

08033

HADDONFIELD

ISSUE 4 | 2025

**'An extension
of the classroom'**

**Plenty to do
- and learn**

**From 'Rent'
to 'Fiddler'**

HAUNTED
WALKING TOURS

**MORE
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Letter from the Editor:



Kathy Chang
EDITOR

Hello 08033! I am excited for you to check out our monthly edition magazine dedicated to the lifestyle and community of Haddonfield.

We start our issue with the fall season of sports at the borough schools. Leteris Banos is the athletic director. "Interscholastic athletics is an extension of the classroom, and they learn so many lessons," he says of players. "It's what I call the unwritten curriculum - about becoming a good person, a contributing member of society. And really that's what we try to do here at Haddonfield Athletics, make good kids better people." Learn all about it on page 5.

Next, we head to Greenfield Hall for the annual Haddonfield Haunted Walking Tours hosted by the Historical Society of Haddonfield. The event is about an hour long and has been going on for more than 20 years. These tours are all about highlighting Haddonfield's history," explained Sarah Tambussi, the Historical Society's administrator. The late William "Bill" Meehan, Jr., a long-time volunteer, was instrumental in creating the tours. Come hear the haunted history on page 8.

From "Rent" to "Fiddler," we head to Haddonfield Plays & Players. With a rich 90-year history of 650 shows with high-level production values, the Haddonfield Plays & Players is eager to welcome audiences to its shows. The Players produce five regular shows throughout the season. We caught up with the recent production of

"Rent" and we take a look at the holiday season, which includes "Fiddler on the Roof" and more. Check it out on page 12.

Midway we find ourselves at the annual Fall Festival hosted by the Haddonfield Lions Club. There was certainly plenty to do and learn as hundreds filled Kings Highway and Tanner Street for the six-hour-long event. A juried craft show and more than 50 vendors were on hand and several performers outside First Baptist Church provided live music. Fall fest on page 16.

We round our issue with Haddy the Dinosaur sculpture by Sculptor John Giannotti that still - after 22 years - draws visitors and the community. The bronze sculpture of Hadrosaurus Foulkii - or Haddy as it's known - stands along the walking path of Lantern Lane. Haddy was a dinosaur fossil discovered in a borough marl pit in October of 1858 by William Parker Foulke. The first nearly complete dinosaur skeleton found in North America, its head was never located. October holds special significance for Haddy: Not only was it the month she was first discovered, her sculpted likeness was unveiled in the borough in October of 2003. Come see on page 21.

Haddonfield Happenings on page 22 gives you a glimpse of future community events and hear what your neighbors have to say, Pumpkin Spice or Apple Cider? on page 2. All of this and more awaits on the pages ahead!

Enjoy!

Kathy Chang
Editor

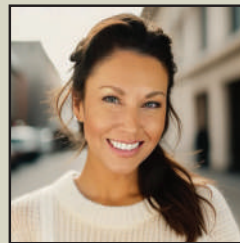
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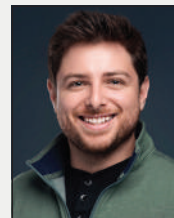
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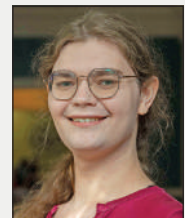
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Aria Anderson

HADDONFIELD'S SPORTS
ARE NOT JUST ABOUT WINS
OR LOSSES, BUT ABOUT
TEACHING LIFE SKILLS

'An extension of the classroom'

By **Abigail Twiford**

Haddonfield Memorial High School wants to help its students learn and practice skills like team building, leadership, problem solving, discipline and responsibility.

Getting them there means offering plenty of sports.

The fall season has football, boys' and girls' soccer, field hockey, girls' tennis, girls' volleyball, both boys' and girls' cross country and cheerleading. The school band also competes during the season.

see SPORTS page 6



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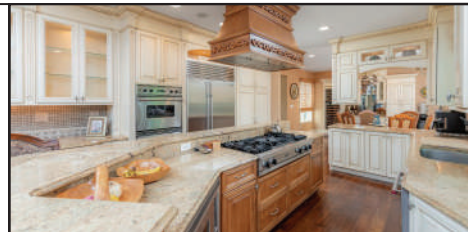
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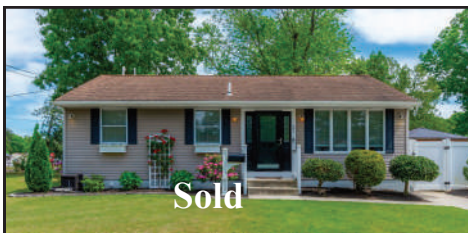
New Price



