

Haddam



Events

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Volume 4 • Quarter 3 • 2011

A wide-angle photograph of a river or lake. The water is dark and reflects the sky. In the middle ground, a dense line of trees with green and yellow foliage stretches across the horizon. A small green buoy is visible in the water. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

Inside:
Haddam River Days
HK Rec's Summer & Fall Programs
Shadow the Fire Dept's Dalmatian
Brainerd Library History
and more!



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First Selectman's Corner

Happy New Year! I know that sounds out of place during this time of year, but for those of us in the municipality business who begin our fiscal calendar on July 1st, it is a salutation we truly appreciate. To us, the day is as sacred as January 1st is to the rest of the popular world, and rolls into our lives with the same reflections and expectations that would accompany the arrival of any new year, except of course for the fanfare of noisemakers, party hats, and a bottle of good champagne. To us, there is no time for loud celebrations, office parties, or dinners with friends. There is no cause for resolutions of grandeur or fleeting epiphanies, no need for proclamations, no desire to dwell on short-lived victories or crushing defeats. There is only a small, passing frame of time when a door closes behind us and a window opens anew.

Yet... like it or not... the nagging urge to take stock of our surroundings and measure the future with fresh eyes is as uncontrollable as smiling at a new-born baby and as natural as breathing deeply to greet the crisp morning air. Instinct is a wonderful thing, and over the years I have come to respect its authority, so I will not argue with it today.

My initial term as First Selectman of the Town of Haddam will shortly come to a close. It is hard to believe that almost two years have passed so quickly. Although I don't feel any older, occasionally an unfriendly mirror reminds me that indeed, the stress of the office has taken a bit of a toll. I try to shake off the message because I know that despite what feels like good progress thus far, we as a town still have a long way to go, and the job is not yet finished.

When I first took office, the psyche of the town, like many small towns concerned with stagnation caused by a failing economy and a weak infrastructure was naturally fragile. The political arena was in disarray, basic community services needed replenishing, and a general aura of glumness seemed to weigh heavily in the air like an unspoken family secret. I won't deny that the overall conditions made it a lot easier for a positive guy like me with a diplomatic nature and some solid administrative experience to convince the voters to give me a chance to help turn things around. I am grateful that they did, and if they allow me another term to continue the work we have begun, I will do my best to serve with the same degree of enthusiasm, creativity, and transparency as I have over the past two years.

With those thoughts in mind, let's take a look at where we have been, and where I believe we need to go to conquer the challenges that still lie ahead. When I first began my term, I promised to attack the following issues aggressively.

- 1) The potential loss of our Transfer Station
- 2) Water contamination in Tylerville
- 3) The need for sewers in Higganum Village
- 4) The expansion of basic shopping and community services
- 5) A more efficient and accountable town administration
- 6) The need to improve fiscal efficiency

- 7) Infrastructure improvements
- 8) A Town Charter review for needed changes
- 9) The implementation of a code of ethics
- 10) Economic Development
- 11) Regional Synergism with other towns.
- 12) The need to develop a closer relationship with State legislators.



Thankfully, over the last two years we have been able to make some significant progress.

1) If a wounded animal suddenly appears at your doorstep and looks helplessly into your eyes with enough intensity to give you the shivers, most of us would either slam the door, put it out of its misery, or nourish it back to health and give it a new life. I'm proud to say that with regard to this wounded old hound we call a Transfer Station, I chose to do the latter. After years of battling the problem of either finding a new home or turning to a curb side pickup that would de-beautify the town and harm our fragile roads; my team and I were finally able to conclude an arrangement with the

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Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 1

Department of Environmental Protection to extend our consent orders and with the Department of Transportation to allow us to cross the rail tracks to access a town owned parcel that will eventually become the home for our new Transfer Station. A town referendum overwhelming carried the proposal, approving an ordinance to bond the construction. By the end of September, there is a good chance we will already have a shovel in the ground. The new station is targeted for a 7/1/12 opening. Until then, the old station will remain open for the residents to use.

2) Although good planning and hard work has enabled a few businesses to open and flourish with appropriate well-managed water in the Tylerville business district, a significant portion of the area still suffers from years of contamination / clean-up / neglect. Despite the courageous voices and efforts from several private and public groups, the Department of Environmental Protection, either because it was understaffed or overwhelmed, chose not to aggressively pursue the problem. With the help of the Citizens for Clean Groundwater, the Chatham Health District, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Haddam Town Planner, we have been able to move the problem to another dimension, one that with continued effort could possibly resolve the problem soon. We have secured a grant to study the possibility of bringing a pipeline in from Chester and have completed an engineering design to pursue that route if necessary. We have also received a significant monetary commitment from the State toward the financing of that plan should it go forward. The commitment we are seeking, however, is for the State to step to the table with either the entire funding of such a project or with an aggressive effort to use their facilities to remedy the problem once and for all. With the help of several legislators, we are now closer than ever to achieving one of those alternatives.

3) I have a picture of the Higganum Village on my wall at the office that images the intersection of routes 81 and 154 the way it was fifty years ago. Despite a few sidewalks and a slightly different traffic pattern, I'm sad to say that you could take another photograph of the same location today and it wouldn't appear much different. Even with some great planning, the creation of Village regulations, and several studies, development to bring in

tax revenue relief and to enhance the quality of life for our citizens has been hampered by the lack of adequate sewage in the village. Thanks to the effort of our Economic Development Commission, we have brought some alternatives into focus. At this time, we are applying for a grant that will help us to prepare an engineering design for a system that can be implemented when development opportunities dictate it is both feasible and necessary, hopefully in the near future. In the meanwhile, we continue to promote economic development that can endure within the existing infrastructure and that will have the staying power to flourish as we create a stronger base.

4) Two years ago, many residents had to drive to Middletown, Chester, Deep River, Essex, or even Old Saybrook to fulfill their basic grocery or pharmaceutical needs. Today, with the help of concerned town officials and the steady influence of our Economic Development Commission, we now have two new food markets, a family oriented pharmacy, a viable farmers market, and an about-to-be-expanded spirits and beverage store. In addition, our town now also houses a professional coffee grinder and will soon be welcoming another breakfast / fast food restaurant. We also expect a few of the local businesses that have been here for a while to expand to provide more options for our citizens. This all is a good start, but there is still much to do. As the town continues to diversify, so will the demands for appropriate services.

