

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

November 10, 2022

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Free weekly

Killingworth Fall Farm Tour: November 19

By Melissa Ferrara

On Saturday November 19, four Killingworth farms will open their doors to the public free of charge for the 5th annual Killingworth Fall Farm Tour. From 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., visitors are welcome to tour the farms, enjoy special farm tour demonstrations and/or treats, and browse farm stores filled with locally produced gifts for everyone!

Participating farms are Bitta Blue Farm, 228 River Road (goat milk soap, lotions, and bath accessories; jams, jellies, dried fruits, late season vegetables...closes at 3:00 p.m.); Down the Lane Farm, 18 Reservoir Road (honey, soaps, tea, beeswax candles, handcrafted gifts and collectibles); Lavender Pond Farm, 318 Roast Meat Hill Road (lavender, bath/body/home lavender products, lavender themed gifts); and New England Alpacas, 14 Bethke Road (alpacas, alpaca fleece/yarn/products...closed if rain/snow).

Maps and postcards with addresses of all farms will be available at each farm and there is ample parking. No public restrooms or food vendors. For more information and updates, please email nealpacas@aol.com, call 860-663-3482, or visit nealpacas.com website.

St. Peter Church Christmas Fair: November 19

By Dale Arsenault

Please join us for our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will feature a Visa Card Raffle, Bake Shop, Basket Raffle (more than 20 themed baskets), Holly Hutch and Attic (wreaths, ornaments, holiday items, jewelry and holiday tag sale items), Christmas Shop (gently used and new holiday items) and the Holiday Cafe serving lunch from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The Fair will be held at St. Peter Church, 30 St. Peter Lane in Higganum.





Swing Bridge Closed to Vehicular Traffic 11:30 p.m. Nov. 11-8:00 a.m. Nov. 12

By Sara Mendillo, Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

Please be advised that the bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic beginning at 11:30 p.m. on Friday, November 11, until 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 12 for bridge balancing.

Also, the load posting for the Swing Bridge will be reduced from 21-tons to 16-tons due to the existing

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Deer Lake Draws a Crowd to October 30th Open House

By Clark Judge

When the Board of Directors of Pathfinders, Inc., the nonprofit that bought Deer Lake, met last week, it didn't know how many people to expect for its open house Sunday. One member said 250. Another estimated 300. Nobody went higher. "I just hope people show up," someone said.

They did. In droves.

From beginning (10:00 a.m.) to end (4:00 p.m.) on October 30th, hundreds appeared at the 255acre Deer Lake property to join a celebration of donors who contributed to the \$4.75-million sale and experience the beauty of an environment that State Sen. Christine Cohen accurately described as "magical."

"I was shocked," said Patty Clifton who, with husband Mark, runs the Deer Lake summer youth camp. "When the parking people came over and said they were running out of space, I couldn't believe it." She can now.

Estimates for the event ranged anywhere from 800 to 1,000 persons, though no one is certain. There was no admission, no tickets and no crowd count. What is known, however, is that the occasion was an unmitigated success.

"It warmed my heart," said Mark Clifton, "to have people I haven't seen in 40 years come by to support the camp. I was gratefully surprised."

The weather was glorious, a sunny afternoon with temperatures in the 60's. The stream of visitors

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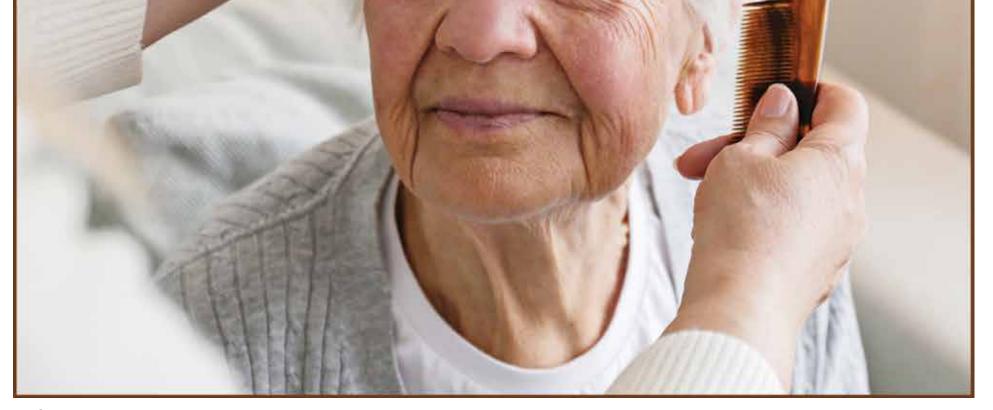
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DEER LAKE

