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**POSTAL** 

### MADISON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS PARTICIPATES IN EMS WEEK: READY TODAY. PREPARING FOR TOMORROW.

The recent observance of National Emergency Services (EMS) week (May 17th-23rd) was particularly meaningful to the members of Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps (MVAC). EMS week was initiated by President Gerald Ford as a time to highlight the work of emergency responders in safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of the community. It is also a time for first responders to reflect on what it means to be part of the EMS network.

This year, members of MVAC are getting increased recognition for being on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. MVAC remains committed to continue to serve the town of Madison during this extraordinary time and truly appreciates the overwhelming show of support, appreciation, and cooperation from the town and its residents. MVAC is staffed by approximately 35 volunteer, NJ-certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and ambulance drivers. All members agree that working as a first-responder is an extremely rewarding experience in which there is immediate awareness of truly making a difference by providing a necessary service for those in need.

EMT training classes in New Jersey require about 220 hours which includes classroom instruction and hands on skills training. Examples of classroom topics are anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, medical emergencies, trauma, and special populations. Skills training includes a wide variety of procedures performed by EMTs such as rapid patient assessment, safely transporting patients, oxygen administration, bandaging, splinting, and childbirth. The EMT student must successfully pass the course and then pass a National Examination to become a NJ-certified EMT.

Ambulance drivers must successfully complete an emergency vehicle operations course as well as be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Emergency Medical Services started in World War I and evolved during World War II, the Korean Conflict, and later the Vietnam War where specially trained corpsmen provided immediate emergency care to trauma patients before transport to mobile surgical hospitals. Many techniques and practices followed by EMTs today originated from casualty experiences during combat.

The theme of EMS Week 2020 is READY TODAY. PREPARING FOR TOMORROW. EMTs must be ready to respond to calls for help at any time and in any place. Our experiences of today, and our lessons of the past allow us to prepare for future challenges.

Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps is a non-profit, totally volunteer organization that provides its services completely free of charge. Incorporated in 1954, MVAC has been in existence for 65 years. Membership is diverse in terms of age, gender, professional and personal backgrounds. Typically, each member completes at least one 12-hour shift each week (7am to 7pm/ 7pm to 7am). On average, MVAC will respond to approximately 100 emergency calls each month or 3 to 4 calls each day.



(above) MVAC is proud to recognize Jack Luts in celebrating his 60th year as an EMT



(above, l-r) Ambulance driver Manny Corte and Crew chief Claudia Hirawat.

Anyone interested in joining MVAC as either an EMT or driver should email join@madisonems.org. The schedule for EMT training is flexible to accommodate various personal situations. Training is provided free of charge.



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# MADISON MONTHLY,

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# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #43

In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

### Submitted by Maryann Doherty

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic many American Legion Auxiliary activities were curtailed for the past three months. The Poppy Drive, usually held at the end of May, needed to be cancelled this year. This is a major fundraiser for the Unit, where we usually receive donations that permit us to sponsor activities for veterans. Special thanks to those who have contributed to our "no contact drive through" and wrote personal letters sent to many "Friends of the Auxiliary." We hope to have a Poppy distribution in the Fall so we can continue our many activities for our veterans.

Looking to the future, when Lyons VA Hospital can bring the veterans to Post #43, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman Doris Sallie will have plans for an Off Station Party. An Off Station Party includes a home cooked meal with all the trimmings, music, and entertainment such as some games or karaoke. Gift bags are prepared which include snacks, socks or baseball caps and canteen books used at the hospital store. The Unit usually delivers something special to the Recreation Department during "Salute to Veterans Week" in February as well hosts a Bingo Party on one of the wards at the hospital. After the veterans win some prizes at Bingo, pizza and soda are served and goodie bags are given as they leave. If our budget mbvalentino@gmail.com.

permits, another Off-Station Party will take place in the Spring. It should be mentioned that the Unit supports Post #43 monetarily for two Bingo Parties each month as well.

Every year Unit #43 sponsors three delegates to Jersey Girls State, usually held on a college campus; however, due to the pandemic this year, the sessions were done in a virtual format. Chairman Fran Derin and her committee interviewed Junior girl candidates from Chatham High, Madison High and Hanover Park High by phone or virtually. The following girls represented the Unit this past June: Helen Simmons of Madison; Molly Rowland of Chatham; and Victoria Perlman of Hanover Park. Having been asked by the Morris County Auxiliary to sponsor a student from Morristown Academy this year, the Unit will also be sponsoring Monica Zhang.

The Unit is optimistic that it will soon be able to return to its three fold mission which includes service to our veterans, our communities, our children and youth, and looks forward to the continued support of our communities.

