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## MADISON MASONIC LODGE PRESERVATION

### County of Morris

Morris County Commissioner Deputy Director Stephen H. Shaw presented a Historic Preservation plaque to Madison Mayor Robert H. Conley on December 10, 2024, recognizing the preservation of the 200-year-old Madison Masonic Lodge.

The Federal-style brick building, supported by nearly \$700,000 in county preservation funding since 2020, will soon transition into a community hub for seniors and local organizations, ensuring its legacy endures for future generations. In 2024, the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust awarded a grant of \$562,500, which covered 50% of the total \$1.125 million acquisition cost. Previous Morris County Historic Preservation Trust grants included \$21,440 in 2020 for structural repair documents and \$107,200 in 2022 for flooring and structural restoration.

In addition to county support, substantial funding from the New Jersey Historic Trust, the Madison Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, and a \$1 million donation from Madison resident Martin Heller have also enabled the project. The borough is applying most of Heller's donation towards renovation and preservation of the lodge. The building has been renamed The Heller Center, which will be home to The Peggy Heller Senior Center of Madison, to honor Heller's late wife.

"The preservation of this historic building, which dates back to 1825, was made possible through the collaboration between the county, the town and the generosity of Mr. Heller to preserve a piece of Morris County's history. Since 2003, our renowned preservation program has awarded more than \$50 million in grants, supporting 123 buildings and structures across the county. This success is made possible by the taxpayers, who have consistently demonstrated their commitment to open space and historic preservation," said Deputy Director Shaw.

View Photos from the Dedication Ceremony at Madison Masonic Lodge

The Madison Masonic Lodge, also known as the Old Main Street Church, was originally constructed in 1825 by the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township, which was later renamed



(above, l-r) Martin Heller of Madison, Madison Mayor Robert H. Conley, Morris County Commissioner Deputy Director Stephen H. Shaw, Morris County Director of Planning and Preservation Joe Barilla, and Historic Program Coordinator Ray Chang.

Courtesy photos

Madison. The building combines elements of Wren-Gibbs Classical and Federalist architecture and was listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 2008.

In 1930, the church sold the property to Madison Lodge No. 93, Free & Accepted Masons, who maintained the building's exterior while remodeling the interior. The Borough of Madison acquired the property in December 2023, supported by Heller's \$1 million donation.

"The Masons did an amazing job taking care of this building for 90 years, but they could no longer maintain it. It could have been sold to a developer for more money, but they chose to be part of a group committed to saving it. Madison was figuring out how to make this happen, when Martin Heller's \$1 million gift turned this vision into reality," said Mayor Conley.

Planned rehabilitation includes ADA accessibility improvements, LEED certification funded by a New Jersey Board of Public Utilities grant, and electrification of the building. The 12-to-16-month project ensures the building remains a community asset for generations.

According to the mayor, a 200th anniversary celebration is in the works for this May, and Madison plans to restore the building so it will be here for centuries to come.

A plaque on the building will honor Heller's late son: "In Honor of Mark Heller, February 1, 1960 - January 17, 2023 - His Spirit Lives On."

The 2025 Morris County Historic Preservation Trust grant cycle will open in January with a workshop for applicants. Final applications are due in March.

For more information about the county's Historic Preservation program, visit the Morris County Planning and Preservation website.

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## A TASTE OF MORRISTOWN - MARCH 3

### Rotary Club of Morristown

Get ready for a culinary extravaganza like no other! More than 35 of the area's finest restaurants are coming together for "A Taste of Morristown," an exclusive food and beverage sampling event where you can indulge in a world of flavors—all under one roof. From classic French and Italian cuisine to contemporary fusion and American favorites, including decadent desserts.

Pair your delectable bites with wines from around the globe at our Wine Tasting Gallery, generously provided by Gary's Wine & Marketplace.

Join us for an evening of great food, beverages, and fun on Monday, March 3rd, 2025, at the elegant Westin Governor Morris Hotel in Morristown, NJ.

"A Taste of Morristown" is more than just a night of indulgence; it's an opportunity to give back. This annual charitable fundraiser supports the Rotary Club of Morristown's local community and international service projects. By attending, you'll be helping to make a difference in the lives of others while enjoying an unforgettable evening.

