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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LAUNCHED FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS

Submitted by Carlene Pruitt

The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township (PCCT) hosted two Family Fellowship Nights in June to celebrate God's Big Beautiful World. In lieu of vacation Bible school this year, Family Fellowship Nights were created for children and parents to attend together and fellowship with other families. Each evening featured dinner, activities such as games, crafts, and bible stories, and a service project.

"Our families are an important part of what makes PCCT special," says The Rev. Thomas A. Brown, associate pastor of PCCT. "In considering our ministry in a post-pandemic world, we saw a growing need to find new ways to enhance and expand our ministry with children and families. Family Fellowship Nights were a reimagined way for families to gather together for a few evenings of fun, fellowship and service."

The church is currently planning and preparing for more Family ministry opportunities for the fall, including a Church School program, service opportunities, and fellowship activities. Visit the website for more details at pcct-nj.org.

The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township is a vibrant, multi-generational congregation that celebrates the glory of God through faith, fellowship and service. Drawing







members from across the state and the nation by livestream, and from more than 20 communities locally, it welcomes all, whether you are a young family, a single adult, or a couple with grown children. The congregation reflects diverse perspectives, provides rich music and education programs for all ages, and through social outreach addresses hunger, homelessness, and recovery from disasters or other crises. Follow PCCT on Facebook and Instagram to see the church in action.

For more information, visit pcct-nj.org or call 973-635-2340.



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ART LEAGUE OF THE CHATHAMS 2021 ART SCHOLARSHIP WINNER, AVA TESORIERO

Submitted by Ann Frommer

The Art League of the Chathams awarded their annual \$1,000 scholarship to Chatham High School graduate, Ava Tesoriero. Every year scholarship winners are selected by their teacher, largely based on their interest in pursuing a career in arts.

Our scholarship winner, Ava, is not just an honor student, but an energetic young woman, whose busy schedule includes volunteerism, Girl Scouts and equestrian pursuits. She earned not only a scholarship from the Art League of the Chathams, but the Bertha Barmakian Aspiring Artist Scholarship. She was also recognized with the Prudential Community Spirit Award. She credits her art teacher, Mrs. Spaearo, as being a big influence throughout her high school journey. Mrs. Spaearo's unselfish dedication, giving up her own personal time and staying after school, helped her.

In scouting, she received the Gold Award, the Girl Scouts highest honor. The Gold Award is earned by completing a project that can take a minimum of 80 hours. Ava's project was the Sensory Art Program for special needs adults at Corpus Christi Church. The group is named The Chargers and Ava's program was to create a sense of touch that would challenge them and relax

them as well. Feedback for the project was very positive.

Her love of art began around the age of seven when she attended an art camp. It sensitized her appreciation of the surroundings, colors, shapes, and textures. At this art camp, she was exposed to the pottery wheel. This was the true beginning of her journey to pursue art as a career.

To unwind from her academics, her art and volunteering, she is an equestrian. Ava rides at least three times a week. Her summer is already filled with a job at a nearby camp.

Future plans are to attend Skidmore College pursuing an art major that concentrates on ceramics. Her curriculum includes a minor in art administration.

The Art League of the Chathams is a supportive community of visual artists living in the area of Chatham, N.J. The league's mission is to nurture the artistic development of its members, to foster an appreciation of art in the community, and to have art on display in the Chatham Township Municipal Building year round. Art League of the Chathams had the honor to be awarded the Outstanding Arts Organization Award 2012. The ALC is a nonprofit organization. To learn more please visit artleagueofthechathams.org.



(above) Ava Tesoriero, the 2021 Art League of the Chathams scholarship winner, is also and avid equestrian.



(above) Ava Tesorier's ceramic cactus dish. Ava will be pursuing an art major that concentrates on ceramics at Skidmore College.

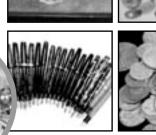


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MADISON ROTARY ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR ITS AUGUST CLUB MEETINGS

The Rotary Club of Madison is an enthusiastic and engaged network of ordinary people doing extraordinary things to serve people in our local and global communities. At the Rotary's weekly meetings, the Club plans and reports on its service projects, and guest speakers present on a broad range of topics that are of interest to the community. Rotary meetings are now held each Thursday in person at the Madison YMCA on Kings Road. The morning begins with a buffet breakfast at 7:30 (\$7.50 per person); the Club meeting starts at 7:45 and concludes at 8:30. For August 2021, the Club's meeting line-up includes:



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August 5: Club Meeting

In connection with the annual installation of the Club's new President, Carol Martorano, the August 5 Club meeting will focus on ongoing and new initiatives for the coming year, including a discussion of the recent survey of members concerning Club missions and priorities. The public is welcome to join the discussion.

August 12: Mallory Mortillaro speaks on "The Beneficence of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge"

Mallory Mortillaro is an educator in Summit who has supported the Hartley Dodge Foundation in Madison with extensive research on its artistic holdings. Those holdings, as well as the Hartley Dodge Memorial building itself, represent only some of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge's gifts to Madison and the New Jersey area generally. Ms. Mortillaro will review how Mrs. Dodge, the niece of John D. Rockefeller, the world's richest man, used her wealth and position to benefit the Borough and the State with gifts that still resonate.