5) There are some who believe that working in a town hall setting is a thankless job. Let's face it, when a citizen pays a visit to the town hall it is usually not because they want to be there. Paying taxes during a time when the assessor says your house is worth one amount and the bank, insurance company, real estate agent, and renovation contractor all have their own opinions isn't much fun. Buying a dump pass when you know there are people who are going to try to use the transfer station for free is annoying. Getting a building permit for a minor job that a twelve year old can do in their sleep is aggravating. Trying to sort through land use or town clerk archives is about as frustrating as trying to make a cell phone call when the local service keeps cutting out. And yes, trying to get quality time from an elected official when their attention seems to be more focused on the mounds of paper in front of them rather than on

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Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 2

you can be exasperating. So when a town hall employee asks a citizen how his or her day is going, they have to be ready for a straight answer. For the most part, after years of exposure, they are, but remaining positive when faced with problems requires a constant understanding of what your role as a town employee is really all about. To help us all remember that our main function is to serve and assist, we have implemented a series of communication and education programs. We now have quarterly department head meetings to address pesky, ongoing problems and issues. We have established a cross training system that enables us to be less dependent on temporary help during vacations and periods of illness. We have changed the hours of operation to expand the work week by two hours and are staffing all critical public need departments through the lunch hour period. We have re-implemented a feedback system so that the public can give us immediate input on our performance, and looking to the future, we have created an intern program to help develop high school students who are considering making public service a focus for a career. At some point when research and development funds become more accessible, we plan on expanding the applications on our web site.

6) The 2011-2012 town operational budget was cut drastically in anticipation of less tax and State revenue and a continued increase in educational expenditures. As a result, all spending will remain on an 'essential only' basis. In addition, all salaries and stipends have been frozen for the year. Consulting contracts, unless absolutely essential have been either cut or eliminated. In short, until the revenue stream is improved, the town operational budget will be severely limited. It is our hope that as the economy strengthens and gives way to increased tax revenue through growth and economic development opportunities, we will be able to re-invest in our financial future.

7) Haddam, like most forward-thinking towns with infrastructure needs, has developed a five year Capital Plan that enables us to save for needed non-recurring projects. A similar fund has also been created for major anticipated public works projects. Because of both vehicles, we have been able to address several self-funded projects this year without impacting the operational budget. This was especially important this year when the horrendous winter took its toll on our public works budget. Although we have been more frugal in saving for projects in this year's budget, we have still maintained our focus on future needs. Major infrastructure issues that cannot be facilitated by these plans will be addressed on an individual basis and funded with the help of grants, bonding arrangements, special state appropriations, or public / private investment.

8) The town charter has not been revised since 2002. Think about that for a moment. Since that time your toddler has become a teenager, technological advances have sped up our lives, marriages have come and gone, good men and women

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Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 3

have died in defense of freedom, and the price of gas... well... let's not go there. The point is our lives have changed. The old rules don't apply anymore without a clear understanding of our needs and a simple plan to satisfy them. The present charter offers neither. Its language is ambiguous, its intent clouded, and its requirements unrealistic. Several boards have been boxing out their ideas for charter changes with the Board of Finance leading the pack. We will shortly be in a good position to select a committee to review their progress, make their own suggestions, and create a fluid document that can be brought to the town for consideration and an ultimate vote. Now, as simple as that sounds, don't be misled; the selection of a committee will not be easy. Objectivity, commitment, the absence of any conflict of interest, and a complete understanding of the town's needs, both present and future, will be necessary requirements to get the job done right. I ask all who read this, if you feel you can contribute to this essential undertaking, please contact me.

9) The following is an excerpt from a recent study done by the State to address the urgent need for ethics reform.

"Municipal ethics in Connecticut has been a festering problem. Although ethics scandals in the state's larger cities attract attention, it is the smaller, lesser known ethics problems in Connecticut's small towns that erode confidence in local government. Whether these are cases of conflicts of interest or incidents of impropriety (such as using an office for private gain), such incidents do not go unnoticed by a town's residents. Should a town have no ethics code, there is no recourse (with the exception of Election Day) for citizens who wish to hold their elected officials and board members accountable. As state budget cuts force fiscal decisions and state mandates demand more local accountability, Connecticut cities and towns are required to shoulder more responsibilities. Across the state, municipalities have had to make difficult decisions regarding environmental issues, commercial and residential expansion, education and local budgets. Any impropriety undermines not only the public trust, but the wisdom and integrity of all decisions made within the town. A local scandal can cripple a municipality, pitting neighbor against neighbor, fueling bitter politics and ultimately wasting precious time and money."

For these reasons, it is my hope that the Town of Haddam

will implement a code of ethics before the end of my first administration. A committee has been formed and will shortly conclude their work. We expect the final draft to reflect a document that will positively assist our decision making officials to do their jobs properly by providing them the educational and support tools to avoid conflicts of interest whether perceived or real. We want the document to be a mirror, not a hammer, but at the same time, one that promotes and insists on accountability and transparency.

10) If you want a mind-bending exercise, try reading the definition of "Economic Development" sometime. Capturing the true meaning of the term is like trying to grab a greased pig at an agricultural fair. There is only one way to throw a rope on this varmint, and that is to step back, study it, try to anticipate its moves, figure out a way that you can make it work for you, then slowly, carefully and then decisively put your plan into action. There are one hundred and sixty-nine towns in Connecticut and we all have a plan of conservation and development, partly because the State mandates us to do so, but also because it is the right thing to do. It is impossible to embark on a development plan without a true and efficient balance of conservation needs, as it is impossible to protect the conservation assets without the economic where-with-all to do so. The core to an effective plan depends greatly on the resources that are available, and every town is different in that regard. In Haddam, we have forty-four square miles to work with; of that, forty-nine percent is open space and cannot be developed. Most of the twenty-two or so square miles left, is zoned residential, but much of that is unusable because of topography or wetlands issues. Only one percent is zoned commercial and less than one percent is zoned for industrial use. Our resources for economic development, therefore, are limited. When you add an infrastructure that has been weakened by age and spotted contamination, the resources become 'extremely' limited. Hence, seeking out methods to improve the infrastructure to support economic development that is consistent with the town's needs is vital to our future.