**Monday, March 3, 2025**  
6 p.m. - VIP Hour, 7 p.m.

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Don't miss this chance to experience the best of Morristown's culinary scene and support a great cause. Tickets are limited, so secure yours today! For tickets and more information, please visit [www.tasteofmorristown.org](http://www.tasteofmorristown.org).

## MADISON MONTHLY NJ

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## 2025 NJ FMBA COOKED & UNCORKED

On Monday, February 24, 2025, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival, at the Pines Manor in Edison. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Mark A. Virag Memorial Cancer Fund, Family Promise of Bergen County, and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off is an integral part of the evening as firefighters will compete in three different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers, and dessert shops all in one location.

## HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY ROSE ELLIOT!



(above, l-r) Madison Mayor Bob Conley presented Inez (Rose) Elliot with a proclamation to celebrate her 108th birthday.

Photo by Borough of Madison

## NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICE VOLS NEEDED

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, go to: [volgistics.com/appform/2127944197](http://volgistics.com/appform/2127944197)

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The Morris County Office of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming (ADCP) reminds residents of the importance of supporting the senior community and ensuring they feel connected, valued, and cared for during this special time of year.

The ADCP office provided more than 110 "Joy for All" robotic companion pets to qualifying residents and facilities across the county as part of an initiative aimed at alleviating social isolation, loneliness, and cognitive decline among seniors.

The program, which was funded by the Aging American Rescue Plan, allocated 20 robotic companion pets to the Morris County Sheriff's Office, which distributed them to clients enrolled in its Project Lifesaver program. Additionally, 12 pets were donated to the Cornerstone Adult Day Center and each of the county's 12 nutrition sites "adopted a pet" to keep onsite. 40 pets were distributed through the Nutrition Home Delivered Meals program, and Hope House will distribute another 25 pets.

"When addressing social isolation and dementia care, we wanted something creative approach. The "Joy for All" companion pets have been the focus of rigorous, peer-reviewed studies demonstrating their efficacy to alleviate the many of the effects of loneliness and social isolation," said Christine Hellyer, Christine Hellyer, Director of the ADCP office. "The partnership with the

Sheriff's Office to distribute the pets was an essential component of this program. In total, about 120 companion pets were provided to seniors or senior programs that could benefit from them."

To qualify for a companion pet, recipients must be at least 60 years of age, homebound, and either socially isolated or experiencing dementia or a similar cognitive condition. Designed to mimic real pets, the "Joy for All" animals aim to provide companionship and comfort for those unable to care for live animals.

Sheriff Gannon, who joined in delivering a companion pet to a Project Lifesaver client,

emphasized the importance of this program.

"Anytime the Sheriff's Office can provide comfort to those in need, we are going to do it. This simple act of support provides aid to those who are homebound," said Gannon. "We look forward to seeing the tremendous benefits of this program being passed on to a sometimes forgotten population in our community."

The pets respond to motion and touch: the cats will roll over and purr, while the dogs bark and wag their tails. The pets do not come with names, allowing recipients the personal experience of naming their new robotic dog or cat, which they are welcome to keep for as long as they wish.



(above, l-r) Morris County Sheriff James Gannon and a Project Lifesaver client with a companion pet cat; Morris County resident Lynn Biss receives her companion pet dog.; Morris County

Photos by Moris County



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2/4-2/25, Tuesdays., 10:00 a.m.

### An Afternoon of Music & Songs

2/5, Wed., 1:00 p.m. -

live performance by Ken Knowlton.

### Alzheimer's NJ Caregiver Support Group

2/6, Thurs., 10:30 a.m.

### Stress & Emotional Eating

2/10, Mon., 1:00 p.m. -

presentation by nutritionist and dietitian

Jen Stein, MS, RDN, RWJ Barnabas Outreach.

### Protecting Your Wealth from Health Care Costs

2/12, Wed., 11:00 a.m.

presentation by Robert J. Murray, Elder Law Attorney.

### AARP Tax Aide

2/24, Monday

free income tax preparation begins; an appointment must be made in advance.

### Misconceptions of Women's Heart Health

2/26, Wed, 12:00 p.m.

presentation by FDU Professor April Patrick.

### Backgammon Lessons

2/27, Thurs., 12:00 p.m.

