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MEMORIAL PARK TRAIL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

The Madison Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (OSRHP) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on National Trails Day, June 1st, to celebrate the recently constructed Memorial Park trails, located at the intersection of Rosedale Avenue and Longview Avenue. A ceremony was followed by a walk on the recently reconstructed trails and boardwalks.

Memorial Park, Madison's largest, includes 68 acres. It is unique in that it has a natural area with trails, but is also home to a soccer field, baseball fields, dog park, Community Pool, skating rink, and a barn that houses the 42-year-old "Nature Nuts" Program. The trails at Memorial Park provide the opportunity for passive recreation, such as a walk through the woods.

The trail project was made possible through generous support from the Morris County Planning and Preservation Trail Construction Grant Program and support from the Madison OSRHP Fund. "This is another example of leveraging Madison OSRHP funds to successfully apply and receive Morris County Planning and Preservation Trail Construction Grant funding. Working in partnership with the County and other Borough committees, we hope to continue making Madison an accessible and healthy space for the community," said Melissa Honohan, Brough Council Member and OSRHP liaison. Visitors can access the trail from Rosedale Avenue, either near the skating rink/soccer field or the baseball field.

"Thanks to the Morris County Planning and Preservation Trail Construction Grant Program, as well as Madison OSRHP, we were able to complete Phase I of the Memorial Park Trail project, constructing boardwalks over low lying areas, and re-graveling the trail. I am grateful that their support and dedication continues to add trails to areas of Madison's Open Space," said Mayor Conley. "We are excited that this is only the first phase, with the next phase starting this summer," continued Conley.



(above) Couple #1 takes the first stroll on Memorial Park Trail.



(above) The June 1 ribbon cutting took place with Mayor Robert H. Conley, Council Members, Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Advisory Committee members, and other invited guests from the county and community.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Madison Monthly page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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OFFICER INSTALLATION 2024-2025

Summit Elks Lodge #1246 installed their 2024 - 2025 Officers during a ceremony held on Sunday, April 7th. Dignitaries from the Elks East Central District presided. Summit Elks Lodge membership is approaching 3,000, drawing members from Summit and surrounding towns. New members are welcome. For more information visit: summitelks1246.org



(above, l-r) Lodge Officers responsible for the 4 Pillars of Elkdom: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Rocco DiPiano - Esteemed Leading Knight (Charity); Fred Honold - Exalted Ruler (Fidelity); Apollo Hrehorovich - Esteemed Lecturing Knight (Brotherly Love); and Mary Twill - Esteemed Loyal Knight (Justice). These four officers look forward to serving our communities for the benefit of all.

Courtesy photo

MADISON MONTHLY

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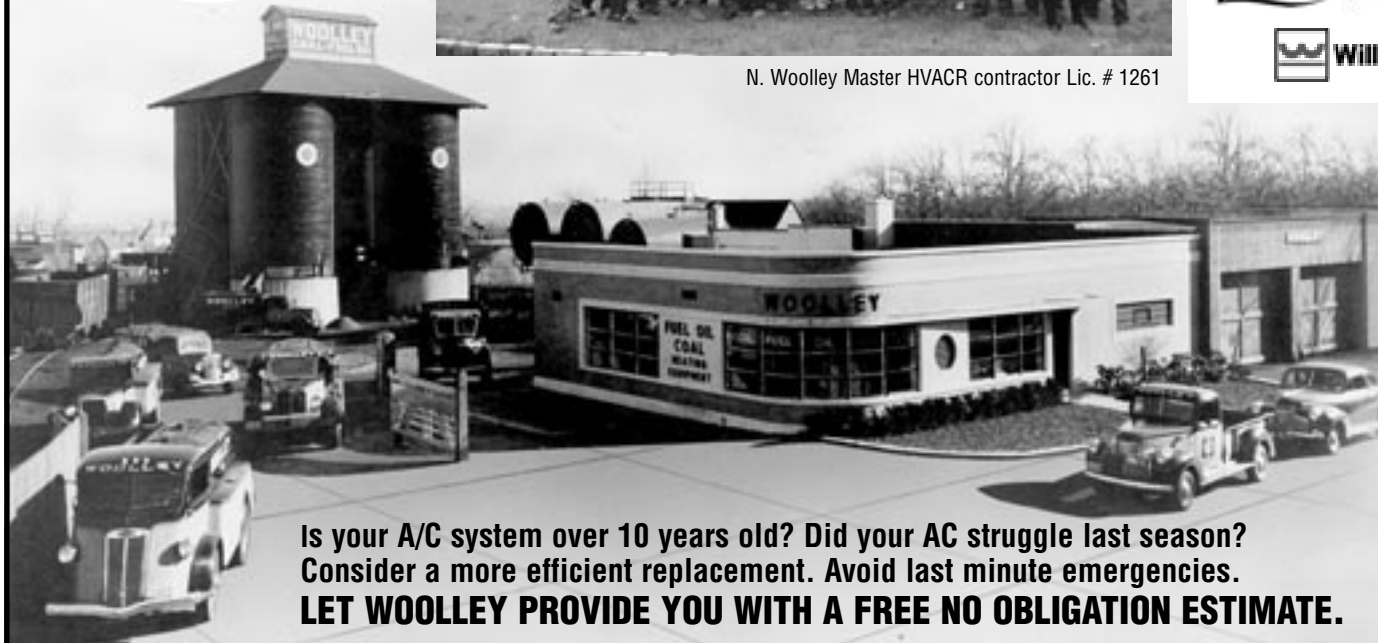
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Communities

