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CHAMBER THANKS ALL FOR EASTER FUN FEST

Peter Daniele, Vice President, Madison Area Chamber of Commerce

On behalf of the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce and as chairman of our Easter Fun Fest event, I would like to thank our sponsors: Alfred's Sports, 32 Main St., Bernie McDonough of Coldwell Banker Madison, 49 Main St., Carter Smile, 290 Madison Ave., Morristown., Cleaners Advantage, 888-471-7676, Harvest Bistro, 50 1/2 Main St., Lure Lash, 89 Main St., Madison & Main Advisors, 266 Main St., and Nothing Bundt Cakes, 170 E. Hanover Ave., Morristown.

I would also like to thank all of the families that came downtown on April 3 to celebrate Easter with our community and businesses

Our 13th Annual Easter Fun Fest was a wonderful way to get out and enjoy the day since the overwhelming effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What started out as a cool spring day, families came and enjoyed searching for Shelly the Easter Egg, visiting with the Easter Bunny and exchanging greetings with neighbors.

The event brought families from nearby towns, all who commented on how they enjoy Madison's town, events and incredible community spirit. We all enjoyed hearing these positive compliments and we hope that these types of events continue to bring new people into our community and to the downtown area.

This year we had our 7 ft. tall inflatable colorful Easter Bunny and our decorated Chamber tent at a new location on Main St. Many families took photos of their children at this location.

Children got to take a chance to win a 20" grey Rip-Rock Specialized bicycle donated by Peter Daniele of Rose City Collision, 291 Main St. and supplied by Hilltop Bicycles | HB Madison, 14 Kings Rd.

The winner of the bicycle was Cedric Asselin. In addition to the bicycle, the family received an Easter Basket and Tulip plant, donated by Ankor Patel and his staff at Stop & Shop, 133 Main St. They also received deluxe car wash coupons donated by Ken Maietta, owner of Madison Car Wash, 267 Main St.







MAILED FREE

(above, l-r) This year's jelly bean contest winner was Madison Hanson; The lucky Grand Prize winner of the Specialized bicycle was Cedric Asselin; Second prize winner Penelope Karounis.

Second prize winner Penelope Karounis, received a \$25 Tons of Toys Gift Certificate donated by owner Chris Brinkofskiand a \$25 Sugar Rush Gift Certificate donated by owner Andrea Zembelis.

This year's jelly bean contest was once again a highlight of the event with Madison Hanson receiving a \$200 Tons of Toys gift certificate donated by Doug Loikith, owner of Madison Memorial Home. Madison also received an Easter basket and Tulip plant donated by Stop & Shop and deluxe car wash coupons donated by Madison Car Wash.

Second place jelly bean runner up received a \$25 Sugar Rush Gift Certificate donated by owner Andrea Zembelis.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Mayor Robert Conley for his participation and the following volunteers: Chamber President, John Morris; Executive Director, Karen Giambra; Frank Iannarone of Madison Pharmacy, Robbin Salmeri of Cleaners Advantage, Valerie Cassidy and to Fran Boardman for entertaining the children as our Easter Bunny.

I would also like to thank Madison Police Department Sgt. Bart Glab, Patrolman Bret Smith and Auxiliary Police John Grant for public relations, traffic control and pedestrian safety.

Madison business owners were pleased with the Chamber's annual Easter Fun Fest and hope that the families that participated and visited their stores will return for future shopping.

Thank you again to the many that came out for this fun family event and for your continued support of our Madison businesses. Happy Spring!



MADISON MONTHLY.

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THURSDAY MORNING CLUB TEAMS UP WITH CENTRAL AVENUE SCHOOL TO RECYCLE PLASTIC

Submitted by Cathy Gotliffe

In October, 2020 members of Thursday Morning Club of Madison began to collect plastic bottle caps and plastic lids to be recycled, melted down and manufactured into products for outdoor use. The manufacturing of a single bench requires about 200 pounds of lids/caps, more than our Club could store. We therefore joined forces with Central Avenue School, which, under the leadership of teacher Deborah Mantone, was already collecting plastic caps and lids. Their goal was to collect enough caps and lids to recycle and have manufactured into several benches for their school grounds. Our members enthusiastically took on this new project, and on March 31 of this year we donated 61 pounds of caps and lids to Central Avenue School.

