

# Haddam



# Events

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Volume 5 • Quarter 2 • 2012



**Selectman's Corner**  
**Voter Polling Place Adjustments**  
**Haddam Volunteer Fire Company**

**Brainerd Memorial Library**  
**Historical Society Events**  
*and more ...*

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TECHNOLOGY WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

## First Selectman's Corner

The State of Connecticut lost a little magic in March; Chuckles VII, the soothsaying groundhog died. Her death went unnoticed by many, after all, nobody really took her ritualistic predictions seriously ... or did we? You have to admit; somewhere deep down, when the furry little creature whispered her prognostication into the anxious ear of an elected interpreter, many of us really wanted to consider her decision to be valid, especially if the conclusion brought an early spring. I guess when all is said and done, that's what makes magic effective ... the openness to believe in something that defies reason.

In many ways, the daily pressures that penetrate our lives, puncture our beliefs to such a degree that it becomes difficult to be open to actual logic, let alone anything that is driven by a less than tangible result. The lines between fantasy and faith are now bright red; I remember when they were a pastel blue. The color of imagination used to be white; it's grey now ... sometimes black. The corners of our minds that once pulsed with the energy of a ten year old at play are now plugged with the stuff of self-preservation and indifference. The battle cry that propelled the New York Mets to its finest World Series now falls on deaf ears ... it has become hard to "believe."

When I was a kid, I wanted to be a magician, now I'm a politician ... go figure. There are some that might say I have indeed fulfilled my dream; after all, there are so many politicians that

rely on slight of hand to sell the unreasonable, especially when their words are embellished by a manipulative media that many would consider to be the biggest wizard of them all. I grew up studying the master magicians from afar, relying on only a few parlor tricks to try to duplicate their art. Cards and coins; that was the extent of my craft. I often wondered what it would feel like if I could actually pull a rabbit out of a hat. I occasionally have similar thoughts as a First Selectman these days.

The great Harry Houdini revolutionized the world of magic. His imagination and talent gave birth to an era of magic like no other. Magician after magician learned from his mastery of illusion and theatrics; they also learned from his mastery of the human spirit.

He provoked the imagination beyond known limits. He opened the mind to accept the unacceptable and released the spirit to chart unknown seas.



*Continued on page 2*

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*Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 1*

The substance of his imagination and creativity flowed through the twentieth century like rushing water over barren land, engulfing a momentum of progress that some may argue was second to none. The influence of creativity and imagination, however, brings with it the responsibility of respect and the challenge of moral turpitude. I wonder what Houdini would think of the magic world of technology that his spirit helped to create. I wonder if he would be disappointed to see that the creation from spirit is beginning to leave the world spiritless. Too harsh? Perhaps. Untrue? I don't think so.

Haddam is celebrating its 350th anniversary this year. There will be time capsules and parades, re-enactments and speeches, folk stories and music, and yes, proclamations that cite the historic milestones that have brought us to this place in time. There is no re-enactment, parade or proclamation, however, that will be able to capture the spirit of this steadfast, courageous hamlet, and no speech that will ever do justice to the hard fought journey of the generations that preceded this technologically convenient time. Despite the celebrations, many will never understand or even begin to sense the sacrifices that were made on our behalf.

Alright ... perhaps I am being a bit harsh ... but it is sort of sad. I worry that the impact of technology on our community, and indeed in the world community as a whole, is causing us to lose sight of the imagination, creativity and hard work that brought us to this place in time. I worry that the rapid race of intensity that has overcome our psyche in less than two decades will dismiss the accomplishments of the preceding centuries as irrelevant and erase the memory of the lessons that have given credence to our very existence. I worry that our children and our children's children will never have the opportunity to grow from within in a manner that is natural rather than be snatched by the technological demands of social networking, competitive educational benchmarks, robot-like information transfer, and face books that inhibit introspection for fear of "not being liked." I worry that we are breeding a generation that will lose itself.

I worry about our town. We are old. Many think that is quaint; I do too, but when I look past the language in the tour books, I see an infrastructure that is feeling the weight of time, a decline in the per-capita income, and a rising tax bite that barely serves to keep pace with the demand of town services. I see forty-four square miles of appealing country, an impressive river front and enough Victorian buildings to rival Williamsburg, Virginia. I also see fifty-one percent of that land allocated to open space, which in a perfect world would be a very good thing; but when ninety percent of what is left is zoned residential, one has to question how, if ever, will our town's financial burden ever be sufficiently subsidized by anything other than house and car taxes. The dilemma is heightened by the technological demands of the region and the state, and by the frustration of a youth base that after having been educated in a state-of-the-art school system, has no where to go locally for a job. The dilemma is

*Continued on page 3*

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*Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 2*

also heightened by the fact that the land that is available for economic development is challenged by pockets of contamination and inadequate sewage.

By the time you read this article, Haddam will have been presented with a budget for the upcoming year. Depending on the release date of the publication, you may have already voted on it. I think I can say with pretty good certainty that the experience left most folks feeling uncomfortable, disappointed or concerned; but it doesn't have to always be that way. It is time to step back from the convenience of our lap tops, put aside the mundane text messaging, close the Facebook for a day, give some serious thought about the future of our town, and share those thoughts with the people you elected. It is time to start thinking outside of the box; we may be 350 years old, but we're not dead.

We have managed to keep pace with basic needs over the past few years. We have improved some local services, tackled a major waste disposal hurdle, improved our State bargaining position, and created a foundation for regional synergism; but that won't be enough to attack the issues that lie ahead. I know it's a frightening thought, but we have to stop walking around with our heads in the clouds while the ground below us is shaking. We have to become proactive.

