAP Grant (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) request for \$445,000 for other improvements in Higganum Center that had to be modified/clarified because of the other grants which were successful.

Community Septic: The town met with DOT and DPH on the community septic project. DOT is now agreeable to the community septic lines going under Routes 154 and 81. DPH has some concerns that will need to be resolved.

New Construction: First Selectman McGarry toured Blueway Commons (Brookes Court) with Sen. Needleman and discussed the significance to the local businesses of 88 new families in Tylerville and also the impact of the swing bridge rehabilitation and the roundabouts construction, which are impacting the businesses.

Hope Gardens at 7 Island Dock Road has received its Certificate of Occupancy and is ready to open.

Road Work: The Department of Public Works in doing drainage work on Laurel Heights and next will work on Maple Avenue. The town has a contractor doing prep work on Thayer Road from Route 81 to Thayer Road Extension. The grinding and grading on Maple Avenue was scheduled for the week of August 15

and the paving during the week of August 22nd.

Miscellaneous: The COVID reported-case rate continues to decline from 47 cases in June to 27 in July. CRAHD's contractor will be doing a second and final round of storm basin treatment for mosquitoes. There have been no new complaints of noise at Haddam Meadows State Park since enforcement by DEEP has been stepped up. State troopers have also gone through at times as well.

Greg McKenna has been selected by the Department of Public Health as Connecticut's Immunizer of the Year for his work on COVID. This award is given yearly to one person in each state. An award ceremony is being planned.

There was no Board of Education report. Tax refunds of \$8,263,79 were approved. Two requests for Elderly Tax Relief were approved. Motion was approved to hire a part-time Transfer Station assistant. Gail Reynolds was reappointed as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands Commission. Two resolutions were approved in conjunction with the two grants discussed earlier in the meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be September 12, at the Haddam Old Town Hall.



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End-of-Summer 2022 News and Notes from Killingworth Library

By Tammy Eustis, Killingworth Library Association

Pirates Ahoy!

It was Crocs versus Gators on a hot and humid Saturday morning as Killingworth Library hosted its first model boat race for children on August 6, 2022. Fanning technique and decorating style came into play as both the Gators and Crocs battled the occasional strong breeze pushing their boats backward, with the Gators narrowly clinching the win.

The final race was between Brainerd Library's "Tuba Kelly" and Killingworth Library's "Mrs. Fig," with the winner being . . . (let's just say it was a classic photo finish, check the Killingworth Library Facebook page for the result).

The boat races celebrated the close of our summer Pirates Ahoy program and provided participants with an opportunity to demonstrate both their good sportsmanship and creativity in decorating their boats. We salute all of our participants for also demonstrating kindness and teamwork throughout the event! We also wish to thank Jim McDonald and Beth Fair for generously donating their time to be our race referees.

The Pirates Ahoy program was made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Connecticut State Library. The model boat races were funded in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, in cooperation with the Peach Pit Foundation. CFMC and the Peach Pit Foundation also funded our Candyland kickoff, the Mystic Aquarium event, the purchase of a Cricut machine to kick-start our new makerspace programming, and our summer reading giveaway prizes.

Killingworth Library wishes to express its gratitude for the funding that made these events possible!



We would also like to thank the performers and presenters, and especially the 500+ participants who made our summer a fabulous success!

Fall programming will start soon, with the return of Dungeons & Dragons, a Minecraft Club, more crafting and stories, and hands-on, sing-along fun for the youngest ones. For details, please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as our website: killingworthlibrary.org.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

Libraries around the country, in partnership with the American Library Association, celebrate the beginning of every school year by encouraging residents to get a library card. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Killingworth Library added 211 new resident cardholders!

What can you get with your Killingworth Library card?

—Access to our collection of 25,000+ books; 5,000+

audio-visual materials; magazines, puzzles, and games – plus the ability to request items and manage your library account through the Bibliomation consortium. And don't forget the museum passes that offer discounts to local attractions.

—Downloadable e-content from OverDrive and Hoopla, including ebooks, eaudios, movies, TV shows, comics, music and magazines.

—Access to informational, educational, and fun databases (all available on our website): BookFlix (read-alongs for children), Consumer Reports Online, Mango Languages, JobNow and Cypress Resume, Nuwave Legal Documents, and researchIT CT (State-funded free access to databases covering everything from health, business and law to history, genealogy and student resources).

Register for a library card – in September or any other month – by visiting the library, or email us at mail@killingworthlibrary.org. Then start exploring all the benefits!



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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, August 25

Toddler Tunes - Brainerd Memorial Library 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

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

CT Summer at the Museum - 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.

Friday, August 26

CT Summer at the Museum - 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.

