

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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December 15, 2022

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

Free weekly

KVFC Has a Message: Santa's Coming to Town!

By Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company

Santa's coming to town! Please join us for our 3rd Annual Santa Cruise happening in town on Sunday, December 18. Departure time will be at 11:00 a.m.

This year we are trying something new; we will be hitting a lot of main roads with three stops in between. We will be at each stop for approximately 30 minutes. At the stops Santa will be getting out of the truck and will be available for pictures.

We are still confirming route and stop locations at this time. We will update when this information becomes available. We will be posting updates on our location on Facebook the day of as well.

If we aren't coming down your road, you can meet us at the nearest intersection, or come to one the stops to meet Santa. Please be on the lookout for updates here as well as our new Instagram @ Killingworth_VFC.



Photo courtesy of KVFC.

HVFC & HVFC Auxiliary to Host Children's Christmas Party: December 17

By Sharon Challenger, HVFC Auxiliary

The HVFC & HVFC Auxiliary Children's Christmas Party will be held on December 17 this year.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and Santa will arrive on the firetruck at 6:00 p.m. All children under 10 will receive a gift from Santa! Christmas cookies and refreshments will be served. Please join us for a fun-filled evening with Santa!

Location: HVFC Station #1 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum CT



Photo by Olivia Drake.

A Berry Wintry Garden

By Terry Twigg, HGC

The back-and-forth, now-you-see-me-now-you-don't game autumn and winter play every November has ended, and winter has won. Even on the mildest days, the verdict is in: the trees stripped of leaves, with bark squeaking when branches rub together in winter winds; the flower beds boasting nothing but brown scraps; the pond iced over on the coldest mornings. Even Raphael, my cupid fountain, is shrouded in a tarp. Cast of bronze, he could easily stand unprotected for a hundred years—given his age, he probably already has—but water left in his pool would freeze, expand, and cut the rubber liner, so the whole thing had to be covered. Along with the water I removed ten huddled frogs, so cold they protested only feebly when I scooped them into a bucket and took them to the pond. It has a nice

mucky bottom where they can burrow down in comfort until spring.

But a winter garden palette doesn't have to be limited to shades of gray and brown. We're blessed with a wide range of native trees and shrubs whose colorful berries persist well into winter. Most are a festive red, but if you're going for an edgier vibe, you can find blue, white, purple, even almost-black. All are important food sources for birds and small mammals in a season of scarcity. And, as they jostle for food, the birds will bring an extra element of color and energy to otherwise drab surroundings.

Start with the hollies. You're probably most familiar with the shiny, spiky leaves of the ubiquitous English hollies, but consider their native cousins. Inkberry, *Ilex glabra*, has small rounded leaves. As

Continued on page HK6

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YS640S IN-STOCK

Westbrook Junior Colonials Corps Gives Back to the Community and Wants You To Play!

By Meghan Peterson

In February of this year, Haddam Killingworth News ran a story featuring a band of merry young musicians who play classic songs honoring the American Revolution on fife and drum – known as the Westbrook Junior Colonials Fife & Drum Corps.

Membership has been steadily increasing over the years. Now, the corps is seeking to expand further and is calling on all youth who are interested to join for music, fun performance opportunities and camaraderie. Specifically, the group is seeking kids who want to play the fife. What is more, it is entirely free to become a Corps musician: uniforms, lessons and instruments are provided at no cost.

Although based in Westbrook, the

corps practices in Higganum. The budding musicians meet Mondays 6-7:30 p.m. at Higganum United Methodist Church (HUMC) 248 Saybrook Road.

On Sunday, November 27, the fifers and drummers gave back to the church community that graciously provides them their practice home base and played a selection of songs for the congregation and church leadership, including Pastor Ahn. The performance was warmly received.

For more information about the corps, contact:

Lisa Williams, Director @ wjcfdc@gmail.com

Chris Page, Treasurer @ AwakePatriot@Hotmail.com

Or stop by Higganum United Methodist church on a Monday evening and check it out!



