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EMERGENCY SQUAD BEGINS ITS ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Submitted by Craig Alperowitz

On February 12, 2019, more than 8,000 letters were mailed out to Chatham residents, businesses, religious organizations and community groups to kick off the annual fundraising campaign for the Chatham Emergency Squad.

The letter, signed by President Evan Skinner and Captain Steve Davenport, explains how the squad is comprised of a membership base made entirely of volunteers, each of whom provide superior service and care to helping those in need. The squad's Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) go through extensive training, which far exceeds the requirements by the State of New Jersey.

For 83 years, the Chatham Emergency Squad has been committed to providing free emergency services for residents, businesses and visitors to Chatham Township and Chatham Borough. It is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year and is fully funded thanks to the generous contributions of Chatham residents and

businesses.

All contributions are 100% tax-deductible and will be used for necessary equipment and training to help EMTs safely and effectively assist patients in need. Contributions can be made in a variety of ways – via check, online via credit card at chathamemergencysquad.org, or through a donation button on the Chatham Emergency Squad Facebook page, which increases the donor's impact as the squad is not subjected to processing fees.

ABOUT THE CHATHAM EMERGENCY SQUAD

The Chatham Emergency Squad is an all-volunteer organization funded almost exclusively by donations. CES never charges for its services. In 2018 they responded to over 1,200 emergency calls and provided free training in CPR to more than 400 residents, teachers, coaches and emergency personnel. To learn more, to donate or to volunteer, please visit chathamemergencysquad.org.



(above) Chatham Emergency Squad volunteers.

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ANNUAL BOOK SALE AT CHATHAM LIBRARY

Submitted by Salli McMorrow

On Saturday, March 9, 2019, the Friends of the Library of the Chathams will hold its annual book sale at the library, located at 214 Main Street.

The sale is a major fundraiser for the Friends with all proceeds going to purchase more books, CDs and DVDs for use by our library patrons. Over 40,000 items are donated to this sale by Chatham's community of books and music lovers. The selection is amazing in all categories – fiction, history, biographies, art, classical, cookbooks and music. There is something for everyone. The children's section is an especially favorite one with brand new and hardly-used classics and modern children's specialties. It is a perfect place for parents and grandparents to pick up gifts or just fun to browse for future favorites. Giving the gift of love for reading to children is one of life's greatest thrills. Creating a need to read is priceless, something a child has for the rest of his or her life.

The popular collectors' corner showcases rare and collectible books as well as better children's books and better cookbooks and recent 2018 publications.

The volunteers who work at the event, from the collecting and sorting of the donations to the final sale days, gain something for themselves they can't find anywhere else – friends, fun and community service. Those who have been part of the event for years would not miss it. A simple love of books and giving back to their community make the long weeks worth every minute. The enjoyment on the faces of the customers at the sale itself is extremely satisfying. Most books sell for a dollar a piece, but the experience is priceless.

Members of the Friends of the Chatham Library who live in Chatham are invited to a special preview sale offered on Friday, March 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The hours for the sale are Saturday, March 9 starting with a \$25 fee for early entrance from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The regular sale itself starts at 9:30 a.m. with no entrance fee. On March 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be a bag sale – all you can carry in a bag for \$8. The book sale itself will continue from March 11 to the 13th at regular library hours.

Come and enjoy yourselves at one of Chatham's finest events. And take home something wonderful to read or listen to!



(above, l-r) Book sale volunteers Charlie McMorrow, Art Biber and John Gardner.

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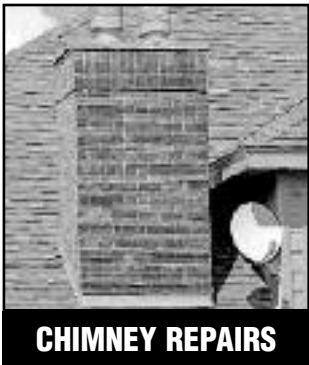
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(above, l-r) Ali Archetti of East Hanover as Violet and Shane Long of Jersey City as Billy star in Rick Abbott's play, "Play On!", produced by The Chatham Players.