THE DOMINICAN NUNS CLOISTER SHOPPE

For Westfielder Pat Colbert, volunteering at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit “brings me peace no matter how my day is going.” She began volunteering at the Cloister Shoppe there more than four years ago after another Westfield resident, Marge Roeck, told her about it.

The well-stocked gift shop is operated by the Dominican nuns who reside on the Rosary Shrine grounds that include a large chapel open to the public. Several years ago, the cloistered nuns began making a number of products to sell,



(above) Volunteer Tina Lesher from Westfield

including candles, soaps, face and foot crème, etc. Those items are available, along with a host of religious goods, at the gift shop and online at cloistershoppe.com. Proceeds provide funds needed to support the 20 nuns who live at the monastery.

Many people come to the shop to secure perpetual enrollments that provide prayers for individuals.

“These are beautiful cards that people usually buy to give to families of recently deceased individuals or for any living person who might need prayers,” says Tina Lesher, of Westfield, who along with her husband, John, volunteers at the shop. “We print out these lovely enrollments and include a special holy card.”

Morris Township resident Kathy Sette has been a dedicated volunteer for 20 years.

“We’re more blessed being here,” says Sette. “There’s just a feeling about it.”

Her feelings are echoed by decades-long volunteer Dorothy Shanahan of Summit.

“Curiosity led me as a young woman to investigate that big church on the hill... Simply put, God’s grace and love began a lifelong association with the monastery... this journey has been a very special privilege and gift to my life and my family.”

Many of the volunteers are members of the Rosary Guild, an auxiliary that assists the nuns in such undertakings as raising funds, driving the nuns to appointments, shopping with the sisters,

etc. The current president is Joan Brinkerhoff of Summit. She argues that working in the shop “can give me and all the volunteers an Evangelizing ministry---a time to care for others emotionally in a loving, Christian way. We reach out to our shoppers to help them find a special gift for a new grandchild, a sick friend or help them with a loss of a friend, child, parent or even a life-altering illness...we are the lay hands and voices of the nuns.”

While handling the shop duties, volunteers also answer calls coming into the Rosary Shrine and relay the messages to the nuns.

“Many of the callers are seeking the nuns’ prayers for a variety of reasons, often because of illness or loneliness or depression. As I listen to the pleas, I feel so lucky,” says Tina Lesher.

The Summit monastery was founded in 1919 when a group of sisters from a Union City monastery moved to the current site. As contemplatives, the nuns use prayer and penance to spread the Kingdom of God. The average age of the current 20 sisters in Summit is in the 50s.

The monastery chapel houses the only copy of the Shroud of Turin. The 400-year-old shroud copy can be viewed during the open chapel hours from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Mass for the public is celebrated daily at 7:30 a.m and Sundays at 8 a.m. The Cloister Shoppe is open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Monastery is located at the corner of Springfield and Morris Avenues in Summit.