As a result of recent town guidelines to reduce the use of single use plastic bags, Thursday Morning Club ordered reusable, sturdy, insulated, zip top shopping bags with reinforced handles that hold hot or cold items. These bags are available for purchase at the Madison Community House for \$5.00 each and have been a great success with our members. COVID-19 may have impacted gatherings, but not the work of the Thursday Morning Club members.

Organized in 1896, the Club is a member of both the New Jersey State and General Federation of Women's Clubs. The club offers programs and services to support the community, and its Community House provides a home for a

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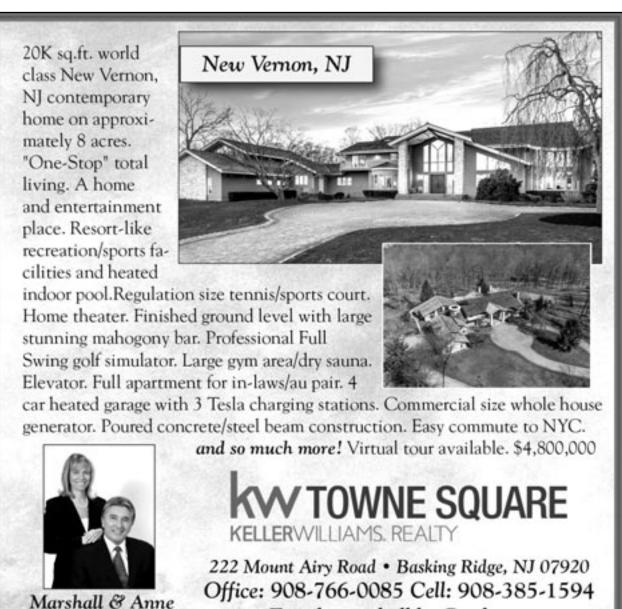
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number of sports, recreation and civic groups. The Thursday Morning Club is a non-profit service organization with over 260 members whose goal is to provide services for the town of Madison and neighboring communities.

For information about the Thursday Morning Club or membership, call the Community House at 973-377-0244 or visit TMCMCH.org



(above, l-r) Pictured with the bags of plastic caps and lids to donate to Central Avenue School and one of our reusable shopping bags are Club members Olga Soriano and Claire Burling.



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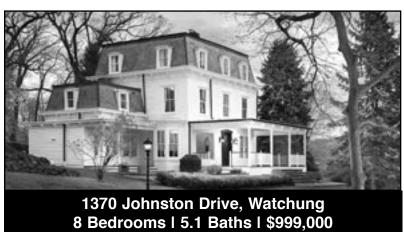


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THE IMPACT OF COVID - A LOOK BACK WITH GRATITUDE

On January 24, Home for Good Dog Rescue (HFGDR) achieved a milestone of the 9,000th dog adoption in just ten years since our founding. This new year is full of hope and thus, we look back to 2020 with gratitude to our friends, supporters, and community partners who lifted us up in the midst of the COVID pandemic.

Like so many others, the effects of the pandemic certainly presented challenges to the rescue. The immediate objective was to ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers, foster and adoptive families while continuing to carry out our mission of saving the lives of thousands of dogs living in squalid conditions, abusive situations, or on death row at high-kill shelters in the South.

From the pandemic, two trends emerged. First, changes in household routines and more time spent at home increased the community's interest in dog fostering and adoption. Second, the financial hardship of some households in the South exacerbated the need for dog rescue and respite in already severely life-threatening conditions.

"A year of quarantine and isolation has provided an opportunity for all of us to take stock of what is important in our lives," says Bernie Cicirelli, HFGDR Board Member and Director of Operations. "At the top of that list are our families, of which our dogs are an integral part."

