

# Thanks Giving Haddam Killingworth News

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

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November 24, 2022

For breaking news go to [HK-Now.com](http://HK-Now.com) every day

Free weekly



Photo by Sandy Aldieri, Perception Photo.

## Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords Holiday Concert: December 11

By Kate Porch

Save the date! The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords will present our annual holiday concert, "Let's Have a Music Celebration," on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 pm, at Portland High School, 95 High Street in Portland. Join us as our 80 member chorus and 8 piece band, proudly perform some of your holiday favorites. Don't miss this concert! It's sure to set a joyful mood for the upcoming holiday season.

Samuel Tucker, musical director, has arranged an eclectic program that showcases the wide ranging

talents of this chorus. In addition to some of your holiday favorites such as "O Come All Ye Faithful," and the classic "Please Come Home for Christmas," selections from Handel's "Messiah," for the classical lovers in the audience, will round out this exciting program for your enjoyment.

Community outreach is an important part of our organization's history. This year our dedicated members generously donated 1,107 pounds of food items and \$2580 to the Amazing Grace Food Pantry. They also give of their time to sing at the annual Hospice Memorial program and Veterans

Day programs in the area. Over the years, the Vocal Chords have awarded more than \$80,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Middlesex County who are pursuing a career in nursing or music, thanks to your support and the generosity of our dedicated members.

Tickets to the event are \$20 and can be purchased from any member or by calling Joyce at 860-342-3120 or Diane at 860-347-2787. For more Information, go to [vocalchords20.org](http://vocalchords20.org) or visit us on Facebook! Don't forget to "like" and "follow" us while you're there.

## HKYFS Holiday Giving

By Laura Shipman, HKYFS

Upcoming program sponsored by Haddam-Killingworth Youth & Family Services:

Youth & Family Services Holiday Giving Program 2022 The holiday giving program facilitated by HK Youth & Family Services, Inc. is available for families in need who reside in Haddam, Higganum,

Haddam Neck or Killingworth. New gifts and toys will be collected for children and youth from birth through age 18. The program runs from now through December 10, 2022. Deadline for registration is December 1. For more information about how you can donate, or to register for this confidential program, please call 860-345-7498 or email [office@hkyfs.org](mailto:office@hkyfs.org).

## Senior Center/Senior Van Updates and Reminders

By Marge DeBold

The Haddam Senior Center, at 923 Saybrook Road in Haddam is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch is served on each of those days at Noon. Call 860-345-2480 or stop in to sign up. The email address is [seniors@haddam.org](mailto:seniors@haddam.org)

[haddam.org](http://haddam.org). There is also a Facebook page, Senior Center - Haddam Connecticut.

Snow days will be announced on WFSB, Channel 3, as well as on the town website, Facebook page and the Senior Center phone message.

We are trying to stay healthy. Please

*Continued on page HK6*

**In This Issue:** • Historical Meteor Shower, HK2 • Community Calendar, HK5 • Auditions at Oddfellows Playhouse, HK8



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# Fiery Snowflakes from the Sky: The Leonid Meteor Shower of November 1833

By Philip R. Devlin

It happens every November. Cosmic dust, rocks, ice, and debris, apparently from the constellation Leo, fly by the Earth, sometimes creating a spectacular light show. It's called the Leonid Meteor Show. This year the show peaks on November 18-19, but it will pale in comparison to the 1833 show.

The 1833 show both amazed and terrified people in North America, as up to 150,000 shooting stars fell per hour on November 12-13 in 1833. Here's what the Vermont Telegraph newspaper reported about the show: "A most remarkable exhibition in the firmament was witnessed by multitudes early on the morning of the 13th. It was between 5 and 6 o'clock... but we have heard of its being noticed as early as 2."

Here's what the Philadelphia National Gazette had to say about the cosmic fireworks:

"The line of descent was rectilinear; the course from the direction of the Zenith to the horizon...in a line varying from 10 to 45 degrees from a vertical line...Much diversity of size and of the degree of brilliancy was observed. Whilst many, in their sudden transit, would exhibit only a train of pale light...others, bursting suddenly upon the sight, would blaze splendidly through the whole extent of their course, impressing the eye for a

few moments with the appearance of a brilliant line of light."

