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#### FALL ENCAMPMENT FOR MADISON-HARDING GIRL SCOUTS

Submitted by Laura Axler

On a beautiful fall weekend this October, more than 150 Madison-Harding Girl Scouts in grades 3-5 and their leaders spent a fun-filled Encampment at Camp Lou Henry Hoover in Newton, NJ.

The 15 girls from eighth grade Cadette troops 5631 and 5632 continued the tradition of planning and hosting this special annual weekend of fun for the younger troops. They planned every aspect of the event, including crafts, activities, decorations, and a camp-wide game of "Clue" that tied in with the weekend's "mystery" theme. In the Craft Studio, the planning troops guided the younger girls as they decorated masquerade masks. They also led field games, including capture the flag, tug-of-war, and a hungry hippo game where partners worked together to move around the floor on square scooters to collect plastic balls in small laundry baskets.

Camp Hoover staff was also on hand to run the archery, low ropes course, and boating activities. The blue sky and autumnal foliage were the perfect backdrop as the girls paddled their canoes and rowboats around Swartzwood Lake.

Before dinner, the scouts exchanged SWAPS (Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere)—tiny handmade crafts that they pinned on lanyards to keep as a memento of the weekend. Later in the evening, they enjoyed making smores and singing camp songs around the fire. Back in the cabins, troops planned their own evening activities, including games and crafts. This amazing weekend, planned by the eighth grade troops, is just one example of how Girl Scouts helps girls learn important life-long skills that they will use forever.

To learn more about Madison-Harding Girl Scouts, contact Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey at gsnnj.org.



(above) Sixth graders from Madison's Cadette troop 6168 enjoyed the weekend Encampment.

grade Cadette troops 5631 and 5632 planned a weekend filled with fun activities.



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## MADISON MONTHLY,

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## **CATHIE COULTAS WINS COUNTY AWARD**

Submitted by Samantha Sayles

The Morris County Park Alliance recently held its Community Recognition Awards and presented Cathie Coultas with its Outstanding Volunteer award. Committee member John Van Brunt presented Cathie with an attractive glass plaque and a New Jersey State Joint Citation provided by Assemblyman Anthony Bucco.

Cathie spearheaded the Nature Nuts program as a volunteer for the Borough of Madison Recreation Department since its inception fortyone years ago. Nature Nuts is a 5 week summer program sponsored by the Madison Recreation Department and the Madison Parks Advisory Committee. The fun summer program is used to teach youngsters about nature and how important it is to be a good steward of the environment.

The Nature Nuts program provides an opportunity for children in first through sixth grade to learn about and interact with their environment in a way that's often missing from school or athletics. Cathie's continued commitment to the program has ensured that Madison children have had a place to learn about and experience the outdoors every summer. With a nature related theme each week, participants further their understanding through games, crafts, presentations and field trips.



Photo by Morris Park Alliance

(above) Cathie Coultas, of Madison, accepts the Morris Park Alliance Outstanding Volunteer Award for Parks and Recreation from

## FIND ROSIE THE ROSE CITY REINDEER

The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is inviting children to participate in a month long search to Find Rosie the Rose City Reindeer this holiday season.

Beginning Saturday, November 30, more than 50 Chamber-member businesses will participate in this creative and fun activity to help highlight the holidays and all that is wonderful about shopping in Madison this season. This is a free event, open to the public and for children only.

For a list of participating business

please visit the Chamber website at

MadisonNJChamber.org.

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Pick up a participation card at Tons of Toys, 64 Main St., the Madison Pharmacy, 66 Main St. or at any one of the participating businesses.

When you spot Rosie at any one of the businesses, collect a store stamp or signature on the card.

When at least 15 different store stamps/signatures are collected, bring the game

card to Tons of Toys or Madison Pharmacy where a special prize can be collected. Prizes are being donated by Tons of Toys.

When at least 25 store stamps/signatures are collected, bring the game card to Tons of Toys or The Madison Pharmacy where you will be entered into a drawing. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a \$100 Madison Chamber Gift Check and 2nd and 3rd place winners will each receive a \$50 Madison Chamber Gift Check.

Watch the live feed of the Grand Prize drawing on the ILoveMadisonNJ Facebook page on Monday, December 16 at 4:00 pm.

The Find Rosie the Rose City Reindeer program was designed to bring customers into our downtown business district while promoting our "Shop Local" message," said Chamber executive director Karen Giambra. "The program reinforces our shared sense of community and it's a fun way to bring everyone together during the holiday season. It has been tremendously successful."