Deer Lake Draws a Crowd to October 30th Open House

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was continuous. Interest was keen, with dozens of persons offering to volunteer for future projects or inquiring about donations. And the sale of concessions, walking sticks, Deer Lake water bottles, Deer Lake sweatshirts, Deer Lake Swag ... you name it ... was brisk.

"It was beyond our expectations," said Ted Langevin, president of Pathfinders. "It was very positive."

That sentiment was echoed by all who were there — from the Boy Scouts who parked cars ... to the Cub Scouts who ran the concessions... to Cohen, who showed off Deer Lake to friends unfamiliar with it ... to conservation groups and naturalists at information booths ... to vendors who sold their wares ... to those who joined guided hikes or rode a hay wagon that toured the property ... and to all in and around Pathfinders who planned and coordinated the event immediately after the September 16, 2022 purchase.

"My biggest takeaway?" said Patty Clifton. "That people care. They wouldn't have come out here if they didn't care."

The occasion was meant to serve two purposes: 1) Celebrate donors who made the Deer Lake purchase possible and 2) expose the property to those who were unaware of it. When Pathfinders bought Deer Lake, it borrowed \$1.8 million in low-interest loans to complete the deal. But it can't retire that debt without more donations, and that's unlikely to happen if potential contributors don't know what they're asked to save.

Sunday was that opportunity.

The most asked question Langevin said he heard was, "Is Deer Lake open to the public?" The answer is yes. Some wanted to know if there is weekend camping. Again, the answer is yes. Others were interested in potential retreats, wedding and reunion possibilities, dining-hall rentals, dog walking, overnight cabin stays and, yes, possible Lumberjack Days.

Then there were those who showed up out of curiosity, with Langevin estimating that 20-30 signed up to volunteer for future projects. Others inquired into donations, asking how they could add to the Save Deer Lake fundraising campaign. The interest was sincere, and the passion was genuine.

"I was so impressed with how supportive the community is," said Langevin.

Most persons came from Killingworth and surrounding towns, but other parts of the state were represented. One couple from Milford, for instance, had never been to Deer Lake, but heard about the event and were intrigued. A family from East Haddam wanted to see if it was still open to Scouts. A resident of Hartford asked about kayaking and fishing. A couple from Naugatuck brought their two children to walk the property with grandparents and participate in demonstrations.

"It was fun," said Killingworth resident Linda Shellnut, grandmother to the two youths. "I was struck by how beautiful and precious the spot is. There aren't many places like Deer Lake anymore. Most have been developed or sold or just aren't in your area. The kids absolutely loved it."

To those who could remember, it was reminiscent of the annual Killingworth Town picnic that was held at Deer Lake on Labor Day weekend and involved cow chip bingo (honest), an Army/National Guard jumping team and a softball game between the Lions Club and Volunteer Fire Company. According to those who were there, it was such a popular draw that it attracted 2,000-3,000 persons.

"It could be fun to do again," Mark Clifton said. Maybe. But the immediate goal for Pathfinders is to raise awareness for the Save Deer Lake campaign and gain the help of volunteers interested in helping to maintain and improve the property. Sunday's open house was a start. "We need to do a lot of outreach," said former Killingworth First Selectwoman Cathy Iino, a Pathfinders board member, "just to keep in touch with all those people. We need to make sure that all the folks who came through ... and all the others who have supported the effort to save Deer Lake ... continue to feel like part of this great project. The public needs to hear from us regularly."

It just did.