Saturday, August 27

Killingworth Women's Organization Town Wide Tag Sale 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Make a day of it and come and shop for new and used items with multiple sellers! Kick off at 8:30 a.m. in the Courtyard, 176 Route 81 before you set off on your shopping journey throughout the scenic town of Killingworth! For more details, email: tagsale@kwoct.org or visit www.kwoct.org/kwo-tag-sale

Sunday, August 28

CT Summer at the Museum - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.

The 4th Annual Free Haircut Event will take place at the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company. Dillon Zak and friends will be donating their time for Free

Haircuts for HK students K-12. First come, first serve. Sponsored by HKYFS.

Monday, August 29

Killingworth Charter Revision meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote).

Tuesday, August 30

Preschool Storytime at Brainerd Memorial Library 10:00 a.m. Join us every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for themed stories, songs, finger plays, and crafts. Appropriate for children ages 2 to 5, but siblings are always welcome. Storytime is held outside, weather permitting. Folding chairs will be provided, and families are welcome to bring a picnic blanket if they prefer.

Wednesday, August 31

Haddam Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 p.m.

CT Summer at the Museum - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.

Thursday, September 1

Toddler Tunes - Brainerd Memorial Library 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

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

CT Summer at the Museum - 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Thankful Arnold House.

COMMUNITY

4th Annual Free Haircut and School Supply Drive: August 28

By Laura Shipman, HKYFS

Free Haircuts

Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services announces its 4th Annual Free Haircut and School Supply Drive on Sunday, August 28, 2022. The event will be held at the Haddam Volunteer Firehouse at 439 Saybrook Road in Higganum from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No appointment needed. Ages Kindergarten through 12th Grade.

School Supplies

The HKYFS Backpack Program for the 2022-2023 school year serves Haddam-Killingworth students who are in need of assistance with the essential tools to learn in the classroom. When students start off the school year prepared, they are more likely to succeed in school. We look forward to partnering with you to provide students a positive start to the upcoming school year. To donate supplies, we have a bin outside our building to leave items OR you may drop off any school supplies at Killingworth True Value, 228 Route 81 in Killingworth. (please leave your name and contact information) We will be collecting until August 28.

Items Needed: Pens, Pencils, Markers, Erasers, Pencil Cases, Pocket Folders, Notebooks, Highlighters, Post-Its, Rulers, Index Cards, Glue Sticks, Colored Pencils, Child & Teenage Backpacks, Lunch boxes, Lined Paper and 3 Ring Binders.

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Higganum Author Publishes His First Book

By Randy Wojnarowicz

Every family has an interesting secret as part of their history. Often, many families spend years trying to run away from their pasts. What happens when that secret gets revealed and everyone must face that reality and what it means for the family today? Debut Author Randy Wojnarowicz's new book *Two Roads: The Unraveling of Dark Family Secrets*, explores the dynamic of a family secret and the impact on three generations of the Shipman family.

Ray Shipman faces losing not only himself, but everyone he ever loved. Ever the optimist, however, Ray is determined to live out whatever time he has left, on his own terms, with the love of his life, Allison, and his children, Dorothy and Jackie.

As Ray slips deeper into the grips of Alzheimer's, he reveals a dark family

secret that threatens to destroy the people he spent a lifetime protecting. Ray and Allison now face a reality they have avoided since the first year of their marriage, and it forces them to question whether their 50-year love story was real.

Ray's beloved daughter, Dorothy, struggles to find the truth of who she really is and if Ray is the loving father she adores, or a fraud.

With incredible storytelling, Higganum author, Randy Wojnarowicz takes readers on an emotional ride seen through the eyes of three generations of the Shipman family as they grapple with their past, with losing Ray, and with an unimaginable tragedy that no one sees coming.

The road to publishing took more than two years. Randy shared an unfinished manuscript with a literary strategist to whom he was referred by a

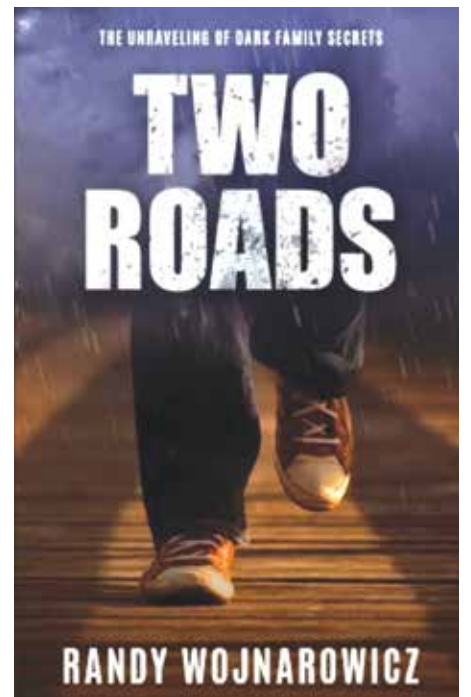
friend. The literary strategist loved the story and Randy hired them to help him navigate the publishing world.