Photo by Howard Fischer

CHATHAM PLAYERS' LAUGH IT UP WITH RICK ABBOTT'S "PLAY ON!"

Need a good laugh? The Chatham Community Players may have the cure with Rick Abbott's hilarious play within a play, "Play On!". This production is running through March 9. John A.C. Kennedy from Springfield directs.

An uproarious behind-the-scenes comedy in the tradition of Noises Off, an unlucky troupe of actors desperately tries to put on a play in spite of meddling from the playwright. Will they manage to pull off the opening night without a hitch? Of course not! Don't miss this non-stop, mischievous backstage romp! Those who have participated in community theater – especially New Jersey's actors and backstage volunteers – seem like the ideal audience for this well-staged and well-cast production of a play that revels in the amateurish pitfalls and ego-driven excesses of community theater. At just under two hours, though, including two intermissions, "Play On!" will move fast enough that it won't have the time to outwear its welcome.

The talented group of actors that make up the "Play On!" cast are Jessica Phelan of Montclair as Aggie, Shane Long of Jersey City as Billy, Aaron Kellner of West Orange as Gerry, Jim Clancy of Basking Ridge as Henry, Roseann Ruggiero of Ledgewood as Louise, Julie Anne Nolan of Little Falls as Phyllis, Lauri MacMillan of Rockaway as Polly, Chip Prestera of Stirling as Saul, Rachel Gesner of Short Hills as Smitty and Ali Archetti of East Hanover as Violet.

Director John A.C. Kennedy added, "I'm lucky enough to have a group of excellent actors, portraying a company of pretty good actors, struggling to make sense of a comically inept script that continues to change up until "Opening night". Bad actor jokes run thin for me after not too long, but I think the audience, particularly those with community theater experience, will recognize, enjoy and really be able to get behind the efforts of this valiant-but-challenged troupe."

Rounding out Kennedy's talented production team, the Producer is Joe DeVico, Stage

Manager is Joëlle Bochner, Scenic Designer is Steve Ruskin, Costume Designers are Christina Kirk, Kai Movsoviich & Carol Saso, Lighting Designer is Ed Whitman, Props & Decoration by Tish Lum & Kate Pierce and original music is composed and performed by the Sound Designer, Joe DeVico.

Performance dates are March 1, 2, 8, 9 at 8 p.m. and March 3 at 3 p.m. All performances are at the Chatham Playhouse, 23 North Passaic Avenue, in Chatham. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$23 for youth/senior.

Tickets can be purchased at our Box Office or Online. To access the theater's new online ticketing service, where you can now reserve your particular seat, simply go to ccp.booktix.com. The service is available 24 hours a day and tickets can be purchased online up until three hours prior to curtain on the day of a performance. Chatham Playhouse's box office accepts phone reservations at 973-635-7363. For information regarding box office hours, please call the box office number listed above. Patrons with special needs requiring seating accommodations should contact the Playhouse at least 24 hours prior to the performance. Without prior notice, accommodations cannot be guaranteed. "Play On!" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French.

ABOUT THE CHATHAM PLAYHOUSE

The Chatham Community Players has been entertaining residents of Morris County and the surrounding area since 1922. The organization's mission is to produce high-quality theater for a diverse audience, while elevating its standard of excellence and providing a creative outlet with educational opportunities and outreach programs. For more information, including details of CCP's 2018-2019 season, visit chathamplayers.org. Funding has been made possible in part by Morris Arts through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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STUDENTS TO STAR AT GREEN VISION FORUM

Submitted by Claire Whitcomb

The Madison Environmental Commission is holding its second annual Green Vision Forum on Thursday, March 14, 2019, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Drew University's Ehinger Center. Once again, the stars of the evening will be students from Madison's elementary, junior and high schools, along with college students from Drew University.

"We've asked school green teams and science classes to choose two students to make short presentations about their vision for a greener Madison," says event organizer Renee Shalhoub of the Environmental Commission. "It's a chance for youth to lead the way."

Last year the event featured presentations on short showers, bike swaps, reusable water bottles and idling at school pick-ups, among other topics. The forum was recognized with an Environmental Achievement Award from the Association of New Jersey Environmental

Commissions (ANJEC).

