

Haddam Killingworth News

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

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September 22, 2022

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

Free weekly

Shad Museum May Be on the Move

By Edward Munster

Have you ever visited the Shad Museum or even noticed the sign in Higganum for the museum? People say it is not easy to find because it is located behind and to the left of the building at 212 Saybrook Road. The property is currently for sale.



Photo by Ed Munster.

Dr. Joseph Zaiantz, who founded the Shad Museum in 1999, recently donated the building and its contents to the Haddam Historical Society.

The museum, which is a small wooden structure (16' by 16'), needs a new home. At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on September 12, Lisa Malloy, Director of the Haddam Historical Society, made

Continued on page HK4

Two Local Women Inducted into Field Hockey Hall of Fame

By Mariellen Cherry, Assistant Coach
HKHS Field Hockey

A Haddam-Killingworth High School graduate, and an East Haddam teacher are now members of the Connecticut Field Hockey Hall of Fame. At an induction ceremony held at the Aqua Turf Club in Plainville on September 11, Ashley Smith of Killingworth, and Kelly Braza, a Social Studies teacher at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, were

Continued on page HK4

Come Join the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary!



By Betty Cernan, HVFC Auxiliary

Have you been thinking about joining a Town Civic Organization? But have you been unsure which one would fit your needs and desires? The Haddam Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary would love to see you at our next meeting – to join or to attend as a guest. Members will be meeting at the new firehouse on September 26, at 7:00 p.m. to start their new year.

The Auxiliary was established in 1966 with the main purpose of aiding our volunteer firefighters. Members provide refreshments during major fires and they give funds periodically to the fire department to purchase items related to firefighting. Members hold four major fundraisers each year: Easter Flower Sale, Memorial Day Clam Chowder, a Military Whist Card Party in the fall, and a Holiday Vendor Fair in November. Members also help the firefighters wrap Santa's gifts and then help out at the town-wide Christmas Party held at the firehouse, with Santa giving out items.

The Auxiliary has donated money to the Haddam Fuel Bank, the Veterans Museum, Project Graduation, and several other important town projects and programs. A scholarship is given out on an annual basis to a deserving senior who is either a Junior Firefighter or a son or daughter of a Firefighter or Auxiliary Member.

Because of Covid issues, we had to cancel our fundraisers and we held several of our meetings on Zoom. We are now planning our full schedule of



Photos courtesy of HVFC Auxiliary.

fundraisers and we need you to help us out! You will find fulfillment because you know that you are helping a group of dedicated town firefighters as well as being active in our small community of Haddam.

Town residents 18 years or older are welcome to join. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month, from September to June, except in January, at 7:00 p.m. at the new firehouse. Come join us at our next meeting on September 26.

In This Issue: • Brainerd Memorial Library News, HK4 • Community Calendar, HK6 • Health & Wellness Fair, HK8

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Girls Soccer: HKHS Ties Portland 1-1

By Mike Shea, HK Girls Soccer Coach

The Haddam-Killingworth High School Girls soccer team bounced back from their season-opening loss to Coginchaug by playing a fantastic game against their conference rivals Portland to a 1-1 draw. The Cougars, down a couple of starting players, played a strong 80 minutes. Goalkeeper Vyv Laurenza had a solid performance, making seven saves, while her counterpart on Portland, Lauren Eckert, made eight saves. HK team captains Leah Chester and Caroline Conte were a force on the defensive line. The pair have played with each other as Cougars for four seasons now and have stepped up when they needed to. Freshman Payton Rich gets better and better and was a thorn to the Portland attack, stopping several advances.

After the first game of the season, HK knew they could do better and this game was a good game to show that. An encouraging part of the performance was that of the central midfielders Emmy Kehlenbach and Maggie Singer. They were forced to make tough decisions throughout the game, both with and without the ball. They both played the full 80 minutes, never showing signs of leveling off. After creating several opportunities, with ten minutes left in the first half, outside midfielder Seasea Ruimerman



Photo by Anthony Shea.

sent a perfect shot on goal as she approached the 18 yard mark, high and over keeper Lauren Eckert into the upper left corner of the goal. Camryn DiMauro had a solid game for Portland. She was the focus for Portland to get them back into the game.

With thirteen minutes left in the game, and a very congested goal area, DiMauro was able to get an extra touch to level the game. As the Cougars continued

their press to counter, time ran out. This game showed what HK is capable of; they played a very strong 80 minutes of soccer today. Their next game is a non-conference game this Saturday, September 17, 2022, at Haddam-Killingworth High School at 10:00 a.m. versus North Branford/Hale Ray.

