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CHRISTMAS PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING

The 45th Annual Borough of Madison Christmas Committee Parade was held on Friday, November 29th, 2024, on Waverly Place. Each year throngs of people gather on the route down Main Street to enjoy the parade and tree lighting, sponsored by the all-volunteer Madison Christmas Committee. Showcasing close to 70 floats and parade groups from Madison and surrounding municipalities, this parade draws in a crowd of close to 15,000 spectators as Madison kicks off the holiday season. Immediately following the parade is the lighting of the tree on Waverly Place. This year's tree was graciously donated by the Madison Board of Education and came from Madison High School.



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HICKORY TREE CHORUS WINTER SING-ALONG

Stay warm this winter by putting some music in your life in 2025! Join the Hickory Tree Chorus for a Winter Sing-Along, which will include a meet-and-greet, warm-ups and, of course, some wonderful singing. Dates are January 8 and 15, 2025, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more, in a fun, supportive community. Come sing with us and share the joy of music together! Stay for friendship and fun!

And the event is free!

Hickory Tree is an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. We are passionate about music, performance, fun and friendship. We believe every voice counts and encourage women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Please contact the Chorus for the Winter Sing-Along by email at info@hickorytreechorus.org. Find more information at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) The Hickory Tree award-winning women's chorus is hosting free events on January 8 and 15, 2025, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ.

Courtesy photo

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), a division of New York Blood Center, which provides blood for local patients, is looking for a few good volunteers. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of our team whose tasks include assisting donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background necessary. Volunteers should be outgoing to provide friendly customer service, be able to perform tasks as needed, must provide proof of COVID Vaccination prior to volunteering and must have transportation. All training is provided including additional precautions for the safety of our team and blood donors. For additional information call or text Sharon Zetts, Manager, NJBS Volunteer Services at 732-850-8906, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To apply online as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:
volgistics.com/appform/2127944197

AN UNUSUAL GOOSE REHABBED AND RELEASED

The Raptor Trust

The Brant goose, with its compact size and striking black-and-white plumage, is a remarkable bird. Adapted to drink saltwater, these geese embark on long migratory journeys from their Arctic breeding grounds to coastal winter



(above) We're thrilled to see this Brant goose take to the skies (or water) once more! It was a charming patient.

Photo by The Raptor Trust

habitats. Look for them in estuaries, mudflats, and saltmarshes, where they thrive throughout the winter months.

Recently, The Raptor Trust treated a Brant goose (Admit #21-4190) found in Long Valley with wounds from a predator attack. After intensive care, including suturing lacerations, treating an eye injury and parasites, this resilient bird was successfully released at Sandy Hook on November 2nd.

ABOUT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located at 1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. They provide free care and assistance to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds. They offer educational programs to the public about wild birds, especially birds of prey. They strive to provide a human example for others. For more information about upcoming events, to make a donation, and volunteer opportunities visit info@theraptortrust.org. To report an injured wild bird call 908-647-2353.

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MADISON ROTARY HOSTS 2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Submitted by Doug Willis

Thirty Madison Rotary Foundation grant recipients joined members of the Madison Rotary Club on November 21, 2024, at the Madison Area YMCA. The gathering provided grant recipients with the opportunity to share the impact of their Rotary Grant and strengthen their partnership with Madison Rotary. Madison Rotary's annual grant program raises funds to address local food insecurity, support development of Madison youth and to support and partner with area non-profits to enrich the lives of the residents of Madison. Each 2024 grant recipient had the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their mission. This year Madison Rotary awarded a total of \$38,000 in grants.

It was not just a feel-good event. The nonprofit executives shared business cards and explored ways to collaborate and share best practices with other nonprofits. Individual Madison Rotarians were motivated to support the recipient organizations financially or as volunteers.

Several comments touched heartstrings. Among them, Melanie Barry of Preschool Advantage spoke of a single mother of three young children who was able to afford childcare and work full time thanks to Rotary's grant. Bob Butts of the Baroque Orchestra told how Rotary's grant enabled a performance at a local assisted living facility where a former colleague, stricken with Alzheimer's, didn't initially recognize Butts, but his memory was rekindled after hearing their music. Stacey Smollen of the Madison Eagle

Christmas Fund explained how Rotary's grant help fund gift cards that provide food for the holidays or allows a parent to select an appropriate gift for their child from a local business. And Lisa Firkser, Executive Director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) explained that Rotary's grant helps fund the activities of CASA volunteers who provide a consistent relationship to a child who has been removed from their parents due to neglect, abuse or abandonment.

The Madison Rotary Foundation, which is the parent organization of the Rotary Club of Madison, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. More information about Madison Rotary can be found at: <https://www.madisonrotarynj.org/>.