The Auxiliary accepts help from community volunteers who may not be eligible for membership. For information about programs or ways you may contribute contact President Marybeth Valentino at 973-652-1812 or

## **TRI-TOWN 55+ COALITION'S RIDES FOR SENIORS PROGRAM HITS 5,000 RIDES MILESTONE**

Seniors program has provided over 5,000 subsidized rides for residents 65 and older living in Madison, Chatham Borough and Chatham Township. More than 400 registered seniors have taken advantage of the on-demand car service to run errands, get to doctor's appointments, go shopping or visit loved ones. Tri-Town 55+ Coalition started the program in partnership with GoGoGrandparent, a national company based in California, which accesses Uber and Lyft using an 800 number instead of a smartphone.

While GoGoGrandparent is available nationwide, the Rides for Seniors program is the only one of its kind to offer a subsidy for Chatham and Madison residents. Eligible riders receive \$5 off each ride up to four rides per month. The subsidy is made possible through grant funding and sponsorship support, including grants from the Grotta Fund for Senior Care and sponsorships from local organizations

Since its launch in April 2017, the Rides for such as Madison Rotary. A Gift-a-Ride program is also available to offset the costs for riders. For more information, to register for Rides for Seniors or donate, visit the Tri-Town 55+ Coalition website at tritown55plus.org.

Riders enjoy the program because of its convenience, safety and the independence it provides. One of our riders, Catherine Moy, lives in Chatham and has taken over 60 rides through the Rides for Seniors Program. She stated that "it's really convenient for me because I don't drive. I am very grateful that we have such a program in Chatham and the drivers so far have been very courteous ... I really like the program." When asked if she recommends Rides for Seniors to her friends, she stated, "I do all the time ... I recommend whenever they need a ride and no one's there to drive them I say call GoGoGrandparent."

Rides for Seniors is making a difference in the lives of older residents like Catherine throughout our community.

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**Military Rates** 





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(above) Grant Scruggs Items from Grant Scruggs Scrapbook:

7 days - Sun-Thur 12 noon to 10:00 pm

Fri-Sat 12 noon to 10:30 pm

OFF WITH \$10 ORDER With this coupon. Expires 7/31/00 MIGHT

# **GRANT SCRUGGS MEMORY OF 1958 PANDEMIC**

Madison resident Grant Scruggs recalls a chilling memory of a pandemic of influenza in India from 1958. Scruggs was an accomplished track star in his college days and continued competing afterward. He ran the 440 dash for the University of Michigan as a member of the class of 1955. Scruggs became a member of the New York Athletic Club to run with their team, which was a select group of nationally ranked runners. He competed for 15 years on relay teams and sprint medleys winning national championships.

In 1958 the US government assembled a track team to travel the world on a good-will tour. The team of volunteers competed throughout the Middle East and Asia, including Greece and India. Scruggs has many fond memories of the trip and a scrapbook of photos and newspaper clippings as souvenirs. One memory that was not so pleasant, was his arrival by airplane to Calcutta, India.

The plane was met on the tarmac by an American health official. Coincidently the official was a classmate of Scruggs from Michigan. The official boarded the plane and stopped the team from exiting. India was in the Middle of a Influenza crisis. The team was turned back for thier own safety.

The airport was being over run by Indian citizens trying to get passage out of the country. Crowds would rush to board airplanes while military personel tried to hold them back. Scruggs and his teammates looked out of the airplane windows horrified at the site of the soldiers resorting to fatal actions, using bayonettes to stop the crowd from reaching the plane. In 1958, the estimated number of deaths was 1.1 million worldwide and 116,000 in the United States.

The present Covid-19 pandemic brought back this memory to Scruggs. He remembers how greatful he was when he returned to America.

### GRANT SCRUGGS.

Anchored the sprint medley relay Team which won 1958 Indoor AAU sprint medley Relay. Formerly Captain of the University of Michigan track Team, he won a big Ten title in the 440 Yard run. In the World University Ggames held in Spain in 1955 he won the 200 and 400 Meter events, setting records in both.

reh 10th, 1958

Denis



4 35/00

incerely, you; Daniel J Bonorary Secretary







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# MORRIS COUNTY SEEKS GUIDANCE FROM OLDER AND DISABLED RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES

### TAKE THE CONFIDENTIAL ONLINE SURVEY

The Morris County Department of Human Services, Aging, Disabilities and Community Programming want to know "How are we doing?"

The agency is committed to assisting seniors and disabled individuals across all of the county's 39 municipalities. But to best serve residents, we need your guidance and feedback.

County residents are being asked to let us know about the effectiveness of current services and what we might consider adding to our roster

Back cover, front page baaner and front box reserved on first come first served basis Correct advertiser has right of first reducit. of programs in the future by taking a brief survey on issues ranging from caregiving and nutrition programs to mental health services and transportation.

Please take the survey found at: surveymonkey.com/r/G5ZRHQP. Responses are confidential and results will be tallied and used for planning purposes for the 2021 Area Plan Contract.

For more information on the survey and/or and services provided by the Morris County Department of Human Services, visit the website: https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/



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