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Madison Health Department

FREE RABIES CLINIC SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 from 10 am – 12 noon MADISON PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE 34 John Avenue, Madison, NJ

THE MADISON ROTARY CLUB MEETING YOU HAVE YOUR CHOICE OF THREE WEEKLY MEETINGS: THURSDAYS, 7:47am BREAKFAST AT THE YMCA, 12:15 pm LUNCH AT THE Madison Hotel

For questions or additional information, contact Barry Kroll, Membership Development Chair, at

> barrykroll@aol.com 973-476-2772

## MADISON ROTARY CLUB DISTRIBUTES DICTIONARIES TO THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

Submitted by Carmela Moeller As part of their ongoing Literacy Program, 243 Madison third graders were gifted personalized dictionary/gazetteers from the Madison Rotary Club. Between October 23 and 25, the dictionaries were delivered to the third graders in all four public schools and St. Vincent Martyr School. The gazetteer section contains maps and almanac type information, which generated much enthusiasm and interest in the students.

Project Chair, Rotarian Judy DeGennaro noted the Dictionary Project is one small way in which Rotarians endeavor to help the next generation gain an appreciation of reading, language and vocabulary, all of which can make them proficient communicators and more successful in their future education and in life.

The Rotary Club of Madison has an enthusiastic and engaged network of ordinary people doing extraordinary things to serve humanity in our local and global communities. They have two weekly meetings: Thursdays, 7:47 am breakfast at the YMCA; 12:15 pm lunch at the Madison Hotel. For additional information, contact Barry Kroll, Membership Development Chair, at barrykroll@aol.com or 973-476-2772.



(above, l-r) Ms. Meghan Herbert, third grade teacher at St. Vincent Martyr School, Rotarians Carmela Moeller and Sharon Kunas with Third Graders listening to a brief history and current projects of Rotary International and the Madison Rotary Club as well as anticipating the distribution of their personalized dictionaries.

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## HOLIDAY COOKIE SWAP WITH SENIOR SERVICES

Madison Senior Services will host a Holiday Cookie swap at the Madison Civic Center, 28 Walnut Street, on Thursday, December 19, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. RSVP by December 17 to Carmela or Helene at 973-593-3095 or SeniorServices@rosenet.org.

Please bring three dozen of your favorite homemade cookies.

#### **SPECIFIC DETAILS:**

All cookies should be homemade, but store bought is perfectly fine Please avoid plain chocolate chip, oatmeal, etc.

Bring three dozen total cookies to share and we'll all have lots to take home. Arrange cookies in a basket or platter. We will display all cookies before our swap Bring a large container to take your cookies home.

Bring copies of your cookie recipe to share with those who would like them. Christmas attire is encouraged, especially an ugly holiday sweater.

Please bring a \$5-\$10 gag gift if you would like to participate in our Grab Bag drawing

Refreshments and coffee will be served Happy Holidays from the Madison Senior Services Team.



### **RIDES FOR SENIORS PROGRAM**

#### Submitted by Laura Sostak

According to statistics, 21% of people over 65 do not drive and 50% of non-drivers are homebound daily. Lack of transportation is a leading cause of isolation among older adults and negatively affects their quality of life. In April 2017, Tri-Town 55+ Coalition launched the Rides for Seniors program, a discounted on-demand car service program for residents living in Madison, Chatham and Chatham Township to improve access to transportation.

"In 2016, a Needs Assessment Survey conducted in Madison, Chatham and Chatham Township identified transportation as a top concern. To address this need, Tri-Town 55+ Coalition partnered with GoGoGrandparent to enable older adults to access Uber and Lyft without the need of a smartphone. Looking at the number of rides, the age of the riders, and the destinations, we are happy to say we are enabling older adults to get where they need to go, when they want to go," says John Crouthamel, President of Tri-Town 55+ Coalition.

The Rides for Seniors program has provided over 4500 subsidized rides. More than 385 registered seniors have used the on-demand car service to run errands, get to doctor's appointments, go shopping or visit loved ones. The ages of riders vary from 65 and older, but the largest number of riders are over the age of 85.

While GoGoGrandparent is available nationwide, the Rides for Seniors program is the only one of its kind to offer a discount to riders of the three communities. Riders receive \$5 off each ride up to four rides per month. The discount is made possible through grant funding and sponsorship support, including a grant from the Grotta Fund for Senior Care. Family and friends can also off-set ride costs through the Gift-a-Ride program. For more information, to register for Rides for Seniors, or to donate, visit the Tri-Town 55+ Coalition web site at tritown55plus.org.

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