(above) Madison Rotary awarded a total of \$38,000 in grants to the following organizations:

Adult School of Chatham Madison, Baroque Orchestra of NJ, CASA of Morris County, Chatham Senior Center, Cheshire Home, Creature Comfort, Family Promise of Morris County, First Baptist Church Food Pantry, Friends of the Madison Public Library, Good Grief, Interfaith Food Pantry, Literacy Volunteers of Morris County, Maasai Girls Fund, Madison Area YMCA, Madison Christmas Committee, Madison Eagle Christmas Fund, Madison Educational Foundation, Madison Historical Society, Madison Little League, Madison Public Theatre, Museum of Early Trades and Crafts, Norwescap - Madison Housing Authority, Nourish NJ, Preschool Advantage, Project Community Pride, Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, Support Network of Madison, Thursday Morning Club



Courtesy photo



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HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AT MCH

Thursday Morning Club

The Madison Community House (MCH) was the site of 'Le Bazar de Noel', November 15th and 16th. The Thursday Morning Club (TMC) owns and operates the Madison Community House which is located at 25 Cook Avenue. This annual event is a major fundraiser for the TMC and a favorite of many.

There was truly something for everyone; homemade pies, quiches and other baked goods, frozen soups, marinara and meatballs to take home and enjoy on a cold winter's night and a host of unique vendors, some old favorites and other new surprises. Gourmet items, clothing & bags, jewelry, other children/teens items and home accessories & gifts (including those for pets) were all available for sale along with yummy snacks and treats as well as lunch items

and places to rest and munch. There were beautifully presented Tricky Tray Baskets, a 50/50 raffle and a member's homemade craft table.

On Saturday there was a Winter Wonderland for the children sponsored by the Support Network of Madison. Crafts were available and a bounce house. Laughter and joy filled the MCH.

The Thursday Morning Club organized in 1896 and a member of the NJ state Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC), offers programs and services to support the community, including a Before and After School Child Care program. The Madison Community House provides a home for a number of sports, recreation, and civic groups. For information please call (973) 377-0244 or email TMC@MCH.org.



(above) Locke Harris in a moment of wonder

JANUARY 2025 LIBRARY PROGRAMS

39 Keep Street Madison, NJ 07940
Adult Open Craft Night

Monday, January 13th @ 6:30pm-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.

Adult Craft Club

Tuesday, January 14th @ 10:30am-11:30am
 and 11:45am- 12:45pm.

Held at Madison Community Art Center

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.

1939 World's Fair in NYC and its Art Commission

Tuesday, January 7th @7pm

The World's Fair of 1939 which took place in Flushing Meadows Park in NYC had the theme of 'The World of Tomorrow' and while the pavilions throughout represented various international states, themes of transportation, communication and business, food and amusement, there were also specific pavilions, dedicated to the WPA, American /Contemporary and Masterpieces of Art, even a pavilion designed by Salvador Dali, and an abundance of murals throughout.

Hosted by Art Historian, Sylvia Laudien Meo

Nazi-Looted Art: Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka- Painters of Vienna's Golden Age

Wednesday, January 22nd @7pm

This talk will discuss the important relationship Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, and Oskar Kokoschka, art stars of Vienna's Golden Age, had with their many Jewish patrons. We will see some amazing paintings and learn the tragic stories of what happened to these works and to their enlightened, forward-thinking collectors during the Nazi era and beyond.

Kings, Queens, and Guillotines

Tuesday, January 28th @7pm

Join historian Joel Farkas to learn about the American and French Revolution.



(above) AnnMarie Toto




(above) Francesca Gooby & Julie Trapp

Courtesy photos

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YOUTH CHOIR of New Jersey

Limited Availability

Chanticleers (Girls Ages 12-14): 2 Openings

Singers (Girls Ages 15-18): 4 Openings

Continuos (Boys Ages 12-18): 4 Openings

OPEN HOUSE: Monday, January 13th 7:30pm

CIVIC CHORALE of New Jersey (Adults)

Sopranos: 1 Opening

Altos: 3 Openings

Tenors: *Are you kidding? Come one come all!*

Basses: 3 Openings

OPEN HOUSE: Tuesday, January 14th 7:30pm

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OPEN HOUSE: Monday, January 13th 2:00pm