When the book was released in March of this year, he promoted it on Facebook and watched as it climbed the debut book seller rankings all the way to #1 in its category, as well as claiming a spot in Amazon's Hot New Releases, and garnering a 5 Star overall review from readers!

Since the book's release, Randy has been interviewed on 'The Authors Show' and 'Getting to the Heart of the Matter' podcasts.

"It's been quite a ride," he says. "I am overwhelmed by the support and positive feedback from my readers. I'm grateful for their kind words and by how much they've loved the story."

The author does have a warning for anyone who reads his book: "You're going to cry. It's a beautiful story and there are a lot of intense moments. I think people will identify with the characters and the issues and see some of themselves in what they are going through."



Readers can learn more about Randy Wojnarowicz and *Two Roads: The Unraveling of Dark Family Secrets* through his website <https://RandyWojnarowicz.com> and social media page <https://www.facebook.com/randy.wojo.author>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What Goes Around, Comes Around!

In 1948, my in-laws replaced a window in their 18th century home. Seventy-four years later, as we were doing some repairs to that window, we found some newspapers from April 1948 which had been stuffed behind the window as insulation.

The Middletown Press of April 6, 1948 carried a front page article titled Gas Rationing Unlikely — This Is an Election Year. The article states, "House members said rationing is not popular with the public and that Congress would not vote for it so close to election time." In 2022, President Biden is releasing strategic oil reserves in an attempt to lower gasoline prices as we head into the mid-term elections this year. Need I say more?

The front-page article in the Hartford Courant of April 2, 1948 described the

efforts of the U.S. and British air forces to provide relief to the people living in Berlin because of the blockade of these areas by the Soviet Union. This year Russia invaded Ukraine and the United States and its western allies are flying aid to Ukraine to help that country maintain its freedom. This week the Chinese are threatening world peace as they want to gain dominance over Taiwan.

This quote from President Ronald Reagan has lasting relevance: "Freedom is a fragile thing and it's never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation."

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HVFC Enjoys Great Turnout for the Open House & Touch-a-Truck Event

By Olivia Drake, HVFC Information Officer

Haddam Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank everyone who stopped by Saturday for our open house and touch-a-truck! We'd also like to thank our guests— Connecticut State Police, Haddam Volunteer Ambulance Service, Inc. and the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary.

Open house attendees received tours of HVFC's Engine 6-13, Brush 12-13, Marine-13, Rescue 5-13, and Utility Vehicle 8-13, along with two ambulances, a police vehicle, and K-9 unit. Participants learned about the police's underwater sonar equipment, how firefighters use various tools to make forced entries, and how to fill and use portable water tanks to extinguish brush fires.

Children also participated in a trivia game/ scavenger hunt for prizes and tried donning firefighting gear." We were really pleased with the turn out," said Captain Josh Meyer. "It was a fun day for many families, and we hope to turn this into an annual event for the community."

For more information on becoming a volunteer firefighter, visit haddamfire.com



Photos by Olivia Drake.

PUBLIC SAFETY

\$20 Million Approved for Wrong-Way Warning System

By Sharon Challenger

New flashing beacon warning systems will be installed at 16 designated exit ramps (Connecticut has approximately 700 exits ramps) across the state after the State Bond Commission approved \$20 million for the project.

Connecticut has experienced 11 crashes this year, resulting in 20 fatalities due to drivers traveling the wrong way down a highway or a one-way road.

The new warning system includes cameras that will recognize wrong-way drivers. When a driver enters a ramp heading in the wrong direction, the cameras will trigger flashing lights to alert them.

According to authorities at the Department of Transportation, about 80% of the wrong-way accidents are due to alcohol impairment. Ten of the eleven recent accidents involved alcohol and two

involved cannabis.

One Bond Commission member questioned whether legalized cannabis might be a reason for the increase in wrong-way accidents. To date, this is unknown. When the toxicology reports for 2022 are complete, officials may have an answer as to whether it has had an impact.

According to officials, the presence of cannabis does not always indicate impairment. This is because, unlike alcohol, cannabis can stay in a person's body for weeks after it is consumed.

Connecticut State Troopers warn residents, "Do not to drive in the left lane past midnight because wrong-way drivers think they're in the slow lane when in fact they're in the fast lane."

For more info about wrong-way accidents: <https://attorney-myers.com/2017/02/wrong-way-accidents/>



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