The local community rallied around our mission and offered support in so many ways and for that, we are grateful. An emergency aid grant from the Berkeley Heights Business and Civic Association was a lifeline for the rescue. Other resources came in the way of supply and gift card donations and an increased participation in fostering and adoption.

The heart and generosity of our community continues to be a beacon of hope and light to pave the way to an even greater impact in 2021. On behalf of the dogs we save, and the families who have been enriched through fostering and adoption, we extend our deepest appreciation for the support of our community.

Sincerely,

The Home for Good Dog Rescue Team

WHO WE ARE:

Home for Good Dog Rescue is a 100% foster-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) dog rescue established in 2010 in Summit, New Jersey, with offices in Berkeley Heights. We socialize, care for, and provide rescue dogs with life-saving medical care at our Wellness Center in Aiken, South Carolina, transport them to New Jersey, and nurture them in our network of foster families while they await adoption into loving homes - giving them a second chance at life.

We work to significantly decrease the number of animals living in conditions of squalor and under the threat of abuse and death, by rescuing, medically treating, fostering, transporting, and finally adopting those animals into loving homes. Our rescues do not live in a shelter or kennel, but rather in loving, volunteer foster homes, right up to the point of adoption into their "home for good".



(above) Home for Good Dog Rescue extends a "thank you" to the community and celebrates their 9,000th dog adoption.

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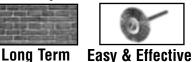








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ROSE CITY RUNNERS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by Barbara Rushman

Attention Madison/Chatham/Morristown area runners! Whether or not you are affiliated with a running club come check out the Rose City Runners. We meet every Saturday morning at the Kitchell Rd. parking area of nearby Loantaka Park. Meet time is 8:30 a.m. April-October and 9 a.m. November-March.

Because of the current pandemic, getting

together for a run is our only activity for the time being. Because we break into smaller groups on pace, we are able to keep our distance safely. We hope to be back soon to sharing a post run breakfast every Saturday, complete with a fire in the shelter fireplace on cold winter days. We also hope to start having member hosted house parties. When races start coming back our USATF racing team will be active racing against other NJ clubs. Racing on the team is an option, but not a requirement for membership. Just come some Saturday. Members run varying paces (including a few walkers) and cover 3-8 miles, much on quiet wooded park trails. We are a friendly welcoming group.

Contact BarbaraRushman@yahoo.com or visit our website www.RoseCityRunners.com for more information.



(above) A group run at the group's meeting place in Loantaka Park. (front row) Pam Helmer, Dede Paul, Lee Brush, Beth Nelson, Lynda Brush, Bobi Commer, Noriko Charnley, Lauren Dolan, Aileen Flanagan, Alison Redmond, Joseph Balwierczak, Gerry Ciciciola, Chuck Paul; (back row) Himanshu Pandya, Judy Ahlers, Henry Ahlers, Manav Agarwal, Jim Bickelhaupt, Peter Allen, Robb Lillibridge.

ROGER, FOR NEW JERSEY VETERAN COMMUNITY TO FIND SUPPORT

ROGER, a search platform for New Jersey veterans, launched on November 9th, just ahead of Veterans Day 2020. The platform was created by Backpacks For Life founders Brett D'Alessandro and Alexa Modero. After serving the Veteran community for 6 years, they found many inefficiencies and convoluted systems that prevented veterans from getting the care they need in a quick and efficient way. From lengthy intake processes to outdated information on organizations' websites, the Backpacks For Life team knew there was a better way to get veterans the care they needed.

