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Issue 74 • December 2023

### THE SEARCH IS ON FOR ROSIE THE ROSE CITY REINDEER

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The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to invite children of all ages to embark on an enchanting month-long adventure searching for Rosie the Rose City Reindeer this holiday season. This event is set to kick off on Friday, November 24, 2023 and continue through Saturday, December 16, 2023.

The Search for Rosie the Rose City Reindeer is a celebration of the holiday spirit and the joys of shopping locally in Madison, with over 50 Chamber-member businesses taking part in the fun. Families are invited to join this magical journey that will run throughout the holiday season, culminating in a Grand Prize drawing on Monday, December 18, 2023.

This engaging event is free of charge, open to the public, and exclusively designed for children. For a comprehensive list of participating businesses, please visit the Chamber's website at MadisonNJChamber.org.

#### **HOW IT WORKS:**

Pick Up a Participation Card: To get started, obtain a participation card from Tons of Toys, 64 Main St. or Madison Pharmacy, 66 Main St.

Hunt for Rosie: Search for Rosie the Rose City Reindeer at the participating businesses or on their respective websites, as indicated on the participation card. Collect a store stamp, signature, or the online code to mark your progress.

Claim Your Prizes: When you've gathered a minimum of 30 distinct store stamps, signatures, or codes, bring your game card to Tons of Toys and claim a special prize generously provided by Tons of Toys.

Enter the Grand Prize Drawing: To increase your chances of winning, aim to accumulate at least 40 store stamps, signatures, or codes. Once achieved, bring your game card to Tons of Toys or Madison Pharmacy, and you will be entered into an exciting drawing.

Join the Grand Prize Drawing Event: Be sure to tune in to the live feed of the Grand Prize drawing on the ILoveMadisonNJ Facebook page on Monday, December 18, at 4:00 pm. The Grand Prize Winner will be awarded a \$100 Madison



Chamber Gift Check, while the 2nd and 3rd place winners will each receive a \$50 Madison Chamber Gift Check.

"Join us in Madison this holiday season as we celebrate community, the joy of giving, and the magic of the Rose City." said chamber executive director Karen Giambra. "Get ready to embark on a memorable adventure with Rosie the Rose City Reindeer, and let the festivities begin!"

For more information and updates, visit MadisonNJChamber.org or Madison Area Chamber of Commerce contact the at MadisonChamber@gmail.com.



# MADISON MONTHLY,

#### Renna Media LLC, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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### ADVERTISING

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### **YOU CAN HELP STUDENTS CHANGE HUNGER**

Submitted by Mary Beth Gabel, MHS Teacher and Key Club advisor

Madison High School Key Club members are hosting the annual Students Change Hunger Food Drive thru January 12, 2024.

38 million Americans are food insecure, meaning they don't know if they have enough to feed themselves and their families. Over 650,000 live right here in New Jersey. The Community Food Bank of New Jersey is challenging all students, staff, teachers, and parents to think of

those less fortunate by organizing a food drive and collecting as much food as possible to support those who need it the most.

#### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

Drop off nonperishable food items at the front entrance of the Madison High School from 2:05-3:05 p.m. on Fridays now thru Jan. 12th. Monetary donations can also be made online using this link: give.cfbnj.org/team/536959



(above) Madison High School Key Club Members with Val Schuszler from the Interfaith Food Pantry, outside Madison High School.

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	144 Loantaka Way	7	5.0	3	\$2,695,000	\$2,300,000	69
	22 Stonehedge Ln	4	4.0	2	\$1,295,000	\$1,350,000	8
1	58 Prospect St	3	2.1	1	\$999,000	\$1,100,000	18
	25 Anthony Dr	4	3.0	1	\$899,000	\$1,028,600	15
	41 Spring Garden Dr	4	3.0	2	\$799,000	\$902,000	9

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Source: GSMLS, select properties sold 10/13-11/13/2023. If your property is currently listed with another Realtor, this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing. Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Each office independently owned and operated. Equal housing opportunity. Some homes may be sold and listed by other brokers.





### **MADISON THRIFT SHOP DECEMBER SALES**

The Madison Independent Thrift Shop is preparing for their sales in December. Included will be 50% on men's clothing and 50% Off on wallets and evening bags. CDs DVDs and records will be selling for \$1.00.

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.

A nonprofit group, it is operated entirely by volunteers, with all proceeds received from sales distributed annually to charitable groups in Madison and surrounding communities. It is looking for Community minded volunteers to help staff the store.

Anyone wanting further information or may be interested in becoming a volunteer is encouraged to drop by the shop or call 973-377-2450 during business hours listed above.