Once again, Mayor Bob Conley will introduce the Green Vision Forum and town officials, including Borough Council members, will share their thoughts.

"I'm looking forward to hearing the kids' ideas and gaining a deeper understanding of what environmental issues Madison cares about," says Maureen Byrne, the Borough Council Member who serves as the liaison to the Environmental Commission's liaison. "It's exciting to see this level of enthusiasm from our students and future leaders."

The evening is a family friendly event. Refreshments will be served and coloring supplies will be provided. "Students are encouraged to bring their siblings—and their neighbors," says Shalhoub.

To RSVP, please contact the Environmental Commission at MEC@rosenet.org.



(above) Among the student presenters at last year's Green Vision Forum were Vendant Mallik, Ishan Mallik and Gibson Fischer from Kings Road School. They are shown with principal Kathleen Koop and MEC member Renee Shalhoub.

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LAFAYETTE STUDENTS WALK TO PROMOTE SAFETY ON VALENTINE'S DAY

Submitted by TransOptions

Chatham Lafayette School held a Valentine's Walk to School Day on Valentine's Day, Thursday February 14th, 2019. The themed Walk to School Day had students hand out Valentine's cards and treats to their crossing guards. Students were given a Valentine's card template to give to their crossing guard, but were also encouraged to create their own.

The Safe Routes to School program at TransOptions provides education and encouragement events to schools and communities to promote safe walking and biking around neighborhoods and schools.

"This event is a way for students who walk to school to get to know their crossing guards," said TransOptions Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Lisa Leone. "It's also a great event to hold during the winter months as a way to continue practices of safe walking and biking to school all year round."

"One of the easiest ways to increase the safety of a student's walking trip to school is to hold events like this," said TransOptions President, Dan Callas. "We want to encourage students to walk to school and to do it safely by utilizing sidewalks, crosswalks and their crossing guards."

Overall, Walk to School Day events raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the

importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and concern for the environment. The events build connections between families, schools and the broader community. According to the latest statewide data collected by the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety (NJDHHS), 351 children between the ages of 5 and 12 were involved in crashes as pedestrians or bicycle riders in 2017.

New Jersey Safe Routes to School, which is created and supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation with funding from the Federal Highway Administration, enables and encourages safer and more accessible walking and bicycling environments for children in New Jersey through education, training, and research. Safe Routes to School projects can involve

physical improvements to the environment, as well as encouragement programs to promote more walking and bicycling to and from school, according to saferoutesnj.org.

For more information on TransOptions and its Safe Routes to School program visit www.transoptions.org/safe-routes-to-school.

Photos by TransOptions.



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John Montanna

CHATHAM EMERGENCY SQUAD TO HOLD BLOOD DRIVE - MAR 16

On March 16, 2019, from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., the Chatham Emergency Squad will be holding a blood drive at its Chatham Borough building, located on 31 North Passaic Avenue. Parking is available behind the Squad Building, on Center street.

Donors, ages 17-75, should be in good health and bring with them a form of identification. Donors are also asked to have eaten or drank something before arriving. Teenagers who are 16 years of age can also donate with parental permission; forms will be available at the site. Anyone age 76 years or older must have a doctor's note permitting donation. In addition to whole blood donations, the Alyx machine will be on site for donations of red blood cells specifically. Walk-ins are welcomed.

The Chatham Emergency Squad is an all-volunteer organization funded almost exclusively by donations. CES never charges for its services. In 2018 they responded to over 1,200 emergency calls and provided free training in CPR to more than 400 residents, teachers, coaches and emergency personnel.

To learn more, to donate or to volunteer, please visit chathamemergencysquad.org.

AN "INCREDIBLE" FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

The Chatham Key Club is having a great year so far, filled with car washes and bake sales and more! But what happens when it gets too cold to have a car wash or a bake sale stand?

Everyone grabs a blanket and heads over to the CHS Key Club's second annual Family Movie Night!

On March 22, 2019, kids and grown-ups alike will flock to the Chatham High School gymnasium, where they can feast on popcorn, stretch out on a blanket (or chair), and watch the well-known family favorite, The Incredibles!