I think we need to ask questions like: "Is it time to expand our bonding program while the rates are low so we can fix some of the infrastructure problems that are prohibiting economic development?"

"Is it time to take advantage of the soon to be formed regional Council of Governments to share basic services even though in so doing we will give up some autonomy?"

"Is it time to create a public-private program to team up with developers that share our vision for economic growth that is consistent with the character of our town?"

"Is it time to redistribute our asset base by selling a few unused properties so that we can add to the general fund with the hope of offsetting future tax increases?"

Considering bold questions like these may make us feel uneasy, but they have to be asked. There are pros and cons to any question. These questions may not even be the right ones to ask, especially if you don't care about higher taxes and want no part of economic development, but either way, now as we close the door on the first 350 years of our existence and step out into an unknown era, we need to stimulate our imagination. It is wonderful that we celebrate our past, but we must be prepared to greet our future.

*Paul DeStefano, First Selectman*

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## Town Clerk's Office

**DOG LICENSE** renewal is due in June. Please come in and register your dog so that you have the current tag. Our Animal Control Officer will be contacting you, if you are delinquent. Fees: A neutered or spayed dog \$8.00, An unneutered or unspayed dog \$19.00, Kennel License is \$51.00. Beginning July 1, a penalty fee will be charged for every month a resident is late in registering a dog. Licenses can be mailed once proof of current rabies vaccination and a spaying/neutered certificate are mailed to the Town Clerk at P.O. Box 87, Haddam, CT 06438, along with your fee, and a self addressed stamped envelope. If you no longer have your dog, please let us know so that we may update our records. If you have any questions or concerns regarding licensing your dog(s) please call or email our office.

**TRANSFER STATION STICKERS** - Please refer to haddam.org for updates. Hours: Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Sunday, 8:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Transfer Station permits must be renewed by July 1st of the new year. Later in July, the Resident State Trooper will be at the Transfer Station checking for permits. **RULES:** Permit must be clearly displayed and

adhered to the side window shield. Registration must be written on the permit itself. Any vehicle without a current permit or without a sticker on vehicle will not be allowed to leave its contents at the Transfer Station. Loose permit stickers will be required to be applied to the vehicle before dumping or vehicle will be turned away.

In order to begin or resume use of the Transfer Station, please come to the Town Clerk's Office and have the following available:

1. Proof of residency
2. Automobile registration
3. Payment amount not available at this time. Please refer to Haddam.org for updates.

Persons requesting additional stickers must have vehicle registration certificate for each vehicle. The Transfer Station is located on Route 154, just north of the Haddam Meadows State Park. If you do not have a private trash collection service, trash and all recyclables should be brought separated to the Transfer Station. To assure that only Haddam residents use the Transfer Station, a current Haddam sticker must be displayed in order to use the facility. Stickers are good for the fiscal year (July through June) and may be purchased from the Town Clerk at the Town Office building. Containers are designated for each category of waste, which must be separated before disposal. The operators of the Transfer Station are licensed by the State and will assist residents to assure compliance with the recycling law. Unsorted trash will be rejected.

**2012 SPORTS LICENSES** are available. Additional information regarding regulations, permits, conservation education/firearms safety courses are available on line at: <http://www.ct.gov/dep>, DEEP reminds anglers age 65 and older that the free resident "lifetime" inland fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for individuals age 65 and older became "annual" licenses effective October 1, 2009. All "age 65 and older" free inland fishing, hunting and trapping licenses obtained since October 1, 2009 must now be renewed annually. Additionally, all "age 65 and older" free marine fishing licenses must be renewed annually. Holders of age 65 and older "lifetime" Connecticut inland fishing licenses obtained prior to October 1, 2009 are not required to reregister for a new license. However, should one lose this "lifetime" license, they will need to obtain a free replacement by accessing the licensing system from their home computer, or by visiting a town hall, DEEP office or other anticipating vendor. All individuals with "lifetime" hunting or combination hunting & fishing licenses will need to register themselves in the Automated Licensing System to obtain the appropriate permits and tags along with their unique Conservation ID#.

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## Town of Haddam School Budget Referendum

The annual referendum for the District #17 School Budget will be held on May 8 from 6:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All Polling Locations will be open for this election. Remember, all property owners (who own Haddam taxable property of \$1,000 or more) are encouraged to let your voice be heard. Polling Locations:

### District #001

Haddam Firehouse, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum

### District #002

Central Office, 57 Little City Road, Higganum

### District #003

Haddam Neck Firehouse, 50 Rock Landing Road, Haddam Neck

Call the Registrars of Voters or the Town Clerk at 860-345-8531 for absentee ballots or more information.

*Raymond Skarsten and Saralyn Twomey*

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**Moodus:** Monday - Saturday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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# Events

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*Town Clerk's Office ... continued from page 4*

In subsequent license years, this Conservation ID# will be re-used and the free hunting license will need to be selected annually prior to obtaining permits and tags. For assistance in renewing these licenses, contact DEEP Licensing and Revenue at (860) 424-3105.

*Ann P Huffstetler, CMC, CCMC, Town Clerk*  
*Ann D Riebold, Assistant Town Clerk*

Office Hours: Monday thru Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday 8:30 a.m. to noon. Phone 860-345-8531, Ann ext.212, Ann R. ext.211 / Fax 860-345-3730. Email: Ann Huffstetler townclerk@haddam.org - Ann Riebold townclerkasst@haddam.org.

## *1st Annual Run For Chris*

1-3-5 Oddman / Woman 5K: Saturday, June 23; Essex Town Hall.

