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Issue 82 • August 2024

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# **DOWNTOWN CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES IN AUGUST**

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts (METC) free outdoor Downtown Concert Series sponsored by the Madison Downtown Development Commission (DDC) began in June and continues thru August. 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.

While these events are always free, we hope you will consider donating to METC to help support the museum's many programs and events focusing on New Jersey's history, culture, trades, and crafts. For more information visit metc.org.

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

# **August 2- The C3 Soul Revue**

The C3 Soul Revue is a band from different musical avenues who share a love of music and entertaining the masses. This eclectic group of musicians love playing various styles of music to entertain folks near and far the tri-state area. Band members include Rich Boland – Vocals, Electric Guitar; Sarah Brasfield – Vocals; Mike Calderella – Drums; Michael Pacifico – Trumpet, Vocals; Ed Stern – Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Vocals; Terry Thomas – Tenor Saxophone, Vocals; Donna Tromans – Keys, Vocals; Pat Tromans –Bass Guitars.

### **August 16- South Street Live**

South Street Live is a classic rock band has been playing in the Chatham area since 2005. The band has a wide repertoire of songs ranging from the 70's to today's contemporary hits, from Chicago, to Credence Clearwater Revival to Lizzo. The father and son horn section along with a stable of six vocalists results in a song list that is broad and deep and guarantees music that will get you dancing and singing along.



Courtesy photos

# August 30 – What's What

Local Madison band What's What, brings solid musicianship and fun vibes to up-tempo rock music from the 70's and 80's. Their spirited performance of classic songs from artists like Tom Petty, John Mellencamp, Jackson Browne, Cheap Trick and Van Halen merge seamlessly with music from the MTV video revolution. The band features Phil Duffy on vocals and guitar, Mike Shugrue on bass and vocals, Tom Doherty on lead guitar and Bill Geyer on drums. Make What's What a lively part of your fantastic night Downtown!

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts Explore American history with a focus on the life and stories of 18th- and 19th- century craftsmen and artisans. Drawing on its rich collection, METC is connecting the lives of people and their stories, while providing a bridge from the past to the future. Housed in a stunning Richardsonian Romanesque Revival building donated by D. Willis James to the people of Madison, NJ in 1900, METC offers something for visitors of all ages. Regular METC admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors, students & children 6 and older, and free for members and children under 6. Family maximum admission \$15.00. METC is open Tuesday – Saturday 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Sunday Noon to 5 P.M. Closed Monday & Major Holidays. The museum is closed on Sundays in July & August.

For information, please call 973-377-2982 or visit our website at metc.org.



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# MADISON MONTHLY,

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# SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO LISSA ANDERSON

# Philanthropic Educational Organization

At the Madison High School Awards ceremony held on June 6, 2024, Lissa Anderson, of Chapter AB, Madison, proudly awarded Erin Sullivan, the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Star Scholarship. Erin was selected based on her academics, school activities, community service, and potential for future leadership. She will be attending Amherst College this fall. The P.E.O. STAR Scholarship is awarded to accomplished young women graduating high school who are pursuing higher education.

In addition to the STAR Scholarship, among P.E.O.'s philanthropic projects are the International Peace Scholarship, which provides scholarships to international women pursuing graduate study in the US and Canada, Program for Continuing Education, providing need-based grants to women whose education has been interrupted, the Scholar Award for women pursuing a Doctorate, and the Educational Loan Fund, providing loans to qualified women who desire higher education and need financial assistance.

Since its inception by seven women in Iowa in 1869, the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) has helped more than 119,000 women pursue educational goals by providing over \$400 million in grants, scholarships, awards, and loans. It is now one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in North America with close to

5800 chapters. To learn more about P.E.O., its educational philanthropies, and stories of women who have benefitted from the programs, please visit peointernational.org.



(above) P.E.O. STAR Scholar, Erin Sullivan, with Lissa Anderson.