August 19:

In lieu of its regular meeting, the Rotary Club will celebrate the end of pandemic restrictions by holding a social hour of fellowship. The public is invited to join Club members; visit the Club website at madisonrotarynj.org for details on the event.

August 26:

John Weingart speaks on "New Jersey Government and the Impact of Home Rule"

John Weingart has been Associate Director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University since 2000. Among other responsibilities, he directs the Institute's Center on the American Governor and the Arthur J. Holland Ethics in Government Program. He has worked in New Jersey State government under both Democratic and Republican governors and has helped to write and implement a number of important land use programs addressing different regions of the State.

New Jersey's form of government, with responsibilities divided among state, county and municipal governments, with a strong history of "home rule," presents a number of benefits and challenges. Mr. Weingart will review how New Jersey's approach works and the ongoing adaptations made in the name of delivering effective and efficient government services to the State's residents.

Mr. Weingart's presentation will be available via Zoom; interested members of the public can visit the Club's website at madisonrotarynj.org for log-in details for this talk.

Please visit the Rotary website at madisonrotarynj.org for any updates to the schedule and other meeting details.





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KAITLIN OSUCHA AWARDED HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Marianne Ivers

Kaitlin Osucha is the 2021 recipient of the Chatham Historical Society Margaret Keisler Scholarship awarded at Chatham High School commencement exercises held at Cougar Field on June 17. The \$1,500 scholarship is named in memory of "Peg" Keisler, a lifelong resident of Chatham who was the Borough's historian and a dedicated educator. The generosity of members and friends make this scholarship possible.

Our town is made up of unique individuals

scholarship process, students were asked to share their own stories. The Historical Society received 26 varied essays. Kaitlin's is based on her initial project to achieve the Girl Scouts' highest goal, the Gold Award but the undertaking took an unexpected turn. She incorporated her passion for history and love of Chatham into a significant learning experience.

Kaitlin lives on Yale Street with her mother, father and twin brother, Zachary. They both will

each with a distinctive story to tell. As part of the be attending Washington College in Maryland. Between Kaitlin's love of history and strong interest in psychology, the choice of a major will not be an easy one. The Chatham Historical Society wishes Kaitlin much success in college and beyond and hopes she will keep Chatham in her thoughts.

> "I think it's important to focus on your town and not let the history disappear," said Kaitlin Osucha.

We should all help to make that happen!



(above) Kaitlin Osucha was awarded the Chatham Historical Society Margaret Keisler Scholarship.

CHATHAM: MY TOWN BY A RIVER

Essay by Kaitlin Osucha

I have a love for history and tradition. Something that started very young for me, always being interested in the past and facts about each place I visited. Going to Jockey Hollow for Girl Scouts and driving on the streets George Washington and his troops walked on or going to the library

and knowing on that piece of property there used to be a hotel, The Fairview House. Knowing what life used to be like just seemed to interest

A tradition that always excited me was the parade down Main Street on the 4th of July. Getting up early hearing the cannon go off at Memorial Park announcing the start of the day. Grabbing my pre-planned red, white, and blue outfit and either a swim shirt or Girl Scout sash depending on who I was walking with during the parade. I always enjoyed walking along Main Street, waving and smiling at everyone, seeing the homestretch by CVS and knowing there were hotdogs and root beer waiting for me.

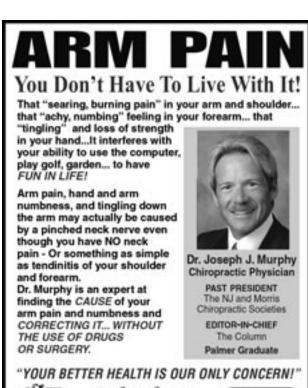
Sadly, this past year because of COVID that didn't happen. So many people missed out on making the memories that came with walking in the parade. I was so upset, knowing this tradition and historic event wasn't happening. I knew with COVID it wasn't a possibility, but still it was disappointing.

At the same time I was working on my Gold Award which focused on the negative effects of plastic bags. I chose to focus on that because of the Plastic Bag Ordinance which was passed in Chatham recently. I needed a way to raise money for my project to buy reusable bags for the community, but bake sales didn't seem possible during a pandemic. Instead I decided to create a scavenger hunt down the parade route on Main Street that stopped at historic locations on the way. I was so excited to do this because of my

love of history and research especially in my own town. I spent hours looking up information on my computer as well as looking through books like My Town By A River and Chatham: At the Crossing of the Fishawack . One evening I had a great conversation with Liz Holler and she told me about so many different places in Chatham. Ms. Holler spoke of the car garage (which then became a newspaper distributor) near the train tracks that was boarded up when they built the train overpass, so the owner sued and won. She remembered the fire at the Chatham Hotel that happened when the entire Fire Department was at a holiday party. I was so intrigued. What started as a 30 minute phone conversation turned into more than an hour. After our phone call, I tried to write down everything I could remember and then told my family and grandma all the facts I heard. It was so interesting.