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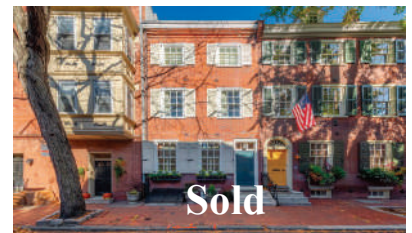


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Sold

Pine Hill Beautiful corner lot all professionally landscaped with newer Vinyl fence and large concrete driveway for 2 plus car parking completely redone inside and outside with a full basement, 3 bedrooms and 1 full bath. The kitchen has white cabinets, ceramic floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, crown molding, recess lighting and lots of natural light. Newer Malibu wide plank luxury vinyl flooring that is scratch and water resistant in the family room and main hallway, bedrooms, crown molding throughout the entire home, newer white wooden blinds on every window, recessed lighting including all bedroom closets, and the bathroom has a marble top vanity, newer toilet, marble flooring, glass shower doors and deep soak bathtub. Very private backyard all fenced with extensive landscaping with cobblestone stone edging **\$319,900**



Sold

Philadelphia Beautiful historic home built in 1802 in the heart of Society Hill has 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, beautiful wood floors & heated marble floors thru out the 5 levels of living space, a lovely deck great for entertaining, and freshly painted on the outside exterior. The front windows were replaced with windows that comply with the historic registry. This lovely home is move in ready condition and has an amazing kitchen with limestone countertop island, La Cornue range, double ovens, charcoal grill plus built in La Cornue cabinets for storage. The home was recently re-roofed with new shingles on the front roof, new flashing on the party wall, and re-coating of the flat roof in rear. The seller has replaced the hot water heater, humidifier, refrigerator recently. **Realistically priced at \$1,249,000**



SPORTS 08033

from page 5

Leteris Banos is the athletic director of the borough schools.

"Interscholastic athletics is an extension of the classroom, and they learn so many lessons," he says of players. "It's what I call the unwritten curriculum - about becoming a good person, a contributing member of society.

"And really that's what we try to do here at Haddonfield Athletics, make good kids better people."

For the current season, 674 high-school students are playing a sport. The middle school - which offers cross country and field hockey in the fall - has 400.

"Attending Haddonfield high school and playing sports, they're synonyms," Banos believes.

Students who participate in Haddonfield's athletic program are expected to use the opportunity to display positive attributes in their behavior both on and off the field.

"Our expectation of our student athletes," Banos explains, "is that they use

the season to represent our school and our community with great sportsmanship, to learn life lessons of commitment, hard work, getting along with others, improving your skills and developing a healthy lifestyle that will carry on to the rest of your life."

Among the fall season's highlights was head tennis coach Jeff Holman's achievement of reaching his 2,500th career win at a match against Vineland High School on Sept. 9.

"He is currently the winningest high-school tennis coach in the country," Banos says proudly. Holman has been a teacher and counselor in Haddonfield for 51 years, and has been coaching tennis since 1974.

"I have had the good fortune to coach many great tennis players who have won a lot of matches for Haddonfield," Holman reflected in a statement after his career win.

"However, my hope is that participation in Haddonfield's tennis program has instilled in more than 2,500 young athletes a love of the sport and the desire to continue playing throughout their lives."

The community - including current players, alumni and media - were invited to celebrate Holman's achievement at the Centennial Tennis Courts after a girls' tennis match between Haddonfield and Gateway Regional high schools.

"Coach Holman is more than a coach, he's a cornerstone and a treasure of our school community," Banos maintains. "His impact on young lives is immeasurable, and 2,500 wins is just a reflection of the extraordinary commitment he's given to this program."

Another fall season highlight is the borough's participation in the Colonial Conference, an athletic competition for public high schools in Camden and Gloucester counties. It operates under the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA).

The conference - which Haddonfield has been a part of for decades - sponsors several sports for member schools. For the borough, it's also become a family affair.

"... You develop rivalries that go back to the parents having played these games there," Banos explains. "Sometimes even the grandfathers have played in the same games ..."

see SPORTS page 6

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Among Haddonfield's Colonial Conference sports are boys' and girls' cross country, soccer, field hockey and tennis. And then there's football. A fall sports tradition is the annual Thanksgiving Day game against Haddon Heights, a rivalry that began in 1902.

"We're one of the oldest Thanksgiving games still in existence," Banos points out. "... So it's a great tradition between the two communities."

The game draws families from both communities, with some of the student athletes continuing that legacy for generations.

"You see kids that are walking onto the field, and you have the dad and their grandfather or the uncle or the cousin wearing the football jersey that they wore when they played, from both communities being here on the same field," Banos notes.

