MADISON MONTHLY,

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(above) Robert Crimmins and Sam West, sixth graders at St. Vincent Martyr School and new members of Troop 7, use their knife skills to prepare wood shavings to use as tinder for their patrol's fire.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 7 HOLD FIRE-BUILDING CHALLENGE

Submitted by George Dailey

On Monday, August 3, Scouts BSA Troop 7 held a fire-building challenge during its regular weekly meeting. The scouts prepared for this challenge and competition all through the month of July, practicing their axe and saw skills as well as fire-starting procedures and safety protocol.

"We spent the first two meetings in July at Memorial Park in Madison, teaching the newer scouts how to prepare the fuel for their fires through hands-on lessons in axe and saw safety. Several of the boys even earned their Totin' Chip, which was an important milestone for them," explained Senior Patrol Leader Ryan Carrell, a freshman at Hanover Park High School. "Then at the end of July we switched to fire skills, helping the scouts practice different ways of starting fires, and showing them the difference between tinder, kindling and fuel. And of course, we also covered fire safety matters, as well as demonstrating the correct way to put out a campfire, and how to make sure the fire is completely extinguished."



(above, l-r) Experienced scouts developed and led the training program and served as judges: Troop Guide Justin Slabaugh, a sophomore at Madison High School; Senior Patrol Leader Ryan Carrell, a freshman at Hanover Park High School; and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader George Dailey, a junior at Morris County School of Technology.

"Scouts who came to all our fire-related meetings had the opportunity to earn their Firem'n Chit, which gives the scout permission to carry matches and light fires during troop activities. We are very serious about safety," commented Assistant Senior Patrol Leader George Dailey, a junior at Morris County School of Technology. "Normally, new scouts would be able to earn their Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit during our troop's annual week-long trip to summer camp at Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation. Unfortunately, unit camping could not happen this summer due to the pandemic. We still wanted our new scouts to learn the most important scouting skills, so we worked together to develop our own troop training program. It worked out great!"

The August 3 fire-building competition took place at Summerhill Park, where the troop's two patrols each worked together to complete a challenge. "Each patrol had a cotton string suspended across its fire pan at a height of three feet. Our goal was to build a fire robust and tall enough to burn through the string," explained Michael Sirna, Patrol Leader for Troop 7's "Man Scouts Patrol" and a seventh grader at Madison Junior School.

The "Man Scouts Patrol" was able to get its fire going first, while the "Trixie Patrol," led by Patrol Leader Jack McClelland, spent more time getting their supplies in order. "When you are building a fire, success is all about good preparation. We worked really well as a patrol to collect the right materials and make sure they were all ready at the right time,"

(continued on page 2)

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MADISON MONTHLY • Page 2 • September 2020 BOY SCOUT TROOP 7 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

remarked McClelland, who will enter seventh grade at Madison Junior School this fall.

The competition was soon neck-in-neck, and flames from the patrols' fires started to char the string. Both patrols completed the challenge successfully, with the Trixie Patrol coming from behind to take first place. The Man Scouts Patrol's fire burned through the string just a moment later, coming in second.

Several of the troop's adult leaders were on hand to observe the competition. The adult leaders expressed their gratitude to all who provided tangible support behind the scenes to make Troop 7's summer training program possible, including the Borough of Madison's Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Parks Advisory Committee, Recreation Department, Borough Administration and Borough Council.

Troop 7 is chartered by St. Vincent Martyr

Catholic Church in Madison and meets every Monday evening. Campouts and special events take place throughout the year, and the troop's schedule is available on its website. troopwebhost.org/Troop7Madison. Young men ages 11-17 are welcome to observe a meeting or join at any time.





(above, l-r) Members of Troop 7's Trixie Patrol strategize and work together to build a strong fire. Their diligence was rewarded, as the patrol took first place in the competition, completing the challenge in about forty minutes. Watching closely are Patrol Leader Jack McClelland and patrol members Colin Detgen, Sam West, and Robert Crimmins.



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MADISON ROTARY WORKING TO END HUNGER

Combating food insecurity during the Covid 19 crisis is a primary program for the Rotary Club of Madison and its sponsored Madison High School Interact Club, a service club of about 40 students. Active even during summer vacation, the Interact Club has created a successful bi-weekly doorstep non-perishable food collection program which kicked off on Saturday, July 25th. Forty-three Madison families participated by putting non-perishable food in provided labeled bags, which was

Combating food insecurity during the Covid collected by students and delivered to the First Baptist Church of Madison's food pantry, which is open to all families in need.

The Club's goal is to increase the number of participating families to over one hundred.

If interested in participating in this urgently needed free service, please sign-up at https://bit.ly/2EG8Zo0.

A collection bag will be delivered to you and you will receive regular notifications of upcoming collections.

THURSDAY MORNING CLUB ANNOUNCES FALL FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Cathy Gotliffe

Come together and have fun at the Thursday Morning Club's (TMC) "Fabulous Fall Fundraiser" raffle and Cocktail Reception! There are only 300 tickets to be sold for raffle participation at \$100 each, also entitling the bearer and a guest to attend the Cocktail Reception at the Madison Community House (MCH), 25 Cook Avenue, from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2020.

The raffle will provide 50% of the proceeds to benefit the MCH, 25% to one lucky winner, and the final 25% to another lucky winner. Winners will be drawn at the reception, but need not be present to win. To purchase, please contact Anne Lawless (973-822-2517) or Nancy Wallace (973-377-6989) and arrangements will be made for you to receive your ticket.

Through the TMC's fundraising efforts the MCH continues to provide, among other various activities: a preschool for 3 and 4 year-olds, a Before and After School Child Care (BASCC) program at all Madison elementary schools, summer camps, and space which is used by a number of groups and organizations for meetings and/or social gatherings. As many as 50,000 to 55,000 people per year use this facility in one way or another.

As always, the TMC/MCH is grateful for the Community's past and continuing generosity which enables it to be a vibrant presence in Madison.

The Thursday Morning Club is a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) and the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC).



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CUB SCOUTS, SCOUTS BSA AND VENTURERS PLANNING TO MEET SAFELY

Submitted by Al Thomas

The Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops and Venture crew in Madison are making plans to continue meeting and holding activities despite the COVID19 virus.

As much as possible, meetings will be held outdoors where the risk of transmission is much less. Outdoor meetings could be held in parking lots, parks, backyards or at camps. Scouting has always sought to teach youth to be adaptable and resilient. These traits are now needed more than ever.

When meeting indoors, Cub Scouts meet in smaller groups called dens (for boys or girls who are in the same grade). In a den meeting, maintaining 6 foot distance will be easier.

Scouts BSA troops can break up into smaller groups called patrols. A patrol will have 8 to 10 Scouts who choose their own Patrol Leader. Within the patrols, Scouts learn skills together and prepare for their next outdoor activity.

Madison has three Cub Scout packs for boys and girls in grades K-5 and two Scouts BSA troops for boys in grades 6-12. Nearby, there are Scouts BSA troops that are for girls only in Chatham and Morristown.

To connect with a pack or troop contact District Executive Al Thomas, al.thomas@scouting.org; 973-765-9322 x229.











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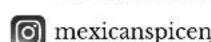
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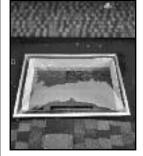
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