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Issue 1 • January 2018

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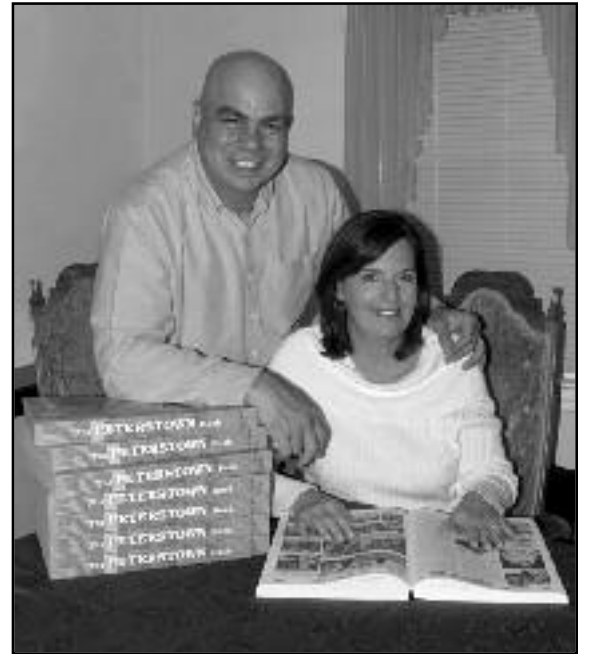
## WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF MADISON MONTHLY

With this premier issue, Madison Monthly will join Renna Media's family of newspapers, bringing the number of publications to twenty-one. Madison Monthly will be direct mailed to every postal patron in Madison with a total circulation of 6,300, and will deliver important information from the departments in town hall, along with news from the schools and library. Community service organizations are encouraged to promote their events and businesses, and residents can celebrate their accomplishments free of charge. The newspaper's goal is to be a positive influence on the economic development and overall well-being of Madison.

Renna Media is a Cranford based business owned and operated by husband and wife team Joe and Tina Renna. Renna Media's family of community newspapers are published in and around Union, Somerset, and Morris counties with a total circulation of 125,000 newspapers mailed monthly. The publications are "hyper-local" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns.

The hyper-local design gives businesses the highest value for their advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed (black ink on newsprint) to keep the cost of an advertisement to as low as \$60 for a business card size ad. Regional businesses can take advantage of one low rate for being in multiple publications. Inserts are also available.

For info about Renna Media publications, please contact [info@rennamedia.com](mailto:info@rennamedia.com); or call 908-418-5586.



(above, l-r) Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, in business since 1984, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998.

## OPEN INVITE TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY MEETINGS



(above, l-r) Some Chamber members attending the December 2017 Meeting, Joe Renna; Robbin Salmeri, owner Cleaners Advantage; Karen Giambra, Executive Director, Madison Area Chamber of Commerce; Deborah Starker, Executive Director, Museum of Early Trades & Crafts; Tara Heffernan, Assistant Director, Operations METC; and Ginny Wilson, Realtor Coldwell Banker.

The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce held their monthly Business Networking Breakfast on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. The newest member, Joe Renna, owner of Renna Media, appreciated the opportunity to introduce his newest publication, Madison Monthly to the group. Joe is excited about being an active member and contributing to the efforts of the Chamber to stimulate the local business environment. Renna Media has worked with the Chamber in the past having twice produced the Madison Map and is working on the third production.

The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is an independent, voluntary not-for-profit organization of business and professional people sharing ideas, talents and, resources to promote the economic welfare of their dues paying members and Madison as a whole. Chamber Members meet once a month at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, 9 Main Street, Madison, for an opportunity to network and share ideas. The meetings are open to members (\$15) and non-members (\$20).

For more information on the events, meeting times, and benefits of the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce please visit the Chamber's website at [MadisonNJChamber.org](http://MadisonNJChamber.org).

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*Madison Monthly* is published by Renna Media. 6,300 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Madison.