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for fun games and the movie will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are available online at incrediblesmovienight.weebly.com or at the door. What better to do on a cold winter's day than hang out with your friends and family and watch a fun favorite? Plus, all proceeds go to help hungry families in need, so it's a win-win! Be sure to mark your calendar!

Feel free to contact the movie night's organizer, Talia Miller, at taliamiller@chatham-nj.org with any questions!

ANNUAL CORNED BEEF AND DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY #43

Submitted by Maryann Doherty

Plans have been completed for the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner held annually for close to fifty years by the Madison-Florham Park American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43. The event will take place at the Legion Post Home, 20 Ridgedale Avenue in Florham Park from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 17, 2019. The donation for a dinner will be \$15, children under 12 will be \$5. A sandwich with a side will be \$10. Dessert is included with each selection.

Funds raised in the past have made it possible to send delegates to Jersey Girls State each June from Madison, Hanover Park and Chatham High Schools, provide gifts for the Valerie Fund for Children with Cancer and Blood Diseases,

support Family Promise which assists the homeless of Morris County, as well as provide financial support to Auxiliary Academic Scholarships on the National, State and County levels.

Past Unit President Frances Derin of Florham Park is chairman of the dinner committee. Sons of the Legion member George West of Morristown will be volunteering in the kitchen assisted by Unit member Yvonne Chapman of Madison.

The ladies of Unit #43 invite all residents to join them for dinner on March 17 to show support for the volunteer work they do for veterans, children and the communities in the area.

SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Submitted by Laura Sostak

Tri-Town 55+ Coalition is seeking local professionals who can share their talent to help build age-friendly communities in the towns of Chatham Borough, Chatham Township and Madison. Whether you are retired and looking to stay active, or have a few hours to spare each week, we invite you to join the Tri-Town 55+ Coalition team.

Can you share your experience in technology, public relations, marketing, finance or business with the Coalition? Do you wish to have an active role in building lifelong communities in Chatham Borough, Chatham Township and Madison? If so, please consider joining the Coalition team. We have many opportunities to share your expertise. Whether it is a few hours a week, a month, or for special projects. Your time, talent and experience will be greatly appreciated.

Tri-Town 55+ is a non-profit, 501c3, community-based organization with

representatives from business, non-profit and public agencies who partner together to create, implement and promote age-friendly programs and services for older adults and their families within the three towns. The Coalition began in January 2016 with the help of a grant from the Grotta Fund for Senior Care. The Fund supports the creation of age-friendly communities throughout northern and central New Jersey.

Tri-Town 55+ Coalition launched its first initiative, the "Rides for Seniors" program. The subsidized on-demand, 24-hour car service began in April 2017 for seniors 65 and older in the three towns. To date, the program has over 300 registered riders and has provided 3,000 rides.

To learn more details on specific opportunities, please email TriTown55plus@gmail.com or call at 862-246-6065. To learn more about Tri-Town 55+ Coalition, visit the website at tritown55plus.org.

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BSA TROOP PLACES HIGH IN REGIONAL RACE

On Saturday, February 2, 2019, Scouts BSA Troop 280 of Chatham placed second out of 15 teams in the Fishawack District Klondike Derby, a six-hour sled and skills marathon at Boy Scout Camp Allamuchy in Stanhope, NJ. It was the only Troop for girls competing in the quest.

Just a day earlier, Troop 280 officially chartered with Scouts BSA (previously the Boy Scouts of America), making it part of the pioneering first wave of Troops for girls in the region. The Troop sent a team of nine girls to the Klondike, and has a growing number of registered Scouts.

"It was really difficult at first, coming into this new, but we all pulled our weight and helped one another," said Chatham's Azniv Basralian, team captain in Saturday's race. "It's incredible how much we got to know each other. Everyone got a chance to be a leader, and having this opportunity meant so much to all of us."

The freezing morning of 6 degrees Fahrenheit didn't deter the new Troop's early start. "I've never been so cold in my life," said Kalis Drew of Madison.