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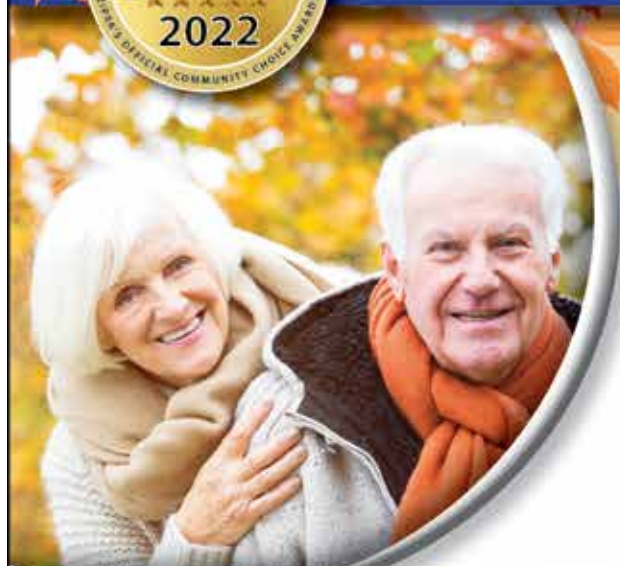


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September 12 Meeting Recap

By Edward Munster

This regular meeting of Haddam's Board of Selectmen on September 12, at the Haddam Old Town Hall was called to order by First Selectman Bob McGarry at 6:30 p.m. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kate Anderson, Sean Moriarty, and Administrative Assistant JoAnn Ricciardelli. It was a hybrid meeting. Residents could attend in person or participate by connecting to the meeting via ZOOM using the information provided on the agenda which was posted on the town website.

Minutes of the August 8 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

During public comment Alan Andeen stated that he felt there was an issue with the culverts on the Beaver Meadow bridge project and asked that the clerk of the works should check on that. He also spoke of the traffic backup at Burr Elementary School in both the morning and afternoon when the buses and parents dropping off children are coming and going. Jennifer Favalora, Vice Chair of the RSD 17 Board of Education, was present and spoke with him after the meeting to get more information about the issue. Mike Duval asked when the 0.3 mile section of Chamberlain Hill Road would be completed. McGarry assured him that the project would be done, but could not give a certain date.

Rossi Property: In his Selectman's update, regarding the Rossi property, FS McGarry noted that the town is

applying for a brownfields remediation grant. The town is conducting final negotiations on the possible purchase with the owners of the Rossi property. The proposal will be subject to a series of meetings in October, which will lead to the approval or rejection of the purchase agreement. The agreement will be presented at the next BOS meeting on October 11th, then presented to the Board of Finance on October 19th, and at a meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission on October 20th. Then it will go to a hearing for public discussion of the proposal on November 2nd and then to a public meeting on November 9th for a vote to approve or disapprove the purchase agreement.

Scovil Hoe: The Purchase and Sales agreement to purchase the Scovil Hoe property from the state DOT has been signed by all parties. At this point we are still waiting on the approval by the legal department at the state Office of Policy and Management. Interviews have been conducted for environmental consultants to oversee Scovil remediation.

Work has begun on the Swing Bridge by the American Bridge Company. There was nothing new reported on the Bridge Road sidewalks.

The box culverts for the Beaver Meadow Road bridge have been delivered. The contractor now believes he can do the work without moving the utilities. The expected completion date could be as soon as late October.

Haddam Center sidewalks are progressing. The seating area planned for the Walkley Hill end of the sidewalk will be at the library instead and a guide wire near Field Park Road needs to be relocated.

RFQs from architectural firms for work at HES were due September 15th. Bids will be opened soon.

FS McGarry pointed out that both the flu and the bivalent booster shots are now available in town and encouraged residents to get them. The COVID case rate continues to decline from 27 in July to 16 in August. With the onset of fall, COVID infections could pick up.

FS McGarry mentioned that on August 9th, the date of the Republican and Democratic primaries, the high humidity that day caused problems with the vote-counting machines at Central Office and in Haddam Neck, requiring that the votes had to be hand-tallied. At the Fire House District One polling place, which is air conditioned, there was no problem.

Jennifer Favalora provided an extensive report from the Board of Education which will be published in full.

Tax refunds in the amount of \$12,572.16 were approved. Jason Lonergan was appointed to the Haddam Parks and Recreation Commission. The BOS awarded the paving contract for the parking lots

of Fire Stations 1 & 2 to J. J. Dibble, which was the low bidder. On the question of hiring an administrative assistant for the Haddam Fire Department, the board was in support of the request, but asked for more information.

The BOS supported the concept of moving the Haddam Shad Museum from its present location to a temporary location on the HES property with the proviso that the Haddam Historical Society will pay for the moving costs.

Town Planner Bill Warner discussed with the BOS a resolution for a DECD grant proposal for cleanup of the Rossi Property that does not require any matching funds from the town. Selectman Sean Moriarty tabled the motion until the grant application is complete.