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## MEET MARYANNE CHRISTIANO-MISTRETTA YOUR CONTACT FOR NEWSPAPER CONTENT



*Maryanne  
Christiano-Mistretta*

Hello Readers!

I'm ecstatic to introduce myself as the new editor for Renna Media. It's such an honor working with Joe and Tina Renna; they are awesome!

Joe has asked me to write a little bit about myself for our readership, which is probably a great idea since I'll often be out

and about in the community.

Residing in Union County with my husband, Dennis, and our beloved cat Nicholas, my interests, besides writing and editing, include animals, music, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Writing professionally since 1995, I'm an award-winning journalist. I received my award from The NJ Society of Professional Journalists for investigative journalism. I'm also an author, public speaker, and poet (recently selected to read at the All About Eve Arts Festival at the West End Theatre in Long Branch, New Jersey).

Having a great passion for music, I've developed a unique library program called "The Learn & Listen Series" which pays homage to legendary musicians.

The two-fold presentation begins as I host, sharing a musician's biography – which I wrote – followed by actual live music from local New Jersey and New York talent. Librarians can choose from a variety of singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, Johnny Cash, Janis Joplin, and David Bowie.

I'm blessed to be able to work with performers like indie recording artist Keith Beck; jazz sensation Stephen Fuller (front man for Amani);

singer/performance artist, Anna Oh; and three-time Grammy winning producer, Rob Fusari.

"Learn & Listen" also includes Jayne DiGregorio and Rich Timberlake, who work behind-the-scenes filming for an upcoming documentary.

In addition to the "Learn & Listen" series, I also lecture on "History of the Newspaper Industry," "Going, Going, Gone: What the Next Generation Won't Remember" (seniors love that one!), and there's also a healthy foodies series, which includes sampling.

Now, if you've read this far, you may be asking yourself – how can this woman work so much and still have time to edit 21 newspapers? As Joe Renna himself says – "It's not work, it's a lifestyle." I somehow get everything done ... and with a big smile on my face.

When you have a grand passion for what you do, it doesn't matter what day it is. It could be a Monday, or a Friday, and you're equally as happy. Sometimes I'm home all day working in my pajamas; other times I'm having a blast taking photos at a Winter Walk. Whether I sleep in or get up super early to attend a town meeting, it's all good. In this line of work, every day is different, and every day is exciting.

In just one month of working for Renna Media, I've attended many fun affairs and met incredible people. It brings a tear to my eye when a child cheers, "I'm gonna be in the newspaper!" after I take his or her photograph. That's what it's all about – the essence of presenting a good story to the community.

So, don't hesitate to send me your community news. We call on the arts, fundraisers, nonprofits, new businesses – anything positive that should be in your local newspaper.

Reach me at 908-858-4012, or email me at: Editor@RennaMedia.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

*Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta*

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## MADISON BOY SCOUTS PREPARE FOR KLONDIKE DERBY

Scouts from Madison's two Boy Scout troops, Troop 7 and Troop 25 are sharpening their winter outdoor skills in preparation for the Fishawack Klondike Derby on February 3, 2018, at Camp Somers, Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation in Stanhope, New Jersey.

At the Klondike, Scouts pull sleds, which are mandatory, containing all the gear they will need to meet challenges including fire building, first aid, orienteering, and cooking. Everyone prefers having some snow on the ground but, if the ground is bare, the Scouts put wheels on their sleds. Almost 40 sleds from different troops in

Fishawack district are expected to compete this year.

Teams of Scouts will test their knowledge, skills, teamwork, physical endurance, and mental ingenuity. Scouts will not learn the actual events of the competition until the day of the Klondike.

There will be separate prizes for the best all-around junior and senior teams. Junior Scouts may not have reached their 13th birthday. Senior Scouts may not have reached their 18th birthday.

Skills competition runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Though this is a day event, lodging cabins are

available at Camp Somers and Camp Wheeler for troop camping.