The team included Carly Albanese, Azniv Basralian, Lucine Basralian, Sasha Bauhs, Kalis Drew, Amelie Lambert, Sofia Maciejewski, Janae Molina and Sofi Romero. They competed in the age 11-13 Division.

Troop 280 is chartered by Stanley Congregational Church on Fairmount Avenue and led by Scoutmaster Daniele Basralian.

Troop 28 and Venture Crew 28 are also chartered by Stanley and provided materials to the new Troop. The girls trained for just a few weeks, and several of the girls have been Arrow of Light Scouts with Cub Scout Pack 6 in Chatham since September.

Troop 280 meets most Thursday nights, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Stanley Church and conducts many of its adventures on weekends.

They can be reached by emailing troop280chatham@gmail.com.

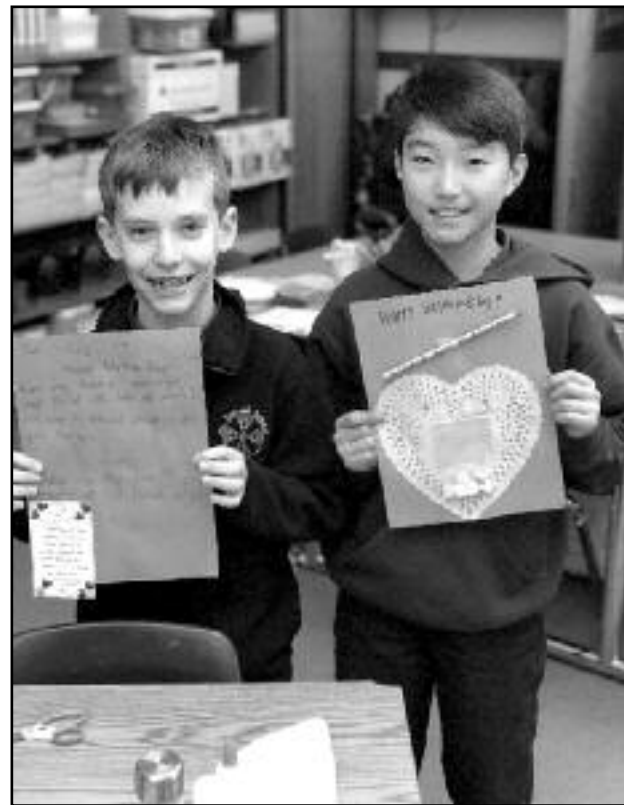
Troops of boys and girls are not commingled. In Scouts BSA, girls and boys have equal opportunity to form their own separate Troops and develop the skills, character and teamwork abilities they'll need in life.



(above) Scouts BSA Troop 280 of Chatham placed second out of 15 teams in the Fishawack District Klondike Derby, a six-hour sled and skills marathon at Boy Scout Camp Allamuchy in Stanhope, NJ.



ST. PATRICK SCHOOL CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Students at St. Patrick School in Chatham participated in various community service activities as part of National Catholic Schools. For example, Grades 1-5 did separate service projects to serve Garden Terrace Nursing Home in Chatham, including making door decorations and Valentine's Day cards. The Kindergarten classes partnered with their buddies in Grade 8 to make food and hygiene bags for the homeless that will be distributed to Family Promise of Morris County, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending the crisis of homelessness faced by Morris County families.

Additionally, Grades 6-8 made placemats for armed services veterans, while the Pre-K classes made various colorful drawings to give to the non-profit Color A Smile, which distributes cheerful drawings monthly to senior citizens, troops overseas, and anyone in need of a smile.

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THE ART LEAGUE OF THE CHATHAMS ANNOUNCES SPRING EXHIBIT FEATURING "SALLY ABBOTT: RECENT WORK"

Submitted by Ann Frommer

The Art League of The Chathams' Spring Exhibit, featuring "Sally Abbott: Recent Work", a solo show of paintings by Sally Abbott, Chatham painter and world traveler, opens with a reception on Friday, March 15, 2019 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m at the Lundt-Glover Gallery at the Twp. of Chatham Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ.

"My paintings are all interpretations of my travels through the lens as I see vistas of land, sea and sky to photograph and then to paint. They tell the story of my own personal observations, and how I translate them onto canvas – the world as

I see it," Sally explained.