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## **COPING WITH LOSS DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

culture, especially at the holidays. We are supposed to have a Happy Thanksgiving, a "merry little Christmas" or a Happy Hanukkah. But grief doesn't take a holiday.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss would like to offer support to those navigating the challenges of grieving during the holiday season and offer some coping strategies as well. On Thursday December 14th from 6:30-8 pm, Imagine will offer a workshop on Coping with Loss During the Holidays. The free workshop will be held at their center at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside and is open to adults and children grades 3 and older.

Imagine's Grief Educator, Connie Palmer, LCSW will present the workshop in English and Training and Education Director, Veronica Ortiz, LPC and Bilingual Program Manager, Sonia Nuñez will present the workshop at the same time in Spanish. Pizza dinner is available prior to the session beginning at 6:15 for those who sign up. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served as well.

If you are looking for support as you cope with a loss this holiday season, the staff at Imagine would like to help, and hope to see you at the workshop on the 14th.

Imagine is a 501c3 nonprofit that offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with

There is so much pressure to be happy in our a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



*(above) If you're interested in attending the* workshop presented in English, please scan the QR code or visit Imagine's website at imaginenj.org/education-training/communitywebinars/ to register. Registration is not

required for the workshop presented in Spanish.

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## **CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA!**

From traditional to pops, renowned tenor fare and Broadway favorites, New Jersey Festival Orchestra's (NJFO) holiday concerts promise to fill the entire family with warmth and cheer.

They're back! Under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, the orchestra will kick off the festive season with a bang and plenty of bling as The Three Holiday Tenors join NJFO to present a family festival of traditional and contemporary holiday songs and music.

"We cannot wait to return to Drew University at this special time of year and are thrilled to welcome back The Three Holiday Tenors – each more talented than the next – to help us celebrate the Holiday season," said Wroe.

The concert features Metropolitan Opera's internationally acclaimed tenor Errin Brooks and award winning tenors Jeremy Brauner and Mackenzie Whitney to celebrate and captivate with a dazzling selection of renowned tenor arias. Traditional carols, signature versions of familiar fare and a host of wintertime curiosities are also sure to delight.

"We believe there is something for everyone in this performance. Our holiday concert is a vessel for children, parents, grandparents and friends – indeed the entire community – come together through festive music at this unique time of the year."

The concert will take place on Sunday, December 10th at 3pm at the Concert Hall, Drew University, 36 Madison Ave, Madison. For tickets and further information go to www.njfestivalorchestra.org or call 908 232 9400.

#### **CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR WITH NJFO!**

alla la la la la la

19th Annual

NJFO's quintessential New Year's celebration is also back on Monday, January 1 in Basking Ridge with "The Great American Songbook," a superb revue of American musical theater showstoppers from Golden Age classics to Broadway's greatest hits presented in glorious symphonic splendor.

A cabaret style event for the whole family, the concertfeatures renowned guest singers direct from the Broadway stage. Audiences are invited celebrate the New Year and revel in the musical genius of America's great composers, outstanding vocal performers, and a worldclass professional orchestra led by Maestro David Wroe.

The performance will take place on Monday, January 1 at 2:30 pm at The Sieminsky Theater, 800 Fellowship Road, Basking Ridge. For tickets and information go to www.sieminskitheater.org or call 908-580-3892

"There is much to celebrate this holiday season," continued Wroe. "So gather your friends and family for a series of merry musical programs of song and dance for audiences of all ages!"

This seasonal stroll of timeless classics and sentimental favorites, sure to bring us together with joy, smiles, and distinctive holiday memories, has been made possible in part by support from The NJ State Council on the Arts.







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### SCARECROWS ON WAVERLY PLACE

Madison Area Chamber of Commerce

In a delightful display of community spirit, the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce teamed up again with the Garden Club of Madison to adorn the downtown business district with a charming array of cornstalks and family friendly scarecrows this fall. These artistic creations, thoughtfully designed by Chamber member businesses and organizations, transformed Madison's Waverly Place into a vibrant scarecrow wonderland that's set to captivate visitors of all ages.

Local businesses, fueled by their creative ingenuity, were tasked with customizing Chamber-supplied scarecrows to reflect their unique brands and values. The scarecrows were perched upon lamp posts along Waverly Place, through Halloween.

The Garden Club of Madison has long been committed to spearheading and supporting community projects, offering both financial contributions and the dedicated volunteer efforts of its members. Their Civics Committee has been instrumental in leading the club's endeavors to restore and enhance common spaces throughout Madison.