To learn more, and to register online by January 26, 2018 visit the following link: <http://ppbsa.doubleknot.com/registration/calendar/detail.aspx?ActivityKey=2253320&OrgKey=90>

For more information about Troop 7, which meets at St. Vincent Martyr, contact Scoutmaster Martin Gurney, [gurneym@aol.com](mailto:gurneym@aol.com).

For more information about Troop 25, which meets at the Presbyterian Church of Madison, contact Scoutmaster Wayne Dieckmann, [waynexk120@optonline.net](mailto:waynexk120@optonline.net).



(above) Variety of sleds.



(above) Fire building.



(above) To the next town!



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## HIGH SCHOOL ART STUDENTS PAINT THE DOWNTOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Madison High School Art students once again collaborated with Madison Area Chamber of Commerce businesses to help brighten the downtown businesses district with their holiday artwork. Students painted store front windows and doors and helped to make Madison more festive this holiday season. All artwork was complete by the Annual Christmas walk which was held in November 2017.

The Drew Art Committee also lent their talent and participated in painting Drip Coffee, located at 34 Main Street.

To enjoy the artwork please visit these participating businesses: Chiarolanza & DeAngelis, Esqs., 36 Main Street; Club Pilates, 53 Main Street; Crowley Cupcakes, 7 Waverly Place; Cramer's Carpet One, 73 Main Street; Drip Coffee, 34 Main Street; Harvest Bistro, 50 ½ Main Street; Hat Shop Madison, 81 Main Street; Lashz, 26 Cook Plaza; PC Problems, 50 Main Street; Short Stories Bookshop & Community Hub, 23 Main Street; Stitch Boutique, 12 Waverly Place; Stonington Cabinetry & Designs, 25 Waverly Place; The Eyeglass Shoppe, 14 Elmer Street; and The Max Challenge, 35 Main Street.

The students earned service hours through Madison High School for their volunteer work and are each presented a certificate of achievement by the chamber.

"This annual program is a fun, positive, community oriented project that we are very excited to be able to offer our businesses," stated the Chamber's executive director, Karen Giambra. "We look forward to working with the students each year and we all thoroughly enjoy the talent and festivity that their artwork brings to our downtown."



(above) Holiday window painting.

## 2018 NJ Summer Camp Fairs Connecting Great Kids With Great Camps!

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## TASTE OF MADISON ANNOUNCES 2018 PLANS FOR MARCH 19TH

The Taste of Madison Organizing Committee recently announced that the seventeenth annual Taste of Madison will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018, at Brooklake Country Club, 139 Brooklake Road in Florham Park.

A festive fundraising extravaganza that benefits several local non-profit programs, the Taste of Madison is a must-attend party for food and drink lovers and a celebration of the best of Madison, Taste organizers said.

On March 19, chefs from Madison's best restaurants will serve samples of their best dishes. Gary's Wine & Marketplace, the event's longtime presenting sponsor, will provide Taste guests with fine wine, beer and spirits, as will other local merchants.

The slogan for the 2018 event is "What Are You Doing March 19th? Meet Me @ The Taste." Always held in the first quarter of the year, the Taste of Madison was established in 2002 as a fun, townwide cure for the winter blues.

At their recent summer meeting Taste organizers determined the time and place of the 2018 event. Organizers also reported that in its previous sixteen editions, the Taste of Madison has raised more than \$500,000 and entertained more than 7,000 guests.

The Taste of Madison Organizing Committee is a volunteer, non-profit partnership between the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, the Madison Downtown Development Commission and the Rotary Club of Madison. Taste proceeds fund charitable causes, civic improvements and business development in Madison.

The co-chairs of the 2018 Taste of Madison are Maureen Byrne (DDC), Danielle Dixon (Chamber) and David Morozoff (Rotary). Members of the organizing committee are Bob Conley, Lisa Ellis, Karen Giambra, Jim Hollenbach, Rocco Iossa, Leslie Lajewski, John Morris, Mike Odell, Michael Pellsessier and Anna Riker. Gabriella D'Amato and Dave Thompson are the Gary's Wine & Marketplace representatives.