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NJ STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN CLUBS CONVENTION

Thursday Morning Club

Sixteen members of Madison's Thursday Morning Club (TMC) attended the 130th Annual Convention of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) in Atlantic City at The Hard Rock Hotel May 6-8. The TMC is a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). Approximately 400 women were in attendance.

The days were filled with inspiring speeches (such as Martha Hall Kelly, author of "Lilac Girls"), workshops and special recognitions. State President Shirley Holly presided over many events. The TMC was recognized for Best All Around Reporting in four areas: Arts & Culture, Advocates For Children, Communications and Fundraising. Karen Jeisi (a previous President of the TMC) was installed as Vice President for the Highlands District, one of eight districts in the state.

The NJSFWC and Douglass College of Rutgers, the State University sponsored the 43rd Annual Women of Achievement. Four women

were honored for their careers in service to their communities. Catherine Kerris, one of the honorees is a retired Social Worker in the Madison School system and President of EPOCH, an after school recreational program for handicapped children. In her speech, she singled out the TMC for providing a safe space for EPOCH after they lost their previous location.

The NJSFWC serves as a grassroots volunteer resource in New Jersey Communities. It enhances the quality of life within our respective communities and state by transforming public interests and concerns into meaningful projects and programs. In this pursuit members individual talents, abilities and skills are utilized and developed.

The history of the NJSFWC is impressive. A few highlights; founded in 1894, its first project was to drive legislation to protect the Palisades in danger of being destroyed through overdevelopment. In 1918 NJSFWC founded the New Jersey College for Women (now Douglass

College). More recent efforts include support of the US troops through Operation Holiday Stocking, donation of cash and books to local public libraries and the Shining Future Endowment Campaign, serving the Arts, Education, Historic Preservation, Public Issues and Social Services. The 2024-2026 state project is the New Jersey Children's Alliance.

The Thursday Morning Club, organized in 1896, is a non-profit which provides services for Madison area communities. It owns, operates, and maintains the Madison Community House and is a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's clubs (NJSFWC) and of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). If you would like to serve the community, make new friends, and enjoy programs and activities, consider joining the Thursday morning Club; for more information, call the community House at 973-377-0244 or visit www.TMCMCH.org. To learn more about the NJSFWC, visit NJSFWC.org.

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(above) Sixteen members of Madison's Thursday Morning Club (TMC) attended the 130th Annual Convention of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) in Atlantic City at The Hard Rock Hotel May 6-8. Standing: Sue Elko, Susan Kanouff, Verna Balchunas, Julie Trap, Sharon Silver, Olga Soriano, Janice Corte, Gerri Meer, Annette Benensky, Phyllis Flemming, Lynne Webb (Past President of NJSFWC), Karen Jeisi, District Vice President of the Highland District; Seated: Anne Lawless, Susan Packie, Betty Landi, Connie Rostiac (President of the TMC)

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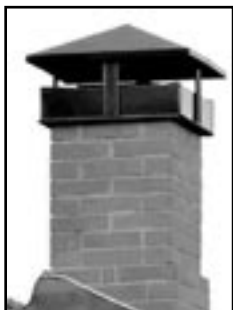
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20 YEARS OF SUPPORTING YOUNG WOMEN CELEBRATED

The Fortnightly Club of Summit

The Fortnightly Club of Summit, a women's club which draws members from Summit and surrounding towns, has a 132-year history of community service, volunteerism, and historic preservation. The Club recently hosted its annual scholarship luncheon. This celebration marks more than 6 decades of awarding scholarships to young women in the community. This year's winners include Summit High School students Chelsea Asitimbay (Boston College), Diane

Saint-Louis (The College of New Jersey), and Keilah Torillo (The College of New Jersey).

To date the club has awarded more than 60 scholarships to young women pursuing a secondary education including college or a trade education. At the luncheon, the club announced this year's scholarship winners, and celebrated past winners as well. This year's luncheon featured:

An inspiring speech by Girls on the Run East's Executive Director, Suzanne Elliot spoke about the importance of supporting girls in communities and how Girls on the Run has helped transform the lives of 2.25 million girls.