Benefits Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund at MCCF for education. Chris was a 2005 graduate of VRHS. Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. Kids Fun Run - 8:15, 5K - 8:45.

Walkers' welcome.

Register online: [www.raceit.com/register/?event=9564](http://www.raceit.com/register/?event=9564). \$20.00 (\$23.00 after June 9th ). T-shirts to the first 200 applicants. Challenge yourself to this new course of rolling hills in beautiful Essex. Prizes awarded to 1st, 3rd, and 5th place in 10-year age groups. Any questions contact Robin Chapin: [robinc83@gmail.com](mailto:robinc83@gmail.com); 860-767-1541, or Cathy Bishop: [cbishop56@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cbishop56@sbcglobal.net); 860-767-0354.

## *Brush Burning*

When you have your permit to burn brush and are ready to burn, call Valley Shore Dispatch at 860-399-7921 and let them know you are burning that day and tell them the location.

They will tell you if conditions are OK and if it is alright to burn.

When you finish the burn, call Valley Shore back and let them know that you are finished. Also let the burning official know.

*The Next Deadline for  
Haddam Events is July 10th*





Come celebrate 20 years of The Hot Steamed Jazz Festival on June 22, 23 & 24! Experience a weekend of traditional jazz right in our own back yard. Located on the grounds of the Essex Steam Train, The Hot Steamed Jazz Festival is a three-day event that will make you feel like you're in New Orleans without the travel. The festival will include several great musicians such as Galvanized Jazz Band (CT), John Banker's Riverboat Ramblers (CT), Jeff Barnhart (CT), Dan Levinson's Millennium All Stars (NY), Wolverine Jazz Band (MA), Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band (PA), Heartbeat Dixieland Jazz Band (CT), Midiri Brothers (NJ), Swing Times Five (MA), Funky Butt Jazz Band (CT), Bob Seeley (MI), Sugarfoot Youth Jazz Band and the Festival All Stars led by Jon Seiger!

Proceeds from the festival benefit The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp founded by the late Paul Newman.

For session times and ticket information, visit [www.hotsteamedjazz.com](http://www.hotsteamedjazz.com) or call 1.800.343.0003.



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# District #1 and #2 Voter Polling Place Adjustments

Voter turnout is important to the Haddam Registrars of Voters. We would like to make the voting process as easy as possible for voters. We are therefore adjusting the boundaries for two existing polling places. Having District #1 and District #2 more evenly divided, will enable both districts to be open for all voting sessions (referendum, primary, school budget referendum, elections). Previously, District #2 was only open for elections, and not open for a referendum or school budget vote. Also, those residents who live close to the Central Office location will find it a more convenient voting place.

District #1 (Haddam Firehouse Complex, 439 Saybrook Rd., Higganum, CT. 06441) will now have 2,956 active voters as opposed to the previous 4,076 active voters.

District #2 (Central Office, 57 Little City Rd., Higganum, CT. 06441) will now have 2,593 active voters as opposed to the previous 1,473 active voters. There will be ample parking at both locations.

District #3(Haddam Neck Firehouse, 50 Rock Landing Rd., Haddam Neck, CT. 06424) will not change.

This change will commence with the Republican Primary on April 24. A notice will be mailed to all active voters affected by this change.

If there are any questions or concerns, please call us at 860-345-8531, ext 225 or email us at registrar@haddam.org.

The following streets are now in District #2 (Central Office, 57 Little City Rd., Higganum, CT. 06441). They were formal-ly in District #1 (Haddam Firehouse Complex, 439 Saybrook Rd., Higganum, CT. 06441).

*Ray Skarsten & Saralyn Twomey Registrars of Voters*

Street.....	Voters		
Arkay Dr. ....	34	Mario Dr.....	11
Beaver Meadow Rd. ....	24	Old County Rd. E.....	6
Blue Hills Rd. ....	4	Oxbow Rd.	
Brookline Ave.....	8	(#281 to #344) .....	25
Candlewood Hill Rd.		Oxbow Ridge Rd. ....	8
(#553 to 897) .....	56	Ranger Rd. ....	20
Cedar Lake Rd. ....	68	Reisman Trail.....	13
Dickinson Rd. ....	18	Rutty La. ....	4
Filley Rd.....	64	Schuller Rd.....	10
Foot Hills Rd. ....	62	S. Dish Mill Rd.....	22
Geromin Rd. ....	4	Stonegate Circle .....	24
Gunger Hill Rd.....	56	Summersweet Dr. ....	11
Hawthorne Ct.....	14	Teaberry Ct.....	20
Indian Hill Rd. ....	23	Turkey Hill Rd. ....	69
Larkspur La.....	4	Weiss Rd. ....	21
Laurel Grove Dr. ....	68	Wiese Albert Rd. ....	115
Little City Rd. ....	168	Wig Hill Rd. ....	36
Little Fawn Trail.....	30	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1120</b>

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## Specialized Hip Surgery Helps Patients Stay Active

Some people never know they have the condition until they're older. Others, especially those people who lead very active lives, realize there's a problem early on, some as early as their teens. The problem is something called "hip impingement," and an orthopedic surgeon at Middlesex Hospital who specializes in sports medicine, is now performing a new procedure to get people who have the condition back in action for the long run.

David Hergan, M.D., who joined Middlesex Orthopedic Surgeons about three years ago, has performed more than 100 hip impingement surgeries since first coming to Middlesex Hospital.

"One of the things that attracted me to this area," said Dr. Hergan, was the opportunity to fill a need for a surgeon who could perform this type of surgery. There are only a handful of surgeons in the entire state of Connecticut who are currently doing this type of procedure."