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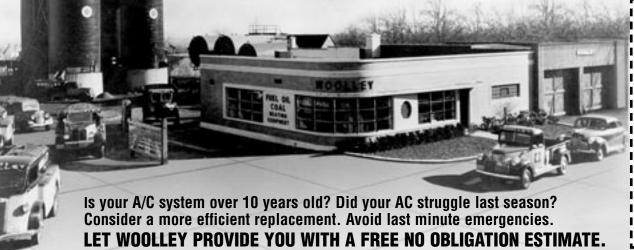


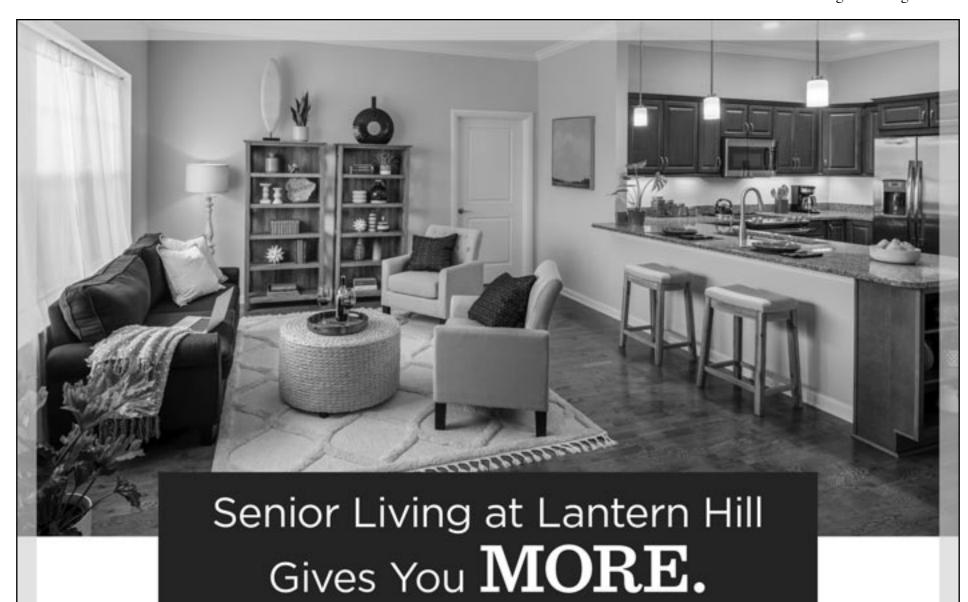


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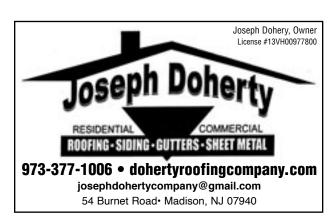
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- Marge V., A community resident

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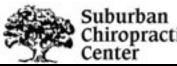
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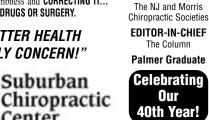
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# THURSDAY MORNING CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

George Burroughs was the Director of the Madison Community House (MCH) for 25 years and made a lasting positive impact on all those who knew him. The Madison Community House is owned and operated by the Thursday Morning Club (TMC). This scholarship is in his memory and is based on volunteerism.

Each student submitted an application and essay on why you chose to volunteer and what you gained from the experience. A letter of recommendation from the primary volunteer supervisor was also included.

This year the TMC had three winners from Madison High School and one winner from St. Elizabeth's Academy. Here are excerpts and quotes from their inspiring essays:

Morgane Farrell from St. Elizabeth's Academy founded the Helping the Homeless Club (now the largest club in Morgane's school) and led many events including food drives, toiletry drives, and goodie-bag making. Morgane is an active mental health advocate for Boundless Charity and a project leader for The Grove Project.

Meer Bhavsar founded an education equity nonprofit, SupportED, to help bridge fair educational practices to underrepresented regions of New Jersey. Meer wrote "SupportED has impacted nearly 1,600 students throughout the state, connecting them to 100+ opportunities. These opportunities range from internships, summer programs, and even free college essay

editors."

Ava Fasolas was motivated during the Covid Pandemic and chose opportunities that offered Ava the ability to unite with the community. Ava volunteered at the Morristown Medical Center, Community Food Bank of NJ., Madison Summer Music Arts Program, Bridge to English Club.