Bill Warner then made an extensive presentation on an Affordable Housing Plan for Haddam involving possible locations throughout the town where this housing might be developed. State statutes require every town to have such a plan. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the plan, which was carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the BOS will be on Tuesday October 11th because the second Monday of October is a federal and state holiday. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

GARDENING/EDUCATION

UConn Master Gardener Program Now Accepting Applications

By Gail Reynolds, Master Gardener Program Coordinator

The UConn Master Gardener Program is now accepting applications for the Haddam-based class that will begin in January, 2023. The classroom portion of the program will be held at the Middlesex County Extension Center in Haddam on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Applications must be submitted by October 14. The program cost is \$475. Partial scholarship is available.

Students enrolled in this program receive training in an extensive range of horticultural and environmental topics, including botany, plant pathology, entomology, integrated pest management (IPM), herbaceous and woody ornamentals, edibles, turf grass, invasive plants, and diagnostic techniques for the home gardener. Program requirements:

100+ class hours. Classroom training includes approximately three hours of online material as well as one half-day per week for 16 weeks, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., January – April 2023

30 hours of supervised service answering the public's horticultural questions and researching gardening problems; and 30 hours outreach on approved educational outreach and/

or community project(s); both to be completed by the end of September 2023

Subject quizzes and graded mid-term exam

Tree/Shrub/Vine identification and research project due by the end of August 2023

Attendance at one of five summer diagnostic practice sessions

Final diagnostic exam at the end of in-service training

Final essay due at the end of September 2023

Most UConn Extension Master Gardeners find the class to be a life-changing experience! "Individuals become master gardeners because they are interested in gardening and, most important, learning more about the science behind good gardening practices. In addition, the collegiality of master gardeners allows us to share our knowledge with the public at many outreach venues," according to Ken Sherrick, 2013 graduate of the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program in Middlesex County.

For additional information on the program and to apply online, please visit <https://mastergardener.uconn.edu/2023-uconn-master-gardener-application/>



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BML Offers a “Nature’s Inspiration” Book List

By Robbie Marshall, Assistant Director, Brainerd Memorial Library

Brainerd Memorial Library’s Staff and Friends have developed a book list similar to the one we curated a few years back that was titled “Hopeful Books for Challenging Times.”

The theme of this list is “the natural world” and includes topics like: backyard habitats & gardening, climate change, outdoor adventures, rain forests, coral reefs, trees, survival, sustainability and wildlife. Represented in these fiction and non-fiction books are novels, poetry, children’s, teen, illustrated, scientific, and graphic novels. They provide entertainment and insight as well as information and education.

The list is posted on our website: <https://brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org>. The books are available to peruse in the library or to take home at one of the two displays [adults are upstairs and juveniles are downstairs in the Children’s Department]. A short list of resources is included. The displays showcase several of the books in the library’s collection to be checked out immediately. Our librarians are happy to request titles from other libraries if they are not on site.

We hope you’ll enjoy the beautiful illustrations, the lyrical prose and exciting plots. And be inspired by them!

Photos provided by Brainerd Memorial Library.

Brainerd Library’s “NATURE’S INSPIRATION” BOOK LIST

THESE BOOKS WERE SELECTED BY BML STAFF & FRIENDS. TOPICS REFLECT THE THEME OF “THE NATURAL WORLD.”

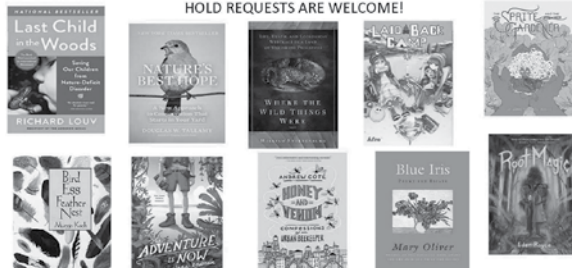
THERE ARE: FICTION, NON-FICTION, POETRY, GRAPHIC NOVELS, CHILDREN’S, & TEEN’S AND BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED BOOKS. JUVENILE TITLES ARE DOWNSTAIRS.



*CHECK THEM OUT!

*TITLES NOT AVAILABLE AT BML CAN BE ORDERED FROM ANOTHER LIBRARY.

HOLD REQUESTS ARE WELCOME!



Shad Museum May Be on the Move

Continued from page HK1

a proposal that it be moved to the nearby Haddam Elementary School property in the vicinity of the old playground area, at least temporarily, until the plans for a multi-generational park are worked out. HHS looked at many sites in town and, at the suggestion of town officials, thought the Higganum location was the most advantageous and desirable.

Malloy made the case that shad were once one of the town’s largest exports and played a vital role in Haddam and the State of Connecticut. The shad is a part of Haddam’s Town Seal and is the official state fish for Connecticut. Dr. Zaiantz has collected a wealth of material and artifacts related to shad fishing, which are displayed in the museum.

The BOS passed a motion approving the proposal under the condition that the Haddam Historical Society will be responsible for the cost of moving the museum from its present location to the HES property. Malloy stated that “the HHS Board of Directors is committed to ensuring that the Haddam Shad Museum remains a valuable asset to the town’s cultural economy and that it is preserved and interpreted in perpetuity.”