Her landscapes, seascapes, skyscapes and still life paintings focus on light and textures. The Rooster Series, a fun and whimsical series, is inspired by Andy Warhol's Elizabeth Taylor series and can be enjoyed as single paintings or hung in groupings.

Sally Abbott's work comes from a lifetime of rich art experiences. Studying art at Purdue University, collecting regional art, curating while dealing with NY galleries and museums, serving as a museum board member, fundraising for the arts, science, history and preservation have given a valuable background to evolve into a painter.

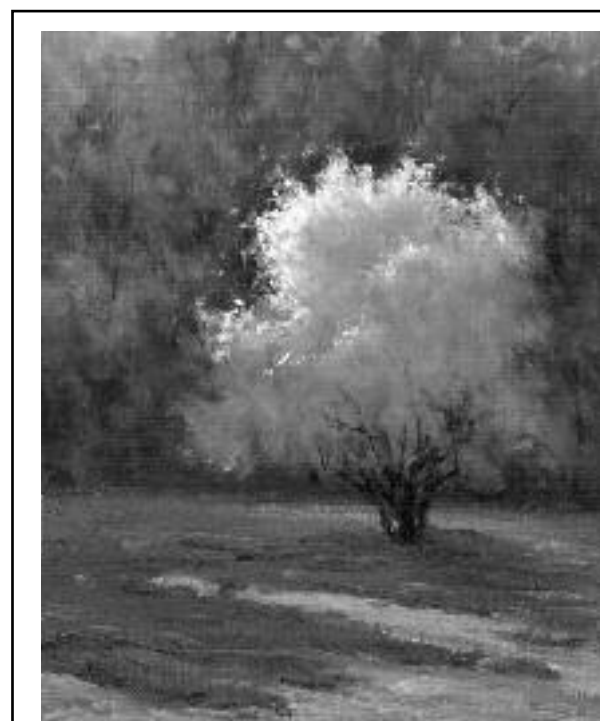
Her work can be found in collections in California, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, South Carolina, and Texas, as well as New Jersey.

The Art League of the Chathams also features its strolling gallery, displaying art of its member artists. The Spring Show runs from March 15 through June 7, 2019 during normal business hours. Art is available for sale. The building is handicapped accessible and the exhibition is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the municipal building office 973-635-4600.



(above) Sally Abbott with her painting titled "Nick in Granpa Tommy's Helmet."



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FOR TEENS

Free ACT Practice Test

Saturday, March 30 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration required

Not sure where to start or if the SAT or ACT is right for you? Now that you have taken a practice SAT test, you can take ACT on March 30. These free, full-length practice tests are administered by Princeton Review. See how you would do if you took the test without it appearing on your official record. You will get your score in 2 weeks. Arrive at 9:45 a.m., bring a calculator and #2 pencils.

Coming up: Free ACT Practice Test on Saturday, March 30

FOR CHILDREN

Mommy & Me Language Classes

Spanish: Friday, March 15

10 to 10:45 a.m.

Mandarin: Friday, March 22

10 to 10:45 a.m.

Ages 18 to 36 months. No registration required.

Led by native speaking and experienced preschool teachers at HudsonWay Immersion School, these 100% immersion classes will introduce you and your child to the fun of learning a second language! Through stories, songs, movement and games we provide the most effective environment to put your child on the path to bilingual development. No prior knowledge of either language is required, and children may also be accompanied by a dad, grandparent or other caregiver.

FOR ADULTS

Income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) continues on

Wednesdays through April 10

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Appointments for this free service may be made in person or by calling the library at 973-635-0603. Please bring all your financial records from 2018, copies of your 2017 Federal and State tax returns, photo ID, all printed and blank forms from the Internal Revenue Service, and proof of Social Security Number for all dependents.

Gen Y Networking Group

Wednesdays, March 6 & 20 – 7 p.m.

Gen Y Networking Group is a forum dedicated to job searching, networking, and career development. The group is open to all job seekers.

Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, March 9 – 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(early entry 7:30 – 9:30 a.m., \$25)

Sunday, March 10 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 11 & 12

during regular library hours

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A Trip to Antarctica with Fran Drew

Monday, March 25 – 7 p.m.