"And it was great," said Cohen. "I think (Sunday) highlighted the beauty of the property. You couldn't have dialed up better weather, and everything went so smoothly. It should help people understand why Pathfinders moved forward and rallied the community as it did and why it needs the amount of help it does going forward."



Photos by Clark Judge.

St. Peter Church Christmas Fair November 19, 2022 *You're invited to join us....* St. Peter Church

30 St. Peter's Lane, Higganum Saturday, November 19, 9am – 3pm

> Visa Card Raffle 3 chances to win \$1,500



Haddam Kíllíngworth News

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please visit www.haddam.org, www.townofkillingworth,com or hk-now.com for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes. See hk-now.com for more information on calendar items.

Thursday, November 10

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

Holiday Card Making 5:00 p.m. Brainerd Memorial Library. Please register both participants by going to our website; www.brainerdlibrary.org or calling 860-345-2204.

Love2Sign 10:45 a.m. Killingworth Library.

Dungeons & Dragons for Teens 5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Killingworth Library.

Haddam Park & Recreation meeting 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 11 VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day Silent Vigil at the war monument on the green in Higganum Center begins at around 10:45 a.m. and lasts until about 11:15 a.m. The museum also will be open.

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.

Saturday, November 12

St. James Episcopal Church's Annual Christmas Fair and turkey dinner 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Surprise Saturday with Mrs. Fig 10:30 a.m. Killingworth Library.

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.

Monday, November 14

Haddam Board of Selectmen meeting 6:30 p.m. **Killingworth Board of Selectmen meeting** 7:00 p.m. Town Office Building.

Killingworth Registrar of Voters Hours 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Town Office Building.

Killingworth Open Space Committee meeting 6:00 p.m.

Killingworth Park & Recreation meeting 7:00 p.m. Emergency Op. Center.

Tuesday, November 15

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

Do the Write Thing for Kids - 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Killingworth Library.

Do the Write Thing for Tweens - 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Killingworth Library.

RSD #17 BOE meeting 7:00 p.m. Central Office. **Killingworth Planning & Zoning meeting** 7:00 p.m. (remote).

Wednesday, November 16

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

Killingworth Historical Society Annual Meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company, 333 Route 81 Killingworth.

Haddam Board of Finance meeting 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 17

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November Music With Margie 11:00 a.m. Brainerd Memorial Library.

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

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

Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m. Killingworth Library. Join us as we discuss The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave.

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

SWING BRIDGE PROJECT

Swing Bridge Closed to Vehicular Traffic 11:30 p.m. Nov. 11-8:00 a.m. Nov. 12

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condition of the structural steel. Effective November 11, 2022, any truck that exceeds 16-tons is restricted from using the Swing Bridge until further notice.

Vehicle weight restriction signs, as shown attached, will be installed in the near future and routine enforcement has been scheduled with the Connecticut State Police and Department of Motor Vehicles.

CTDOT and American Bridge have a meeting with EMS scheduled for next week, prior to the load restriction, to discuss and coordinate plans for any emergencies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Sara Mendillo

Government Affairs & Economic Development Coordinator

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November 10, 2022

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CONNECTICUT'S HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS

60 Years Ago: A Connecticut Native's Major Role in Averting Nuclear War in the Cuban Missile Crisis

By Philip R. Devlin

Sixty years ago this week, the Cuban Missile Crisis played out for thirteen tense days in October of 1962. At Premier Nikita Khrushchev's urging, the Soviet Union shipped intermediate-range missiles armed with nuclear warheads to Cuba– far more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, still seething at America for sponsoring the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, welcomed the missiles with open arms. The presence of nuclear missiles just 90 miles from Florida, however, greatly alarmed Americans and brought the world to the brink of nuclear war.

U-2 spy planes confirmed the presence of the missiles, and in one of the most important presidential addresses ever given, President John F. Kennedy informed Americans of their threatening presence on Monday night October 23, 1962. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, led by Air Force General Curtis LeMay, strongly advocated bombing and invading Cuba to remove the threat. Others, such as JFK, United Nations Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, and Secretary of State Dean Rusk, wished to explore a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

The diplomatic solution required time, but the public and political pressure for immediate action was enormous. The very next day Kennedy ordered the military to stand ready at DEFCON 2, the first time in history that the military had been ordered to that heightened alert. (DEFCON 1 is nuclear war.) Thanks in part to the critical actions of a CIA operative and World War II hero from Windsor Locks named Hugh Montgomery, JFK knew that time was on their side. The Kennedy administration aggressively pursued the diplomatic solution while imposing a naval quarantine on Russian shipping to Cuba.

