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Issue 46 • August 2021

THURS MORNING CLUB AND I SUPPORT GIRLS BINGO NIGHT

The Thursday Morning Club of Madison recently sponsored a Bingo game at Madison Community House that supported the international organization I Support the Girls (ISG).

ISG collects and distributes essential items for women - including bras, underpants and menstrual hygiene products - for women experiencing homelessness, victims of domestic violence, victims of sex trafficking, refugees and evacuees affected by natural disasters. Since March 2020, this organization has collected and distributed over 2,000,000 products.

The cost of admission for the bingo event was a donation of new or gently used bras, sanitary hygiene products or new cotton underwear. Thirtynine TMC members participated in the event, which included prizes and refreshments.

TMC members donated 142 bras, 69 packages of hygiene products, 74 cotton underpants and 2 nightgowns. All items were delivered to Dineen Burke, Director Central/North NJ Affiliate of I support the Girls.



(above, *l*-*r*) Julie Trapp, Jeannie Kosakowski, and Vincyne LaCapra during the Bingo game.





POSTMASTERS SHARE TIPS FOR PET OWNERS

Last year, a total of 5,803 USPS employees were attacked by dogs in the United States. New Jersey ranked ninth among the 50 states with 169 dog attacks in 2019. The 31 postmasters serving the 39 municipalities in Morris County are joining their colleagues throughout the Garden State and across the nation to raise public awareness of the importance of responsible pet ownership in helping prevent dog bites.

To prevent dog bites, Morris County Postmasters recommend the following tips for responsible pet ownership: Obedience training can teach dogs proper behavior and help owners control their dog in any situation.

When the letter carrier comes to your home, keep your dog available on its YouTube site, USPS TV.

inside, away from the door, in another room, or on a leash.

- Dogs can be protective of their territory and may interpret the actions of letter carriers as a threat. Please take precautions when accepting mail in the presence of your pet.
- Dogs that haven't been properly socialized, receive little attention or handling, or are left tied-up for long periods of time frequently turn into biters.
- By following these few simple tips, pet owners can significantly improve neighborhood safety for everyone.

The Postal Service has a short animated dog bite video available on its YouTube site, USPS TV.



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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com



MADISON ROTARY ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR 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:

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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GEORGE BURROUGHS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Submitted by Cathy Gotliffe

The following Madison High School Seniors were awarded The Thursday Morning Club – Madison Community House – George Burroughs Scholarship. The scholarship is based on volunteerism.

This year the students did a remarkable job even in the face of severe Covid-19 restrictions. They are a tribute to their class. We wish all of them success in their next journey.

Juliana Bangs - This young lady did many hours a year volunteering. Much of her volunteer work was done with tutoring ESL students and with Special Needs students. She also assisted with Habitat for Humanity and the Appalachia Trips sponsored by St. Vincent's Church. Juliana had to use some very creative ways to reach the students, especially during Covid. "I have gained an appreciation for the dedication and hard work of these young kids and their ability to persevere through this extremely difficult time."

Anne Bolt - Anne did research in Food Allergy Awareness in Elementary Schools, with Scouting Groups and with Civic Organizations; she even did a Program for our own TMC. Working with elementary children through the Grace Episcopal Church Choir and the Madison Summer Music Program provided Anne with many opportunities to volunteer assisting children on the String Instruments and in Musical Theater. Madison Camp - With a very busy sports and work schedule Madison made time to include volunteering. She was involved with seven Volunteer Opportunities. They included working for "Feed my Starving Children" and "Change Hunger". She assisted with Pancake Breakfasts, Easter Egg Hunts, Stocking Stuffing, Holiday parties for children and Fish and Chips Dinner. She served as President of the MHS Key Club. "Volunteering gives me a feeling of accomplishment and happiness to see that you made a difference and positive effect on someone else's life".

Matthew Mauro – This young man's `taste" for volunteering came as a Cub Scout and grew to be a priority in High School. Matt volunteered in Scouting through Patriot's Path Council and through Youth Leadership Training with the Order of the Arrow Woapalaane Lodge # 43. His most recent volunteering was done as an EMT on 911 dispatches for the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Core. Matt also was a MCH Nursery School graduate.

Josephine Piacenti – "I realized how big of an impact the things I was doing had on people's lives." Doing many hours yearly with Special Needs Students through the Peer Group Connections Program and the Madison Music and Arts Program has given her motivation to continue to volunteer in the future.



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(above) Before the project, as volunteers began the rejuvenation process.



(above) A volunteer removes invasive plants.



MADISON RAIN GARDEN REJUVENATION

Submitted by Hazel England

Neither rose scratches nor 100% humidity and intermittent downpours dampened the enthusiasm of our great volunteer crew as they worked in the wet to rejuvenate one of three rain gardens at the Madison Recreation Complex (MRC).

Rain gardens are close to Great Swamp Watershed Association's (GSWA) heart because they are a cost effective and wildlife friendly way to manage water from stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. They allow it to slowly infiltrate and remove impurities before water finds its way to streams and rivers. It is a great example of green infrastructure (GI) biological rather than heavily engineered solutions to stormwater management.