ROGER allows veterans and their family members to search for programs, resources and care by a variety of factors such as zip code, branch of service, discharge status and income. With these customizable search features, veterans will see only the programs that they qualify for. This helps mitigate time wasted for not only veterans searching for programs that fit their needs, but also the service providers to ensure the

veterans searching for programs that fit needs, but also the service providers to ensur

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"Navigating through resources is hard...we get it. As a veteran myself, I was often running around in circles trying to find programs that I was eligible for and that fit my needs. When we're working with veterans, every minute matters and with ROGER we can work more quickly to get veterans what they need. We're excited to bring ROGER to the NJ veteran community." - Sgt. Brett D'Alessandro, Retired US Marine & President of Backpacks For Life

To explore ROGER, visit www.roger.vet or contact the ROGER team at roger@backpacksforlife.org

Backpacks For Life is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization that serves the homeless and at-risk veteran community. By regularly distributing backpacks filled with essentials to veterans on the streets and providing mentorship to at-risk veterans and their families, Backpacks For Life aims to bridge the gap between veterans and the resources available to them.

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FUN FESTIVAL FOR ALL BOYS & GIRLS K-5

Cub Scout packs and Scouts BSA troops of Chatham and Madison will hold a Fun Festival on Saturday, May 8 from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Madison Community Pool, 105 Rosedale Ave.

All boys and girls who will be entering grades K-5 in September are invited. This is a free event.

Activities will include: a model campsite, archery, bb, backyard bass, balloon popping, stomp rockets, corn hole, and Pinewood Derby cars.

We will be following all social distancing regulations in effect on that date and all participants will wear masks.

Please let us know you are coming, tinvurl.com/funfestchatmad. For more information, email Al. Thomas@Scouting.org or call 973-765-9322, x229.







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GIRL SCOUTS CONNECTING WITH THE GENERATIONS

Submitted by Laura Axler

The Madison Harding Girl Scouts are always busy with activities and service projects that help our community, and this year is no exception! This past March, troops celebrated Kindness Month and Girl Scout Week (March 7-13) with fun events and some very thoughtful projects that span the generations.

Every year, Daisy troops, the youngest level of Girl Scouts, celebrate the Girl Scouts' Birthday (March 12) by creating and delivering a baby basket for the first girl born at a local hospital on that day. The St. Vincent Martyr School Kindergarten Daisy Troop 8159 and the Kings Road Daisy Troop 8161 teamed up to create a beautiful basket for one lucky baby at Morristown Medical Center. Troop members and their families collected items they thought a new baby would need, including necessities (diapers, wipes, lotion, baby wash, teething toys, sunscreen) as well as fun accessory items (baby outfits with daisy flowers, picture frames, a lovey, headbands and bows). They also couldn't resist including some Girl Scout related items (Future Girl Scout onesie, Girl Scout Cookie bib, and of course, a few boxes of Girl Scout cookies for the parents).

The festive basket was welcomed by staff with big smiles (under masks) at the lobby of Morristown Medical Center. Troop members were all anticipating the news of who received the basket. They later found out that Baby Ava received the basket and the parents could not have been more gracious. Mom, Jennifer Diana, reached out to SVMS Daisy Troop Leader, Katelyn McAneny, to thank the troops for their

generosity. She included a photo with a beautiful message, that in part read:

"Thank you so much! We are blown away by the gifts. So unbelievably thoughtful! She will absolutely be a Girl Scout as I was for many years and all 3 of her cousins are currently!"

The 8th grade St. Vincent Martyr Troop 5700 chose to brighten the days of many local seniors. As part of Kindness Month, the troop prepared and delivered 55 care packages to 68 seniors in the St. Vincent Martyr parish. Each package included a mug, a hot cocoa packet, candies, cookies, a snack bar, an activity book, a tissue packet, hand sanitizer, chapstick donated by Garden Goat Soap, and a bookmark with a bible verse and prayer. Boxes going to couples had two mugs and multiples of some items.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for our troop to show love and kindness to the seniors in our community," says Troop 5700 leader, Barb Puglisi, "especially during this time of Covid that has robbed so many of the personal connections that are so important to our well-being. It also served as a thank you to the seniors for the support many have shown our Girl Scout endeavors through the years."

There are more than 450 registered Girl Scouts and 45 active troops in Madison and Harding. Although this year has been different from years past, troops continue to meet safely outdoors and on Zoom, and help our community in many ways. Projects such as these allow them to witness first hand the beauty and value of generosity and service in their community. For more information about Madison Harding Girl Scouts, visit www.gsmadisonharding.com.