Born in Springfield, Massachusetts on November 29, 1923, Hugh Montgomery (photo above) lived at 42 Elm Street in Windsor Locks. His grandfather, J.R. Montgomery, founded the Montgomery mill on the canal bank in 1871. Hugh attended Windsor Locks public schools from Kindergarten through 8th grade and then commuted to Loomis for secondary school. His mother taught foreign languages at Smith College, and Hugh inherited her aptitude for learning languages. By the time he had graduated from Harvard, Montgomery was fluent in eight languages, including Russian—a factor critical in his role during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hugh joined the Army and became a member of the 82nd Airborne Division; in fact, he parachuted into Normandy on D-Day. He was wounded in the leg in France during the Battle of the Falaise Pocket in August of 1944, a wound that caused him to limp for



A decorated World War II military hero, Penkovsky had grown embittered at his inability to get promoted and grew disenchanted with Soviet Premier Khrushchev's policies. He decided to defect to the West. Historians regard Penkovsky as one of the most important spies of the 20th century.

Hugh Montgomery had arranged a "dead drop" with Penkovsky at a 4th of July party at the American embassy in Moscow in 1962. Penkovsky was to leave a packet of important material for Montgomery taped to the inside bottom of a toilet tank lid in a bathroom at the embassy. Montgomery's retrieval of the packet became eventful, however, as the toilet tank was an older model located high on a wall for gravity feed. Hugh first stood on the toilet seat to reach it, but the seat was made of wood and splintered. He resorted to standing on the wash basin and successfully reached the packet but fell back as the sink separated from the wall. Montgomery personally translated the Penkovsky documents and promptly sent them to CIA headquarters where the director took them to President Kennedy.

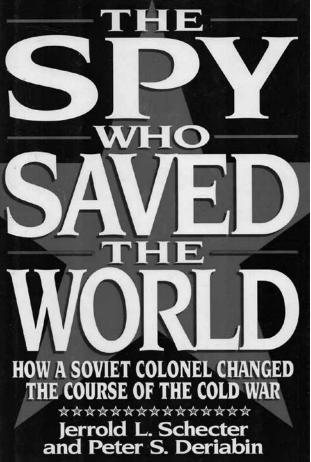
It is hard to overstate the importance of Penkovsky's role in helping JFK defuse the missile crisis. Cold War historian Jerrold L. Schecter put it this way:

"His contributions changed American and British thinking about Nikita Khrushchev's strategic nuclear capabilities and intentions. Penkovsky's material made it clear that the USSR lacked the nuclear missile capability Khrushchev claimed, thus enabling President Kennedy to call Khrushchev's bluff. During the Berlin crisis of 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, Penkovsky was the spy who saved the world from nuclear war."

It is also hard to overstate the importance of Windsor Locks native Hugh Montgomery and the other CIA and MI6 operatives (such as British MI6 agents Janet Chisholm and Greville Wynne) who had helped manage Penkovsky and were on the receiving end of his vital information. (See the 2021 movie The Courier starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Wynne.) In total, Penkovsky is estimated to have had 140 hours of interviews with American and British operatives, passed on 111 rolls of film, and more than 10,000 pages of intelligence reports! It is no surprise that Oleg Penkovsky had a book written about him entitled The Spy Who Saved the World. Unfortunately, Penkovsky was arrested by the KGB on the day before JFK's address to the nation concerning the missile crisis. He was beaten and tortured for weeks before he was found guilty of treason and executed in the spring of 1963. Interestingly and appropriately, Penkovsky's CIA code name was "HERO." Without American and British operatives such as Hugh Montgomery, however, the transfer of Penkovsky's vital information that enabled the Kennedy administration to resolve the Cuban Missile Crisis peacefully would have never occurred.







the rest of his life.