Photo courtesy of Chris Page.

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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, December 15

Little Learners 11:15 a.m. Killingworth Library.

Dungeons and Dragons for Teens 5:00 p.m. Killingworth Library.

4th Annual Higganum Holiday Pop-up Market 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. HES

Holiday Pajama Storytime 6:00 p.m. Killingworth Library.

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

Killingworth Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote).

Friday, December 16

Music with Margie 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Killingworth Library.

Cricut Crafting for Adults 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Killingworth Library.

Cricut Crafting for Teens 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Killingworth Library.

4th Annual Higganum Holiday Pop-up Market 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. HES

Saturday, December 17

HVFC & HVFC Auxiliary Children's Christmas

Party 5:30 p.m. at the Haddam Firehouse. Santa arrives at the Firehouse at 6:00 p.m. Children under 10 years old receive a gift from Santa. Christmas cookies and refreshments will be served.

Minecraft for Kids 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Killingworth Library.

Minecraft for Tweens 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Killingworth Library.

4th Annual Higganum Holiday Pop-up Market 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. HES

Surprise Saturdays with Mrs. Fig 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Killingworth Library.

Sunday, December 18

4th Annual Higganum Holiday Pop-up Market 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. HES

Monday, December 19

Haddam Committee on Aging meeting 10:00 a.m. at The Annex, 11 Jail Hill Road, Haddam, unless otherwise noted.

Haddam Club 60: Business meeting 1:00 p.m. Higganum Community Center.

Lego Club Themed Build 5:00 p.m. Brainerd Memorial Library.

Haddam Inland Wetlands meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

Tuesday, December 20

Preschool Storytime 10:00 a.m. Brainerd Memorial Library.

Do the WRITE Thing. Ages 10-12 at 4:30 p.m. Killingworth Library.

Do the WRITE Thing. Ages 7-9 at 5:45 p.m. Killingworth Library.

Killingworth Planning & Zoning meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote).

Wednesday, December 21

Lego Hangout 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Killingworth Library.

Killingworth Library Book Club Combo Holiday Meetup! 6:30 p.m. BarrelHouse, RT 81. Please call 860-663-3130 by December 16th to RSVP if you

plan to attend or email your book group's planner. Guests are welcome.

Thursday, December 22

Dungeons and Dragons for Teens 5:00 p.m. Killingworth Library.

COMMUNITY

Free Meals Program to End December 31

By Regional School District 17

The Free Meals program created during Covid-19 will come to an end on December 31, 2022. The funds District 17 received from the SMART Fund Grant had allowed the District to offer free meals to all students. As of January 3, 2023, and for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, RSD 17 will begin charging households that are eligible for reduced-price and full-paid meals as follows:

Elementary Schools: Breakfast, \$2.50, Lunch, \$3.25, Reduced Breakfast, \$.30, Reduced Lunch, \$.40.

Intermediate/Middle Schools: Breakfast \$2.50, Lunch, \$3.50, Reduced Breakfast, \$.30, Reduced Lunch, \$.40

High School: Lunch \$3.50, Reduced Lunch, \$.40

FREE/REDUCED MEALS FOR QUALIFYING FAMILIES FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR

Those who qualify, and have registered, will receive free and reduced meals for the rest of the school year. Households that may qualify for free or reduced meals should submit a free and reduced application as soon as possible to determine a student's eligibility for the remainder of the school year. Households that do not submit an application, or whose child is not directly certified, will automatically default to full-pay on January 3, 2023. Applications are available at each school and online. Once completed, applications should be returned to your child's school secretary. Information on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) can be found on the District website, www.rsd17.org



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LEGALS

**LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING AND ZONING
NOTICE OF DECISION**

It was decided at the Town of Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on December 1, 2022 meeting at 7:00 p.m. to approve the following:

1. An amended site plan for Blueway Commons at 3 Brooks Court, to allow for the additions of a 10x20 shed and a pickle ball court.