The goal of the procedure, said Dr. Hergan, is to preserve the hip joint, rather than replace it, through an arthroscopic approach. Hip impingement is usually a developmental problem. The bones of the hip (ball and socket) develop in an abnormal way, so people have less range of motion and more stiffness. The ball and socket collide in an asymmetrical way, which causes the cartilage to become damaged.



The combination of an active lifestyle, with the developmental abnormality, can cause problems early on in life, sometimes as early as the teenage years. The noninvasive surgery involves going into the joint and shaving off the excess bone to restore the hip joint to its normal shape and function. The arthroscopic approach is just as effective, if not more so, than traditional, open surgery and patients' recovery is quicker, they experience less pain and are able to get back to their normal activities, including sports, much faster. Yankees' third baseman Alex Rodriguez, Boston Bruins' goalie Tim Thomas and the sprinter Tyson Gay are just a few of the professional athletes who have had the surgery.

*Continued on page 10*

### BALLEK'S GARDEN CENTER



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## Lyme Disease

Lyme disease, first identified in Connecticut in 1975, continues to be an important public health concern. Surveillance maintained by the Department of Public Health has shown that we have the highest number of cases relative to the population of any state. The rising incidence of Lyme disease is due to a number of factors including:

- Increased tick abundance
- Overabundant deer population
- Increased recognition of the disease
- Establishment of more residences in wooded areas

Public health surveillance is one of the tools used to monitor the public health impact of diseases over time. The DPH has conducted surveillance for Lyme disease since 1984; reporting by healthcare providers has been required since 1987. Over the years, surveillance for Lyme disease in Connecticut has been modified several times to improve completeness of reporting and to conduct research.

In Connecticut, providing the public with information about vector borne diseases, including Lyme disease and its complex transmission cycle, involves three state agencies: the Department of Public Health, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Department of Environmental Protection.

[www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov)

### *Hip Surgery ... continued from page 9*

In his role as a team orthopedist at Wesleyan University, Dr. Hergan has seen young athletes with this condition and has performed successful hip impingement surgeries on them using the arthroscopic approach.

"My specialty in arthroscopy and sports medicine is really geared toward patients with a more active lifestyle," he admits. But the definition of "active lifestyle" is constantly changing. Years ago that would have been people under 40, but active Baby Boomers have changed the picture dramatically. Dr. Hergan's youngest hip impingement patient was 17 and his oldest so far was 52.

"A lot of my patients are people over 40 who don't want to give up their active lifestyles, and for good reason. It's really fun trying to keep these people active and moving and "in the game" so to speak, and it's rewarding because they have a bit more perspective on things than perhaps those in their teens and 20s," explained Dr. Hergan.

For more information about hip impingement surgery, go to [www.davidherganmd.com](http://www.davidherganmd.com) or

<http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/topic.cfm?topic=A00572>.

To contact Dr. Hergan:

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1,500-1,750 SF	RAKA042JAZ	3.5	\$5,700.00
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# Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. Needs You

## An Interview with Membership Chairman John Kuzminski

Did you know that the Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. is made up of all volunteers - most of which working or going to school full time? Did you know that the Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. responds to all life threatening medical emergencies as the State designated First Responder? Did you know that as volunteers the Fire Co. must meet all of the same standards and train as a department staffed with career Firefighters?

Keeping a steady supply of qualified and interested candidates is the primary role of the Membership Committee. In a recent interview with the Chairman, Lieutenant John Kuzminski, we are able to see what it takes to become a member of the Fire Department - and how rewarding it can be.

### *John, tell us a bit about what I'd be getting into if I decided to join the Haddam Volunteer Fire Co.*

Being a Firefighter is like being a part of another family – a family that is dedicated to helping others in their greatest time of need. When someone dials 911, they are often having one of the worst days of their life – and when you arrive on the scene with your training, with your compassion, you are helping them put their life back in order. This can be as simple as providing reassurance to a person having a medical emergency or as extreme as taking a great risk to save a member of their family trapped inside a burning building. No two calls are ever the same – that's also what keeps things interesting.

### *How do I know if I have what it takes to be a Firefighter?*

From a physical standpoint, you need to be in good shape. The gear that we wear, the stress that we are in and the exertion put on us during emergency calls are all factors that require a basic level of physical conditioning. Before your application can be acted upon, you must provide evidence of a physical exam from a doctor stating that you are fit to begin training. Once a member, you will participate in a regular physical exam program designed to promote a healthy lifestyle and attempt to identify



*Members train at a simulated structure fire making entry into a smoke filled room.*

any issues that may pose a high risk in certain emergency situations. Mentally, you need to be able to commit to training, and to be able to handle responding to emergency calls. This is not to say that you must be involved in all aspects of everything we do – some members are well suited to medical emergencies,

others are not. Some members are comfortable working at heights with proper training – others are not. There is usually a

### *How do you find the time to be a member?*

This is one of our hardest obstacles. All of our members are volunteer – thus they have jobs, go to school, have families – but they find the time to train and help others when needed. The Fire Company is very organized. Meetings and training drills are all on Monday nights. While special drills and classes may be held other nights or on weekends, the majority of all organized functions take place on Mondays – allowing you to schedule around other activities in your life. Most of the social functions are family-based, so spouses/significant others and kids are always welcome. Emergency calls come in at all hours of the day and night. You can't make all calls – but there are duty nights you can commit to responding on. Most people will make calls in their part of town, and if it's a large incident, most all members will go. The more members we have – the quicker the work gets done and everyone goes home.