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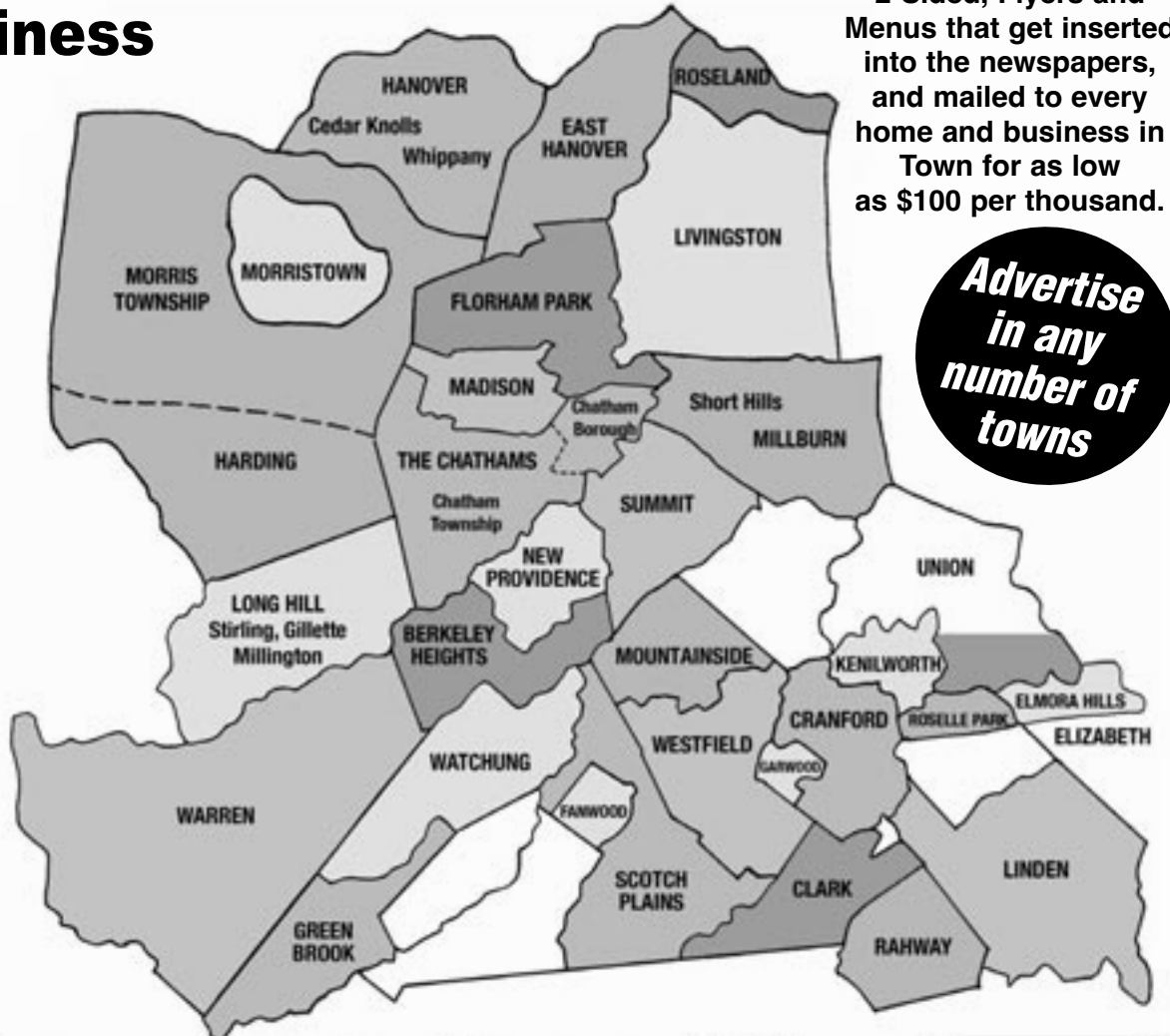
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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WHARTON ARTS PRESENTS FREE CONCERTS IN SUMMIT

Wharton Arts, New Jersey's largest not-for-profit community performing arts education organization, will present several free concerts during the 2024-25 season at Saint John's Lutheran Church located at 587 Springfield Avenue in Summit.

Said Wharton Arts Artistic Director Helen Cha-Pyo, "We are excited to partner with Saint John's Lutheran Church and music director Christopher Harlow-Jennings for our Wharton Arts in the Community series. From the fun, interactive Halloween Hoopla to uplifting Jazz Vespers and world-class performances, this series offers something for everyone. It's a wonderful way to connect with the Summit community and make music accessible to all."

"I am thrilled to partner with Artistic Director Helen Cha-Pyo and her team at Wharton Arts this season to bring exciting new musical offerings to the greater Summit community," said Saint John's Lutheran Church Director of Music Christopher Harlow-Jennings. "This unique

collaboration builds on our respective institutions' strong musical foundations and programming to engage listeners of all ages."

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Alongside these engaging events, Wharton Arts aims to create meaningful connections and foster creativity in young people, as well as across generations, ensuring that everyone has access to an outstanding music and theater arts

education. The depth and breadth of offerings, unmatched in the Garden State, transcends backgrounds and beliefs. Wharton Arts encompasses four distinct programs, each founded to advance music and performing arts education and engagement: the New Jersey Youth Chorus, New Jersey Youth Symphony, Paterson Music Project, and Performing Arts School. Join Wharton Arts this Season of Joy for life-changing performing arts experiences.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3–12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3–12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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