One Connecticut observer reported in the November 18, 1833 edition of the Hartford Courant that, "The exhibition that I have described was the most splendid vision of pyrotechny I ever saw." Here's what the Litchfield Enquirer reported on November 14, 1833:

"Singular Phenomenon: Yesterday morning, between 5 and 6 o'clock, some of our citizens observed a very singular and, at first, alarming phenomenon. A dark cloud was seen hanging over the village, and from the sides, thousands of meteors, like shooting stars, were constantly descending on the earth, some perpendicularly, and others in a zig-zag, lightning-like course. The cloud passed away almost instantaneously, and still the meteors continued falling and shooting until near broad day... and occasionally a snapping, crackling noise was heard, like those following the escape of sparks from an electric battery."

According to experts on the subject, the Leonid Meteor Shower peaks about every 33 years, which means our next chance for a massive shower like the one observed in 1833 should occur in November of 2031. Nevertheless, experts say that this year's show will be "above average," due to the fact that the debris has circled around Uranus and is now headed back toward Earth;



Photo courtesy of public domain.

Additionally, the sky is predicted to be clear with the moon waning; so heat up some tea or coffee, wake up early, and you will get to see a good fireworks show in November! Look to the Northeast.

Note: The first illustration above is from a book in 1898 that depicted the 1833 shower. The second photo is from NASA in 2009, looking at the shower from outer space.

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## EDUCATION

# “Terrific Tots” at Killingworth Nursery School

By Erin DelVecchio

Do you have a two-year-old, or know someone who has a two-year-old? Looking for a fun program to share with your toddler? Join TERRIFIC TOTS! Bring your toddler, or have them attend the program with a grandparent or caregiver. Children will be guided through activities, art, songs, stories and exploration, as well

as outdoor play, by our wonderful teacher, Mrs. W. It's a perfect opportunity to meet other parents and children, and to develop new friendships. Class meets once a week from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and we are happy to announce we now have a Friday class, too. For more information about Terrific Tots, please email us at [killingworthnurseryschool@yahoo.com](mailto:killingworthnurseryschool@yahoo.com)

## EDUCATION

# RSD 17 Preschool Developmental Screening: January 11

By Lee Kozlowski, Killingworth Elementary School

Regional School District 17 will offer preschool developmental screening on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Killingworth Elementary School. Screening is available to all three- and four-year-olds residing in Haddam or Killingworth, in the following areas:

Cognitive and Readiness Skills, Speech and Language Skills, Fine & Gross Motor Skills, Adaptive Skills, and Social Skills.

If you have a question or concern about your child's development, or if you would like more information, please call 860-663-1121 or email [lkozlowski@rsd17.org](mailto:lkozlowski@rsd17.org)

## HOME & HEARTH

# Read the Label! How to Buy Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products

By Sarah Neal, Haddam Sustainability Committee

If you are purchasing a cleaning product for your home, it is important to read the list of ingredients before you buy it and to know which ingredients are toxic. However, in the U.S. and Canada, companies are not required to list all ingredients in their products, so you may want to investigate further by checking with the Environmental Working Group website [ewg.org](http://ewg.org). EWG is a team of scientists, policy experts, lawyers, and communication and data experts whose mission is “to empower us with breakthrough research to make informed choices and live a healthy life in a healthy environment.”

In addition to their rating system for cleaning and beauty products, they also track pesticide use on produce and publish a list of the “Clean Fifteen” (not necessary to purchase organically grown, such as avocados,

melons, and pineapple) and the “Dirty Dozen” (best to buy organic, such as strawberries, spinach, and apples). Their website is comprehensive. To find out about ratings for cleaning products, including a list of all the ingredients, click the link on Areas of Focus and then the link for Household and Consumer Products. You may want to get their free Guide to Healthy Cleaning or the app.

While the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does require safety labeling such as “Danger,” “Poison,” “Warning,” and “Caution,” it seems these signal words do not consider long-term exposure to fumes from products with toxic ingredients. In fact, long-term exposure to toxic chemicals, and combinations of them, is of grave concern for us all because of their cumulative effect. For more specifics on toxins, refer to the Haddam Sustainability Facebook page for a list of 14 toxic chemicals to avoid in cleaning products.

## PETS

# The Dog with No Name

By Judith Levin

This handsome boy does not have a name yet, but will for sure when he goes to his forever home. He is up for adoption at Newtown Animal Control.

He sure is an incredibly happy dog and loves people he meets. He likes some other dogs, but Animal Control is working to get this guy a bit more experience with them.