All this information I compiled into my scavenger hunt along with summaries of each location as well as questions. The scavenger hunt started at Shepard Kollock park, the location of the bread ovens for George's Washington troops that were used in a hoax against the British. It ended in front of Chatham Middle School, the end of the 4th of July parade route as well as the site of the spring-fed pond before it was filled in. With every step participants were able to learn more about the town they grew up in. Walking along Main Street I would see children running up and down the street with the scavenger hunt in their hands looking for the next site and the answers for the questions.

Not only was it a very successful fundraiser, but it was so much more interesting. I learned so much more about my town and got to connect with so many people about a shared love for history. This has solidified my choice in going to college to pursue a major in History, a subject I truly love!



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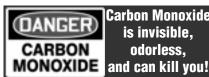












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We share a post Saturday run breakfast on a park picnic bench. We even have a fire in the shelter fireplace on cold winter days. We are starting to plan other activities including member hosted house parties. When races start coming back our USATF 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. When trails are icy/snow covered we use alternate routes.

We are a friendly welcoming group. Contact BarbaraRushman@yahoo.com or visit our website RoseCityRunners.com for more information.



(above) Rose City Runners





MORRIS COUNTY CONSORTIUM OF TOWNS WINS SHARED SERVICE GRANT

Submitted by Michael Pellessier

Six Morris County towns collaborating together have been awarded a \$90,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to identify and implement a program to share costly public works equipment and maintenance functions. The six towns comprise Madison, Morristown, Morris Plains, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township and Morris Township.

The consortium has agreed to a group-wide assessment of how to reduce costs and improve services by sharing public works equipment, some of which is highly specialized, costly, and does not require full time work. The consortium will also examine ways to regionalize some maintenance and repair functions for their fleets, which also often requires specialized skills, equipment, and certification.

"All of our towns share the same challenge of needing specialized equipment, often costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, to maintain our roads, sidewalks, water and sewer systems, and other infrastructure," said Morris Township Mayor Jeff Grayzel, whose town is the lead agency on the effort. "By working together we are looking to reduce some of these costs and maintain – or even improve – our services."

This award is one of only the 22 Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) grants

to local governmental entities across New Jersey.

"In the wake of the pandemic, local governments are looking for innovative ways to cut costs to offset unexpected expenses incurred this past year. Shared services are a proven way to accomplish this while preserving and even enhancing existing services," said Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA). "The LEAP Challenge Grant that has been awarded to Morris Township is specifically designed to help streamline their resources to achieve taxpayer savings without sacrificing the quality of services their residents need."

The LEAP program is comprised of three grant initiatives: Challenge, Implementation, and County Coordinator Fellowship. The Challenge grants promote innovation and collaboration on more expansive projects that produce shared services of notable significance. The Implementation grants help cover costs associated with the implementation of shared services and school feasibility studies and the County Coordinator Fellowship grants support the hiring of a fellow to work full-time to identify and advance shared service opportunities within a county.

"Shared service is something that Madison has been doing for years, and we are looking forward to extending it through this LEAP grant," said Mayor Robert H. Conley. "Working together with the five other towns will provide us access to beneficial public works equipment, while also saving taxpayer dollars," continued Conley.

The six-town project is expected to get off the ground shortly with the hiring of a consultant who specializes in municipal fleet management, maintenance, and repair.





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AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAM OFFERS GIRLS HANDS ON EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Submitted by Maryann Doherty

Over the past fifty years civics education in K-12 schools has deteriorated. The federal government spends about 5 cents per student per year on civics instruction. Less than a quarter of eighth grade students score as proficient on the subject according to the Educating for American Democracy Project.

Each summer for over seventy years, the American Legion and its Auxiliaries have been providing a weeklong experience in government at their Boys State and Girls State programs throughout the country. Each group experiences how elections are handled on the local and county levels and how a campaign is run by campaigning for various positions. They also experience how local and county governments work by setting up a local government. As the week progresses a Governor for Girls State is elected after a vigorous campaign for votes. Two Senators are elected at the end of the week to represent New Jersey at Girls Nation, which is a weeklong

experience in Washington, D.C. where they learn how the National Government works.

Recently a bill prepared by a Boys State Senator was picked up by a member of the U.S. Senate and presented for action on the floor of the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C.

Once again, local American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43 sponsored four girls to New Jersey Girls State this June. Representing the Unit were Delegates from Madison High Elisabetta Araya and alternate Charlette Sullivan; from Chatham High School Delegates Meryn Dziemian and Campbell Ragin and alternate Isabella Loconte; and from Academy of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station Delegate Christina Kennedy.

The sessions were held virtually again this year due to coronavirus restrictions. While not as exciting as the personal contact and interactions with girls from all over New Jersey on a college campus, the girls finished with a wealth of information that will be helpful as they exercise their rights of citizenship in the very near future.



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