For information about Taste corporate sponsorships and advertising opportunities,

please contact Karen Giambra, executive director of the Madison Chamber, at [madisonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:madisonchamber@gmail.com) or 973-214-7014.

The Taste's silent auction and tricky tray events are some of the best in northern New Jersey, organizers said. The businesses of Madison and the friends of Madison donate merchandise and services to the cause. Donations are welcome anytime. The Taste also features a 50/50 raffle drawing during the night

of the event.

Event tickets, which must be purchased in advance, will be available at Gary's Wine & Marketplace in Madison and at [www.TasteOfMadison.org](http://www.TasteOfMadison.org) in early 2018.

Taste guests need to be a minimum of 21 years old. The dress code is business casual. VIP Admission (early entry at 6pm) is \$100.00 each. General Admission (event entry at 7pm) is \$65.00 each. The Taste ends at 9:30pm.



(above, l-r) Some members of the Taste of Madison Organizing Committee in historic downtown Madison announcing the date of the 2018 Taste of Madison: David Morozoff, Danielle Dixon, Bob Conley, Mike Odell, Maureen Byrne and John Morris. (Notes: Bob Conley is Mayor of Madison. Maureen Byrne is a member of Madison Borough Council. Byrne, David Morozoff and Danielle Dixon are co-chairs of the Taste of Madison Organizing Committee.)

## MAKERS GALLERY RIBBON CUTTING

Mayor Robert Conley cut the ribbon at the December 15 Grand Opening of Maker's Gallery located at 6 Main St., Madison. Owner Melanie

Tomaszewski also is the owner of Madison Mud and Tivoli Creative Design Studio, also located at 6 Main St.



(above, l-r) John Hoover, Mark Fabyanski, Mayor Robert Conley, Melanie Tomaszewski, council member Maureen Byrne, council member Carmela Vitale, Robbin Salmeri, Chamber Vice-President Danielle Dixon.

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## MADISON SENIOR CENTER HOLIDAY PARTY

Madison seniors enjoyed a lovely holiday celebration last month at Madison Senior Center, 28 Walnut Street, Madison.

Ian Gallagher, vocalist/guitarist provided entertainment, performing a variety of festive seasonal hits like "Blue Christmas," "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," "Let it Snow," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," and "Feliz Navidad."

Madison Senior Center is a redesigned, fully-

accessible facility offering activities, services, and resources to meet the diverse interests and needs of older adults.

There are day trips, fitness classes, speakers, card groups, discussion groups, movies, crafts, and volunteer opportunities. They also have Dial-a-Ride van service and Meals on Wheels deliveries.

For more information call 973-593-3095 or visit [gov.rosenet.org/seniorservices](http://gov.rosenet.org/seniorservices)



(above, l-r) Member Sandra Fielo, Council Member Maureen Bryne, and Member Kaye Shaler.



(above) Seniors enjoying music.



(above, l-r) Madison Health Department Registrar Joanne Grillo and Senior Citizen Director Sara Keffer.



(above) Ian Gallagher, vocalist/guitarist.



### Tri-Town 55+ Coalition

#### "Working Together to Build Lifelong Communities" Who We Are

Tri-Town 55+ is a non-profit, community based organization that unites representatives of business, non-profit and public agencies in partnership to address the quality of life, diverse needs and the interests of older adults and their families in the communities of Chatham Borough, Chatham Township and Madison Borough.

#### Rides for Seniors Program

The Tri-Town 55+ Coalition started in January, 2016 with a grant awarded by the Grotta Fund for Senior Care. An extensive needs assessment survey conducted from January 2016 to July 2016 identified transportation as one of the areas of need among the residents of the three communities. The GoGoGrandparent "Rides for Seniors" pilot program is one of the first key initiatives to be implemented by Tri-Town 55+ Coalition. The pilot-program will run from April 3 to June 30th, 2017. Subsidized rides are \$5 each way within 15 miles for senior residents 65 and older from the Chathams and Madison only. (Residents of other communities are welcome to register with GoGoGrandparent but will pay standard rates.)

