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Issue 25 • January 2020

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MADISON CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE PARADE

The annual Madison Christmas Committee Parade, a beloved Madison holiday tradition, took place on Friday, November 29, 2019.

The tradition began in 1979 when the brother and sister team of Margaret and Frank Dorothy organized a 'gathering' which was a 10-minute ceremony with the highlight being Santa lighting a Christmas tree with the help of a fire truck

The following year, 1980, the Toto family joined in and built a Santa Clause house, and each year after that the parade expanded.

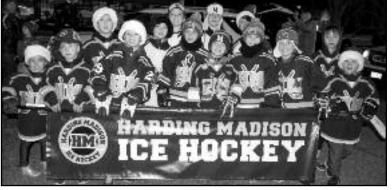
According to Carmine Toto, Jr., this year's event ran approximately 1 hour-long, with the most participants in its history. Toto said "In 40 years, I can't believe how it's grown."

The 2019 parade, now run by a committee spearheaded by Rose Ferdinand, a catalyst for the event for over 50 years, was the biggest and largest parade in history. The tremendous community event has participation from over 40 community organizations, along with churches, scouting troops, bands, and the Madison Fire, Police, and EMS.

At the conclusion of the parade, the Christmas tree on Waverly Place is lit by Santa. The original Santa House is just one feature of "The Christmas Village" located near the Madison Train Station, which will stay on display throughout the holiday season.















Photos of this and other events can be found at www.rennamedia.com and on the Madison Monthly Facebook page. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."





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Submitted by Maryann Doherty

The Madison-Florham Park American Legion Family gathered at 20 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park on Sunday, November 10, 2019, to celebrate the founding of the American Legion following World War I. Florham Park Mayor Mark Taylor had recognized the Centennial Anniversary of the American Legion with a Proclamation at the October 17 Florham Park Borough Council Meeting while Mayor Robert Conley recognized the Post at the Celebration.

The Legion joined with the Auxiliary to recognize members for their years of continuous membership and service to the organization. Certificates of Appreciation were presented by the Legion to the following members: Walter C. Ness, 69 years; John A. Punola, 64 years; Louis Mantone,59 years; Matthew H. Rankin,55 years; Jules G. Spada, 53 years; and Thomas J. Granata, 51 years. Chris Nash of Honor Tree and Lawn Service and Carmine Toto of Carmine Toto and Sons received Certificates of Appreciation for their volunteer services to the Legion over the years.

Auxiliary members recognized with membership pins and Certificates of Appreciation included: Verna Gilley, 70 years - Past Unit President; Maryann Doherty, 60 years - Past County President and PUP; Evelyn Tobin, MaryBeth Doherty and Kathryn Doherty-Murphy each were recognized for 55 years; Clara Markovitch, and Fran Piano each with 45 years - Gold Star Mothers; Barbara Webster, 35 years; Doris Sallie, 31 years - Past County President, PUP and Yvonne Chapman 21 years, PUP. The Auxiliary also recognized Sons of the Legion

and entertainment at the Off Station Parties for Veterans from Lyons AV Hospital. Judy Whiting of the Madison/Florham Park Eagle accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for her help with Public Relations over the years.

members Chaz Ricci and Garry Decker with Certificates of Appreciation for providing music



(above) American Legion Commander Joseph Nester of Madison and Auxiliary President MaryBeth Valentino of Chatham prepare to cut the "Birthday" cake for the centennial anniversary of the American Legion.

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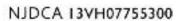








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IT'S GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME!

Submitted by Laura Axler

Starting January 7, be on the lookout for Madison Girl Scouts selling all your favorite Girl Scout cookies, and some new varieties, too. They will have the top-selling Thin Mints (vegan), Samoas, Tagalongs, Trefoils, S'mores, Do-Si-Dos, Toffee-Tastic (gluten-free), and a new lemon cookie that will be revealed January 7. Girl Scout cookies last well in the freezer, so be sure to stock up!

From March 3-April 19, troops will also be holding booth sales in various locations throughout town. You can find a local cookie booth sale on the Girl Scout Cookie Finder app. A Cookie Drive-Thru (location to be determined) is also being planned for mid-April.

Last year, 376 Madison Girl Scouts sold a total of 28,418 packages of cookies. Of that total, 2,175 were donated to Cookies from Home, a program that arranges for cookies to be delivered to our troops, and a portion to be

donated to local food banks.

Money troops earn through cookie sales helps to fund activities to learn new skills, such as camping, painting, or woodworking. In addition, girls who sell cookies can earn rewards and financial literacy patches in topics such as marketing, budgeting, public speaking, and sales. With the Goal Getter program, girls who sell 30 products from the fall nut/candy sales and 165 boxes of cookies receive a \$275 credit toward attending a Girl Scout summer camp.

"The Girl Scout Cookie Program is amazing! It is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world," say Meg Anderson and Danielle Nebres, co-managers of Madison/Harding Girl Scouts.

"When you buy delicious Girl Scout cookies, you're helping power new, unique, and amazing experiences for them—experiences that broaden their worlds, teach them essential skills, and launch them into a lifetime of leadership. Please buy cookies to support our local Girl Scouts."