*Members participating in a Field Day Competition between other Fire Departments.*

job for everyone and it really takes a team to handle most emergency calls.

### *Isn't it dangerous? Why do you risk yourself for others?*

While there is no question that emergency services personnel have much more risk than the general public, being well trained, having excellent equipment and following procedures drastically reduce the amount of risk involved. There is a saying in the fire service "risk a lot to save a lot, risk nothing to save nothing." In other words, if there are no occupants in a burning building, or if there is no one in the car, we don't place our members in harms way. If there is a good chance of saving someone who is trapped, we will make a plan to get them out, a plan that has several layers of contingencies to get the victim and the rescuers out safely.

### *Do I have to provide my own equipment? Is that expensive?*

We are very fortunate to be provided with excellent personal protection equipment. Through tax dollars and in some cases through extra donations, we all have top-notch fire fighting gear including coats, helmets, pants, boots, gloves, eye protection etc. If we are going to be in an unhealthy environment, we have the latest self contained breathing apparatus to wear. All of this is provided to us as members to use on emergency calls and in training. And as for training, from basic Firefighter training to specialized programs, training is provided and paid for.

*Continued on page 13*



*Volunteer Fire Company ... continued from page 12*

The Training Coordinator and Chief review all training requests, but find ways to make sure everyone gets the training they need to be safe and effective.

***If I want to consider becoming a member, what should I do?***

The Membership Committee welcomes the opportunity to further discuss what being a part of the Fire Company is all about. We'll talk with you about the good and the bad, and how there are many more good days than bad. We'll invite you to a Monday evening drill and show you how we train. We'll answer any questions you might have. We'll help you with the application and talk you through the procedure. There is a background check to maintain the high quality reputation of our membership, and an interview process where you meet with the top Officers of the Fire Company. We bring new members in throughout the year and assign a mentor to help coach you through your training period.



*Members train on the Fire Department 24' Zodiac which covers 9 miles of the CT River.*

***Is there room for me if I applied now?***

We have the ability to bring on a number of new members. People move, some members retire, and others have life changing events that prevent them from continuing to volunteer. Now is an excellent time to join. It is anticipated that the Fall 2012 Middlesex County Fire School Firefighter I course will be held at the Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. Station #1. It doesn't get any more convenient than that. Visit our web site, or call our main phone number (860-345-4945) and select the option for the Membership Committee and one of us will contact you promptly.

*Interview by Robert A. Norton, Jr.*

[More information on the activities of the Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. and ways you can get involved can be found on our website - [www.HaddamFire.com](http://www.HaddamFire.com).]

## ***Reporting Address Changes is Crucial to Taxpayers***

It is imperative that you report any change of mailing address to the Assessor's office. The mailing address on the Assessor's records is what is used for all tax bills and other correspondence such as assessment information, assessment appeals information, etc. Not only is this information used by the tax collector by it is used by the land use office, building department, selectman's office and other departments.

We have come across many circumstances where the mailing address on record has been incorrect. These incorrect addresses result in interest penalties and other charges imposed by the Tax Collector's Office due to the claim that no tax bill was received. Non-receipt of a tax bill does not negate your liability to pay the bill including any interest or penalties. Therefore, we are trying to spare our residents any problems which may arise from an incorrect mailing address.

Remember, if you move, your mail is only forwarded by the Post Office for 6 months. In some cases, because the tax bills aren't generated until the following July, your forwarding address has expired leaving the Tax Collector with no current address. According to Connecticut General State Statute we are only obligated to send it to the latest known address. Unfortunately, an incorrect address does not eliminate your liability to pay the bill, including all interest and penalties. If you elect to receive your mail via a post office box, please note that we are unable to access that information through the post office or any other means, so PLEASE inform our office immediately of any change of that type.

Another important point regarding mailing addresses is that if your taxes are paid by your mortgage company we may not have your current mailing address because the bill is forwarded to them for the life of the mortgage. While this may not affect your tax bill during the mortgage period once the mortgage is paid off or ended we may not have your proper address if we are not notified of any change. In addition, it will affect any other correspondence directed to you.

If you are unsure of your current mailing address, you may call the Assessor's Office to verify the address that we have on file.

**Senior Corner** - Important News and Application Deadlines: Homeowner's (Circuit Breaker) & Town of Haddam Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Program - The filing period for these programs is through May 15, 2012.

Additional Veteran's Exemption - The filing period for Additional Veteran's exemptions goes through October 1, 2012. Income requirements range from \$32,300, maximum, for single applicants to \$39,500 maximum for married applicants.

Proof of income is required when filing for the above programs. Income includes all taxable, non-taxable income as well as social security income. Persons who file must be 65 years of age or totally disabled.

*Continued on page*

## Haddam Historical Society Events

**Mother and Daughter Tea** - Join Mrs. Arnold and her daughter Nancy to learn how they prepared foods in their kitchen for an afternoon tea. Guests will enjoy bread, cake, and other sweets along with a cup of tea served in the parlor.

Sunday, May 13 - Mother's Day. 2 - 3:30 p.m. \$15 per mother/daughter; \$5 additional child.

**Annual Meeting and 350th Celebration** - Sunday, May 20, at 2 p.m.

**They Called Me Lizzy...from Slavery to White House** at the Thankful Arnold House



Museum. The true life story of Elizabeth Keckly; her rise from slavery to entrepreneurial freedom then scandal and decline. She was best known as dressmaker to Mary Todd Lincoln and as author of "Behind the Scenes, 30 years a

slave and four years in the White House". Join us on Sunday, May 20 at 2 p.m. when actress Stephanie Jackson performs a dramatic recounting of Lizzy's experiences in a presentation full of twists and turns, bravery

and remarkable resilience. Free and open to the public. The performance will be preceded by a short business meeting of the Haddam Historical Society at 1:45 p.m.