Robbin Salmeri, owner of Cleaners Advantage and the Chamber's President, praised the Garden Club's ongoing dedication to the community, saying, "The Garden Club of Madison's work is done with a true love and commitment for the improvement and quality of our community. We have enjoyed partnering with them, and we plan to continue this annual tradition for all to enjoy."

The collaboration between the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce and the Garden Club of Madison has once again highlighted the thirsty hand creativity of Madison's local businesses and organizations. Scarecrows on Waverly Place serves as a testament to the vibrant and supportive community spirit that prevails in Madison.



(above) Garden Club members Kate Ransom-Silliman, Leigh Bolt & Katherin Leonard help install the scarecrows on Waverly Place

### **MERRY MADISON SEASONAL SPECTACULAR**



#### Madison Public Theatre

The public is invited to enjoy a family-friendly musical and variety extravaganza starring local singers, actors, and musicians from our extraordinarily talented community.

"A Merry Madison Seasonal Spectacular"

Saturday, December 16th, 2023, 3 p.m., Madison Junior School, 160 Main Street, Madison.

Adults: \$30, Seniors: \$20; Students: \$15; Children under 2 are free.

Purchase tickets: madisonpublictheatre.org.

All funds raised from this performance will support the Madison Public Theatre educational scholarship for high school seniors, as well as other initiatives including new works, concerts, and mainstage shows.

The Madison Public Theatre, a 501(c)(3) notfor-profit theatrical organization, creates a comprehensive program that benefits Madisonians with high-quality, varied theater that is affordable and accessible for participants, and fun and entertaining for all. For more information visit madisonpublictheatre.org.









### **CHRISTMAS TOUR 2023**

Halos For Angels is earmarking on this year's fundraiser for recipients living amongst us, especially a family in Madison, a 38 year old woman with last stages of cancer, a (mommy) of two young children.

www.halosforangelsinc.org

halos for angels PLEASE JOIN US OPEN HOUSE CHRISTMAS TOUR! Hosted by Ginny Akhoury to benefit Halos for Angels, Inc ALL ARE WELCOME! Sunday, December 3rd 2023 1PM-6PM The Akhoury Home 6 Pine Valley Way Florham Park, NJ 07932 Please RSVP akhouryg@yahoo.com or by phone 973 - 214 - 0678 By November 30 \*Entrance Fee \$45.00 \*Christmas Décor from around the world \*Music & Singing \*Hors d'oeuvres & Desserts \*Tea and Coffee Community Strong ... Action Matters One Community \*One family\*One people

## SUMMIT OLD GUARD THE DECEMBER SPEAKERS

The Summit Old Guard was founded in 1930 and meets most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." Please join us. Our programs are free to the public, and we welcome you!

December speakers include Bill Freund, Mitch Erickson, and a special event featuring Joe Regan.

On December 5th, Summit Old Guard member, Bill Freund, will tell us about fleeing Nazi Germany with his family in 1936 at age 11. A refugee doesn't look for happiness, only survival. He was a shoe-shine boy, learned English, and attended school. He eventually earned a PhD from Columbia and became Chief Economist at the New York Stock Exchange. He wrote several professional books and later, two children's stories, including one about a cookie that played a central role in his life. We'll hear the remarkable life story of one of our most notable members.

On December 12th, another distinguished Old Guard member, Mitch Erickson will review the science, biology, and environmental and social uses of water as a parable of the intersection of science, environment, policy, recreation, safety, climate change, and social justice that affects all 8 billion of us. It is important to be informed about the fundamental properties of H2O to participate in societal discussions. Mitch is an environmental chemist with a lifetime of professional experience with water. He also enjoys a variety of beverages comprised largely of water.

December 19th will be our last meeting of the year. We always try to make it a little special and a little festive. This year we will feature Joe Regan, a well-known cabaret singer and pianist we have always enjoyed, and he'll appear with a repertoire of popular standards and holiday songs. There will be special refreshments and decorations, and the bigger the turnout the better it will be. Join us for the music, snacks, and SOG bonhomie.



(above, l-r) Bill Freund, Mitch Erickson, and Joe Regan

Past speakers and much more can be viewed at SummitOldGuard.org but we encourage people to drop in on our meetings which take place at the church at 10:00 a.m. most Tuesdays. "Come for the Speakers. Stay for the Friends." We look forward to meeting you.



(above) The Summit Old Guard has 19 activity and interest groups. During a Nov. 3rd fishing outing Bob Eng, along with Joe Geist, Joe Corona, and Marv Gersten all landed some sizeable striped bass for dinner and the freezer. Besides fishing, members golf weekly, play bocce followed by lunch, discuss the latest technology issues, and much more.