#### Contact Us

Tri-Town 55+ Coalition

Phone: 1-(862) 246-6065 Email: [TriTown55plus@gmail.com](mailto:TriTown55plus@gmail.com)

[www.tritown55plus.org](http://www.tritown55plus.org)

#### Tri-Town 55+ Coalition Partners

Atlantic Health System	Chatham Borough Council	Madison Borough Council	Madison Senior Center	Saint Barnabas Medical Center
Chatham Hills Sub-acute Care Center	Library of the Chathams	Madison Area Chamber of Commerce	Madison Area YMCA	St. Patrick's Church
Chatham Senior Center	Madison Alliance Addressing Substance Abuse (MAASA)	Madison Downtown Development Commission	Mayor's Wellness Committee of the Chathams	Shoprite
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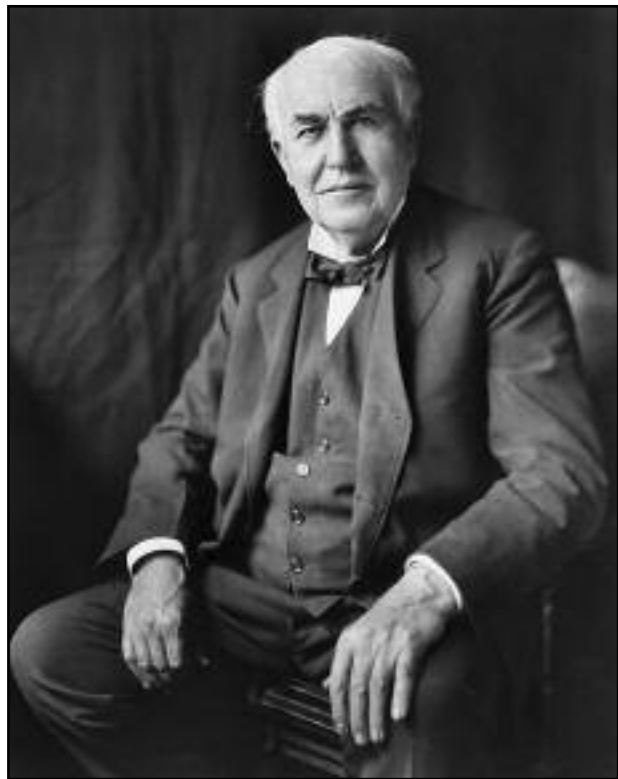
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## PROFESSOR EXPLORES HISTORY OF THOMAS EDISON AND ELECTRIC LIGHT

On Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 7 p.m., the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts (METC) will present "Edison and the Origins of Electric



(above) Thomas A. Edison

Lighting," a lecture by Dr. Paul Israel, Director and General Editor of the Thomas A. Edison Papers at Rutgers University. In his talk, Dr. Paul Israel will explore Thomas Alva Edison's inventions and how electric lighting became a part of everyday life. With access to 5 million pages of documents that chronicle the extraordinary life and achievements of the New Jersey inventor, Israel brings fresh insight into Edison's career, the "War of the Currents," and the impact he made on science and our country. This program is part of the SPARK! Lecture Series sponsored by Investors Bank and in conjunction with METC's new exhibit "Spark! The Explosive and Dirty History of Light." Admission is \$8, \$5 for Members and Seniors. Registration is required, and guests can register for this and other events at [www.metc.org](http://www.metc.org).

The Thomas A. Edison Papers Project at Rutgers University, led by Dr. Israel, is an ambitious project that chronicles the extraordinary life and achievements of Thomas Alva Edison. The millions of Edison-related documents remained hidden and inaccessible to members of the general public until 1978, when a team of editors/scholars began turning this incomparable trove of Edisonia into a premier educational resource. This project has achieved

the mission of making Edison accessible—and comprehensible—to countless numbers of young and lifetime learners.