Many of the student athletes are

veterans of the sports they play.

"Especially in our small community here, they have grown up playing together in youth soccer, youth football, youth field hockey, youth - all the sports together," adds Banos, adding that doesn't mean students can't try a new sport.

"It's not unheard of."

Banos emphasizes how involvement in sports throughout their high-school careers helps student athletes create valued memories.

"They're finally in high school," he observes, "and they're going to play high-school sports with their friends, which is special, because of the memories that you make and the friendships that you developed, and those tend to be your closest friends, years and years down the road."

"That's why high school sports are so great."

The Haddonfield school district's sports schedule can be found at haddonfieldathletics.org — 08033



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More history than horror



THE HADDONFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL HALLOWEEN TOURS ARE A WALK
INTO THE BOROUGH'S PAST - WITH GHOSTS

By **Kathy Chang**

"Who's the little man in Mommy's old room?"

That's the question a 4-year-old girl once posed to her grandmother about the home where her mother once lived, and where she saw its first owner, Daniel Fortiner.

Built at 208 Kings Highway East in 1820, the home was moved by truck to a side street near Greenfield Hall in 1949 and restored by its new owners.

Fortiner was a blacksmith - he was also the village lamplighter.

Before electricity, a few blocks of Kings Highway East were lit by whale oil lamps mounted on posts. Fortiner's job was to keep them filled and their wicks trimmed. Each night, he lit them at sundown and extinguished them at about 11 o'clock.

Photos by Aria Anderson

"It's a history tour," explains Sarah Tambussi, about the annual haunted history tour through the borough. "These are not scary people jumping out behind tombstones kind of thing. It is walking through the community and pointing out a house, a street or where somebody lived ... There was a story about that person after they were deceased."



Fortiner had two daughters, Elizabeth and Martha, who both were sickened by pneumonia in 1838. Seven-year-old Martha survived, but Elizabeth died in their bedroom a few days shy of her 11th birthday.

Martha lived to care for her widowed father until he died at home in 1874.

During the 1950s, the new owners of the Fortiner house also had two girls. They, too, came down with pneumonia. At the time, they were about the same age Elizabeth and Martha were when they became sick.

Legend has it the girls were visited by Fortiner - as were the owners after that.

"Recently we had a visitor who was a descendant of (Fortiner)" shared Sarah Tambussi, the Historical Society of Haddonfield's administrator. "We asked her, 'Did you know about this story?' She had no idea.

"She knew the house because her mom told her about it, but had no idea about the ghost stories."

Fortiner's story is one of about 20 that people learn about on the annual Haddonfield Haunted Walking Tours. The event is about an hour long and has been going on for more than 20 years.

see GHOST TOUR page 10

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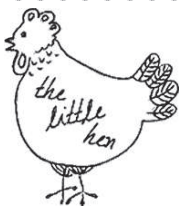
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GHOST TOUR 08033

from page 9

"These tours are all about highlighting Haddonfield's history," Tambussi explained, adding that the events are held on three weekends in October to raise funds for the historical society.

"It's a history tour," Tambussi noted. "... These are not scary people jumping out behind tombstones kind of thing. It is walking through the community and pointing out a house, a street or where somebody lived ...

"There was a story about that person after they were deceased."

William "Bill" Meehan, Jr., a long-time volunteer for the historical society, compiled the stories into two volumes of books, "Haunted Haddonfield." The society published the first book in 2002 and the second in 2020.

"The sheer number of short stories that are in the books would fit into two hours," Tambussi estimated. "We sort of cherry pick the stories we want to highlight."

The society hired a tour guide for the last two years, an actor from the Haddonfield Plays & Players to deliver the stories.

"We, as an organization, we love these stories, but we are not so good with the projection," Tambussi acknowledged. "The (actor) has helped a lot. We have a script they follow and we work with Betty (Willingmyre) - who is the cemetery administrator at the Baptist Church cemetery - and we put a little solar light in front of each grave."

Each person on the tour gets headphones to follow along with the stories. One of the church's grave diggers has a kerosene lantern he swings back and forth as tour-goers enter the cemetery.

"It's an interesting perspective," Tambussi noted of the kerosene lantern.

The Baptist Church cemetery has graves from the late 1700s to today. Most of the tour stories are about people who are buried there. One of them is Meehan, who died from a short battle with pancreatic cancer on Dec. 13, 2021.

"He wanted to be buried there," Tambussi recalled, adding that Meehan's daughter Lily, now 33, keeps in touch. "I go and get yellow flowers, Bill's favorite color, and I put them on his grave (every year).