To do this, we need to become creative and remain vigilant to try to capture opportunities that will enable us to maximize the potential to both heal our wounds and improve our way of life. If we don't plan for the future, the past will swallow our energy like algae in a stagnant pond.

11) Many of the small towns in our region are in the same boat. A few have sails and perhaps a bigger engine, but when it comes down to the bare bones, we all share the same fear... 'survival.' If that sounds dramatic, I'm sorry, but it's true. The survival I speak of may not be physical in nature; there will probably always be a Deep River, Chester, East Haddam, and God willing Haddam, but what will they be like? The answer depends on the commitments we make today, the commitments we make today depends on our dream of the future, our dream of the future depends on our ability to fortify our foundation, and it all hinges on being able to deal with what

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sometimes seems like overwhelming pressures from a position of strength. Simply put, we can't do it alone. Now let's be clear; despite the populist move from the State to force regionalism on the small towns to condense services and reduce costs, in many cases just the opposite occurs. We towns may be in the same boat, but our weight is not the same, nor is our disposition for the seating preferences. There are risks to forced regionalism, the loss of identity being only one. We all cherish our independence and individual freedoms; both become targets in a truly regional society.

There are benefits, however, to combining our separate resources so that we can speak as one, but we must be careful not to get swallowed up by the voices that do not represent our best interests. To me synergism is the answer to remedying that fear. Finding the ideas, hopes, dreams and strengths that are shared by our valley sister towns, and working with them to create a collective energy to respond is much more effective than just sharing our weaknesses to avoid extinction. Over the past two years, I have worked hard to do just that, and I am pleased to say that a great deal of progress is being made toward achieving shared opportunities with several other towns in the region.

12) Most of the problems that face Haddam today are not political in nature, so it is very important that we do not allow political differences to get in the way of resolving those problems. It is also very important to be sure that the legislators who represent us in Hartford and in Washington understand that as well. To achieve this, we have created a form of formal and informal dialogue that constantly reinforces the needs of the town. There is not a single issue that is not on the plate of all our legislators. We have received financial, structural and moral support in addressing many of these issues, such as the need to strengthen our infrastructure, to correct environmental problems, and to establish a forward-moving dialogue with state agencies to resolve long lasting matters. I have established a visible presence in many government organizations, and have participated in legislative and policy making committees to help solidify our interests. I also serve on several boards whose organizations have a direct effect on our future. In short, we are beginning to see the payoff to a long planting season, just when we need it the most.

As we bid goodbye to the old year and welcome in the new, I do so with a feeling of enthusiasm and hope, grateful for the achievements we have been able to make, respectful and appreciative to those who helped in our progress, and aroused about the challenges that lie ahead. I do so also armed with the knowledge that we can make a difference if we continue to work together with the same discipline and focus that has enabled us to isolate, attack and conquer some of the complex and time-worn problems that faced us when we first began this journey together. Here's to the New Year... Cheers!

*Respectfully,
Paul DeStefano*



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Board of Assessment Appeals

In September, the Board of Assessment Appeals will hold hearings to give those of you who disagree with the town's assessment of a motor vehicle an opportunity to challenge the assessment.

The board will meet on Thursday, September 13 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the old Town Hall, 30 Field Park Rd., Haddam.

To make an appointment, call or visit the Assessor's office in the Town Office Building.

What you will need to bring to the hearing: (1) Your tax bill; (2) The motor vehicle for our inspection, if possible; (3) If you can't bring the vehicle, bring photos that clearly show the condition of the vehicle; (4) Supporting evidence, such as a written estimate of value and/or retail sales price listings for similar vehicles.

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Haddam River Days ... Food, Fun & Fireworks



The Haddam River Days Committee invites you to join in the fun as we bring you the 14th year of Haddam River Days on September 9th and 10th. Our volunteer committee has been planning and organizing all year long to make our events possible. Members of the committee are: Dawn Tarbetsky, Alice Zanelli, Lori Marica Daniels, Tina Fagan, John Fernandes, Mike Reynolds, Ray Whitehead, Joe Wilhelm, Paul Crete, Cecilia Hemsley, and Scott & Jackie Miller.

Friday evening, September 9th bring your blanket or lawn chair and head to the Gazebo on the Higganum Green for a free concert featuring Shoreline Connection. Hot Dogs and refreshments will be sold. There will be no rain date or change of venue in the event of rain.

Saturday, September 10th activities begin at noon at the Haddam Meadows State Park. Admission is free. There are many activities for all ages. Have your child fingerprinted in the Amber Alert Tent, enjoy the reptile show, cheer on the participants of the mid-evil demonstrations, and check out the first airplane engine made by Pratt & Whitney brought to us by Connecticut Corsair. Learn what to do in case of fire in the Smoke Bus and take a seat in the D.A.R.E. car. Entertainment

will be ongoing for most of the day. The Family Tent, which is geared towards younger children returns with lots of free activities and crafts throughout the day. This tent encourages your child to use their creativity and imaginations. Games will also be played.

Be sure to come hungry as the Taste of Haddam will have something for all. Hot dogs, hamburgers, roast beef sandwiches, fried dough, french fries, kettle corn, ice cream and more will be on hand for your taste buds to try!

Support local crafters and artisans as they sell their wares and check out the many tag salers too. Local organizations will have informational booths.

At dusk, all eyes will be looking to the sky near the Connecticut River for a spectacular fireworks display. Admission is free, however we gladly accept donations upon entering the Haddam Meadows.

From planning, to set up and clean up - there is so much that goes on behind the scenes to make our events possible. For this reason, the committee is always looking to community members to join our committee. We also need "just for the day" volunteers. Please consider donating some time for our fun family events. You may contact Dawn Tarbetsky at 860-345-2211. We appreciate any time you can give to our committee.