GSWA staff were asked by Kathleen Caccavale, Chair of the Sustainable Madison Advisory Committee, to help identify what should stay and what should go at the three rain gardens collecting parking lot run off at the complex. These rain gardens were installed in 2011, but over time have become less effective as their entrance channels filled with sediment and planted native species were supplemented by a different type of volunteer- invasive plants such as mugwort and multiflora rose. While rain gardens are a great low-cost solution to managing excess run off, they do require periodic maintenance to remain working in tip-top condition.

Partnering with Madison Environmental Commission Green Team members, we solicited volunteers from our database of Madison residents who purchased pollinator friendly plants at our plant sale earlier this year. These volunteers, working alongside experienced weed pullers and longtime and brand new GSWA volunteers, spent several sweat-filled hours to

wrest control of the rain garden back from the wild.

We identified the invasives and worked systematically to pull them, roots and all, from the garden. Invasive bushes and trees such as mulberry and rose were cut out and stumps painted with herbicide to slow their return. Spreading herbaceous plants such as mugwort were pulled at the roots. River rock placed at the juncture between parking lot and rain garden to slow incoming runoff and trap dirt, salt and other non-point source pollutants carried along by the flowing water were also rejuvenated. Rocks were removed, excess soil was dug out and sieved away using an old gardening aid called a riddle. The rocks replaced in their original positions cleared from dirt now allows water to flow into the garden more easily.

While this makeover is not yet complete, the recent heavy rains were observed to be flowing away more effectively at the site. We will have another volunteer cleanup at the site on Tuesday, August 24, 5-7:30 p.m.– call, text, or email Hazel to participate: HazelE@GreatSwamp.org, 908-477-4578.

ABOUT GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

For 40 years, the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) has been dedicated to protecting and improving water resources in New Jersey's Great Swamp Watershed region. We do this by monitoring and maintaining streams and open space, advocating for intelligent land use and environmental policy, and educating communities about water and its effect on the health and natural beauty of the local environment. For more information visit GreatSwamp.org. Contact 973-538-3500, info@greatswamp.org.



(above) Volunteers posed for a picture with their work. There will have another volunteer cleanup at the site on Tuesday, August 24, 5-7:30 p.m.– call, text, or email Hazel to participate: HazelE@GreatSwamp.org, 908-477-4578.



THRIFT SHOP READY FOR AUGUST SPECIALS

The Madison Independent Thrift Shop invites all shoppers during the month of August to stop in and take advantage of the Summer Clothing Sale. All summer clothing will be available at 50% off the regular prices.

The Thrift Shop, located at 39 Kings Road, is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. All proceeds received from sales are distributed to charitable groups in Madison and surrounding communities. If you have questions or need further information, we can be reached at 973-377-2450.



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MORRIS COUNTY CELEBRATES 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOPE ONE

Addiction & Recovery Program Credited With Saving More than 50 Lives

dampen the 4th Anniversary Celebration of Morris County's unique and heralded Hope One program, a mobile treatment and recovery unit that visits towns two to three times weekly to reach people in need of addiction services and more.

'We are not going to arrest our way out of this problem," said Morris County Sheriff James Gannon, whose office initiated Hope One four years ago with the aid of Morris County, its Human Services Department, the Mental Health Association of Essex & Morris, Prevention is Key and their Center for Addiction Recovery Education and Success.

Since 2017, the Hope One mobile unit has not only been finding people struggling with addiction and connecting them with help, but also encountering people who are homeless, on the verge of becoming homeless, or people needing food, medical care, legal advice and other types of assistances. The program led to a spin-off program launched this year called Hope

Rain, wind and even squalls of snow failed to Hub, a multidisciplinary panel of law enforcement, social services, mental health services, healthcare providers, treatment providers and recovery specialists who review the cases of at-risk people countered by Hope One, police, social workers, educators or any other government and non-profit agencies.

> "If we did not have Hope One over these past four years, we would not have had more than 17,600 people contacted. We would not have had 3,302 trained in using Narcan to revive people who overdose. We would not have saved the 54 lives saved through Hope One," said Morris County Commissioner Director Stephen H. Shaw.

> Sheriff Gannon and the Commissioners also gave special thanks and recognition to Hope One Coordinator Erica Valvano, a corporal with the Sheriff's office, who has lead Hope One since its beginning.

> To learn more about Hope One and view a schedule visit:

morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Sheriff/ Community-Programs/Hope-One



(above) The Sheriff's Community Services Unit operates HOPE ONE in partnership with the Morris County Department of Human Services, the Mental Health Association of Morris County, and Morris County. To allow for more interaction and the ability to connect with individuals suffering from addiction, the HOPE ONE mobile recovery access center travels to different communities within Morris County. The vehicle parks and sets up refreshments in an effort to encourage those in need of services to approach the vehicle. Providing a comfortable, stigma free setting has allowed this program to effectively make contact with and provide services to individuals who have had difficulty navigating the journey of accessing appropriate services in the past.

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

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.



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 of notable significance. services 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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