"When he originally started the tours, the money that was raised was split between us

and the library," she added. "Tickets were just \$5 cash here and there. Then, as the library stepped away and we took it over, it got to be a little more involved.

"Not only was it a great fundraiser for us, but Bill would also add more stories."

Meehan and his wife Kathy lived in Haddonfield for a long time with Lily. He had moved to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, before he passed.

Meehan was a former bank trust officer and business owner, an author, historian, collector and recognized expert on American Art Deco industrial design, according to his obituary.

He was also a passionate fundraiser for the Historical Society of Haddonfield. His obituary noted his collection of historic ghost stories and legends and walking tours.

Other stories portrayed in the books include the Jersey Devil, first seen - it is said - in Haddonfield in 1859. Ten years passed, but during the week of Jan. 17, 1909, the creature was said to be seen by thousands all over the Delaware Valley.

Described as "jabberwock," "kangaroo horse," "flying death," "kingowing," "flying horse," "cowbird," "monster," "flying hoof," "prehistoric lizard" and "wozzlebug," the Jersey Devil was seen flying, walking, eating trash and even attempting to make off with a small dog.

In Haddonfield, the devil left its tracks in snowy streets, backyards and on the roofs of outhouses.

Dr. Lawrence Glover and Fred Holloway, cement contractor and future mayor of Haddonfield, organized search parties on Jan. 20, 1909 to track down and capture the creature. They found many devil tracks, history says, but the trails always ended suddenly when the devil took flight.

The Jersey Devil was last reported near Hopkins Pond in the early 1970s; borough police investigated but found nothing. Yet some people still avoid the area, especially at night.

Probably the most interesting memorial in the Baptist Cemetery is to a man who isn't buried there but was, as his monument notes, "Lost at Sea on SS (sic) Titanic."

Frederick Sutton, whose Victorian mansion still stands on Warwick Road, had planned to be buried in the Baptist cemetery when his time came. An English-born Philadelphia coffee importer, he drowned or

froze to death when the Titanic sank in the icy waters of the North Atlantic on April 15, 1912.

The historical society tour ends in the oldest part of Greenfield Hall, its 1747 east wing near the colonial steps. On Oct. 21, 1777, Hessian Col. Count Karl Emil Kurt von Donop and his 2,500 troops marched into Haddonfield on Haddon Avenue. He made his quarters in the Gill house, claiming the second-floor room on the east side as his bedroom.

Von Donop died the next day as he led his men to disaster at the Battle of Red Bank. Each year, on the eve of that event, Oct. 21, it is said lights in the second-floor room of the 1747 east wing have lit themselves.

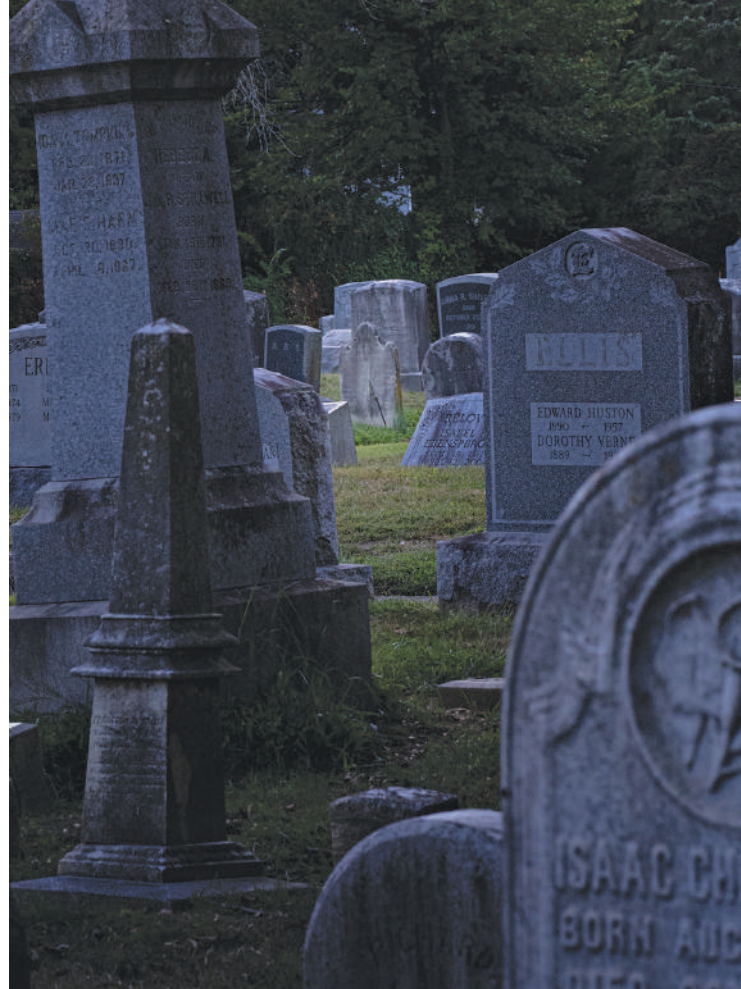
Could von Donop have returned to his room - and stayed?