Following the presentation there will be a proclamation honoring Haddam's 350th Anniversary in Field Park and the opening of the 1962 Time Capsule at the Town Hall. Light refreshments will be served in the garden of the Thankful Arnold House. In case of rain, all events will take place at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam, CT.

Characters from Haddam's past will also be roaming the grounds chatting with visitors about their life and times.

**Connecticut Open House Day**

Saturday, June 9 - 12 noon to 4 p.m. Free admission to the Thankful Arnold House and Gardens. Activities and light refreshments.

**Connecticut's Historic Gardens Day** - Sunday, June 24 - 12 noon to 4 p.m. Free admission to the Garden and Museum. Demonstrations and light refreshments.



**A Week in the Life of an Early American Child** - The Haddam Historical Society announces its 7th annual "A Week in the Life of an Early American Child," a program for girls and boys ages 8-12 that will take place Monday, June 25 to Thursday, June 28. Students will travel back in time to the year 1830 and spend the week with Mrs. Thankful Arnold. All activities take place at the Thankful Arnold House Museum in Haddam and include caring for farm animals; carding, spinning and felting wool; making butter; baking; period crafts; playing games, and even dancing! The fee is \$139 for the four days which include three half-day sessions (9 am to noon) June 25-27, and one full day session (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) on June 28. For more information and registration form, go to [www.haddamhistory.org](http://www.haddamhistory.org). For questions, contact Sarah Neal, Education Coordinator, The Haddam Historical Society, at [education@haddamhistory.org](mailto:education@haddamhistory.org) or 860 345-2400.

**Haddam: Time and the River Traveling Exhibit** - Special Exhibit in July and August; A traveling exhibit has been created by the Haddam Historical Society celebrating 350 years of our community's fascinating history. The exhibit features over 200 images on three freestanding kiosks and



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*Continued on next page*

*Historical Society ... continued from previous page*

was funded in part by a generous grant from the Middlesex County Community Foundation. In February and March the exhibit was featured at Brainerd Memorial Library and the Saybrook at Haddam and in April it traveled to the Haddam Senior Center. The display will move to Haddam Killingworth High School in May and to Burr District Elementary School in June.

The kiosks will be the centerpiece of a larger exhibit at the Thankful Arnold House in July and August which will include objects from our collection which have never been on display before. These will include items from Cutaway Harrow and Scovil Hoe, costumes, signs and other artifacts.

For the fall schedule please visit the Society's web site at [www.haddamhistory.org](http://www.haddamhistory.org).

*Assessor ... continued from page 13*

Please call the Assessor's Office at 860-345-8531 to make an appointment or to discuss your qualifications.

**Assessor's Office Closing** - The office will be closed for the annual Assessor's School at UCONN from June 4 through June 8.

**Has the Status of your motor vehicle changed; sold, totaled, moved out of state, junked or donated?** The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) does not notify the Assessor's office of any motor vehicle changes or change of address. We hope the following information will assist our taxpayers in determining the course of action should a motor vehicle problem or change occurs. This will ensure that you receive any credit that may be due. All documentation must be dated and include the vehicle identification number (VIN). **Please Note:** If you transferred your registration plate to another vehicle, you do not need to do anything. As long as you transfer the plate you will receive credit for the old vehicle when you are billed for the new vehicle.

**Two forms of proof are required to remove or prorate a vehicle:** 1. Plate Receipt from DMV indicating that the registration has been cancelled, lost or stolen. In addition to #1, one of the following proofs: A copy of the Bill of Sale - The bill of sale is now on the bottom of the vehicle owner's registration form and transfer information must be recorded on the back of the registration form before being submitted to DMV - therefore the seller's obligation is to provide a copy of the signed registration form along with a copy of the plate receipt to the Assessor.

A copy of the Transfer of Title - The seller must provide the assessor with a copy of the signed title and a copy of the plate receipt.

A copy of the new owner's registration - A copy of the registration from the new owner along with a copy of the plate receipt.

Out of state registration - Proof of residency and a copy of registration showing the date the vehicle was registered outside the state of Connecticut along with a copy of the plate receipt.

Stolen or Totaled vehicle - A statement from the insurance company indicating that the vehicle was stolen and not recovered or totaled or a copy of the accident report. If the owner did not return the plates then he/she must file a lost or stolen plate form with the DMV and provide us with a copy of the plate receipt.


Junked vehicle - A receipt from junkyard and a copy of the plate receipt.

Trade-in vehicle - A copy of the purchase agreement identifying the trade-in vehicle and a copy of the plate receipt.

Donated vehicle - A statement from the organization showing the vehicle identification number (VIN) and a copy of the plate receipt.

If you move you must, by law, report your change of address to the DMV. You must be sure that the tax town code is changed. This ensures that your vehicles will be included on the new tax town's tax list. It is important that when you change your address with the DMV that you change both your driver's license and your motor vehicle registration.

*Marilyn R. Baumann, CCMAI, Assessor  
Tammy Anderson, CCMAI, Assistant Assessor*




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## Brainerd Memorial Library

**Cupcake Class** - Spring Cupcakes with Chef Joanna - Thursday, May 31 at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars! Chef Joanna Siciliano will lead a festive class in spring cupcake decorating. Ms. Siciliano's classes are very popular, very creative and fill up quickly. Make sure your child is included in this class by stopping by the library to pre-register. There is a five dollar fee per child. These cupcakes taste as good as they look! Please register for this event in person at the library.