Olivia Kosakowski wrote, "My volunteer work began when I was seven. I came up with the idea to make rainbow loom bracelets to raise money to cover medical expenses for a family friend." In high school Olivia chose to help those less fortunate or who were in need of some joy. "Whether it was as simple as making cards for elderly people in nursing homes or putting together Easter baskets for young children at a school in Newark some of whom have never heard of the Easter Bunny," wrote Olivia.

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



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# **OLD GUARD - AUGUST SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our dues are minimal, and members manage all aspects of the operation. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." The organization was founded in 1930.

### August 6th - Jerry DiFrancisco.

His topic will be the theory and practice of international law. Jerry brings extensive experience from the private sector, academia, and eleemosynary organizations to bare on the subject. He holds an MBA and Doctorate in Management and has worked as President, Humanitarian Services for the American Red Cross, at AT&T for three decades in several senior administrative positions and currently serves as Distinguished Civic Leader in Residence at Siena College. In addition, he has served on numerous non-profit boards.

### **AUGUST 13TH = GENE PASCUCCI**

Owner of Empire Antiques. Gene has lived all over the world and is an expert in appraising and

collecting antiques. Much of his inventory is derived from high-end estate sales and he also holds auctions from time to time at his facility. Gene will discuss a wide range of topics about antiquing and will be accompanied by an associate, Sonnie Benson, who will review some of their vast inventory.

### **AUGUST 20TH - LESLIE WORKMAN**

On August 20th we will learn about turning an old barn into a community Arts Center. Our speaker will be Leslie Workman, board president, Farmstead Arts in Basking Ridge. Leslie will take us through the roughly three-hundred-year history of a Basking Ridge farm and its ultimate transition into a community cultural center which features many services ranging from art classes to live theatre.

### **AUGUST 27TH - SYDNEY LEVIT**

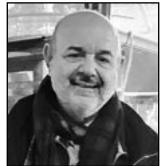
Finally, our speaker for August 27th will be a 100-year-old (on July 17th), World War II combat veteran, Sydney Levit. Mr. Levit will be interviewed by Summit resident Suzanne Currie and she will ask him about his experiences before, during and after his wartime service – should be fascinating.

Courtesy photos











(above, l-r) Jerry DiFrancisco, Leslie Workman, Gene Pascucci, Sydney Levit



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# **YOUTH FACILITATORS SOUGHT – TRAINING IS IN AUGUST**

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

If you're a high school age youth interested in training to become a volunteer facilitator at Imagine the next training will take place over two days beginning on August 28th and concluding on August 29th and interested volunteers should plan to attend both days of the training. The

day. Please visit Imagine's website at our upcoming training. Questions about training to be an Imagine facilitator can be directed to

training will be held from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Priece, LPC at abigail@imaginenj.org. imaginenj.org to learn more about volunteering with Imagine and to complete an interest form for

Imagine's Clinical Program Supervisor, Abigail

(above, l-r) Participants in Imagine's recent youth facilitator training proudly displaying their certificates of completion: Tim Jiao, Addy Oni, Ava Handler, Amanda Linde and Lauren Glasofer Courtesy photo

Imagine's youth facilitators partner with our adult volunteers as they facilitate Imagine's peer support groups for children. Youth facilitators are an integral part of Imagine's team as they create safe spaces where Imagine's young participants can share their stories or use play as an outlet for their feelings of grief.

One of Imagine's former youth facilitators said this about her experience as a volunteer:

"Being a part of imagine as a youth facilitator not only made my high school experience, it made me who I am today. I am so honored to be a part of a community that holds a space for so many families they can find nowhere else, as well as one that creates a space where us too as volunteers grow, and learn, and listen. At Imagine, I gained things that I don't think are accessible elsewhere, all while hopefully adding to someone else's life." The staff at Imagine are so grateful for the time that youth volunteers commit to their programs and for the unique perspective and empathy that they bring to their support groups.

Imagine is a 501c3 that offers grief and loss education and training to the community and free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with 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. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org or visit our website at imagineni.org.