Town of Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission



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October Transactions

Real Estate Transactions per the Hartford Courant, 10/2/22 – 10/30/22

Haddam

25 Laurel Grove Dr., J. A. and M. M. Berluti to W. C. and L. H. Meyer, 9/15, \$475,000

74 Thayer Rd., A. Ferguson and D. Rohde to J. R. Calder and S. K. Ireland, 9/13, \$345,000

410 Brainard Hill Rd., D. A. Barrett, Jr. to N. T. and E. Anderegg, 9/13, \$239,000

35 Valley Ridge Dr., R. Giardina to C. R. Hanson, 9/28, \$360,000

70 Candlewood Hill Rd., J. M. Narducci to S. C. Mclean, 9/27, \$307,500

236 Plains Rd., M. R. and M. B. Recore to M. K. Potter, 9/26, \$405,000

84 Camp Bethel Rd., D. R. and J. S. Bennett to K. and K. Campbell, 10/6, \$390,000

525 Killingworth Rd., R. Liveri to M. Hayward, 10/3, \$265,000

15 Forest Ridge Rd., 15 Forest Ridge Rd., LLC to A. Behal, 10/11, \$785,000

21 Indian Hill Rd., R. S. Berlepsch and K. R. Blaskey to C. Mason and D. Forlini 2nd, 10/11, \$260,000

Killingworth

85 Alders Bridge Rd., R. E. Eustace

to L. M. Desouza and R. Goncalves-Desouza, 9/15, \$300,000

18 Welsch Farms Rd., K. Montross to K. M. Erskine and T. Girdler-Davis, 9/20, \$1,225,000

19 Welsch Farms Rd., K. Montross to K. M. Erskine and T. Girdler-Davis, 9/20, \$1,225,000

20 Welsch Farms Rd., K. Montross to K. M. Erskine and T. Girdler-Davis, 9/20, \$1,225,000

21 Welsch Farms Rd., K. Montross to K. M. Erskine and T. Girdler-Davis, 9/20, \$1,225,000

22 Welsch Farms Rd., K. Montross to K. M. Erskine and T. Girdler-Davis, 9/20, \$1,225,000

101 Paper Mill Rd., CT Yankee Council Inc. to Pathfinders Inc., 9/19, \$4,750,000

216 Little City Rd., P. W. and K. H. Marcus to E. P. Marcus and D. Robinson, 9/22, \$14,000

23 Fawn Hill Rd., P. and J. A. Tripodi to S. L. Benoit and L. R. Huff, 9/28, \$805,000

175 Rt. 148, D. E. Acampora to S. N. Fries and J. R. Morehouse, 10/12, \$325,000

566 Rt. 81, F. E. Harrison 2nd and S. Harrison, to B. J. Rogers and K. Wilson, 10/

CSP: Final Thanksgiving Weekend Traffic Statistics

By Connecticut State Police

The Connecticut State Police had 6,569 calls for service, assisted 297 motorists, responded to 444 accidents (2 serious, New Britain and Glastonbury; 3 fatal, Wallingford, Milford, and West Haven resulting in 4 fatalities), made 41 DUI arrests, and issued 265 citations for speeding. We issued 913 infractions for hazardous moving violations (to include: seatbelt, unsafe lane change, following too closely, move over, distracted driving, etc.). These are reflective of the time period starting at 12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 23 to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, November 27. Final 2022 Thanksgiving Weekend traffic stats:

Calls for Service: 6,569
 Speeding Violations: 265
 Seatbelt Violations: 240
 Other Hazardous Violations: 913 (to include unsafe lane change, following too closely, cell phone usage, etc.)
 DUI Arrests: 41
 Accidents Investigated: 444
 With Reported Injuries: 30
 Serious Injuries: 2
 Fatal: 3 with 4 total fatalities

Following are the 2021 Thanksgiving traffic stats:

Calls for Service: 7,500
 Speeding Violations: 501
 Seatbelt Violations: 118
 Other Hazardous Violations: 559 (to

include unsafe lane change, following too closely, cell phone usage, etc.)
 DUI Arrests: 50
 Accidents Investigated: 543
 With Reported Injuries: 46
 Serious Injuries: 0
 Fatalities: 1

Following are the 2020 Thanksgiving stats (when many residents stayed home due to Covid-19):

Calls for Service: 7,181
 SPEEDING violations: 211
 SEATBELT violations: 106
 OTHER HAZARDOUS violations: 775 (to include unsafe lane change, following too closely, cell phone usage, texting, failure to signal, etc.)
 DUI arrests: 29
 ACCIDENTS investigated: 376
 w/injury: 52
 fatalities: 7

Following are the 2019 Thanksgiving stats:

Calls for Service: 7,205
 SPEEDING violations: 385
 SEATBELT violations: 20
 OTHER HAZARDOUS violations: 1,257 (to include unsafe lane change, following too closely, cell phone usage, texting, failure to signal, etc.)
 DUI arrests: 52
 ACCIDENTS investigated: 593
 w/ injury: 61
 fatalities: 2

Interested in writing for us?
 Write to us at: HK-NowEditors@Outlook.com

A Berry Wintry Garden

Continued from page HK1

its name suggests, the berries are usually black. Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*, is utterly nondescript in summer, but come winter it drops its dull leaves and covers its bare branches with clusters of bright red berries. The highly decorative stems are a go-to for florists during the holidays. All hollies are dioecious, meaning plants are either male or female, and one of each is needed to be sure of berries. It's easiest to choose a female plant when the berries are already forming. Since the males aren't showy, they can be tucked away into an inconspicuous corner.

Staghorn sumac, *Rhus typhina*, gets a bad rap, unfairly: it isn't poison sumac, won't give you a rash, and produces furry clusters of dark red fruit that hold well through winter. It's quite aggressive, though, so plant it in a wild or semi-wild part of

your yard and let it roam.

Poison ivy, *Toxicodendron radicans*, on the other hand, is still dangerous after its leaves fall—but only to humans. Its greenish or white berries (technically called drupes) are an important food source for many birds, so if you have enough space, leave some to grow in a distant corner.

The native pagoda dogwood, *Cornus alternifolia*, produces clusters of small white flowers that develop into dark berries. Because it stays fairly small, it can be planted anywhere you like, even under power lines.

Among the viburnums, the American cranberry bush, *V. trilobum*, offers a trifecta of white flowers in spring, vibrant fall foliage, and red berries. Arrowwood, *V. dentata*, has blue-black berries. Make sure you plant several in order to ensure pollination. Nannyberry, *V. lentago*, also has blue-

black berries, and they are known for lasting well into winter.

Not technically berries, but still colorful and a welcome food source for wildlife, are roses and crabapples. Did you know they're both in the same plant family, Rosaceae? Look closely at the fruits and you'll immediately see the resemblance. A rose left unpruned after flowering will produce rose hips of various sizes and colors, depending on the variety. The rangy, very thorny, invasive beach rose, *Rosa rugosa*, will cover itself with large, tomato-red fruits from September until the birds eat the last one. The birds know a good thing when they see it: rose hips have 20 times the Vitamin C of an orange! (If you just can't get enough winter color, and are willing to live dangerously, plant the Chinese winged thorn rose, *Rosa sericea* subsp. *Omeiensis* f. *pteracantha*. This rose is grown specifically for its large, triangular, bright red thorns. They do light up rather spectacularly when the sun shines through from behind...but I think I'll pass.)


Crabapple fruits develop in exactly the same way as rose hips, and also cling to the tree until plucked. Most apple varieties are imports, but we do have a few natives (or at least, varieties that arrived in North America so long ago that they're considered native). One is *Malus coronaria*, which fruits averaging ¾"-1 ½" in diameter.

With several of these berried beauties in your yard, you'll create a bright landscape to enjoy through the drearier months. At the same time you'll help re-establish the native food sources essential to maintaining our native bird population. Plant as many as you can!