Courtesy photo



That "searing, burning pain" in your thigh and calf... that "aching, numbing" feeling in your hip and buttocks... that "tingling" in your foot and toes and loss of balance... It interferes with your ability to walk, to

ride a bicycle, play golf, garden ... to have FUN IN LIFE! Leg pain, thigh ache and numbness, and tingling in the foot may actually be caused by a pinched back nerve even though you have NO back pain - it could even be Sciatica

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### LIBRARY DECEMBER PROGRAMS

39 Keep St, Madison, NJ 07940 (973)377-0722 Mon - Wed: 10 AM-9 PM; Thur, Fri: 10 AM-6 PM; Sat: 10 AM-5 PM; Sun: 1 PM-5 PM

All lecture programs are online via Zoom unless stated otherwise.

You will receive Zoom instructions and online meeting information in your registration confirmation email in addition to a reminder email prior to the date of the program. Please register at madisonnjlibrary.org

#### Adult Open Craft Night

Monday, December 4th 6:00pm-8:00pm. Held at Madison Community Art Center, 10 Kings Road

Have no time or space to finish up all those craft projects? Take n Makes waiting to be assembled? You are not alone! Join us for some quiet time away from the kids and the dirty

dishes. Relax with friends and fellow crafters. Bring along anything you want to work on or enjoy doing the craft I will provide, just in case.

#### From Saint to Santa

Tuesday, December 5th @7pm Through centuries of art, much of it now in East Coast museums, we'll explore how a Greek bishop in Roman-era Turkey evolved into one of Christianity's most beloved saints. Then in American artwork we'll see Nicholas change again—into Santa Claus.



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### **AP HONOR ROLL & ACCESS AWARD RECOGNITIONS**

Madison Public Schools

On October 3rd, the College Board announced that Madison High School has been named to the Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) School Honor Roll, earning Silver distinction. In addition, Madison High School received the 2023 AP Access Award, which is given to schools when the percentage of underrepresented and/or low income students accessing the school's AP Program is the same as, or greater than the percentage in the school's graduating class.

The AP® School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

To earn this recognition, schools must meet certain milestones within three categories:

- 1. College Culture: % of seniors who take at least one AP exam before graduating
- 2. College Credit: % of seniors earning an AP Exam score of 3 or higher on an AP exam
- 3. College Optimization: % of seniors taking a total of 5 or more AP exams across their high school years, with at least one taken in 9th or 10th grade.

Madison High School had 64% of seniors who took at least one AP exam during high school, 54% of seniors scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam, and 20% of seniors who took five or more AP exams with at least one being taken in 9th or 10th grade!

Madison High School earned the highest recognition, Platinum, in the categories of college credit (need 50%) and college optimization (need 15%). MHS was one percentage point shy of Gold recognition and 16% points shy of Platinum recognition in College Culture.

### **"100 TREES" PROJECT COMPLETES ITS FIRST PHASE**

The Rotary Club of Madison announced in June 2023 a "100 Trees for 100 Years" project, in which it committed to lead the planting of 100 new trees in Madison to commemorate the Rotary's 100th year of community service. The club has just completed the first phase of this project, planting 52 trees this fall at the Public Library, the Lucy D playing fields and the Water Tower on Madison Avenue.

Gene Cracovia, Chair of Madison's Shade Tree Management Board, commented "Madison needs more trees, both to replace those that have died or reached the end of their useful life, as well as to add new trees to our long-term tree canopy. It is gratifying to see the trees in this first Phase of

the Rotary project get into the ground. By next spring and for years to come, Madison residents will start experiencing the many benefits these trees provide."

Jim Foster, President of Madison Rotary, said "We're pleased to have completed Phase One of this long-term project. As we work on planning Phase Two for 2024 under the guidance of the Shade Tree Management Board, our website will have progress updates on the project, and will invite the public to participate in this important effort to keep Madison beautiful."

Madison Rotary is a 501c3 charity focusing on community service. We can be found at madisonrotarynj.org.

### **HOLIDAY RECYCLING**

The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) reminds county residents to recycle gift wrap this holiday season rather than put it into the trash. The only exception is real foil wrap, which should be reused or put into the garbage.

Penny Jones, former MCMUA recycling education specialist, said gift wrap, including tissue paper, is acceptable in Morris County's recycling programs. "The amount of trash that haulers collect increases dramatically during the holidays," Jones said. "Much of that is gift wrap and packaging that can be reused or recycled rather than relegated to the trash."