"The joke is, he sometimes stomps on the floor," Tambussi quipped, "getting ready to march his Hessian soldiers to Red Bank."

As the historical society continues what Meehan began, it is seeking more stories for the tour.

"When Bill was sick, he tried to do the last tour," Tambussi remembered, "It was tough to see that. He was very up front with us that he wanted them to continue ... His wife and his daughter are very, very supportive." — 08033

Haddonfield Historical Society
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FROM 'RENT' TO 'FIDDLER'



HADDONFIELD PLAYS & PLAYERS READY FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

By **Debra Wallace**

With a rich 90-year history of 650 shows with high-level production values, the Haddonfield Plays & Players is eager to welcome audiences to its shows.

The Players produce five regular shows throughout the season: a mix of musicals, comedies, dramas, mysteries, and family shows.

The recent production of “Rent” was presented to appreciative audiences from Friday, Sept. 19, through Saturday, Oct. 4, and is being followed by a heartfelt and timely production of “Fiddler on the Roof,” from Dec. 5 to Dec. 20.

Haddonfield 08033 caught up with the production of “Rent” as it was casted in early June, and rehearsals began a week or so after. The production’s director Jenna Kuerzi, an accomplished Philadelphia-based actor and director, filled in for the original director, who was on maternity leave.

Since Kuerzi was already performing in a new musical adaptation of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” with Shakespeare in Clark Park in West Philadelphia, she had the top-notch performers focus on the music in July, and “hard-core rehearsals” began in August.

PHOTOS BY ARIA ANDERSON

Haddonfield Plays & Players’ recent production of “Rent” put Jenna Kuerzi, an accomplished Philadelphia-based actor and director, back in the “creative chair.” She filled in for the original director, who was on maternity leave.

Kuerzi, who has an impressive resume as a regional theater actor, received a Barrymore nomination (the region's Tony Award) for her role in *Camp Siegfried* at Theater Exile about "two teenagers falling in love in the setting of a Nazi indoctrination summer camp," and another this year for her part as Rizzo in *"Grease"* at the Media Theater.

In addition to her numerous regional stage productions, Kuerzi had a leading role in *"Delco: The Movie"*, a full-length feature also starring Brian O'Halloran (*"Clerks"*). The movie is awaiting distribution, streaming, and touring at film festivals.

"It was a super educational experience and a joy to film," she said, "and everyone involved has high hopes for it."

What did Kuerzi appreciate about directing at the Plays & Players?

"Being back in the creative chair," she shared, "taking this familiar story, and helping our performers to add their own spin to a show that people already love has been truly gratifying."

And after putting the final touches and rehearsals, everyone involved was eager for opening night.

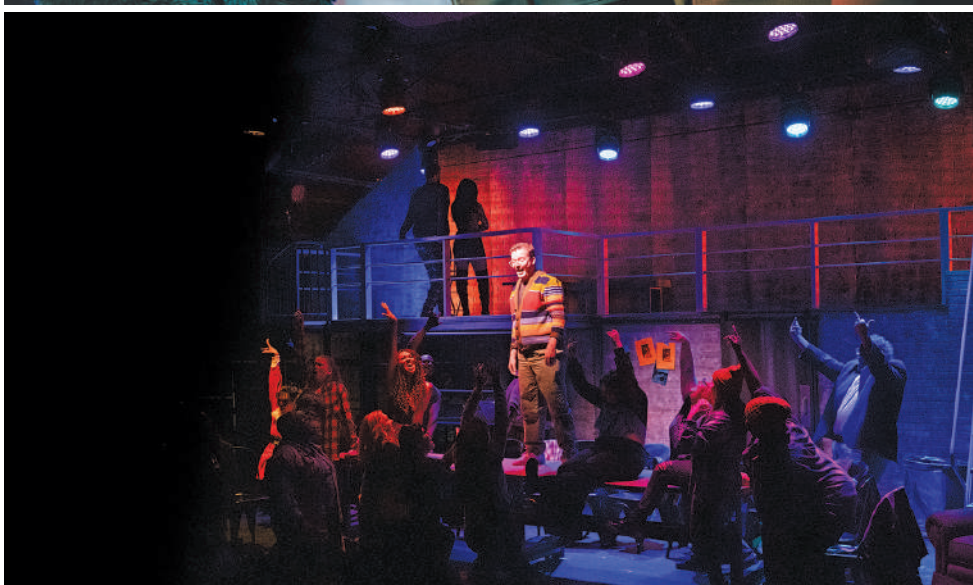
"We had standing ovations for *'Rent'*, night after night," shared Chris Miller, the theater's managing artistic director. "We were sold out a few nights and near capacity for most of the rest of the run. They loved it."