Dr. Israel is a consultant and contributor to projects about Edison and invention, including nearly 30 television and radio documentaries. He has assisted with exhibits and interpretive programs at museums and historic sites, including the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, the Thomas Edison National Historical Park, and the Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park. In addition, he has given numerous public lectures on Edison, and written award-winning books about Edison, technology, and innovation.

"Spark! The Explosive and Dirty History of Light" tells the story of man-made light, from candles, to the whaling trade, through the late 19th century when Thomas Edison ushered in a new era of artificial light and technology. The exhibit will run until February 2018. Guests can take a self-guided tour book a guided tour in advance. The SPARK! Lecture Series has programs for the whole family throughout the rest of the year and into 2018.

For more information on the new exhibit and upcoming lecture series, please call 973-377-2982 or visit our website at [www.metc.org](http://www.metc.org).

## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SUMMIT ANNOUNCES ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

Join the Junior League of Summit on February 10, 2017 for its Annual Trivia Night at Chatham Fish & Game. Tickets will go on sale at noon on January 10th. Teams of up to 10 people may register for a table for an entrance fee of \$500. All competitors must be 21 or older.

"This is a really fun event and it's always amazing to see so much creativity and spirit from the participants. There is a lot of friendly competition, with each table trying top the next with their costumes, table décor, and of course coveted trivia points! The competition is fierce and fun. It is a wonderful opportunity to have a great night out with your friends and other community members, all for a great cause," stated Rachel Zucker, the event chairwoman.

The festivities will include lively competition

among the teams in various trivia categories, as well as interactive bonus rounds and extra points for best team themes and table décor. The evening will feature Adam Zucker, host of CBS Sports' College Football Today, as the competition emcee.

As with previous years, all funds raised at Trivia Night benefit the JLS's Annual Fund, supporting its community grants, scholarships, and projects such as GRACE, the League's current community outreach project. GRACE stands for Giving and Receiving Assistance for Our Community's Essentials, and its main focus is fighting food insecurity in Summit and our surrounding communities.

"The money raised by Trivia Night will provide an immediate impact on local families who are

facing food insecurity. We are extremely proud of the growth and significance that GRACE has had to date and are excited about the momentum it has to make a lasting impact on our community," stated Liz Dutkewych, JLS President.

The Junior League of Summit is a nonprofit, charitable, and educational organization of women who are committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

For more information about the Junior League of Summit or to inquire about becoming a member, please visit the website at [www.jlsummit.org](http://www.jlsummit.org) or contact the office at 908-273-7349.

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## WINNERS OF "FIND ROSIE THE ROSE CITY REINDEER" ANNOUNCED

Forty Chamber member businesses launched a creative and fun activity to help highlight the holidays this season and invited children of all ages to participate in an event that would be certain to put a smile on everyone's face.

Children were invited to search the town for Rosie the Rose City Reindeer and collect toys and prizes donated by Tons of Toys, 64 Main St., along the way and have the opportunity to be included in a grand prize drawing.

Tons of Toys owner Chris Brinkofski announced the winners on Monday, December

18, during a live feed on the ILoveMadisonNJ Facebook page.

The grand prize winner was Norah Kennedy who was awarded a \$100 Madison Gift Check. Second and third place winners, Owen Brown and Charlie Siple, each received a \$50 Madison Gift Check.

"The Rosie scavenger hunt was tons of fun for everyone involved," said Chamber executive director Karen Giambra. "Many thanks to everyone who supported and participated... Rosie will be back again next year!"



(above) Grand Prize winner Norah Kennedy with her brother John while searching for Rosie at Prima, 41 Main St.

## CHAMBER NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

If networking is part of your marketing plan then The Madison Chamber of Commerce is steep in opportunity. Members gather for a casual meet up every fourth Thursday of the month at Stryxe Bowling, located at 300 Main Street in Madison, from 5:00 to 7 p.m., or as late as you may want to stay. You can eat, drink, and

even bowl. A special happy hour menu is available.