Jones suggested saving and reusing bows as well as bubble wrap and clean, dry polystyrene (Styrofoam®) packing peanuts. She said the packing peanuts and bubble wrap can be taken to Mail Boxes Etc., the UPS Store or similar retailers for reuse. To find the closest store, Jones said an individual can call the Plastic Loosefill Council's "Peanut" Hotline at 1-800-828-2214.

Jones said corrugated cardboard cartons, preholiday catalogs and gift boxes should also be



recycled, as should glass bottles, plastic bottles coded 1 and 2, aluminum and steel (tin) food and beverage cans from holiday gatherings. Newspapers, magazines and junk mail - all of which are generated year round, should be recycled as well.

If cardboard boxes are too large to fit into a curbside recycling bin, they should be flattened, folded and stacked inside one cardboard box and placed next to the recycling bin, Jones said.

In addition, a number of new items are now being accepted for recycling in the communities that participate in the MCMUA's All-In-One, single-stream curbside recycling program Jones said.

For more information visit MCMUA - Holiday Recycling Tips.

### KNITTING TOGETHER WHILE MAKING NEW FRIENDS

The Gates Avenue Knitters celebrated their 23year anniversary in April. The group has been meeting at the Long Hill Township Library, located at 917 Valley Road, Gillette, every Monday from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in.

In the month of April in the year 2000, Gates Avenue, Gillette resident Arlene Kaplan, started a knitting group along with 4 friends. Twentythree years later the group, now called the Gates Avenue Knitters, are still knitting together, including 4 of the 5 original knitters who still live in town.

Eighteen to twenty ladies show up on any given meeting day. Their skills range from beginner to experienced knitters (and crocheters). They help each other get past problems with patterns, and they are excited and willing to teach beginners to knit.

They come from Long Hill Township and surrounding towns, including Warren, Watchung, Bridgewater, Springfield, Chatham, Madison, Summit, and Westfield. Many were introduced to the group thru friends.

Along with their own projects, the group knits for causes. They knit approximately 500 hats per year and distribute them to local charities. Beginning in November they have a display at the library and the hats are sold as a fundraiser thru the end of February for \$10 each. The group recently presented the library with \$1,300 from the proceeds of the last hat sale, which is the most funds ever raised.

The group welcomes donations of yarn and knitting and crocheting supplies. Donations can be dropped off at the Long Hill Township Library any day during business hours.



(above) A display at the Long Hill Township Library features items made by the Gates Avenue Knitters. They are for sale as a fundraiser for the library. It will be stocked thru the end of February, or while supplies last.

### AMERICAN LEGION ACCEPTS PATRIOTIC ARTWORK

#### Submitted by Maryann Doherty

Special needs children at St. Joseph's School in Hillsborough, N.J. created red, white and blue "Thank you for your service" artwork. Their teacher Ginny Houle presented the artwork to decorate the Legion Home in time for Veterans Day.

Mrs. Houle has been a member of Auxiliary #43 since birth and volunteers at the church reporting her volunteer hours monthly to Unit #43. The Legionnaires also were gifted with home-baked brownies to enjoy after the Annual Veterans Day Service in Madison held on Saturday, November 11, 2023.



(above) Some of the artwork prepared by the children of St Joseph's School in Hillsborough for our American Legion Post #43 Veterans for Veterans Day. Courtesy photo



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### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WITH LIVE NATIVITY - SUN., DEC. 17**

Bring the whole family to a unique outdoor Christmas pageant and Live Nativity planned for 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17, on the adjoining front lawns of the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township (PCCT) and Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church on Southern Boulevard. Children from both churches will be presenting the Christmas story.

The pageant starts on the front lawn "shepherd's hills" of the Presbyterian Church (240 Southern Blvd.) and concludes with a Nativity scene, bellringing and carols at Corpus Christi (234 Southern Blvd.). Costumed children will play the roles of Mary, Joseph, the innkeeper, shepherds, and a narrator. Trained animal handlers from Swift Farms Animal Zoo of Milford, NJ, also in costume, will shepherd their barnyard creatures for the gathering.

"We are delighted to invite the whole end of the pageant.

community to join our two church families in celebrating the job of Christ's birth," said The Rev. Dr. Ellen C. Clemot, senior pastor of PCCT. "We hope children and adults of all ages will find this a heart-warming and memorable event."

"We are excited to join in celebrating the Birth of our Lord," added Fr. Kevin Corcoran, pastor of Corpus Christi. "We hope that many will come to share in the joy, hope and healing of this season."

The pageant will feature musical selections. and everyone attending is encouraged to raise their voices in singing favorite Christmas Carols.

Attendees should park in the lots behind either church before 4 p.m. to allow a timely start to the pageant. Everyone is invited to enjoy hot chocolate and cookies at Corpus Christi and the









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