(above) Ava Diana was the lucky recipient of the special basket of baby items that was created by Daisy Troops 8159 and 8161 for the first girl born at Morristown Medical Center on March 12, the Girl Scouts' Birthday.



(above) Daisy Troops 8159 and 8161 created a basket of special baby items for the first girl born at Morristown Medical Center on March 12, the Girl Scouts' Birthday.



(above) Eighth grade St. Vincent Martyr Cadette Troop 5700 made and delivered 55 care packages to seniors in the St. Vincent Martyr parish.

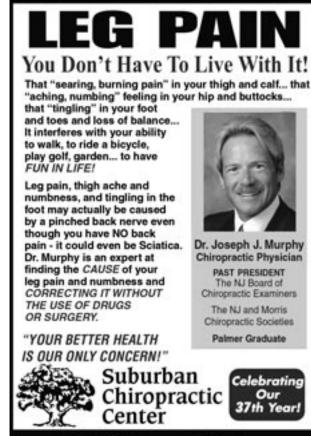


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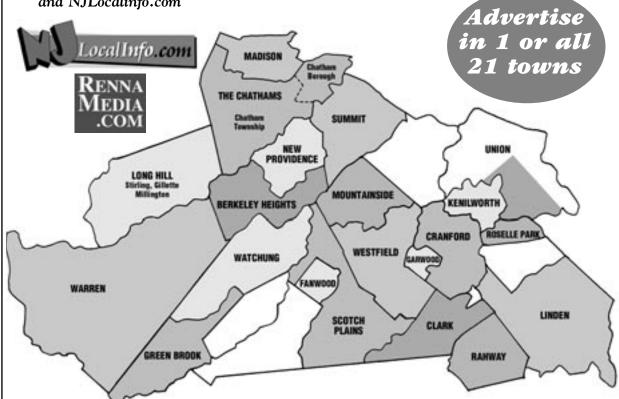
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Please register at madisonnilibrary.org.

ABCs of Organic Lawn Care Monday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.

Not happy with your lawn? If at least half of your lawn is in good condition, why not renovate the rest for the picture-perfect turf you desire. Learn the how, when and why plus the correct method of organic lawn care. The selection of the right grass seed for your specific needs and soil conditions plus other lawn care tips will be discussed. Rutgers Fact sheets and other handouts will be provided. Presented by Rutgers Master Gardener and local member of the Madison Environmental Commission, Brian Monaghan.

The Beatles: The Making of **Magical Mystery Tour**

Monday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.

Vinnie Bruno will take us on a journey with The Beatles as they embark on a mystery bus trip with a group of people looking to experience "strange and magical happenings" as they travel through the English countryside and France. The Beatles will improvise and take advantage of the various encounters they had while on the road. We will explore how the project was conceived along with the improvised scenes from the film. In addition,

we will discuss the genesis of how the songs from the soundtrack were written, recorded and produced.

Vinnie is a Beatles Scholar and Sixties Rock Historian. He is recently retired as Director of First Year Programs at LaGuardia Community College (City University of New York). He holds an MPA from Baruch College and as an adjunct professor for 25 years he taught courses in numerous disciplines including Humanities, Business and Mathematics.

As a Beatles scholar and storyteller, he looks to both embrace not just their legacy but to present

an entertaining, interactive, and informative session for both the casual listener as well as the hard core Beatles fan. As a 60's Rock Historian he offers programs on the many extraordinary innovative artists who defined an era by creating musical landscapes that captivated a generation and whose influence in popular culture still endures five decades later. Co-Sponsored by The Adult School and Friends of Madison Public Library.

Conversation with author Brad Parks

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International bestselling author Brad Parks is the only writer to have won the Shamus, Nero, and Lefty Awards, three of American crime fiction's most prestigious prizes. His novels have been translated into 15 languages and have won critical acclaim across the globe, including stars from every major pre-publication review outlet. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Parks is a former journalist with The Washington Post and The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger. He is now a full-time novelist living in Virginia.

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