"All of the audiences were engaged and entertained, and gave us extremely positive feedback."

Next up is the timeless musical *"Fiddler on the Roof"* with music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and a book by Joseph Stein. It is set in the little village of Anatevka, a settlement of Imperial Russia, around 1905, and based on the original Shalom Aleichem stories.

Tevye, a poor Jewish milkman, is faced with the challenge of marrying off his five daughters amid the growing tension in his shtetl. He faces poverty, pogroms, weddings, loss, and love with great dignity and emotion.

see PLAYS & PLAYERS page 14





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PLAYS & PLAYERS 08033

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For “Fiddler on the Roof” lyricist Harnick, the original stories were the perfect material to turn into a musical. “They are remarkable stories because they make you laugh, and then they make you cry,” he said during a 2015 interview. “They are so human. You truly feel like you know these characters.”

It is difficult to imagine watching the show and listening to the songs, including “If I Were a Rich Man,” and “Far from the Home I Love,” and not being moved by the emotion that the melody and lyrics evoke.

It is also easy to understand why so many of the songs continue to resonate with audiences worldwide. “Sunrise, Sunset”, the focus of the wedding scene, has been there for countless brides and grooms, especially those standing under a chuppah (canopy) at their weddings.

Regardless of where the musical is produced, from New Jersey and Broadway to India and China, Harnick said that family members see themselves reflected in the memorable characters.

“The wide appeal shouldn’t have surprised us [the show’s creators],” Harnick added, “because the show is about family, and about young people breaking away from the traditions and values of their parents.”

WHY COME TO SEE “FIDDLER ON THE ROOF?”

“I’m excited to bring this classic musical theater piece back to our patrons,” Miller said. “It had some recent revival and a Yiddish tour, which [previously] made it off limits for us to produce. We are excited to be able to do this piece now.”

He said that not only does the time-honored show have beautiful and memorable music, “it’s also very significant with the current geopolitical situations in both the Middle East and Ukraine, which makes this show as relevant now as ever.”

He encourages everyone to see this production of Fiddler, regardless of how many times they have seen it before.

“To honor not only seeing a great and entertaining live production,” Harnick explains, “but to immerse yourselves in the culture and traditions that ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ provides.”

ABOUT HADDONFIELD PLAYS & PLAYERS

Haddonfield Plays & Players is a group of committed individuals who come together to provide quality theater at an affordable price, as well as to provide a creative outlet for non-professionals, all in an atmosphere of personal and social enrichment that is open to everyone who has a commitment to non-profit theater.

The Haddonfield Plays & Players is also dedicated to community education, including a number of quality programs geared toward children in pre-K through age 18. Among the enduring innovative programs is Number the Stars, a Holocaust awareness program that has welcomed many school groups to annual performances for more than 20 years.

Not only are these top-notch productions in our backyard, but the venue is the only BYOB theater in South Jersey, Miller said.

“So, bring your favorite drink and enjoy a great night of entertainment.”

Haddonfield Plays & Players will present “Fiddler on the Roof,” from Dec. 5 to Dec. 20, followed by a full 2026 production schedule:

- Jan. 16-31: “Shrek the Musical”
- Feb. 20 to March 7: “Noises Off”
- May 8-23: Alanis Morissett’s “Jagged Little Pill” The Musical
- Sept. 25 to Oct. 10: “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street”

The non-profit also hosts many special programs each year, including themed cabaret nights, staged readings, and one-act showcases. — 08033

For Tickets and More Information:
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ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL DRAWS HUNDREDS ALONG KINGS HIGHWAY AND TANNER STREET AS PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS EXPLAIN WHAT THEY DO

By Abigail Twiford



Haddonfield is well known for its many yearly seasonal traditions. Among them is the annual fall festival hosted by the Haddonfield Lions Club. This year's version took place on a breezy and sunny Oct. 4.

The six-hours-long event largely took place on the sidewalks along Kings Highway, while also closing down Tanner Street to allow for a juried craft show that featured more than 50 vendors.

Hundreds populated the main sidewalks, met up with friends, and ate and shopped in the business district. Several performers outside First Baptist Church provided live music, including Sweet Spot and its trademark acoustic guitars.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DAVID HUNTER

The festival largely took place on the sidewalks along Kings Highway, while also closing down Tanner Street to allow for a juried craft show that featured more than 50 vendors.