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Return of the Cookie Walk: December 17

By Pam Crum

Don't have time to bake Holiday Cookies? WE CAN HELP!
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 Want to present a thoughtful hostess gift? WE CAN HELP!
 Spent all day shopping and don't have time to cook supper? WE CAN HELP!



Photo by Pam Crum.

Save The Date: Saturday, December 17. Higganum Congregational Church is pleased to host its 15th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. What exactly is a "Cookie Walk," you ask? During this busy and often hectic holiday season, it's an opportunity to "LET US DO YOUR HOLIDAY BAKING FOR YOU" – a chance for you to fill a box or two with your choice of an abundance of fresh, homemade Christmas cookies baked with love. As an added bonus, we also offer yummy homemade soups for sale by the quart. The selection of cookies and soups varies from year to year, but it is definitely worth the trip.

This Church event is an occasion to provide a service for our community by helping our neighbors with their holiday cookie baking as well as offering them the option to take some of our home-cooked soup home for supper – a welcome contribution after a long day of shopping!

It is worth noting that funds raised from this event help us to continue our involvement in and support of local mission work. Your support of our events helps ensure continuity of assistance to members of our community.

So please make a point to stop by and say hello. Come grab a box (or two or three) and fill them with your choice of delicious cookies and pick up a quart or two of your favorite soup. We know you'll be glad you did!

CARTOON

Mae O'Moodus

Benjar Strauß



Dream Time



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The Dance Corner Presents “The Winter Follies:” December 17

By Carrie L. Smith, Director,
The Dance Corner

The Dance Corner in Killingworth presents its fourteenth annual performance of The Winter Follies: A Celebration of the Season Through Song and Dance. The performance is Saturday, December 17, at 4:00 p.m. at the Andrews Memorial Town Hall Auditorium on East Main Street in Clinton.

This toy drive performance has become a holiday tradition on the shoreline. Local dance students perform a festive seasonal line-up of songs and dance. The Winter Follies show will surely put you and your family in the holiday spirit!

Carrie L. Smith, Director of The Dance Corner says, “This event is very important to me because it’s about giving back to our community and

helping those in need. The Winter Follies doesn’t have all the flashy costumes and flowers and trophies of our annual recital, but for our students performing in this show is more significant, because it is about family, friends and our community coming together to make a needy child’s holiday special. Over the past thirteen Winter Follies performances, we have collected more than 3000 toy donations for Toys for Tots, Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services, Madison Youth and

Family Services and Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital.”

The cost of admission is \$10.00 per person; however, we encourage all attendees to bring a new, unwrapped toy to benefit Clinton Social Services. Admission price with a new, unwrapped toy is FREE. General admission tickets are available at the door. The program is about 70-80 minutes long and suitable for adults and children of all ages. Please call The Dance Corner at (860) 663-3738 for more information.



Photo courtesy of Carrie L. Smith.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Free Fares Extended on 9 Town Transit to March 31, 2023

By 9 Town Transit

The Connecticut Legislature, Connecticut DOT and Governor Lamont have announced new funding to extend the free fare program through March 31, 2023. This includes all 9 Town Transit and Middletown Area Transit routes, XtraMile, ADA paratransit and Dial-A-Ride services.

This will delay any implementation of a new fare, but we will continue the fare proposal process to be prepared to implement a new fare in April.

Never used public transit before?

Now’s a great time to give it a try! Need help with trip planning? CTRides.com can help develop a custom commute plan, use our online trip planner or give us a call at 860-510-0429 (Shoreline) or 860-346-0212 (Middletown).

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

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Haddam Killingworth News Deadline

To be considered for publication, news items & events must be sent to:
hk-noweditors@outlook.com

Please indicate the category in the subject line (i.e. sports, letter to the editor, calendar.)

To be eligible for print, any submissions need to be submitted by noon on Wednesday the week before the following Thursday’s print edition (i.e., 8 days before publication).

*Paper is affiliated with the Haddam Civic League Member of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

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