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From the Assessor's Office

Important Dates to Remember

Active Members of the U.S. Armed Forces - Any active member of the United States Armed Forces (defined as United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force and any reserve component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard) is eligible for the exemption of one motor vehicle. Applications for the exemption must be completed annually and forwarded to the Assessor's office not later than the December 31st following the date on which property tax is due in the town in which the motor vehicle is registered. In other words for the 2010 Grand List year the deadline is December 31, 2012. The forms are available in the Assessor's office.

Veterans are reminded to file their Honorable Discharge with the Town Clerk's office on or before October 1, 2011. Those veterans who have already submitted their DD214 need not file again. Veterans who have a disability rating must file the Veteran's Administration Disability letter with the Assessor's office. The Connecticut General Statute 12-81 (20) has been amended. The filing of the letter has been changed from an annual filing "up to age 65" to a one time filing unless the disability rating has changed.

If an individual's disability rating is not changed, no proof shall be required for succeeding assessment years once the exemption is granted.

If the service-connected disability is modified the proof of the new disability rating must be submitted to the Assessor's office so that the exemption can be amended.

Exemption forms/letters for the Totally Disabled and for the Blind must be filed on or before October 1, 2011.

Additional Veteran's Exemption - The filing period for Additional Veteran's exemptions is February 1, 2011 to October 1, 2011. The exemptions for income qualifying applicants will be based on the income maximums as follows: the maximum income for single applicants will be \$32,300 and the maximum for married applicants will be \$39,500.

Exemption forms for the Totally Disabled and for the Blind are available in the Assessor's Office.

Farm, Forest or Open Space - New applications for

property owners claiming land as Farm or Forest must be filed with the Assessor's Office before October 31, 2010. The certificate from the Forestry Department must be dated on or before October 1, 2011.

All forms for the above programs are available in the Assessor's office.

Trade Name Certificates - All new businesses in the Town of Haddam:

According to the Connecticut General State Statutes under section 35-1, no person or persons shall conduct or transact business under any name other than the real name of the person or persons conducting business in the Town of Haddam unless a Trade Name Certificate has been filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

Business Personal Property Declarations - Personal Property Declarations will be mailed from the Assessor's office sometime during the last two weeks of September.

Notice is hereby given to all persons liable to pay Personal Property taxes in the Town of Haddam that they must return to the Assessor's office, on or before the first day of November 2011, their personal property list (declaration). Failure to declare will force the Assessor to apply an arbitrary assessment and a 25% penalty. The personal property declaration shall include all furniture, fixtures, equipment and machinery of all commercial and industrial businesses; unregistered motor vehicles, snowmobiles, farm machinery and horses. Manufacturing Machinery Exemption Applications must also be filed at this time. Anyone not receiving a personal property declaration should contact the Assessor's office. Even though a declaration was not received, it does not preclude you from filing.

Please Note: If you do not receive a personal property declaration and you are a resident business in the town of Haddam it is your responsibility according to Connecticut State Statutes to file one. Failure to declare will force the Assessor to apply an arbitrary assessment and a 25% penalty.

If you have received a personal property declaration and will

Continued on page 11



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Brainerd Library History

Patrons frequently ask questions about the history of the Brainerd Memorial Library. Below is a chronology of important events from library history. For future reference, the chronology will be available on the library web site www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org.

1793 – Haddam had its first library company. It was closed in 1808.

1818 – Library Association of Haddam was formed.

1820 – The Library Association was divided into two libraries, each with their own librarian. They were located at the northern and southern ends of the Middlesex turnpike in Haddam.

1887 – The Library Association catalogue rules called for a \$1.00 fee to become a subscriber for 1 year. Subscribers could borrow 2 books for 2 weeks. Overdue fines were 1 cent a day and if books were lost or returned in poor condition the subscriber had to replace them.

1896 – The Haddam Library Association was restarted. The librarian was Mrs. Mary Emma Brainerd. The library had around 460 books. Its collection had around 2000 books when it was turned over to the new library.

1906 – The Brainerd Memorial Library Association was formed. Judge Ephraim P. Arnold donated the land where the current library stands and the building was presented by Cyprian Strong Brainerd, Jr. Cyprian Strong Brainerd truly believed in the library. In his remarks at the dedication of the new library he declared, "The building is but the shell which holds the pearl." The construction of the library took two years.

1908 – The original, front section of the current library was designed by McLean and Wright of Boston and was dedicated on October 13.

1940's – The library was in a fairly secure financial position.

1957 – The library had \$114,930 in its investment funds. The library was one of a few in Connecticut that ran on its own funding (private bequests and gifts) from its founding until 1976, when it obtained its first appropriation from the town.

1958 – The library's 50th anniversary. The collection consisted of 13,000 volumes, circulation was 9,000 and there were 900 registered borrowers.

1960 – The dogwood trees in front of the library were planted.

1962 – The reading area was renovated for Haddam's Tercentenary Celebration.

1969 – The library purchased a 30-foot wide strip of land from the Porter's, extending its holdings to the north and east.

1970 – The parking lot was started. It was completed in 1971.

1971 – City Savings Bank donated a Book Drop.

1977-78 – A blizzard caused extensive damage to the main floor area. The roof needed to be replaced. A temporary loan was secured.

1979 – \$26,300 was appropriated to pay for the roof.

1983 – The library's 75th anniversary. It is mentioned in a Hartford Courant article that the library had served as an unofficial museum for the town's history, a theater for local productions and an art gallery. (The library's historical material was given to the Haddam Historical Society when they were founded.)

1986 – The library had grown to 18,000 volumes. The library continued growing and was running out of space to hold its collections and provide modern services to the people of Haddam.

1993 – The Board of Trustees decided to build an addition. In the summer, the capital campaign to raise funds began. The cost of the project was around \$1.05 million. \$700,000 needed to be raised to obtain a state grant of \$350,000. The architects were King and Tuthill.

1994 – The library sold a significant 18th century painting by Sibyl Huntington May at Sotheby's auction for \$130,000. A copy of the painting is over the front desk area today.

1996 – The new addition was completed. It doubled the size of the building from 4,114 to 10,594 square feet.

2004 – The materials in the history room were cataloged and the room was restored.

2006 – The rotunda was restored with funds donated by the generous people of Haddam.

2010 – A new handicap access ramp was built.