The incoming board honored the contributions of outgoing board members for their many years of service to the Fortnightly Club. New Executive Board members include Summit residents Renee Frank (VP) and Laura Sankowich (Secretary) as well as Heather Althoff of Madison (President) and Liese Kant of Short Hills (Treasurer)

"We are thrilled to support the young women in our community," said Terry Andrews, outgoing President of the Fortnightly Club of Summit. "The luncheon provides a unique opportunity for our community to come together, show their support, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of young women in Summit. We were also honored to host our guests from Girls on the Run as they discuss the empowerment of girls at a community level, which is closely aligned with the spirit of the luncheon."

Luncheon attendees supported the Fortnightly Club through participation in the luncheon and donations. Items were also collected for donation

to Girls at the Run at the event, including first aid kits, lap counters, travel tissue packs, and other essentials that are required for Girls on the Run coaches' practice kits.

"Our members are civic minded, compassionate community members who constantly come together to make a difference. Together, our members create positive change and transform lives," said Andrews.

For more information about the Fortnightly Club, and how to become a member, please visit fortnightlyclub.org or email fortnightlyclubtwinmaples@gmail.com.

ABOUT THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB

The Fortnightly Club is a volunteer group dedicated to causes that improve the lives of members of the Summit community and surrounding areas. The club supports various organizations related to education, women's issues, veterans, the elderly, and cultural institutions that serve the greater community. The club is also dedicated to preserving the historic Twin Maples Estate.

Founded in 1893 by Mrs. Mary B. Wilcox, the Fortnightly Club continues to embrace its legacy of transformative, and impactful community service. The Fortnightly Club's members are a diverse group of professional women, stay-at-home moms and retirees who share a commitment to volunteerism and community service. New members are always welcome; we serve members from Summit and surrounding towns in New Jersey, including New Providence, Berkeley Heights, Chatham, Short Hills and more.



(above) This year's Scholarship winners are Chelsea Asitimbay (Boston College), Diane Saint-Louis (The College of New Jersey), and Keilah Torillo (The College of New Jersey).

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6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
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Michael D Boll, NJVN President

For the last few years, the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has been helping veterans with resources and assistance with their mental health conditions. Over time we came to realize that the veteran's family was being affected by their struggles as well. Our team had to learn how to include their family members in our outreach efforts. We lose 22 veterans each day to suicide, and they leave behind grieving families. Recently, we decided to make sure all veteran family members can use the same resources that our team has available for veterans. Sometimes we forget about the sacrifices our veteran families have to make and this country should appreciate them for this.

One thing our team decided to do was to have Gold Star families meet disabled veterans at our events, so they can work together and form a bond. This effort was extremely affective and immediately brought joy to both the Gold Star families and to the disabled veterans. By adding veteran family members to the team, it allows us to work together on our peer support and recreational therapy programs. We are honored to have veteran family members to work alongside us and know they are just as committed with helping our veterans live a better way of life.

If you need assistance, or would like to join the team as a volunteer, please send us your name, email, and phone number to NJVN1775@gmail.com.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. Help us save Vets! We are always looking for volunteers, with various skills, to join the team. If you are a veteran or family member that is in need of assistance; or are interested in volunteering, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email NJVN1775@gmail.com. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Michael D Boll, NJVN President, with Dina and Tom Duffy who lost their son Tom Duffy, a Marine Corporal and Afghanistan War veteran. Courtesy photos

DOWNTOWN CONCERT SERIES LINEUP

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts (METC) free outdoor Downtown Concert Series sponsored by the Madison Downtown Development Commission (DDC) returns for another summer of music and fun starting June 21! Enjoy a free night of music this summer on Fridays from 6-8 p.m. Bring your own chair or blanket to sit and listen to some great performances on METC's lawn. Packing a picnic dinner or getting takeout from one of the many fabulous local restaurants is encouraged.

METC will be open for visits during the concerts. Dogs are always welcome to hang with the family as they enjoy the concert, but please only service dogs inside the museum.

The museum has an exciting line up of performances this summer:

July 5- Rosewood

July 19- King's Road Band

August 2- The C3 Soul Revue

August 16- South Street Live

August 30 - What's What

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts Explore American history with a focus on the life and stories of 18th- and 19th- century craftsmen and artisans. For information about Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, please call 973-377-2982 or visit our website at metc.org.

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