“...The people on the street were so enthusiastic,” said the group’s Gail Deber.

The Mabel Kay Senior Center’s Golden Kazoo Band for the first time played its kazoos for a broader audience outside of those who regularly attend the group’s performances or work with the center.

Susi Coley is the band’s leader.

“I think that the crowd enthusiasm was incredibly gratifying,” she acknowledged. “It lets us know that this (the festival) is going to be a great venture going forward.”

The Markheim Arts Center had a tent set up along Tanner Street where children could create a craft using clay and natural materials of leaves, sticks and acorns. Other vendors offered a range of products from honey to hand-made clothing to pottery to crocheted plush animals and toys.

“Everything’s happening,” observed Charene Scheeper, who was walking her dog at the festival. “... I think it’s a great day.”

On the sidewalks lining Kings Highway, dozens of community nonprofits and civic associations set up booths and tables to offer activities for guests and raise awareness about what their organizations do.

The Haddonfield Japan Exchange was among them. It enables borough students to travel to Japan every odd year and hosts students from that country every even year.

Margaret Gammie is the director of the program and a teacher at Haddonfield Memorial High School.

“We’re going to have students from Sendai International School coming this coming year, in 2026,” she explained, “so what we’re doing today is just trying to let the town know about us.”

At the Japan Exchange table, guests decorated paper lanterns and learned origami, and stickers illustrated traditional Japanese culture.

While children and adults painted pumpkins together, Dan “The Balloon Man” Peterse was on one of the sidewalk corners creating animals, flowers and swords.

The Haddonfield Outdoor Sculpture Trust was in attendance near the Low-Poly Open Heart sculpture in Kings Court, giving out plastic wild animals for children and taking votes from guests on what animal should be added to the Sculpture Zoo.

see FESTIVAL page 18

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FESTIVAL 08033

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"We're getting a whole bunch of different votes everywhere," noted trust founder and chair Stuart Harting, "from cheetahs to snow leopards to snakes, crocodiles - so many different animals are being suggested that it's going to make it (the decision on a new sculpture) very interesting."

Another major borough fixture, Dance Haddonfield, was also on hand to provide a taste of what it offers, including 18 different types of dances.

"It's a community outreach thing to try to bring the joy of dancing to anyone who's interested," noted member Bonnie Harvey. "We're a very friendly group, very welcoming to newcomers, to partner dancing."

Haddonfield softball raised awareness of its Oct. 19 Breast Fest event and the creation of care bags for breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

The Christian Science Reading Room - one of Haddonfield's oldest operating businesses - had Barbara Corbett at the festival to give out free magazines and pamphlets and sell books.

Among those enjoying the day were Alex Dascenzo and Miranda Chrono.

"We love coming to the festival, as we live right down the block," Chrono enthused. "We always come and it's beautiful weather. So they got lucky, for sure. It's super fun." — 08033

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A sculpted landmark

HADDY THE
DINOSAUR STILL
DRAWS VISITORS
AND THE
COMMUNITY
AFTER 22 YEARS

By Abigail Twiford

There is no shortage of art on the way up Kings Highway.

The Militiaman and the Low-Poly Open Heart - known as “the heart of Haddonfield” - are sculptures that are among the borough’s most iconic and eye-catching pieces of art.

But for 22 years, one work has become the most talked about: the bronze sculpture of Hadrosaurus Foulkii - or Haddy as it’s known - that stands along the walking path of Lantern Lane.

Haddy was a dinosaur fossil discovered in a borough marl pit in October of 1858 by William Parker Foulke. The first nearly complete dinosaur skeleton found in North America, its head was never located.

October holds special significance for Haddy: Not only was it the month she was first discovered, her sculpted likeness was unveiled in the borough in October of 2003.

Haddy’s journey to a sculpture began when the Haddonfield Garden Club initiated a project to create the piece, forming the Haddonfield Acts to Create Hadrosaurus Committee.



PHOTO CREDIT DOUG MCCONNELL

The group chose sculptor John Giannotti’s design for the project, and funds were raised entirely through private donations. The names of donors are inscribed on bricks that make up the sculpture’s walkway.

“All of these people whose names are here gave money,” Giannotti recalled, “which was an incredible thing.”

Giannotti chose to donate his design and services for the piece, and just enough money was raised to cover materials and the price of casting Haddy in bronze.

“... I’m really proud that we were able to do it,” the sculptor noted.