Today the library is a beautiful light filled structure, which houses over 32,000 books, including bestsellers, fiction and non fiction, reference materials, local history and genealogical materials, DVDs, videos, CDs, audiobooks, large print books, magazines, newspapers, museum passes, downloadable audiobooks, downloadable e-books, Spanish language materials, provides access to computer databases on its web site, offers many programs, circulated 62,924 items and has 5,480 registered borrowers.

We invite and encourage you to visit and use the library. Come in with identification to sign up for a library card. Check out some of our great materials. The library is really a beautiful building architecturally both inside and out. It is well worth a visit. We have many wonderful staff members and volunteers ready and willing to assist you. We hope to see you soon.

*The Next Deadline for
Haddam Events is
September 23.*

Assessor's Office ... continued from page 9

not be conducting any business in Haddam as of October 1, 2011 you must complete the Affidavit on the front page of the declaration and return it to the Assessor's office prior to November 1, 2011. This signed affidavit is mandatory as proof to allow the Assessor to remove you from the Grand List. If the documentation is not received it will force the Assessor to apply an arbitrary assessment and a 25% penalty.

Commercial Vehicle Exemptions (M-65 MV) - Certain newly registered (never registered in any state or jurisdiction prior to August 1, 2009, but must be registered in Connecticut on or after that date) commercial trucks, truck tractor and semi-trailers in excess of 26,000 pounds, gross vehicle weight rating, and used exclusively 100% of the time for the interstate or intrastate transportation of freight for hire, may be exempt as outlined in 12-81(74) of the Connecticut General statutes. Guidelines, information and applications are available in the Assessor's office. Please note that the application deadline is November 1, 2011.

If you need any assistance on any of the above deadlines or programs, we would be happy to assist you. Please call our office at 860-345-8531.

Marilyn R. Baumann, CCMail, Assessor
 Tammy Anderson, CCMail, Assistant Assessor

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Dalmatians in the Fire Service - From Shadow's Point of View



Shadow in Eastham, MA at 5 weeks old

My first memories of being a Fire Dog in Haddam were when I first moved here, from the comfort and security of being with my breeder, litter mates, and my mom on Cape Cod. It was October of 2001, right after the terrible events of 9/11/01. I had no idea what coming to Connecticut to be with a new family would mean. My first visit to the fire house was overwhelming. I saw trucks that looked bigger than mountains to me, and had my photograph taken on while sitting on the fender of the tanker.



Shadow's first visit to the Haddam Fire Station #1 while sitting on fender of Tanker 2-13

I wasn't sure what the Fire Department was all about, but I found myself being brought there on a regular basis. I didn't know what I was supposed to do, but I quickly found out a lot of the things I shouldn't do such as chewing on fire gloves, trying to take people's food without permission, and leaving the final disposition of said food in hiding places around the fire house. Everyone was trying out new names on me – something very special, indeed. They considered all the traditional names of a fire house Dalmatian – Spot, Sparky and Smokey to name a few, but while watching the movie *Back Draft*, one Firefighter suggested "Shadow." Shadow was the nickname for Robert De Niro's character in the movie. He played a fire inspector who got to the bottom of a number of arson fires, and was one of the most positive influences on the fire service in Chicago where the movie was based.

From that day forward, I have been known as Shadow. Now it doesn't help that from time to time I can be scared of my own shadow, but that is another reason why my name fits me so well.

I'm often asked why there are Dalmatians in fire houses. Historically, Dalmatians have been coach dogs, trained to run alongside or in-between horses protecting them from other dogs or animals while they pulled coaches. The fire service was no different, having coach dogs escort the horses that pulled carriage pumpers to fires. When the internal combustion engine replaced the horses, the fire service decided that the horses would go but they'd keep the Dalmatians around.

Today we are primarily a public relations tool. We march in parades, we ride on fire trucks, we visit schools and we welcome visiting groups to our fire stations.

Early in my career at the Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. I had



Veteran's Day

to go to work the second month I was here to celebrate Veteran's Day. I was barely big enough to walk, so I was carried to the service.

I've grown up a lot since that time, and have had my photograph taken in many parades, with hundreds of children, on many trips to other fire departments. In January I was shown on two evening news stations running in a memorial 5K Road Race for East Hartford Police Officer

Brian Aselton. That run was especially satisfying as there were a total of 4 dogs running - me and 3 Police Dogs. I beat two of the Police K9s, and came in within 20 feet of the 3rd - all of them about half my age! It was cold, though; we Dalmatians have very thin coats. I happen to like my coat and so must others, because sometimes when I'm really bad, people tell me they are going to send my coat to Cruella DeVille to keep her warm - not sure what that's all about, some movie called "101 Dalmatians."

Someone asked me recently what I enjoy doing the most at the Fire Department. I think it's a close tie between riding on equipment responding to emergencies and working the lines of kids waiting to see Santa Claus at the annual Children's Christmas Party.

There's nothing like sitting high up in a fire engine, or hanging your head out of the window with the lights on and siren blazing looking at other dogs that are not part of the proud tradition in the fire service. I once saw a commercial of two Dalmatian dog brothers, one who went to work for Anheuser-Busch riding on a beer wagon, and his brother who worked on a busy fire engine. The Anheuser dog no doubt gets photographed all the time, but there is nothing in life more noble than helping the guys and gals who save lives and property when they need me the most. When they're down after a tough run, I bring a smile to their faces. When they need a laugh, I do something stupid.

I was also asked if all the sounds bother my sensitive dog ears – sirens, Claxton horns inside the firehouse, radio tones – they don't. In fact, I have learned several of the tones that are meaningful to me. At 12:00 noon each day, the Valley Shore Emergency Communications center sets off a tone that tests sirens in several towns. Now, mind you, 12:00 may not mean much to some fire dogs, but I get fed lunch right at noon. So, if I happen to be taking a nap or some how lose track of time and I hear the noon time tones over the radio, I get real excited.

Continued on next page

Shadow ... continued from previous page

At 6:15pm each night, our own tones are tested. I often will let loose with a native dog howl just to let everyone know that I hear the tones, and that they are working well.