In 1973 Lars-Eric Lindblad offered a trip on his ship, the Lindblad Explorer, to the Antarctic, a place no company had ever taken tourists before this time. Chatham resident Fran Drew and her sister Rosanne Maraziti were among 60 tourists from eleven countries who traveled as far south as possible, crossing

the “roaring forties”, the roughest passage in the world where three oceans meet and waves are 40 feet high. It took two days to get across from the tip of South America to the Antarctic Peninsula to view a landscape previously seen only by seasoned explorers and researchers.

Fran will share that experience and a short film that she made in Antarctica.

Notable Women of New Jersey

Wednesday, March 27 – 7 p.m.

This is our fourth annual celebration of the Women’s History Month. Join us to meet and hear the stories of some the state’s most accomplished women. For information on participants, go to chathamlibrary.org/notable-women-2019/.

JERSEY VOICES’ CALL FOR ORIGINAL WORKS DEADLINE MARCH 15

Submitted by Chris Furlong

The Chatham Community Players is seeking original, one-act plays, short musicals, and/or original dance pieces, written by New Jersey authors, for Jersey Voices’ 25th annual production.

Submissions should be roughly 15 minutes in running time, and will be accepted through March 15, 2019 by e-mail only to: jerseyvoices@chathamplayers.org.

Selected pieces will each be performed in our Black Box Theater in Chatham on the last weekend in July and first weekend in August.

If you have any questions visit chathamplayers.org, or email jerseyvoices@chathamplayers.org.

THE ABCS OF ORGANIC LAWNS

TALK TO BE PRESENTED ON MARCH 11 AT MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Organic lawn care not only makes lawns safer for children and pets, it saves homeowners time and money, according to Brian Monaghan, a Madison Environmental Commission member who will be speaking on “The ABCs of Organic Lawn Care and Renovation” on March 11 at 7pm at the Chase Room of the Madison Public Library. The talk is sponsored by the Master Gardener’s Speakers Bureau of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

“Organic lawn care is about feeding the soil, not the plants,” says Monaghan, who is also a member of the Madison Shade Tree Management Board and the Community Garden Advisory Committee. “It’s a different way of thinking about your lawn.”

In his experience, going organic typically saves costs after the first year. “Aside from mowing, there’s very little maintenance with an organic lawn,” says Monaghan. “And you have the peace of mind from knowing that you’re not using chemicals with warning labels. We have

well water in Madison, so what you put on your lawn does go into the aquifer.”

Here are five ways that going organic is different.

1. It starts with soil. Monaghan recommends ordering a soil test kit from Rutgers, www.njaes.rutgers.edu. It costs \$20 and comes with access to a master gardener hot line for lawn questions.
2. Organic lawn care relies on corn gluten to knock back crab grass. “Corn gluten will be about 65% effective the first year,” says Monaghan. “Your aim is to build up your soil health so that your grass will compete favorably with the weeds and keep them in balance.”
3. Nutrients come from compost, not chemical fertilizers. Fortunately compost is easy for Morris County residents to obtain. It can be picked up for free at the Morris County Municipal Authorities location in Parsippany (www.mcmua.com) or delivered for a fee. A

5000 square foot lawn requires four cubic feet of compost, applied a half-inch thick.

4. Mowing should be minimal. “You don’t want to cut your grass short,” says Monaghan. “If you keep it tall—about two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half inches—it will shade out weeds.”
5. Grass clippings should be left on the lawn. Clippings are 80 to 85 percent water. They contain valuable nutrients and decompose quickly, disappearing when they filter down to the soil.

A companion talk on chemical-free gardening will be held on March 13 at 10am. Dr. Diane Lewis, founder of the Great Healthy Yard Project, will discuss the hazards of common garden projects and share alternative practices.

To register for these events, visit the events section of the Madison Public Library’s website. To receive a copy of the Madison Environmental Commission’s natural-ingredient DIY weed killers, write to MEC@rosenet.org.

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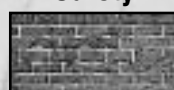
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