**In the Land of Blood and Honey (R)** - Wednesday, May 23 at 6:00 p.m. Set against the backdrop of the Bosnian War that tore the Balkan region apart in the 1990s, *In the Land of Blood and Honey* tells the story of Danijel and Ajla, two people from different sides of a brutal ethnic conflict. Danijel, a soldier fighting for the Serbs, and Ajla, a Bosnian held captive in the camp he oversees, knew each other before the war, and could have found love with each other. But as the armed conflict takes hold of their lives, their relationship grows darker, their motives and connection to one another ambiguous, their allegiances uncertain. Stars Zana Marjanovic, Goran Kostic and Rade Serbedzija.

**Born to Be Wild - Documentary (G)** - Saturday, May 26 at 1:00 p.m. *Born to be Wild* is an inspiring story of love,

dedication and the remarkable bond between humans and animals. This film documents orphaned orangutans and elephants and the extraordinary people who rescue and raise them - saving endangered species one life at a time. This film is a heartwarming adventure transporting moviegoers into the lush rainforests of Borneo with world-renowned primatologist Dr. Birute Mary Galdikas, and across the rugged Kenyan savannah with celebrated elephant authority Dame Daphne Sheldrick, as they and their teams rescue, rehabilitate and return these incredible animals back to the wild. Narrated by Academy-Award® winner Morgan Freeman.

**Ken Sweeney Live in Concert at the Library** - Brainerd Memorial Library proudly presents Ken Sweeney, a folk and traditional singer and multi-instrumentalist who performs timeless ballads and fun songs. Come for a family friendly evening on Friday June 8th from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. All proceeds benefit the Library. Call 860 345-2204 for ticket information or stop by the library.

**Touch A Truck Fundraiser** - The Brainerd Memorial Library will have a Touch a Truck fundraiser on Saturday May 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Adults \$2.00, children \$1.00, maximum cost \$6.00 per family. Bring the family to the Higganum Village Green to see the trucks up close and personal. Talk to the truck operators. Learn about how the trucks are used. Baked goods and soft drinks will be available for purchase. Please come out and support the library. Proceeds will benefit the library.

920 Saybrook Road, Haddam, Connecticut 06438  
860 345-2204 [www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org](http://www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org)

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## HADDAM SHAD MUSEUM

The Haddam Shad Museum is open on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ~ April 15 to June 17.

The Museum is the only one of its kind in the United States, and displays the history of shad fishing on the Connecticut River since colonial days. We are glad to open it by appointment at other times for any interested groups. The Museum Directors are familiar with both commercial and sport shad fishing.

Located at 212 Saybrook Road, behind the American Oil Gas Station in Higganum. For information call 860-267-0388. Dr. Joseph Zaiantz, 212 Saybrook Road, Higganum, CT 06441

# HADDAM NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

## WELCOME TO OUR TOWN!

On behalf of *Events* Magazines, welcome to Haddam. Whether you are new to Connecticut or just new to Haddam, you will find wonderful people and places to visit in town. Whether you choose Haddam River Days, the Haddam Neck Fair, or the Youth and Family Services "Pumpkin Run", Haddam has something for everyone.

Below are important phone numbers. Please tear out this page and keep it for future reference.

*Events* Magazines and Essex Printing support local businesses. Please use this guide and "Buy Local" - we do!

### BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

#### CHURCHES

First Cong. Church of Haddam .....860-345-2742  
 Haddam Neck Cong Church .....860-267-4255  
 Haddam Neck Covenant Church  
 .....860-267-2336  
 Higganum Cong. Church .....860-345-4304  
 Higganum United Methodist Church  
 .....860-345-4622  
 St. James Episcopal Church.....860-345-2445  
 St. Peter's Catholic Church .....860-345-8018  
 Valley Bible Church .....860-345-8932

#### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Post 75 .....347-9575  
 Haddam Junior Womens Club .....860-345-1002  
 HK Recreation Department .....860-345-8334  
 Middlesex County Community  
 Foundation .....347-0025

#### LIBRARIES

Brainerd Memorial Library .....860-345-2204

#### MUSEUMS/ATTRACTIONS

Shad Museum .....860-267-0388  
 Thankful Arnold House.....860-345-2500  
 Veterans Museum .....860-345-5105

#### POST OFFICES

Haddam Post Office .....860-345-4770  
 Higganum Post Office.....860-345-2703

#### SCHOOLS

Haddam Elementary .....860-345-4551  
 Burr Elementary .....860-345-4584  
 H-K Middle School .....860-663-1241  
 H-K High School.....860-345-8541  
 Superintendent District 17 .....860-345-4534

#### STATE PARKS

Haddam Meadows State Park.....860-424-3000  
 Haddam Island State Park.....860-424-3000

#### USEFUL NUMBERS

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 East Haddam Senior Center .....860-345-2480  
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#### DENTISTS

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#### WINDOW TREATMENTS

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#### VETERINARIAN

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Want to be listed on the Newcomers' page?  
 Call Betty Martelle at 860.333.7117

## *The Saybrook at Haddam and Safe Harbor Memory Care*



In just two-and-a-half years under a new management team, the Saybrook at Haddam assisted living and retirement community is pleased to announce that we are reaching 95 percent occupancy. We are also filling the apartments we have in Safe Harbor, our new neighborhood for those suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia or other memory-related disorders.