(above) Madison Girl Scout leaders sort cases of cookies before they are picked up by Madison troops.



cookies at their booth outside Tons of Toys.

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(above) Last year, Troop 6553 had fun selling

MADISON CUB SCOUTS LEARN ARCHERY

Cub Scouts from three packs in Madison learned archery skills at the Madison Community Pool on Saturday, December 7, 2019.

Cub Scout Pack 226 is mostly comprised of boys from Kings Road School and Torey J. Sabatini; boys from Central Ave. School usually join Pack 124; and boys from St. Vincent Martyr School usually join Pack 7.

For information on any pack, contact Al Thomas, al.thomas@scouting.org or call 973-765-9322 x229.



(above) Pictured are Al Thomas, Wyatt Ertz and Jeff Ertz during an archery lesson.









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CHESS CLUB DRAWS MEMBERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

The Kenilworth Chess Club has kicked off its 2020 season with a new slate of officers. Jack McCorkell of Cranford is incoming President. Outgoing president Dave Lazaruus of Fanwood will serve as Vice President. Treasurer Geoff McMAuliffe of Dunellen and Webmaster John Moldovan of Garwood will continue in their positions. Trustees are Pat Mazzillo of Union and Greg Tomkovich and Joe Renna, both from Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America, spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 47 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including State Champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, kenilworthchessclub.org, is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features. Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center, located next to Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.

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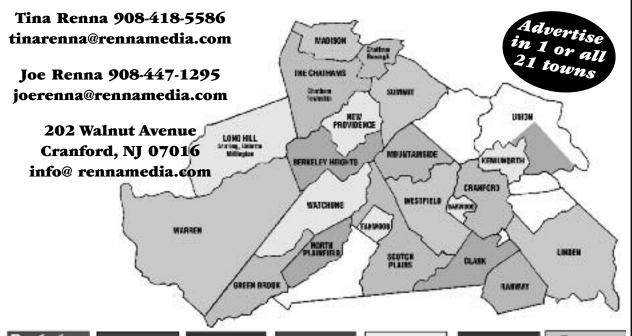
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Pollinator Garden: Seed Starting Workshop Saturday, January 11, 1:00 p.m.

January is the perfect time to start seeds for a pollinator garden.

Learn why pollinators (and their gardens) are vital to all of us and why it is important to start these seeds now. Discover how easy it is to start your native plant seeds and how to mimic winter for them in a protected environment so they can have the best start in spring. Mother nature does it all the time without our help, but we can help her to locate her beautiful blooms right in our own yards and gardens.

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Blues To Broadway

Tuesday, January 21, 7:00 p.m. Vocalist Stephen Fuller will take you on a musical journey from "Blues to Broadway". This journey includes the music and stories of Blues, Spirituals, Jazz, Motown, Broadway and more. This delightful program will have you singing along and dancing in your seats.

Learn about Chinese Calligraphy Monday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.

Chinese calligraphy is a type of pleasing writing, as well as a kind of sport, embodying

the artistic expression of human language in a tangible form. This type of expression has been widely practiced in China and has been generally held in high esteem across East Asia Learn to write a few simple words using a traditional writing mat, paper, ink and brush. Taught by members of the Calligraphy

Association of America. **Healthy Body and Brain**

Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. In a one-hour presentation, John Thompson will explore principles from Ilchi Lee, the founder of Body & Brain Yoga Tai Chi, and his book I've Decided to Live 120 Years with Connection. He will also utilize concepts from

A New Year and New Beginnings Time to Tidy Up!

Lee's latest book Connect.

Wednesday, January 29, 7:00 p.m. Time to declutter and clean up!! You are invited to learn about Marie Kondo's KonMari© Method. Come and learn from a Certified KonMari© Consultant on how to declutter your home and your life and live joyfully with things that inspire happiness.

Wendy Gibbons from CJ Tidy Homes was so motivated after reading Marie Kondo's The Life -Changing Magic of Tidying Up that she started her own business. She will share her knowledge of how to tidy up and organize. You will walk away armed with valuable strategies to reduce clutter and stress in your life.

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Each Minicourse is held for five weeks (January 27- February 26) in the Library's Chase Room. Morning sessions are from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; afternoon sessions are from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., unless specified. Cost: \$95 first course, \$65 second course for same student.

Registration begins January 3, 2020. Visit online at minicoursesmadisonlibrary.org or email minicoursesmadisonlibrary@gmail.com.



MADISON ROTARY INTRODUCES NEWEST MEMBERS

a.m. at the Madison area YMCA as well as 12:15 \$20. For further p.m. at Rod's Steakhouse and Grill in Convent madisonrotarynj.org.

Madison Rotary meets every Thursday at 7:45 Station. Breakfast meeting costs \$7; Lunch costs information



(above, l-r) The Madison Rotary Club is pleased to introduce it newest members, all young professionals, who have actively participated in many club projects: Jeff Andrews, Daniel Umana, Amul Modhera, and Dr. Grayson Ernst.

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