The group varies in size from month to month but is always stimulating and friendly. It's good to do business with people you know and there is no better way to get to know people than events like these.



(above, l-r) Chamber of Commerce members relaxed at a recent Happy Hour Networking meet up at Stryxe, John Morris of Stewart-Morris; Fred Da Veiga of Regal Wealth Advisors; Randy Hurley of Keller Williams; Karen Giambra of Madison Chamber of Commerce; Jacqueline Mitchell of Four Square Staging, Andrew Goldberg of Renna Media; and Dianne Rudolph of Paymedia.



**MADISON AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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Please Join Us at Our Monthly

## HAPPY HOUR

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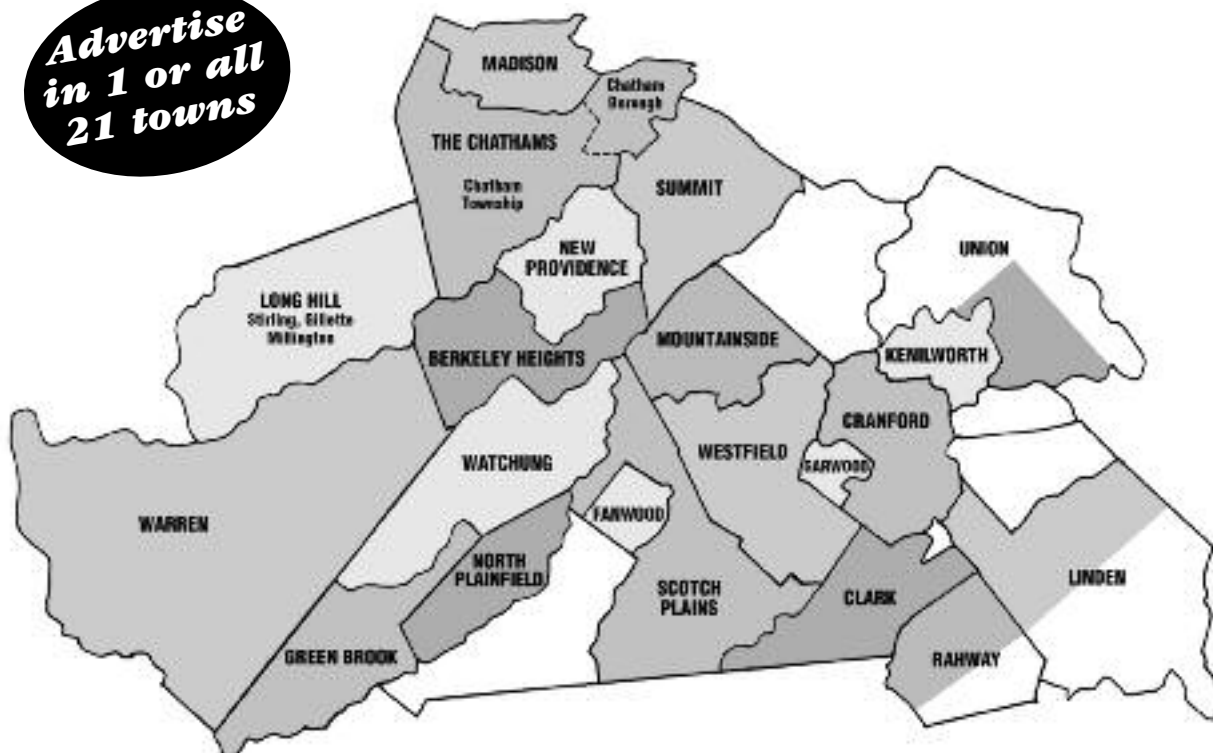
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<b>4 Units</b>	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	<b>\$180</b>	<b>\$450</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$1100</b>	<b>\$1300</b>	<b>\$1500</b>	<b>\$1700</b>
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