# 23RD ANNUAL DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF EVENT

**Drive for Autism Foundation** 

The Drive for Autism Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual golf event, Drive for Autism XXIII will be held at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ on Monday September 16, 2024.

The Drive for Autism Golf Outing, which has been held since 2002 has raised and distributed over \$855,000 to local school programs. Previous beneficiaries of grants were Morris Union Jointure Commission (New Providence, NJ), Salt Brook School (New Providence, NJ), AW Roberts School (New Providence, NJ), Union County Educational Services Foundation/Crossroads School (Westfield, NJ), Educational Partnership for Instructing Children (Paramus, NJ), Young Life (greater Summit area), Eden II/Genesis Programs (Staten Island, NY), Spectrum360 - formally The Children's Institute (Verona, NJ),and Foundation/Mother Francheska Elementary visit birdease.com/DriveForAutismXXIII, School (Staten Island, NY).

Grant recipients use money to fund Health and Fitness Programs, Social Skills Programs, educational curriculum and teacher training, a van for community trips and transportation to job training centers, laptop computers, computer touch screens, iPads, video projectors and educational toys and games

The golf event is the main fundraising function for the foundation. Single golfers and foursomes

are welcome as well as, product donations and corporate sponsorships. To register online please go to: birdease.com/DriveforAutismXXIII

# **ABOUT DRIVE FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION:**

Based in New Providence, New Jersey, The Drive for Autism Foundation (EIN#20-1760417), is a 501(3)(c) tax exempt public charity that was created in the Spring of 2002 for the sole purpose of raising and distributing funds for educational facilities specializing in students with autism.

## **DRIVE FOR AUTISM GOLF OUTING 2024**

The Drive for Autism XXIII is scheduled for Monday Sept 16, 2024, at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ. The event consists of a morning round of golf followed by a barbeque. Special events include golf contests, raffles and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, game tickets and golf trips.

To register or for additional information please

call 908-451-8033

or email driveforautism@comcast.net.



# LIBRARY LECTURE PROGRAMS IN AUGUST

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.

# Kentucky Derby Traditions and History Tuesday, August 6th @7pm

Trace the history of the Kentucky Derby's beloved traditions, from mint juleps to lavish hats. Leslie Goddard is a historian and author who holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University and master's degrees in museum studies and in theater. She has written three books on Chicago history and has been presenting programs on topics in history for

# more than fifteen years. The Joy of Back Yard Bird Feeding Tuesday, August 13th @ 7pm

Provide audiences with the necessary information to make the hobby of bird feeding more enjoyable. Topics will include what is the best food to offer to attract the most variety of birds, what are the different types of feeders available, why water and nesting boxes are so important as well as ways to thwart those pesky squirrels.

# SENIOR CENTER OF THE CHATHAMS EVENTS

Those interested in attending should call the Senior Center of the Chathams Mondays-Fridays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to register: 973-635-4565.

# **Piano Recital by a High School Student**

Monday, August 5, 1:00 PM
Trivia Game

Wednesday, August 7, 1:00 PM Ice Cream Social

Thursday, August 8, 11:00 AM. Seating is limited.

# **Guitar Performance by Ken Knowlton**

Thursday, August 8, 12:00 PM
Home Sharing Presentation
Monday, August 12, 11:00 AM
Crafters Corner

Thursday, August 15, 10:30 AM Make a refreshing cucumber scrub as a gift or a treat for yourself.

Seating is limited.

# **Pizza Party**

Friday, August 16, 12:00 PM seating is limited.



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# OLDER ADULTS AT RISK FOR OSTEOPOROSIS

Westfield Regional Health Department

Osteoporosis is a disease that thins and weakens bones, making them more likely to break. Project Healthy Bones (PBH) is a 24-week program for older adults with or at risk for osteoporosis. PHB exercises target the body's larger muscle groups to improve strength, balance, and flexibility. The interactive educational portion addresses health topics, such as exercise, osteoporosis diagnosis and treatment, medications, nutrition, falls prevention, safe movement, and lifestyle factors related to osteoporosis.

Sponsored by the Westfield Regional Health Department, this free program will take place at the Rexford Tucker Apartments, 15 Chateau Thierry Ave. in Madison beginning on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 10:30 am.