Haddy in its completed form stands 8 feet tall and about 19 feet long, with rocks, plants and a fountain added around it to resemble a dinosaur’s natural habitat. It is smaller than the real fossil, which would have stood 10 feet tall at the hips and 25 feet long.

see SCULPTURE page 23

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN GIANNOTTI

The bronze Haddy sculpture was unveiled in October of 2003, the same month in 1858 when the dinosaur fossil was found.



Haddonfield Happenings



IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS.

When it comes to your social calendar change is ... not always good. But sometimes it's inevitable. Check each organization's website for updated event information.

HADDONFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library is located at 60 N Haddon Ave. For more information on events visit www.haddonfieldlibrary.org.

Oct. 27 – 1-2 p.m. – Haunted Haddonfield Ghost Painting.

Oct. 28 – 10-10:30 a.m. and 1-1:30 p.m. – Trick or Treating Storytime-Outside.

Oct. 29 – 3:15-4:30 p.m. – Sugar Skull Ceramic Painting with Paint a Treasure.

Oct. 30 – 9:45-10:15 a.m. – Hallow-

een Dance Party.

Nov. 6 – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. – Thanksgiving Stick Puzzle Take Home Craft.

Nov. 10 – 10-10:30 a.m. – Once Upon a Craft – Pumpkin House.

Nov. 10 – 6-7:30 p.m. – Thanksgiving Tablescape Workshop.

Nov. 12 – 3:30-4:30 p.m. – Sew Your Own Pie Banner.

Nov. 17 – 6-7:30 p.m. – Evening Art: Fall Pumpkin.

Nov. 21 – 11-11:30 a.m. – Thanksgiving Bingo.

Nov. 21 – 3:45-4:15 p.m. – Wicked Bingo.

Nov. 23 – 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Friends-giving Fun.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Oct. 30 – Haddonfield Celebrations Association will hold its Halloween Costume Parade on Kings

Highway starting at 6 p.m. on Chestnut St. All children will receive a Halloween trinket at the end of the parade.

Nov. 23 – 2 p.m. – Musician Bria Skonberg will perform at Haddonfield United Methodist Church.

Nov. 28 through Dec. 19 – Black Friday then Candlelight Shopping.

Nov. 28 – Tree Lighting and Santa Parade at Tanner Street and Kings Court.

Nov. 29-30 – Brunch BIG, Shop Small Weekend.

Dec. 20-24 – Last Minute Magic.

Indian King Tavern Museum is located at 233 E. Kings Highway. Days and hours open: Wednesday to Saturday – 10 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. For more information visit www.indiankingfriends.org.

SCULPTURE 08033

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Since the dinosaur's head was missing, Giannotti had to get creative. He discovered during research that another dinosaur with a very similar bone structure - the kritosaurus - was found in Colorado a few years after the borough discovered its hadrosaurus.

Giannotti used the kritosaurus' type of head as the model for Haddy's, then finalized his design with input from paleontology experts at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

"It was an incredible thing, because they were seeing things that they've never seen before, a close to life-size sculpture of a hadrosaurus," Giannotti recounted of the experts. "And I was in the presence of people who really knew what they were talking about and they gave me little pointers here and there."

Among the "pointers" were the fact that because the dinosaur would have been living in a habitat right at the edge of an ocean, the sculpture needed an upper lip shape to show it digging into mud or dirt and large bulges in the cheeks to demonstrate how it ate.

The dinosaur was able to stand on its hind legs and walk on all fours, research showed. So for his final design, Giannotti placed the sculpture's front legs against a rock, and the effect made Haddy appear as if she was halfway between being upright and taking steps.

For eight months, Giannotti worked on the original clay model that was stored in a barn on his property. During that time, he hosted a number of elementary-school children from around the county to see his progress.

Some of them got a piece of clay to put on the Haddy model as "their spot."

"... Now, 22 years later, every once in a while, I'll see them showing somebody their spot," Giannotti notes. "Could be their spouse, could be their kid, which is pretty amazing."

Giannotti's clay model was utilized to create detailed rubber molds that were then used to cast the sculpture in bronze at the foundry he uses for the majority of his work.

Giannotti was on the board of the Markheim Arts Center at the time, so he decided to make an exhibit out of the children's pieces. He got 24 fellow adult artists to use them for works of their own, with the children's pieces alongside adult works they inspired.

Giannotti sent his wife's cousin, realist painter Bill Massey, an abstract piece of artwork from a kindergarten student. The latter photo shopped it with an image of the hole where Haddy was found.

Since its unveiling, the sculpture has become a borough fixture, meeting place and landmark.

"When I see kids here all of the time," Giannotti reflected, "they're looking up at it

... It really warms my heart." — 08033



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN GIANNOTTI

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