Montgomery's proficiency in French and German was not lost on his superior officers, and he soon became part of the OSS—the forerunner of the CIA. He was sent on several key spy missions into Germany; in fact, his undercover four-man team was the first to discover the horror of the Buchenwald concentration camp in April of 1945. He broke radio silence to obtain medical aid for the emaciated prisoners there.

After using the GI Bill to complete his Ph.D. at Harvard, Hugh was recruited to join the CIA in 1953. He remained with the CIA until 2014 when he retired at 91, having served more than 60 years in the agency. Regarded as a "founding father" of the CIA, Montgomery amassed numerous awards in his long career. He served in many diplomatic posts all over the world, but none would equal the importance of his presence in Moscow in 1962.

Montgomery's main job in Moscow was to help manage a Russian double agent named Oleg Penkovsky.

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November Events

By Tammy Eustis, Killingworth Library Association

Upcoming events in November at Killingworth Library:

New Date! (This program was originally scheduled for October)

Tuesday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. - Turtles & the Sins of Good Samaritans. Adults are invited to enjoy this fascinating talk by Pamela Meier, state-permitted wildlife rehabilitator and local resident. Turtles are one of the oldest yet most threatened groups of animals on earth. Five of Connecticut's eight resident turtle species are on the state's List of Endangered, Threatened or Special

Concern Species. As one of the state's few experienced rehabilitators specializing in turtles, Pam will share her knowledge about the harm done by well-meaning, but misinformed individuals, and how you can make a difference! Space is limited, so please register in advance by visiting the Calendar on the library's website: killingworthlibrary.org - or call the library at 860-663-2000.

Holiday Pajama Storytime

Thursday, November 17, 6:00-6:30 p.m. Come dressed to cuddle and bring your favorite stuffed animal! We'll have some holiday treats on hand, and Mrs. Fig will share some of her favorite holiday tales. Family

members of all ages are welcome. Please register in advance, so we know how many friends to expect. Visit the Calendar on the library's website (killingworthlibrary.org) or call the library at 860-663-2000.

Sign Up for Tech Time!

The library continues to offer tech support for patrons who need help navigating their phones, laptops, Microsoft Office, and more. Whether you want to download e-books and e-audios from the library's webpage, discover Google Docs, or just want to know how to turn off those pesky alerts, we're happy to help! Please contact the library at 860-663-2000 to arrange a day and time to meet with

library staff.

Killingworth Library November Holidays

The library will be open on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, for regular hours, 9:00 a.m-6:00 p.m. The library will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 24, but open for regular hours all other days of that week. (Friday's Music with Margie and Cricut classes will not meet the week of Thanksgiving.)

Coming in December: Little Learners STEM/STEAM fun for ages 2-5, photo ops with The Grinch, and more Holiday Pajama Storytime! Check our website's calendar for details and registration information.

HADDAM POET LAUREATE

The Unleaving

Even without the sun, the Norway maple,

a species now spurned, radiates red. Sugar maples stand nearby

their dependable yellow turning to melon

and thinning. Pin oaks hold on

to their stubborn green.

The cherry, green all summer, journeys to maroon.

The white birch-her pale hearts have already swooned

to the ground, losing her will in a weeping drape.

I spend too much time absorbing their glory

Not tending to what needs doing. But how much other doing is needed? Their leaves drop gently, a last dance in the breeze,

A snap on the fulcrum of autumn and drift,

their dry patter sounding like rain. And then it does rain.

Only cedar and spruce will stand green through the winter, shouldering the snow.

But for today, this deciduous tribe, all get along with their varied hues and habits

amenable to this acreage, resilient in their acceptance of accidental

immigrants and the hopefuls planted by my own hand, replacing ash trees now blighted into memory. As sadness is layered with many reasons

so comes the progress of this season, while I position pumpkins and mums on the porch, just so.

Just so.

BRAINERD MEMORIAL LIBRARY November Programs

By Lorraine Riess

Check out the following upcoming events this month at Brainerd Memorial Library, 920 Saybrook Road, Haddam, 860-345-2204.