He is 3-5 years old, neutered, and up-to-date with shots. He walks great on a leash, loves to walk, go in the car, and would love to hang with the family members. If you are looking for a friend, here he is!

If you interested, please contact Newtown Animal Control: (203) 426-6900.



Photo by Judith Levin.

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\*Paper is affiliated with the Haddam Civic  
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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Thursday, November 24

THANKSGIVING DAY

## Friday, November 25

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

## Saturday, November 26

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

## Sunday, November 27

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

## Monday, November 28

Killingworth Registrars of Voters hours 10:00 a.m.

- 12:00 p.m.

Killingworth Library Association meeting 7:00 p.m.

HVFC Auxiliary meeting 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Fire Station #1

Killingworth Board of Selectmen meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

## Tuesday, November 29

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

Do the WRITE Thing. Ages 10-12 at 4:30 p.m. Ages 7-9 at 5:45 p.m. Killingworth Library.

Do the WRITE Thing. Ages 10-12 at 4:30 p.m. Ages 7-9 at 5:45 p.m. Killingworth Library.

## Wednesday, November 30

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

Library.

Haddam Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 p.m.

## Thursday, December 1

Little Learners 11:15 a.m. Killingworth Library For ages 2-5. Program runs December 1 - 15.

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

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

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

Parmelee Farm Committee meeting 7:00 p.m. Pond Room, Parmelee Farm.

## HADDAM SENIOR CORNER

# Haddam Committee on Aging Announces New Facebook Page

By R. Thurston Clark

The Haddam Committee on Aging (COA) has been focusing its attention on the way the town and the COA communicate with seniors. To that end, we would like to announce some enhancements to our electronic media.

The town has created a new Facebook page, "Senior Center - Haddam." Committee member Kaye Burgess will be posting Senior Center activities and the meal menu for the month, along with other announcements and timely information. She also will be submitting articles to be posted on the Town of Haddam website, where other important information for seniors already exists. Finally, she also will be working with the administrator of VSCTV, community access Channel 19, on ways to make announcements there.

Electronic media not your thing? I've had help from my seven grandchildren. I have only a cell phone and initially I had a lot of trouble using it. For example, I used to move back and forth a lot to take a photo before I was shown how to move the focus with my fingers. I would call in a panic when the flashlight feature came on by mistake. Another of our COA members, Marge DeBold, has taken the role of getting timely information relative to seniors in print, but, as you can see by this article, she is getting help from a number of other committee members.

Haddam COA is a group of about a dozen seniors who report directly to the First Selectman. Our goal is to advocate, engage and inform seniors in our town, who make up just under 20% of the population.



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## LEGALS

### LEGAL NOTICE PLANNING AND ZONING PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing and meeting at the Old Town Hall, 30 Field Park Haddam CT on December 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item(s):

1. Amendment to Zoning Regulations section 10.4 - Forestry Regulations

Said amendment and regulations are on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam.

Planning and zoning Commission, Haddam CT

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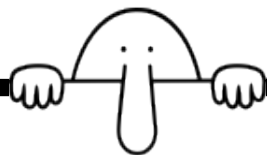
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# Former Haddam Elementary School is Coming Back to Life

By Bill Warner, Haddam Town Planner

I have been walking the halls of HES since the town took ownership almost three years ago. It is so sad to see the empty classrooms and I often think, what a loss to the community to have this school shuttered. But gradually this is changing as we breathe new life into the building.

I recently helped set up a classroom for an HK Rec Art Smart program for toddlers. I went back the next day and the room was warm and cozy, the chalk boards were decorated and the tables were adorned with brightly colored tablecloths. Then, it happened: toddlers started marching in, ready for their art class. I cannot tell you how it touched my heart to see a classroom alive with little learners.

The building is quietly becoming a real asset to the community, and seeing those toddlers really got me thinking about all the good things that are happening at the school. I thought some of you might find it interesting.

The Higganum Farmers Market had another successful season. The Holiday Pop-Up Market, bigger and better than ever, is now open.

We have secured funding for a new roof and a new multi-generational playscape/activity space for kids and seniors.

The Pratt & Whitney Machinists Union often rents the building for meetings and important votes, the FBI and State Police train in the building. Emergency Management stores critical supplies in the building and recently there was a hazardous waste drop-off event. The Haddam Volunteer Fire Department has its annual picnic on the grounds.