COMMUNITY

Two Local Women Inducted into Field Hockey Hall of Fame

Continued from page HK1

honored for their achievements in the sport.

Smith, a Registered Nurse at Yale-New Haven Hospital, was a student-athlete at HKHS and captained all three teams of which she was a member: field hockey, basketball and lacrosse. She graduated in 2006 and continued her field hockey career at UMass-Lowell, where she was named to the NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team in her senior year. Smith is currently pursuing an MS degree in Advanced Practice Nursing at Quinnipiac University.

Braza has served as a high school field hockey official for more than twenty years. She is a graduate of Southern Connecticut State University, with a BA in History and a BS in Elementary Education. She earned her Master’s in Education Technology at Leslie University, and is a 6th Grade teacher Hale-Ray Middle School. Teaching first brought Braza to field hockey officiating. She has been Vice President of the Connecticut Field Hockey Officials Board, and has also been a lacrosse official for eighteen years.

LEGAL

TOWN OF HADDAM PLANNING AND ZONING PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission of Haddam, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing at the Old Town Hall, 30 Field Park Haddam CT on October 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following item(s):

Public Hearing and Meeting:

1. Proposed special permit to allow adaptive re-use of a historic building, formally known as State DOT garage/Scovill Hoe factory, for a mix of shops, galleries, lifestyle business offices, restaurants and brewery.

Location: 11 Candlewood Hill Rd – Map 15/Lot 90.

Applicant: PB Projects 8/Shannon Healy

Said application is on file in the Land Use Office of the Town of Haddam. Planning and zoning Commission, Haddam CT

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Widespread Deaths in Football Almost Killed the Sport in 1908

By Phil Devlin

Player's health issues are more often at the center of football debates these days as a new football season is on our doorstep. Andrew Luck, star quarterback of the Indianapolis Colts, for example, retired recently at the age of just 29 due to the recurring severe injuries that he has suffered in his young career.

Recent studies and anecdotal evidence have pointed to the severe long-term effects that violent collisions on a football field can have on the health of players. More than 2,000 former players joined in a class action lawsuit against the NFL, claiming that the league has downplayed and covered up the dangers of playing football. Those injured players will receive more than \$660,000,000 in compensation.

The concern about gridiron violence and its effects on health is not new; in fact, in the fall of 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt, concerned about public outrage centering upon the 19 deaths in collegiate football that fall, called together the presidents of Yale, Harvard and Princeton to find ways to reduce the violence of the game. The public was so outraged at the number of gridiron deaths and catastrophic injuries that year that many called for the complete abolition of football in America.

As reported by Neil Hogan in a recent article in the Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society journal, the Gaelic Athletic Association of Connecticut had a solution to President Roosevelt's concerns about football violence.

At their annual conference in 1909, delegates from eight Connecticut towns and cities — New Haven, Meriden, New Britain, New London, Hartford, Bridgeport, Ansonia and Wallingford — proposed that Gaelic football replace American football in American schools. The association's president, Walter Crawford, Jr., was quoted in the New Haven Journal-Courier as saying, "The game is not half as rough as the American game of football." Crawford's group proposed touring the state to demonstrate his point, but the proposal flopped.

What did work to save American football,

however, was the formation of the National Collegiate Athletic Association in 1910. The NCAA quickly adopted rules to help reduce violence on the football field, such as requiring pads and helmets.

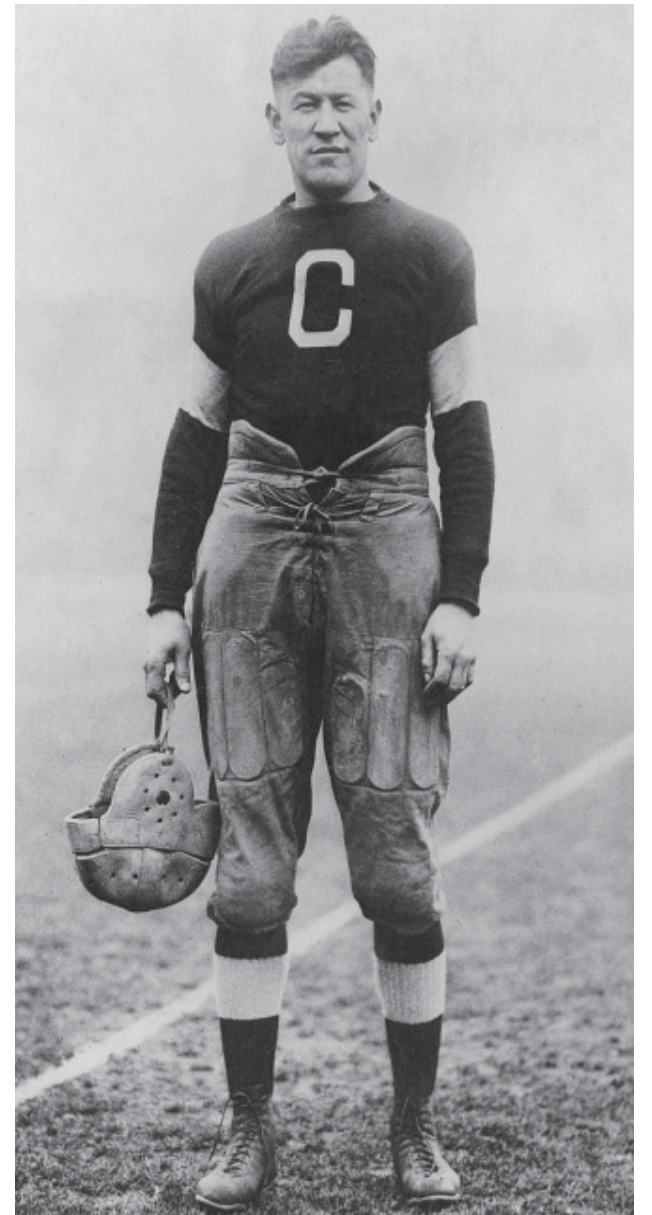
Nevertheless, injuries and deaths from football, though reduced, continued to plague the game. For example, the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research has reported that between the years 1931-2006, there were 1,006 direct and 683 indirect deaths in America from playing football at all levels, from sandlot to the pros — more than 20 per year on average.