Running on the treadmill to stay in shape

Fire Fighters must stay in good physical shape to be able to better handle the stress put on their bodies by going from zero to 100 at a moment's notice. Volunteers can be home relaxing, then 10 minutes later be at the scene of an emergency, wearing personal protective gear weighing more than 100 pounds and being required to make a rescue with a Hurst Tool or fire hose. I help by setting the workout standards. While many do not run or work out as much as they should, I probably have more miles on the tread mill in our fitness room than most anyone else. I lead by example.

Fire Fighters must stay in good physical shape to be able to better handle the stress put on their bodies by going from zero to 100 at a moment's notice. Volunteers can be home relaxing, then 10 minutes later be

I would really like to encourage anyone who might consider becoming a member of the Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. to contact us. If you want to know just how wonderful it is to be part of this extended family, I'd love to talk to you. We have a proud history of providing superior emergency services to the Town of Haddam. There is a strong commitment to help each other in their greatest time of need. We as a team have the courage to do what we have to in order to save lives and property of our neighbors in town and when helping surrounding towns.

So when someone asks you why fire houses have Dalmatians, you can tell them that you heard it from me, Shadow. We're here to help the thousands of Firefighters across the country, career and volunteer, preserve the proud tradition as the majestic and faithful mascot.

More information on the activities of the Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. and ways you can get involved can be found on www.HaddamFire.com, our website. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Bob Norton, Haddam Volunteer Fire Co. Public Information Liaison at 860-638-8082.



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Haddam Town Clerk

Office Hours: Monday thru Wednesday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Thursday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to noon. Phone (860)345-8531 Ann ext. 212, Ann R. ext. 211 Fax (860) 345-3730.

Email: Ann Huffstetler at townclerk@haddam.org.
Ann Riebold at townclerkast@haddam.org.

HADDAM TRANSFER STATION

Listed below are all the items included in the Electronics recycling now accepted at the Haddam Transfer Station during regular hours. Accepted items include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Televisions
- Computer monitors
- Computers and laptops
- Printers and multifunction devices
- Computer peripherals (keyboards, mice, and cables)
- Audio/Visual equipment (VCRs, DVDs, CD players)
- Gaming systems
- Digital cameras and camcorders
- Cell phones and PDAs
- Consumer electronics
- Copiers
- Electronic typewriters
- Fax machines
- Microwave ovens
- Networking equipment (routers, switches, hubs, etc.)
- Projection equipment
- Scanners
- Servers and server racks
- Small electronic appliances
- Small electronic toys
- Telephones and telephone equipment
- UPS (uninterrupted power supply) batteries
- Computer wire and cable
- Computer drives and storage devices (floppy drives, CD ROMs, hard drives)
- Power supplies
- Circuit boards

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. To insure that there is a clear understanding of the rules, please read below:

Permit must be clearly displayed and adhered to the driver's side window shield. Registration must be written on the permit itself. Any vehicles 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. \$30.00 payment. 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.

DOG OWNERS - REMINDER

If you have forgotten, please be sure to pay your DOG LICENSE fee 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. 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.

SPORTSMEN - 2011 Sports Licenses are available. Additional information regarding regulations, permits, conservation education/firearms safety courses are available on line at <http://www.dep.state.ct.us>. DEP 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, DEP office or other participating 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#. 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 DEP Licensing and Revenue at (860) 424-3105.

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

State of Connecticut: the Connecticut license must be obtained in the town which the marriage will take place.

Continued on next page

Town Clerk ... continued from previous page

You will be asked to show your driver's license, or other form of legal identification. There is no waiting period the marriage many take place at the time the license is issued. The marriage must take place within 65 days of issuance of the license. The partners do not need to appear at the same time but both must come in and sign the license in person. Cost for a marriage license is \$30.00. The cost for a certified copy of the license is \$20.00.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ~ TOWN OF HADDAM

Alexy, Christopher
392 Saybrook Road, Higganum 345-3009

Andrews, Eric J
384 Quarry Hill Rd, Haddam Neck 267-8327

Barone, Bonye Wolf
107 McTigh Road, Higganum 345-2524

Best, Paul
184 Old County Road, Higganum 345-7997

Burr, Howard J.
75 Morris Road, Higganum 345-3895

Clowes, Everett S.
373 Saybrook Road, Higganum 345-4860

Connors, William J.
59 East Shore Drive, Higganum 345-2628

Crum, Samuel D. Jr
275 Saybrook Road, Higganum 345-2389

Daluz, Sylvia A.
106 Candlewood Hill Rd, Higganum 345-3526

Delvecchio, Robert
24 Arkay Drive, Higganum 345-2164

DiMauro, Kimberly S.
249 Plains Road, Haddam 345-751

Duval, Robert
984 Saybrook Road, Haddam number unavailable

Ehlers, Helen P.
120 Old Turnpike Road, Haddam 345-2382

Fredericksen, Harlan K
10 Laurel Grove Drive, Higganum 345-8797

Fridlander, Debra
1338 Saybrook Road, Haddam 345-8685

Fridlander, John A.
1338 Saybrook Road, Haddam 345-8685

Gorin, Linda T
102 Timms Hill Road, Haddam 345-2932

Homicki, Gwendolyn H
111 Filley Road, Haddam 345-3348

Howland, Janet
246 Turkey Hill Road, Haddam 345-8283

Michael, Jacqueline
314 Turkey Hill Road, Haddam 345-4574

Milardo, Elizabeth
7 Country Walk, Higganum 345-8212

Mosca, Elizabeth H
84 Wiese Albert Road, Higganum 345-2533

Nicastro, Cynthia
24 Cove Wharf Lane, Higganum 345-2466

Oktavec, Frances J
19 Field Stone Lane, Higganum 345-2602

Olsen, David Richard
164 Injun Hollow Rd, Haddam Neck 267-6393

Prill, Douglas W.
37 Laurel Grove Drive, Higganum 345-2330

Robbins, William B.
302 Plains road, Haddam 345-8205

Roper, Amelia Marston
75 Parmelee Road 345-8309

Rossi, Joseph T- Jr.
72 Maple Ave., Higganum 345-4767

Rutty, Wayne M.
34 Rutty Lane, Haddam 345-4049

Ruzzo, Robert J
165 Little City Road, Higganum 554-5616

Salonia, Craig
73 Old Ponsett Road, Haddam 345-8662

Sibley, Jane T.
114 Walkley Hill Road, Haddam 345-2061

Sibley, Jonathan W.
384 Saybrook Road, Higganum 345-2518

Stephens, Mark W.
33 Maple Ave., Higganum 345-8435

Wiese, Jeannine Baehr
82 Filley Road, Haddam 345-4075

Wintsch, Jonathan Gates
22 Church Hill Road, Haddam number unavailable

Kapitulik, Sharon G.
31 Ponsett Road, Higganum 345-4250

Zanelli, Alice
331 Brainard Hill Road, Higganum 345-8245

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

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Haddam Garden Club's Historic House and Garden Tour A Huge Success!!