Nutmeg Pharmacy has conducted flu and Covid-19 vaccine clinics. Once again, HK Youth and Family

Services will be using a classroom for their Holiday Giving program. The Lions Club had a coat drive, the always-popular Grims Haunted House is stored in the building when not in use, and there was a recent food drive in the parking lot.

The Haddam Historical Society uses the former library for their annual auction and they will be moving the Shad Museum to the property. Shad fishing was one of the most important industries from Haddam's past and this move will really spotlight this important part of the town's history.

Blue Fire Stage Company uses the former Art and Music rooms for rehearsals for all of their shows and they offer kids acting, voice and dance classes. They put on well-attended shows in the multipurpose room, including The Laramie Project; An Evening of Inappropriate Song Cabarets; Schoolhouse Rock Live and, in February of 2023, the kids will be performing

the musical Dear Edwina Jr. Blue Fire performers also sing carols during the holidays. They rehearse in the building and offer community performances. There was even a workshop with a famous Broadway star, Lisa Howard.

Homefield Sports, out of Essex, rents the gym three days a week for their kids basketball programs. This brings parents from all over the county to Higganum Center. The High School Girls Lacrosse team uses the gym for indoor winter conditioning. HK Rec offers programs throughout the year. More than 450 residents, from pre-schoolers to long-retired seniors, have participated. Some of the offerings have included CPR and First Aid training, Babysitting, Cool Science, Art Smart for Toddlers, Gymnastics, Indoor Soccer, Karate Kids, Kids Basketball Clinics, Men's Basketball, Robotics, Zumba for kids and, of course, the wildly popular Pickleball.

Perhaps nothing can replace the energy that a couple of hundred elementary school students, their parents, their teachers and an engaged PTO can bring to the school and its surroundings. But I do believe with continued investment and programming, this property can become a major activity node in Higganum Center. The more people we can attract to the center will result in more economic activity. More economic activity will create more value. More value will attract more interest from other businesses wanting to be a part of a revitalizing Higganum Center.

## EDUCATION

### High School Automotive Classes Ask for Donated Vehicles and Repair Work

By Haddam-Killingworth High School

HKHS Automotive is looking for vehicle donations to be used for student projects and learning. Do you have a vehicle that has limited value or is broken and that you are not planning to repair? Maybe your vehicle needs a repair, but the labor cost was too high? We are seeking vehicles that are safe and able to be repaired. Typical projects include wheel and tire service, brake service, coolant system service, engine maintenance. Rusted-out vehicles are not usable. We are able to tow vehicles to the school if they are not currently drivable. Please reach out to Mr. Todzia at jtodzia@rsd17.org

The HKHS Small Engines class is looking for repair work. If you have lawn equipment, power sports vehicles or other mechanical items that are in need of diagnosis, repair or maintenance, please reach out to Mr. Kish at rkish@rsd17.org These items are used to enhance student skills in diagnosing and repairing small engines, motors and equipment.

## HADDAM SENIOR CORNER

### Senior Center/Senior Van Updates and Reminders

Continued from page HK1

remember to wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer. If you don't feel well, please stay home.

#### Senior Van

Please call Diane Gondek at 860-682-3301 to schedule a pick-up. The schedule fills up quickly, so it's never too early to set up your Van ride in advance. Walmart trips are every Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. Please let Diane know if you wish to make the trip.

Please keep the Senior Center driveway clear of cars so that the Van and/or emergency vehicles can pass through. Overflow parking is available across Saybrook Road at Brainerd Memorial Library.

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COMMUNITY

# HKYFS Hosts Middle School Craft Fair: December 3

By Laura Shipman, HKYFS

Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth will host the 34th Annual Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Craft Fair on December 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The wide assortment of more than 80 artists, makers and crafters are the highlight of the show, with unique, handcrafted wares, including jewelry, photography, handbags, knitted items, soaps, candles, dog treats, pottery and much more.

The fair will also feature food trucks, a book fair for all ages, a raffle and scavenger hunt for kids.

Find out more on Facebook and Instagram at: [www.facebook.com/hkmscraftfair/](http://www.facebook.com/hkmscraftfair/) [www.instagram.com/hkms\\_craft\\_fair/](http://www.instagram.com/hkms_craft_fair/)

Admission is free. Haddam-Killingworth Middle School is located at 451 Route 81 in Killingworth.