Thursday, November 10, 5:00 p.m., Holiday Card-Making: Jesse Bernier, an avid card maker and founder of a local card charity, Card Angels, will be instructing this holiday card-making class, which will be fun for you and a partner. We will be making three designed cards. Each person will get the chance to stamp sayings, color stamped images and put together these beautiful cards in class. There will also be additional supplies if you are feeling creative and want to make another card or two using your own ideas. All supplies/materials will be provided. Bring a friend or a family member,

as we have spots for 24 participants. Let's have some fun! This is a program that is open to participants ages 8 and above.

Please register both participants here at the link provided on hk-new.com or at the library's website.

Sunday, November 13, 1:00 p.m. Grave Matters: Here's a fascinating free program from our community partner, Old Burial Yard of Thirty Mile Island. Grave Matters features Cassidy Brothers Forge restoration blacksmiths at the Haddam Volunteer Fire Dept., 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum.

Interested in writing for us?

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33 New State Troopers Graduate From Academy, Take Assignments Across Connecticut

By Connecticut State Police

The Connecticut State Police graduated 33 new State Troopers on October 20, all members of the 132nd Training Troop.

James C. Rovella, Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and Colonel Stavros Mellekas, Commander of the State Police, congratulated the graduating class during a ceremony held at Central Connecticut State University. Governor Ned Lamont and Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz also attended and addressed the graduates.

The 132nd Training Troop entered the Connecticut State Police Training Academy on April 8, 2022, with classes starting in a blended learning format. On May 9th, the class began the residential portion of the Academy, Monday through Friday, and completed the remaining 24 weeks of training. This is the second class to graduate the State Police Training Academy in 2022; 53 members of the 131st Training Troop graduated on March 24th.

In total, the class completed 28 weeks and more than 1,400 hours of training both online and in person. In addition to classwork, the recruits spend many hours on physical conditioning, driving, firearms training, active shooter response, experiential training and other specialized areas of police work. Five members of the class started the selections process (including the physical agility) while deployed to Africa as part of a joint effort with State Police and the Connecticut National Guard.

The 33 members of this class include 30 men and 3 women. Members of the 132nd Training Troop have diverse backgrounds, training and experience. Some are former municipal police officers or correction officers, some have been trained as firefighters and EMTs and some have military backgrounds. The youngest member of the class is 21 years old and the oldest is 52 years old.

Among the 33 graduates:

- 11 have military experience
- 1 has prior law enforcement experience

11 hold Bachelor's Degrees

3 hold advanced degrees

At their graduation on October 20th, the newest Troopers were sworn in by Colonel Mellekas and assigned to one of 11 State Police troops located throughout Connecticut.

The graduating Troopers will be assigned as follows: Troop A, Southbury – 2 new Troopers Troop B, Canaan – 2 new Troopers Troop C, Tolland – 1 new Troopers Troop D, Danielson – 3 new Troopers Troop E, Montville – 2 new Troopers Troop F, Westbrook – 2 new Troopers Troop G, Bridgeport – 6 new Troopers Troop H, Hartford – 6 new Troopers Troop I, Bethany – 4 new Troopers Troop K, Colchester – 3 new Troopers Troop L, Litchfield – 2 new Troopers The following Troopers graduated on October 20, 2022:

Abbate, Matthew Tolland Troop C Amleto, Marco Simsbury Troop B Baillargeon, Eric Enfield Troop H Baker, Collin Fairfield Troop G Battista, Justin Marlborough Troop H Bilgen, Melissa South Windsor Troop K Bridges, Kyron New Britain Troop H Bristol, Julio New Haven Troop I Canales, Jose New Britain Troop H Clark, Austin Enfield Troop H

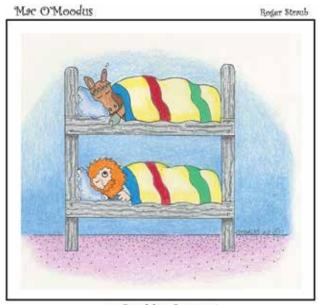
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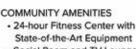
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