In addition, a 2000 University of North Carolina study showed that between the years 1977 and 1998, "200 football players received a permanent cervical cord injury, and 66 sustained a permanent cerebral injury." Furthermore, it is estimated that among high school football players alone, between 40,000 and 60,000 concussions occur annually. In addition, many former NFL players suffer from early-onset dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.

As reported recently on Bryant Gumbel's HBO show, "Real Sports," recent studies report a link between frequent concussions and the onset of the dreaded disease ALS — commonly called "Lou Gehrig's Disease." (We should keep in mind that Lou Gehrig himself was a star football player at Columbia University prior to playing major league baseball and had probably suffered many concussions from football.)

As dangerous as playing football may be to your health, there is no sporting activity more dangerous or deadly than cycling. In 2010 alone, 618 Americans died while biking—most commonly as a result of a collision with a motor vehicle. Nearly 90 percent of these victims were male. Furthermore, over 1,000 Americans per week are injured while riding a bicycle. These stats are down from a high of 830 deaths from biking in 1995; that's more than 60 deaths per month.

For a comprehensive review of the most dangerous sports both on the high school and collegiate



Jim Thorpe in a Canton Bulldogs uniform sometime between 1915-1920. Photo courtesy of the Haddam Historical Society.

levels, click on this link: <https://nccsir.unc.edu/reports/> Some of the other dangerous sports besides football—such as cheerleading— may surprise you.



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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, September 22

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

Love2Sign - Killingworth Library 10:45 a.m. Fun, interactive sign language classes for children ages 6 months to 6 years old. Through October 27. Please register for each class at 860 663-2000. The program will be held in the children's room. Adults must remain with their children for the duration of the program.

Friday, September 23

Higganum Farmers Market 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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

Cricut Crafting for Teens -

Killingworth Library 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 24

Killingworth Board of Assessment Appeals meeting 9:30 a.m. Town Office Bldg.

Fall Invasive Plant Cleanup - Haddam Meadows State Park 10:00 a.m.

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

Swallows Cruise 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Brainerd Library fundraiser: Swallows Cruise returns. Join us on Connecticut River Tours to witness the amazing tree swallows migrating flocks. Gourmet snacks and adult beverages will be included.

Monday, September 26

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

Killingworth Board of Selectmen

meeting 7:00 p.m. Town Office Bldg.

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

Haddam Volunteer Fire Auxiliary meeting 7:00 p.m. Fire station 1

Tuesday, September 27

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

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

Health and Wellness Fair 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. PFA Grove building, 144 Prout Hill Road in Middletown. This is a FREE event and all are welcome to attend!

Teen Book to Movie Night - Brainerd Memorial Library 5:30 p.m.

Killingworth Economic Recovery meeting 7:00 p.m. (remote).

Wednesday, September 28

Middle School Game Night - Brainerd Memorial Library 5:30 p.m.

Haddam Sustainability Committee meeting 6:30 p.m. Old Town Hall.

The featured Speaker will be Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator for the City of Middletown. The public is invited to attend and hear more about improving reuse and recycling.

Haddam Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 29

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

Love2Sign - Killingworth Library 10:45 a.m.

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


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When Will Beaver Meadow Road Be Open Again?

By Ed Munster

Why has it taken so long to re-open Beaver Meadow Road?