CAMPUS CORNER

# Olivia Parmelee Named to Dean's List at Palmer College

Information from Merit Pages News

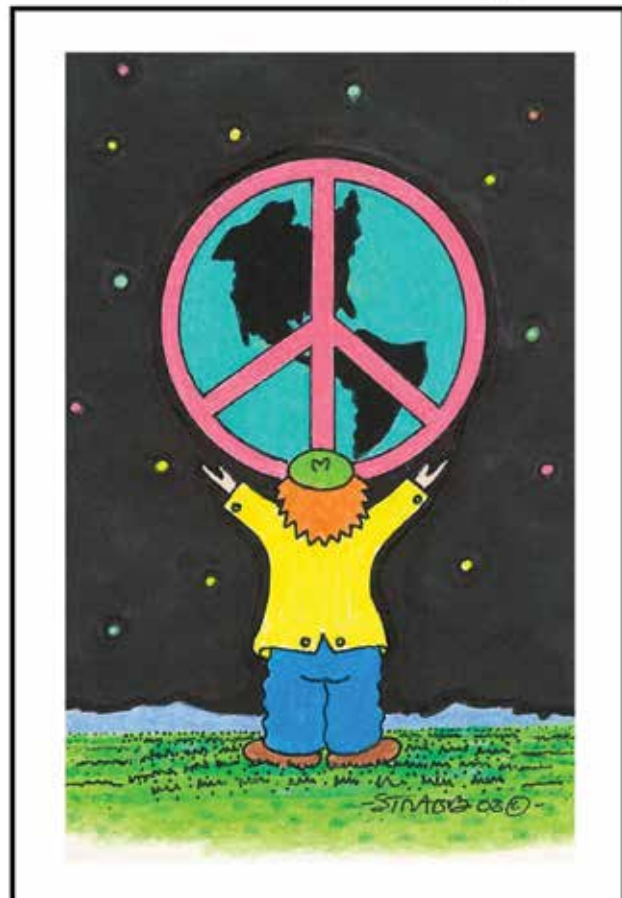
(November 11, 2022) —Olivia Parmelee of Haddam has been named to the summer 2022 trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa, San Jose, California, and Port Orange, Florida.

CARTOON

Mae O'Moodus

Roger Straub



Peace on Earth

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# Auditions at Oddfellows Playhouse for Circophony Teen Circus: December 6

By Dic Wheeler, Oddfellows Playhouse

Oddfellows Playhouse and ARTFARM announce auditions for Circophony Teen Circus's 17th Annual Mainstage Circus-Theater production.

Auditions will be held on Tuesday, December 6, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Oddfellows Playhouse, 128 Washington Street in Middletown. They are open to all young people, ages 12 – 20. Prior circus experience is not required, but some background in physical training, dance, movement, gymnastics, sports, parkour or performance can be helpful.

Auditioners are asked to arrive a few minutes early to complete audition paperwork, to dress to move, plan to stay the entire two hours, and to prepare a short solo act that showcases your skills and personality (one minute maximum). Solos can be based in circus arts, theater, Everyone who auditions and commits to the rehearsal and production schedule will be cast in the show.

Rehearsals will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. starting January 3, 2023. There will be technical rehearsal & daily rehearsals, February 26th – March 1st. Performances will be March 2, 3 & 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., and March 4th at 2:00 p.m. at Oddfellows Playhouse.

The new Circophony main stage show will be directed by Circophony Director Allison McDermott, with additional coaching and act direction by Naja Muller and Joel Melendez. The show will include acrobatics, movement, juggling, balancing, stilting, contortion, unicycling, roman ladders, comedy and other circus skills. This is a



Photo by Bill DeKine.

great opportunity to stretch your personal limits in a supportive, non-competitive environment, to get serious circus training, and to be part of creating a new and imaginative show.

To register for the audition, or for more information, call (860) 347-6143 or email [info@oddfellows.org](mailto:info@oddfellows.org). Tuition for Circophony is \$300. Financial aid is available for anyone who needs it. No

one is turned away for inability to pay. Circophony Teen Circus provides rigorous circus training and performance opportunities to young people, and is a collaboration between Oddfellows Playhouse and ARTFARM.

If you are unable to make the audition date, please contact [info@oddfellows.org](mailto:info@oddfellows.org) to set up an alternative audition date.



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