Despite the cool weather and cloudy skies nearly 400 enthusiastic gardeners participated in the Haddam Garden Club's tour which was held on Saturday, June 11. Seven beautiful homes and their gardens were included on the tour and all the home owners and the Garden Club members were anxiously watching the weather early on Saturday morning when the skies opened and the rain came pouring down. By 9:00 a.m. the rain had stopped, although the day remained cool and cloudy. But people came! Old Town Hall was crowded with eager tour goers who came before the 10:00 a.m. starting time. Thanks to Town and Country Gardens and Halfinger Farms, the town hall was decorated with many blooming flowers and beautiful shrubs.

Garden Club members welcomed guests, provided them with their tickets and maps and sent them on their way. Delicious lunches, which were provided by the Haddam Historical Society, were sold out! Throughout the day Garden Club members welcomed the tour-goers to the individual homes and led the tour through the home along with the home owner, who was usually happily wandering outside in their gardens. All participants were generous in their praise of both the house and the gardens. Although the weather wasn't perfect, the homes and their gardens were and all who came provided positive feedback to that effect.

Members of the Haddam Garden Club would like to thank all those home owners who opened their homes for all of us to enjoy. We would also like to thank the Haddam Historical Society, Halfinger Farms and Town and Country Gardens who provided the club with outstanding support with this undertaking. And mostly we would like to thank all the townspeople who came and supported this event. We definitely couldn't have done it without your participation and we are grateful for it. Members of the Haddam Garden Club will be looking for ways to use the proceeds from this event for educational purposes, conservation efforts and beautification of Haddam, Higganum and Haddam Neck.

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MANNINGTON

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 Haddam860-345-2742
 Haddam Neck Cong Church860-267-4255
 Haddam Neck Covenant Church
860-267-2336
 Higganum Cong. Church860-345-4304
 Higganum United Methodist Church
860-345-4622
 St. James Episcopal Church.....860-345-2445
 St. Peter's Catholic Church860-345-8018
 Valley Bible Church860-345-8932

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Post 75347-9575
 Haddam Junior Womens Club860-345-1002
 HK Recreation Department860-345-8334
 Middlesex County Community
 Foundation347-0025

CT STATE LEGISLATORS

Eileen Daily860-399-7342
 James Spallone860-767-8615

LIBRARIES

Brainerd Memorial Library860-345-2204

MUSEUMS/ATTRACTIONS

Shad Museum860-267-0388
 Thankful Arnold House.....860-345-2500
 Veterans Museum860-345-5105

POST OFFICES

Haddam Post Office860-345-4770
 Higganum Post Office.....860-345-2703

SCHOOLS

Haddam Elementary860-345-4551
 Burr Elementary860-345-4584
 H-K Middle School860-663-1241
 H-K High School.....860-345-8541
 Superintendent District 17860-345-4534

STATE PARKS

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

Consumer Protection860-566-2294
 East Haddam Senior Center860-345-2480
 Youth and Family Services.....860-345-7498

ATTORNEYS

William L. Bouregy, Esquire
860-526-8777
 Peter H. Charbonnier Esq., LLC
860-526-1780
 Polito & Quinn860-447-3300

BANKS

Essex Savings Bank
860-767-2573
 Liberty Bank - Higganum Office
860-345-4605

BURIAL AT SEA

SeaCeremony860-598-9090

CAMPS

Bushy Hill Nature Center
860-767-2148
 Pequot Sherwood Day Camp
860-767-0848

CINEMA

Madison Art Cinemas
203-245-3456

DENTISTS

Keith E. Campbell, DMD
860-345-2282
 Higganum Dental
860-345-4538

EQUESTRIAN

Killingworth Equestrian Center
860-663-2495

FLOORING

River's Edge Tile & Carpet
860-345-8453

HOSPITAL

Middlesex Hospital
www.middlesexhospital.org

INSURANCE

Archambault Insurance Co.
860-526-9587

MEN'S APPAREL

Anchor & Compass
860-322-4327

OIL COMPANY

Moroni & Son Oil Co.
860-388-2298

PHARMACY

Killingworth Family Pharmacy
860-452-4275

PODIATRY

Center Podiatry
1-800-676-FOOT (3668)

PRINTER

Essex Printing.....860-767-9087

RIVER CRUISES

RiverQuest860-662-0577

WINDOW DECOR

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860-399.6442

Want to be listed on the Newcomers' page?

Call Ward Feirer at 914-806-5500

HK Recreation Department

END-OF-SUMMER AND FALL PROGRAMS

The Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department has some programs in August. Non-residents can register for any of our programs for an additional \$10.

Swim Lessons from August 8 – 12. Pre-School lessons from 3 year olds will be from 9 – 9:30 am. Ages 4 and up meets from 9:50 – 10:30 or 10:40 – 11:20 am. The fee is \$40 each / \$33 if you purchase a pool membership / and \$50 for non-residents.

The HK Summer Camp for children entering grades 1 – 8 has openings as well. The weeks are August 1 – 5 and August 8 – 12. Held at the HK HS.

Academy International Field Hockey Camp will be held August 22 – 26 from 9 – 12 pm. Fee is \$210. Held at the HK HS.

Boot Camp for Kids will be held from August 8 – 12 for kids entering grades 1 – 5. Fee is \$120.

UK International Soccer Camp will be held from August 1 – 5 for kids entering grades 1 – 6. Fee is \$115.