Beaver Meadow Road, which has been closed since the end of April, is the main artery for traffic between Route 154 and Route 81. Many people who have children in the HK Intermediate School or the HK Middle school must take the detour, and nothing seems to be happening on this culvert project. I contacted Chris Corsa, who is the Assistant Director of Haddam's Public Works Department, to learn about when we might expect this road to re-open.

Chris was reluctant to give an exact date, but did point out that the agreement with the contractor, Suchoki and Son, Inc., states that the project must be completed by December 3, 2022. Chris expects it to be finished sooner than that because the supply chain issues are now being resolved. Soon after Beaver Meadow Road was closed in the spring there was a delay in getting a power pole relocated. Frontier had to move the pole, and Eversource was responsible for moving the power lines. The manufacturing of the needed box culverts for Haddam at United Concrete got delayed because of other projects going on around the state that took our place in line at the manufacturer.

The box culvert components began to arrive in

mid-August. Now that these are installed, the wing walls which direct the stream into the culvert will be formed and then poured and the final grading of the area can be done. So, the good news is that the project is now starting to move in a positive direction. Hopefully, those Beaver Meadow Road Detour signs will be coming down soon.



Photos by Ed Munster.

Haddam Killingworth News

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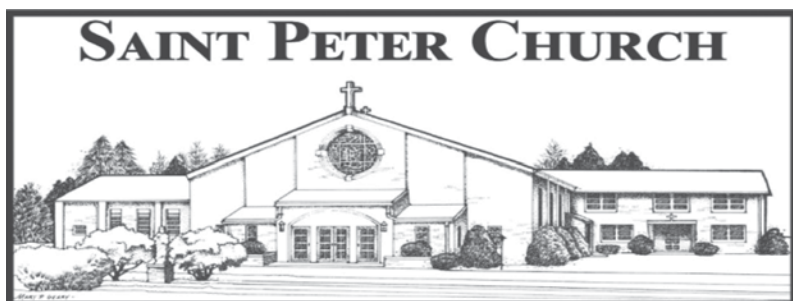
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Explore coming back to St. Peter's Church.

Health & Wellness Fair: September 27

By Marie Field, Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation

A Health and Wellness Fair, co-sponsored by the Polish Falcons of America Nest 519 and the Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation, Inc., will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the PFA Grove building, 144 Prout Hill Road in Middletown. This is a FREE event and all are welcome to attend!

A variety of local businesses and organizations will be present to share their services and resources, and live demonstrations also will be held. The following is the current list of participating agencies:

Apple Rehab

Autumn Sage, LLC, who practices reiki, chakra clearing and balance will do a demo on how to raise your vibration; her husband will talk about motivational speaking

Caregiver Homes

Community Health Center

Connecticut State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

CrossFit Ironworks, Higganum

Gilead Community Services, Inc.

Guided Healing LLC, which practices reflexology

JP Holistic Health Coach PLLC will talk about her expertise in understanding the power of food, herbs and other holistic approaches that can improve one's health

Manes and Motions Therapeutic Riding Center will do a talk about their program

Middlesex Health Cancer Center will do a breast health presentation

Middlesex YMCA

Middletown South Fire District will do a fire suppression demonstration

Middletown Police will be bringing their crisis intervention dog, K-9 Bear

National Alliance on Mental Illness – Shoreline Affiliate
Nutmeg Pharmacy, Higganum will be doing a flu clinic, blood pressure readings and medication consultations
Pawsitive Therapy, LLC will be bringing therapy dogs to greet people

Select Physical Therapy in Higganum

SoVita Chiropractic Center

Third Eye Herbals – Jenavieve Hawks will talk about herbal remedies and holistic iridology

Chef Sil's Vegan Kitchen will be present to sell healthy snacks and meals, and Middletown Mayor, Benjamin Florsheim, has agreed to support this event by attending and saying a few words.

Please stop by on September 27!

The mission of the Nathaniel B. Field Memorial Foundation, Inc. is to prevent suicide through public awareness and education, to reduce the stigma of mental illness, and to provide hope and support.

OP-ED

Musings From a Millennial: Just Over Yonder

By Meghan Peterson

Editor's Note: The views stated here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the rest of our staff. We welcome supporting or opposing views on any published item.

Yonder – farther removed; more distant; being at a distance within view or at a place or in a direction known or indicated – Merriam-Webster.com

“...secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...” – Preamble, U.S. Constitution

For an inexplicable, random reason, I recently used the word “yonder” in conversation with my Older Boy (he is 4 years old).

“Mommy, what does yonder mean?” Of course, I better explain myself to Older Boy for using such a unique word. “Well, honey, when we say ‘yonder’ we mean to express distance, or that something is down the road, coming down the line – whether in terms of a location or an event or something else to look forward to.”

“Oh, ok!” Older Boy exclaims as he bounds off to the next activity for 20.3 seconds.

He may have been satisfied with the answer (for now), but I got to thinking about the term and concept of “yonder.”