We were able to accomplish this by going back to the basics and building a successful culture of kindness, caring and good humor. For our active residents, our environment allows them to enjoy an independent lifestyle filled with friendship, activities, physical fitness, delicious meals, and a personalized health care plan. We are able to revise and customize each resident's care plan to include assistance with daily living and other tasks, as their needs change.

For our Safe Harbor memory care residents, our specialized care and engaging surroundings enables them to live happily in the moment and "be the best they can be" each day. Our patient

and dedicated staff works in a kind, respectful and caring manner towards each resident, validating the essence of who they are as individuals. In this way, our residents can live with dignity and as much independence as possible.

Each day throughout our community, residents, family, friends and staff come together to create a vibrant environment. We share meals and countless activities such as puzzles, brain teasers, movies, crafts, exercise, support groups, and even some cooking and baking. We meet in the country kitchen, the front parlor, the new sunroom, the dining area, the recreational room, the billiards parlor, the fitness center, our library - and everywhere in between. Our van is able to take residents shopping, to the theater, to medical or dental appointments, or to run other errands.

We are delighted that The Saybrook at Haddam and its Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood have such a positive story to tell, and that we got here by offering "unmatched value" alongside outstanding service.

*Kathy Ryan, Executive Director, The Saybrook at Haddam*  
[www.thesaybrookathaddam.com](http://www.thesaybrookathaddam.com)

## *Sun, Skin Cancer and Aging*

Snookie's tan, skin cancer, and wrinkles, Oh My! Does a suntan still sound desirable? The dangers of the sun and artificial lamps have been known and preached for years, yet some people still consider a tan an indispensable element of beauty. There is no such thing as a safe or healthy tan. In fact, a tan is the skin's response to damage of the skin's structure and the cell's DNA. The skin darkens in response to ultraviolet radiation because it is trying to prevent further DNA damage. The result from years of sun exposure and tanning bed use is premature aging and skin cancer.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, "up to 90% of visible changes commonly attributed to aging are caused by the sun." Sun damage is cumulative. Every day that our skin is exposed to the sun's harmful rays, we accumulate damage (yes, the winter months are included) unless we do our part to protect our skin. What are the signs of sun damage?

- Skin tone becomes uneven · Skin sagging/laxity
- Fine lines and wrinkles · Dull, lackluster or sallow skin
- Rough or bumpy texture · Enlarged pores
- Abnormal skin growths · Dehydrated skin
- Broken blood vessels

We all fear losing our youthful appearance; but if you ask me, skin cancer is even more frightening. Skin cancer has become the most prevalent type of cancer in the United States. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, "One in five Americans will develop skin cancer in the course of a lifetime." Skin cancer may be the most common form of cancer, but it is also the most preventable.

Prevention is much easier than correction! A sunscreen that contains either zinc oxide or titanium dioxide should be a part of everyone's daily routine. Zinc oxide and titanium dioxide protect the skin from UVA and UVB rays. Be sure to reapply sunscreen every two hours when you are outdoors or more frequently if you are sweating or doing water activities. Other ways to protect the skin from ultraviolet radiation include:

- Avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Seek shade whenever possible
- Avoid tanning beds at all costs
- Wear a hat, sunglasses, and UV protective clothing
- Apply a topical antioxidant such as Vitamin C, Resveratrol, or Aloe Vera. Antioxidants boost your sun protection factor and are also anti-aging.

A suntan is anything but healthy. Let's all embrace our natural skin color and start a new trend; a healthy skin trend! See our ad on page 20.

*Stephanie Johnson*

[Stephanie Johnson is the owner and aesthetician of Karma Skincare Studio, in Chester, Connecticut. Stephanie has over 10 years clinical and professional experience in the aesthetics industry, and is passionate about the science of skincare and helping people feel beautiful in their own skin. For more information on corrective and preventative skincare services call 860-510-9323 or visit [www.karmaskincarestudio.com](http://www.karmaskincarestudio.com)]



## Times May Be Tough, But Getting Help is Not



Dial 2-1-1 to deal with a problem or crisis, get information, or discover options.

Every hour of every day, Connecticut residents can dial 2-1-1 and be connected to essential health and human services resources in their

town. A caller to 2-1-1 will speak with a highly trained, degreed call specialist. The call is completely free of charge. In addition to dialing 2-1-1, the database can be accessed online at [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org).

2-1-1 also handles suicide and crisis calls and is fully accredited by the American Association of Suicidology.

In 2011, United Way 2-1-1 received 14,027 calls from Middlesex County which resulted in 18,714 requests for service. This marks a 17% increase in calls over the previous year. Of those calls, 352 were generated from Haddam.

United Way 2-1-1 is a partnership between the State of Connecticut and all local Connecticut United Ways, including Middlesex United Way. The program began in 1976 and by the mid-eighties, gained national recognition as a model system. In 1999, Connecticut became the first state in the country to use 2-1-1 statewide. Currently, about 86% of the U.S. population has access to a 2-1-1 service. In many communities, 2-1-1 has been used in the aftermath of a disaster or crisis, becoming a critical communications center that residents can contact for up-to-date information on where to get help.

Middlesex United Way is advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on education, income, health and housing - the building blocks for a good quality of life. United Way recruits people and organizations that bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. You are invited to be part of the change by giving, advocating and volunteering. That's what it means to Live United.

*[Middlesex United Way is a locally-based organization serving the towns of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook]*

### Smoke Detectors Available

Residents who need a smoke detector or do not have the funds to purchase new batteries for their existing detectors can contact Candy Casale at the Haddam Public Health office.

*Haddam Volunteer Fire Company*  
[www.haddamfire.com](http://www.haddamfire.com)

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