Sports Around the World Camp will be held from August 8 – 12 for kids ages 6 – 12 from 9 – 12:30 pm. Fee is \$144 / \$10 sibling discount.

Horseback Riding is on Monday or Tuesdays evenings from 5:30 – 7 pm at Dream Meadow Farm beginning the week of August 1st for four weeks. The fee is \$135.

Babysitting Class will be held on August 1st and 2nd from 5:45 – 8:45 pm. The fee is \$70.

Choral Camp will be held from August 1st – 5th from 9 – 10:30 am (gr. 3 – 5) and 10:45 – 2:00 pm (gr. 6 – 8). Fee is \$75 (younger group) or \$125 (older group). Held at the HK HS.

Lights, Camera 101 – Atlantis will be held from August 1 – 4 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. The fee is \$110.

Crossroads Driving - Safe Driving Course will be held August 8 – 11 from 6 – 8 pm at the HK HS. Fee is \$125.

Other programs include:

Discount tickets to Six Flags New England and Lake Compounce area available until September 8th. (\$28 for Lake Compounce and \$31 Six Flags.)

Tom O'Brien's Comedy Magic Show will be entertaining on Wednesday, August 3rd from 1 – 1:45 pm at the HK HS Auditorium. The fee is \$2 per person.

Registration for our After-School Program is also open. There will be an In-Person Registration on August 24th from 5 – 6 pm at the HK Recreation Office.

The Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department is offering MANY fun and exciting programs this fall; the brochure will be mailed end of August, and will be posted on www.hkrec.com in mid-August. Upcoming fall programs will include pre-school programs such as Imagination Stations, Music Together, Gymnastics, Parent/Kid Soccer, Toddler Swim Classes, Holiday Crafts, Let's Get Dirty, and more. A variety of Youth and Teen programs will be offered such as Mad Science, Creative Art, Acting, Creative Cards, Cheerleading, Robotics, Flying Madness with LEGO, Fencing, Wizard School (Magic Workshops), Horseback Riding, Kid's Focus on Fitness, Gymnastics, Karate, Skyhawks Basketball/Soccer, Archery, Babysitting Classes, Young Chefs of HK, When I'm in Charge, Swim Lessons, Pre-Teen Focus on Fitness, SAT 101, Crossroads Driving School and more!

Many Adult programs this fall include Floral Arrangements, Fitness Yoga, Zumba, Get Fit, Dog Obedience, Ballroom Dance Lessons, Basic Boating Course, Aqua Aerobics, Self Care, Massage for Two, Art Class, and Men's Fall Basketball.

Some excursions will be offered such as the the Jack O'Lantern Spectacular on October 22nd and Holiday Scents (Yankee Candle / Bright Nights) on December 3rd.

For more information about any of our programs, please call the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Dept. at 860-345-8334 or visit www.hkrec.com.

New Burial-At-Sea Website Answers Frequently Asked Questions.



If you are considering burial at sea for yourself or to fulfill a loved one's request, you may have questions about how to proceed.

Seaceremony.com is a new website that provides answers about the burial-at-sea process, planning, legal issues, burial service options, etc.

SeaCeremony offers a dignified and convenient way to bid farewell at sea. Operating out of Saybrook Point Marina in Old Saybrook, we offer any number of burial-at-sea options, including a special service for veterans.

For more information, please log on to www.seaceremony.com. Or call 860-598-9090.

SeaCeremony

Hurricane Season Begins

As the Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins, FEMA Urges All Americans to be prepared. Visit www.ready.gov to get ready for hurricanes and other disasters.

WASHINGTON - June 1 marks the start of the 2011 North Atlantic hurricane season, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been working closely with its federal, state, local, and tribal partners, the private sector, voluntary organizations, and the entire emergency management team to ensure we are ready for the upcoming season. "Recent events including the deadly tornadoes in the central U.S. and southeast, flooding along the Mississippi and other emergencies serve as a reminder that we should be prepared to address all hazards, including hurricanes," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "Everyone needs to be prepared, not just those in hurricane prone states, but also areas well inland. This means having an emergency plan, storing an emergency kit and staying informed of alerts or messages from local emergency officials."

Background on preparing for hurricanes - When preparing for hurricane season and potential emergencies, the needs of all members of a household should be considered. If a household includes a young child, senior citizen, or person with a disability or severe illness, special steps to assist them may be necessary and should be incorporated into all emergency planning. Pets require special handling; pet owners should research pet boarding facilities now within a certain radius of where they may evacuate, since animals may not be welcome in all shelters or hotels. Equally important, businesses should be prepared with emergency plans in place to stay afloat. Putting a disaster plan in motion will improve the likelihood that your company may recovery from a disaster. Ready Business (www.ready.gov/business) outlines measures business owners and managers can take now to start getting ready.

The start of hurricane season is also the time to consider flood insurance coverage - most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. Not only are homes and businesses in hurricane-prone states at risk for flooding, but inland flooding is common in nearby states. To assess flood risk for a home or find a local agent selling national flood insurance, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call toll-free at 1-888-379-9531.

As the season kicks off, knowing the four terms that meteorologists use when forecasting tropical weather may also help you navigate to safety.

A **hurricane watch** is an announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours

in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

A **hurricane warning** is an announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

A **tropical storm watch** is an announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified coastal area within 48 hours.

A **tropical storm warning** is an announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected somewhere within the specified coastal area within 36 hours.

With the ongoing recovery efforts from the tornadoes and response to areas with flooding, we are reminded that everyone should be prepared to address all hazards, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and inland flooding.

Visit www.fema.gov and www.Ready.gov
FEMA online at <http://blog.fema.gov>

Keith Lyke, R.Ph.

Steve Vegliante, R.Ph.



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Care 4 Kids

Care 4 Kids helps low to moderate income families in Connecticut pay for child care costs. This program is sponsored by the State of Connecticut's Department of Social Services (also called DSS).

To learn more about Care 4 Kids, take a look at www.ctcare4kids.com. It has information for both parents and child care providers. You can look at the site to find out how the program works, who is eligible, and more. You can also print the forms you need to apply for the program; go to the forms page.

For more information, call 1-888-214-KIDS (5437)
8 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday
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