To register or for more information, please contact Amy Lewis at 908-789-4070 ext. 4080 or alewis@westfieldnj.gov.

# ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE AUGUST 8TH

The Madison Rotary, in partnership with the Red Cross and the Madison YMCA, will hold a blood drive on Thursday, August 8th, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the YMCA on Kings Road. Blood supply is critically low. As an incentive to donate, the Red Cross is donating a \$20 Amazon gift card to donors. But the real benefit is knowing that your donation can save up to three lives.

Kyle Becker, Vice President of the Madison Rotary, who is organizing this drive is a frequent donor. He says, "It's easy, professionally run and it's good to know that you are making a difference."

There are two types of donations: A Power Red donation collects the red cells but returns most of the plasma and platelets to the donor. These donors must meet specific eligibility requirements and have type A Neg, B Neg, or O blood. Blood is the most common type of donation, during which approximately a pint of 'whole blood' is given. This type of blood donation usually takes about an hour.

If you are able to donate, and are at least 18 years old, please sign up at madisonrotarynj.org. Sign up with a friend; do it together.

The Madison Rotary has more than 85 members who live or work in the Madison area and who strive to make a positive difference in our local communities and have a global impact as well. The Madison Rotary focuses on youth development, reducing food insecurity and partnering with other organizations to meet community needs. Check madisonrotarynj.org for a schedule of speakers and events, to volunteer or to learn more. Contact Joe Smith, Membership

Chair, at info@madisonrotarynj.org to attend a meeting as a guest and to learn more about Madison Rotary.

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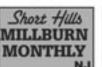
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# **URGENT NEED FOR ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE**

The afternoon that five-year-old Bella's mom failed to pick her up from kindergarten, she and her little brother Ethan, age two, would see their lives change. As Bella waited at school, calls were made to locate mom - who suffers from schizophrenia. When it was learned mom had been hospitalized, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency became involved and, upon arriving at the family home, it was discovered there was no food, furniture, or other necessary items. It was then that life in foster care for Bella and Ethan began.

Bella and Ethan are among more than 500 children who need to be removed from their homes in Passaic and Union counties each year due to abuse and/or neglect. Separated from all they've ever known, the road ahead is long, and they need a caring, consistent adult in their corner to protect their best interests. That's where Child Focus comes in. Specifically, its Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and, right now, there is an urgent need for volunteers including those bilingual in both English and Spanish – to step up and train as child advocates for waiting children.

The next advocate training series will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays September 12 through October 22 in Clark. Those interested must first attend any one of the following information sessions: Wednesday, August 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue, Westfield; Thursday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rahway Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, Rahway; and Wednesday, August 28 at noon at the Child Focus office, 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor, Elizabeth. Register now casapassaicunion.org/info-session.

Said Executive Director Erica Fischer-Kaslander, "We are committed to recruiting, screening, and training advocates for every child

one. It is difficult to overstate the difference a CASA volunteer can make in the life of a child removed from home through no fault of their own, due to abuse or neglect." She added, "Children with volunteer advocates are more likely to have needed services ordered on their behalf, spend less time in the foster care system, and experience significantly better outcomes than those who go without. Becoming a CASA volunteer requires a significant time commitment and training, but volunteers often find the work as life-changing for themselves as it is for the children they help."

on the ins and outs of advocating for children in foster care and are fully supported by CASA staff members. No special background in child welfare or law is necessary; successful CASA volunteers are dedicated community members with varied life experiences. CASA volunteers visit the children, make unbiased observations, interview others in the child's life, and make recommendations to the judge. They often are the only consistent adult in the life of a child involved in the child welfare system, as caseworkers, professionals, and placements can be ever-changing. A CASA volunteer provides continuity during a time of chaos and unknowns. **ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:** 

Child Focus champions the needs and wellbeing of infants, children and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect by amplifying their voices and working toward lasting, permanent solutions that address their unique situations and provide support needed to thrive. This critical work is accomplished through three distinct but complementary programs: CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, NJ Safe Babies Court Team, and the Open Door Store. For more information, log on to childfocusnj.org.

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