Despite signifying something that is far away, it is “yonder” precisely because you can still see it. Its visibility wins over the challenges of distance. It is something for which to strive and reach. That which is yonder – a goal, an objective, a dream, a destination, is something we know is at a distance and nonetheless attainable. In short, we discern a level of long-term efforts at the core meaning in “yonder.” Put another way, yonder connotes hard work over a potentially unspecified duration of time. In effect, when one has in mind something “over yonder,” it is identified, known, specific. Simultaneously, timing of arriving at or achieving that something yonder is less certain, less known, less specific. This feature of uncertainty, however, may not reduce the appeal of that which is yonder. In fact, because the prize, the reward, the outcome - whatever that may be - is in sight, it can make the endeavor more rewarding.

I wonder if the Framers of the Constitution held a “yonder” perspective when they wrote this country's foundational document. At the very least, they had in mind working for and preserving - indeed, securing - specific goals (for example, “blessings of liberty”) that future generations could enjoy.

As we head into autumn, may we have the eyes for what we want to achieve over yonder, the mind for how to get there, and a spirited will to get it done.

Fresh Faces OLD PLACES

- The Next Generation of Historic House Owners -



Saturday, October 8, 2022

Presented by The Haddam Historical Society

Join us for a self-paced tour of six historic homes and explore how this next generation of old house champions has found beauty and tranquility in our town's important historic structures, while balancing a respect for history with modern needs and lifestyles.



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Fall House Tour: October 8

By Elizabeth Malloy, Executive Director, Haddam Historical Society

On Saturday, October 8, the Haddam Historical Society will host “Fresh Faces, Old Places: The Next Generation of Historic House Owners” from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit and tour six architecturally distinct properties in Haddam and Higganum that are loved and respected by their owners, who range from young families to tech-savvy entrepreneurs. All six homes offer a fascinating look at how this next generation of old house champions has found beauty and tranquility in our town’s important historic structures, while balancing careful restoration and/or preservation of historic elements with modern needs and lifestyles. Join us for a look at seamlessly blending the old with the

new, to learn more about the history connecting back to some of our earliest Haddam families, and to see how old houses can be wonderful places to call home.

Houses on the tour include:

- Stephen Smith House (c. 1720) on Jacoby Road
- Caleb Bailey House (c.1755) on Thayer Road
- Samuel Bailey House (c.1870) on Landing Road
- James Cone House (c.1748) on Clark Road
- William Foote Brainerd House (c.1857) on Island Dock Road
- The Tollhouse (c.1828) on Walkley Hill Road.

Lunches from The Cooking Company



Photo courtesy of the Haddam Historical Society.

are available if ordered in advance, and the Tour Headquarters is at Haddam Town Hall/Brainerd Academy at 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam.

Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 day of the tour. Tickets are on sale at www.haddamhistory.org. For additional information call 860-345-2400.

COMMUNITY

HKYFS Hosts “Girls Night Out” for 4th and 5th Graders

By Laura Shipman, HKYFS

Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services will sponsor “Girls Night Out,” a fun and informational event for girls and their mothers or significant caregivers to learn more about the changes their bodies will go through during puberty. The program is open to 4th and 5th Graders and will be offered at two locations: Thursday, October 13 at Brainerd Memorial Library in Haddam, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18 at Killingworth Library, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Topics will include the importance of maintaining a positive body image and how to deal with difficult situations that can arise during this dynamic time of life. Space is limited, so reserve your time today. Call HKYFS at 860-345-7498 or email office@hkyfs.org. The cost is \$30 (admission for one adult and one child) and includes resource materials, a goodie bag and a pizza dinner.



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A Done Deal for Deer Lake!

By Clark Judge

In what was described as “a triumph of hope over experience,” Deer Lake has been saved.

After months of negotiations, the 255-acre property was sold on September 16 by the Connecticut Yankee Council (CYC) of the Boy Scouts of America to Pathfinders, Inc., a local non-profit dedicated to preserving it as open space. The cost was \$4.75 million, with \$3 million in donations and the remainder in loans, and was announced at a news conference at Deer Lake.

“This,” said U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, “is a profoundly important moment.”

The site of the briefing was the same as a January 27, 2022 news conference, called by Pathfinders, to draw attention to the Boys Scouts’ proposed sale of the property. In fact, many of the guest speakers who stood outside the Deer Lake dining hall last winter returned eight months later.

Blumenthal was there. So were Killingworth First Selectwoman Nancy Gorski, State Sen. Christine Cohen and State Rep. Christine Goupil. Even Bill Lucey, Long Island Soundkeeper at Save the Sound, was back.

But that’s where the similarities end.

In January, it was a frigid, blustery afternoon, with temperatures in the low 30s. This time, it was a spectacular, sunlit morning in the low-to-mid 60s. Then, the message was as cold as the weather: Save Deer Lake ... or else. This time, it was a joyous celebration, with Pathfinders board members high-fiving each other upon arrival.

And why not? When they drove into the camp that morning, they passed under the familiar “Deer Lake Scout Reservation” sign that hung across its entrance on Paper Mill Road. Only this time they saw something different. The sign had been sawed in half to read “Deer Lake.”

That made it official: The property had been saved.

Afterward, members of Pathfinders passed out slices of cake, with icing that read “Thank you to Pathfinders and all of the many volunteers and donors who together made it happen – You did it! You SAVED DEER LAKE!!!” Then they toasted the Save Deer Lake campaign with Champagne.

“This wasn’t just a come-from-behind victory for Deer Lake,” said state Attorney General William Tong, instrumental in making the deal happen. “This was a Hail Mary.”

That may be an understatement.

It was exactly one year ago that the CYC listed the Deer Lake Scout Reservation for sale, and Mark and Patty Clifton – who live on the property, oversee it and operate the annual Deer Lake summer camp – desperately reached out to a handful of individuals to plot a course to save the property.

Among those present was Ted Langevin (photo above), who, as president of Pathfinders, would become the central figure in the group’s bid to

overcome a \$4.625 offer from a private developer. But that would take months in what Sen. Cohen called a “rollercoaster” of talks with the CYC; success seemed improbable when Blumenthal addressed reporters in January.

“Only months ago,” he said at the September 16 news conference, “we were despairing. The triumph of hope over experience here has worked wonders.”

There was little hope then, and even less one month later, when the CYC announced a tentative deal with Fortitude Capital LLC, a private developer, for \$4.625 million. But in an extraordinary move, the Scouts announced that they would entertain proposals exceeding that offer until March 31st of this year – a deadline that, thanks to an intervention by Tong, was postponed to May 1st.

That’s when Pathfinders entered the picture.

Until then, it supported an effort by the Trust for Public Land, another non-profit, to preserve Deer Lake as open space. But when its offer of \$2.4 million, based on an appraisal of \$2-2.4 million for the property, was rebuffed by the CYC, Pathfinders made a difficult decision: It would engage in an ambitious fundraising campaign to raise enough capital to eclipse Fortitude’s offer.

Result: In six weeks, it accumulated more than \$3 million from donors. And with time and \$1.8 million in loans from two sources, it reached \$4.75 million – enough to satisfy the CYC, which closed the deal this week.

That’s the good news. The sobering message, however, is that nearly \$2 million in mortgages must be repaid for Pathfinders to own the property outright, and maybe that happens with state or local assistance, Nobody is sure. What is certain is that Pathfinders just took a giant step toward a goal that once appeared unreachable.

“This has meaning and resonance well beyond the 255 acres of Deer Lake,” said Blumenthal. “It shows that we are turning the corner. We are reversing the tide on development in America. You may think that sounds like an exaggeration, but in my view, this come-from-behind success really shows how to do it. And how to do it right. We have an obligation to be stewards of places like this one and to make sure that we fulfill our part of the bargain — which is to do no harm and, in fact, to enhance, rather than destroy. Nothing wrong with development in the right places. People need houses. But not here.”

That message was echoed by donors, not just throughout Killingworth, but across the state and country. More than 1,300 persons contributed to the Save Deer Lake campaign, with contributions from 87 Connecticut towns, 34 states and four countries. Moreover, the Deer Lake story gained national attention, with the Associated Press, USA Today, Washington Post, and National Public Radio among the media outlets that carried the story.

So did statewide TV, with WFSB, WTNH, Fox61 and WVIT joining the coverage.



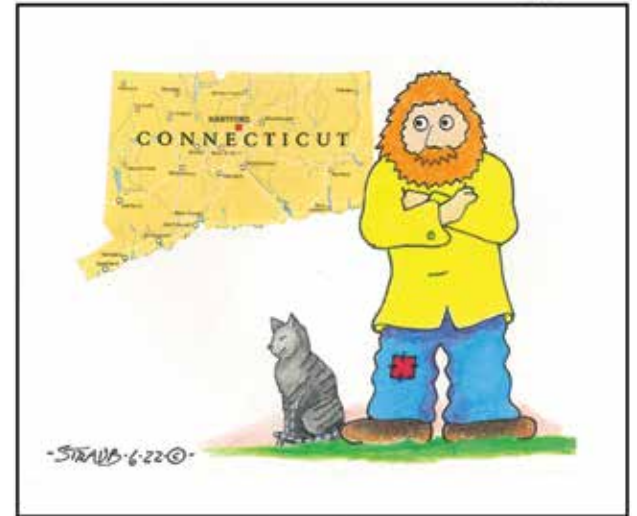
Once upon a time, it seemed unfathomable that a grassroots campaign to Save Deer Lake could be successful. Then September 16 happened.

“There is a time and a place for development,” said Tong. “This is not it. That’s obvious by walking around here. This is one of the things that defines who we are as a state. It is what is great about Connecticut and our world. It is because of that it is so worth fighting for. I am just so proud to join all of these fighters and advocates who made it happen.”

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