Please bring a backgammon set if you have one

## NEW CRICKET FIELDS AT LEWIS MORRIS PARK

County of Morris

The Morris County Board of County Commissioners joined the Morris County Park Commission and local leaders at Lewis Morris County Park on October 16th to dedicate two new cricket fields in honor of Russell W. Myers, the first Director of the Morris County Park Commission.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked a significant milestone in accommodating the growing popularity of cricket within the county. Among those joining the event were state Sen. Joe Pennachio (Morris-26), state Sen. Anthony Bucco (Morris-25), Mayor James Barberio of Parsippany-Troy Hills, Sheriff James M. Gannon and representatives of the New Jersey Softball Cricket League. Cricket players from the league, including members of Teams Titans XL and Parsippany Sports Cricket XL, showcased their skills at the event.

The project's roots go back several years, when the growing Indian American community in Parsippany Township began searching for more places to play cricket, a popular sport in Britain, India, and many other places around the world. Sen. Pennachio and Mayor Barberio took up the search, approaching Executive Director Dave Helmer of the Park Commission, which has been accommodating cricket team games for years on picnic grounds.

The Morris County Board of County Commissioners stepped in last year and agreed to finance development of two cricket fields at Lewis Morris Park when the Park Commission identified an open field area.

The dedication honored the late Russell W. Myers, who served as Director of the Morris County Park Commission from 1957 to 1983. Under his leadership, the park system expanded dramatically, and his legacy continues to shape Morris County's recreational spaces today.

The newly developed cricket grounds, located in the Russell W. Myers Recreation Area, will serve as a dedicated space for cricket beginning in spring 2025. Cricketers will need to schedule use of the fields through the Park Commission.

The two fields are tailored for the softball version of cricket. The site, previously used for overflow parking, is located close to restroom facilities in the park and has ample parking on-site and nearby.

Lewis Morris County Park, established in 1958 as the county's first park, has grown from 350 acres to 2,213 acres, making it the second-largest park in the Morris County system. Address is 270 Mendham Rd, Morristown.

For more information on Morris County parks and facilities, please visit the Morris County Park Commission website.



(above, l-r) Jigar Shah, Mayor James Barberio, Commissioner Deborah Smith and Douglas Cabana, Commissioner Director Christine Myers, Commissioner Deputy Director Stephen Shaw, Stu Lasser, Commissioner John Krickus, Betty Cass-Schmidt, Sen. Joe Pennachio, Sen. Anthony Bucco, KC, Dave Helmer (back), Parsippany Councilman Justin Musella and Matt Manzi of the Morris County Park Commission.

Photo by County of Morris

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# MADISON LIBRARY FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

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Please register at [madisonnjlibrary.org](http://madisonnjlibrary.org)

## Adult Open Craft Night

Monday, February 10th @ 6:30pm-8:00pm.

Held at Madison Community Art Center, 10 Kings Road

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 we will provide, just in case.

## Adult Craft Club

Tuesday, February 11th @ 10:30am-

11:30am and 11:45am- 12:45pm

Held at Madison Community Art Center, 10 Kings Road

Join us to paint and/or decoupage a wood box. All supplies will be provided. This class is offered twice, please sign up for one only.

## In Flew Enza: The 1918 Flu Epidemic in Philadelphia and South Jersey

Tuesday, February 11th @ 7pm

On the heels of the deadliest war the world had ever seen came a devastating flu epidemic that also had dire consequences. Using newspapers and other archival materials, archivist and historian Mickey DiCamillo traces the arrival

of the flu and its spread through New Jersey and Philadelphia. He discusses the symptoms and the demographics of those who contracted the virus, the responses and reactions of people and their governments, and the desperate measures people took to cope with the medical and societal consequences.

## African American Culture honored in NYC Public Art

Wednesday, February 12th @ 7pm

African-Americans have been part of New York since the days of New Amsterdam, but their relationship to the dominant Western society is complex and difficult. Public art throughout the city reflects the changing dynamics: a marker for the original slave market has only been set up recently; the African Burial Ground had been built over and neglected until its discovery in the 1990s and now is graced with a very impressive memorial. Increasingly more black artists have recently been commissioned to create most inspirational public art works for NYC, performative, temporary as well as permanent. Artists include Pope L., Martin Puryear, Simone Leigh and many others.

## Revolutionary Icons, The Whole Story

Tuesday, February 25th @ 7pm

Join Joel Farkas again to learn more about the important figures and their legacies during the Revolution.



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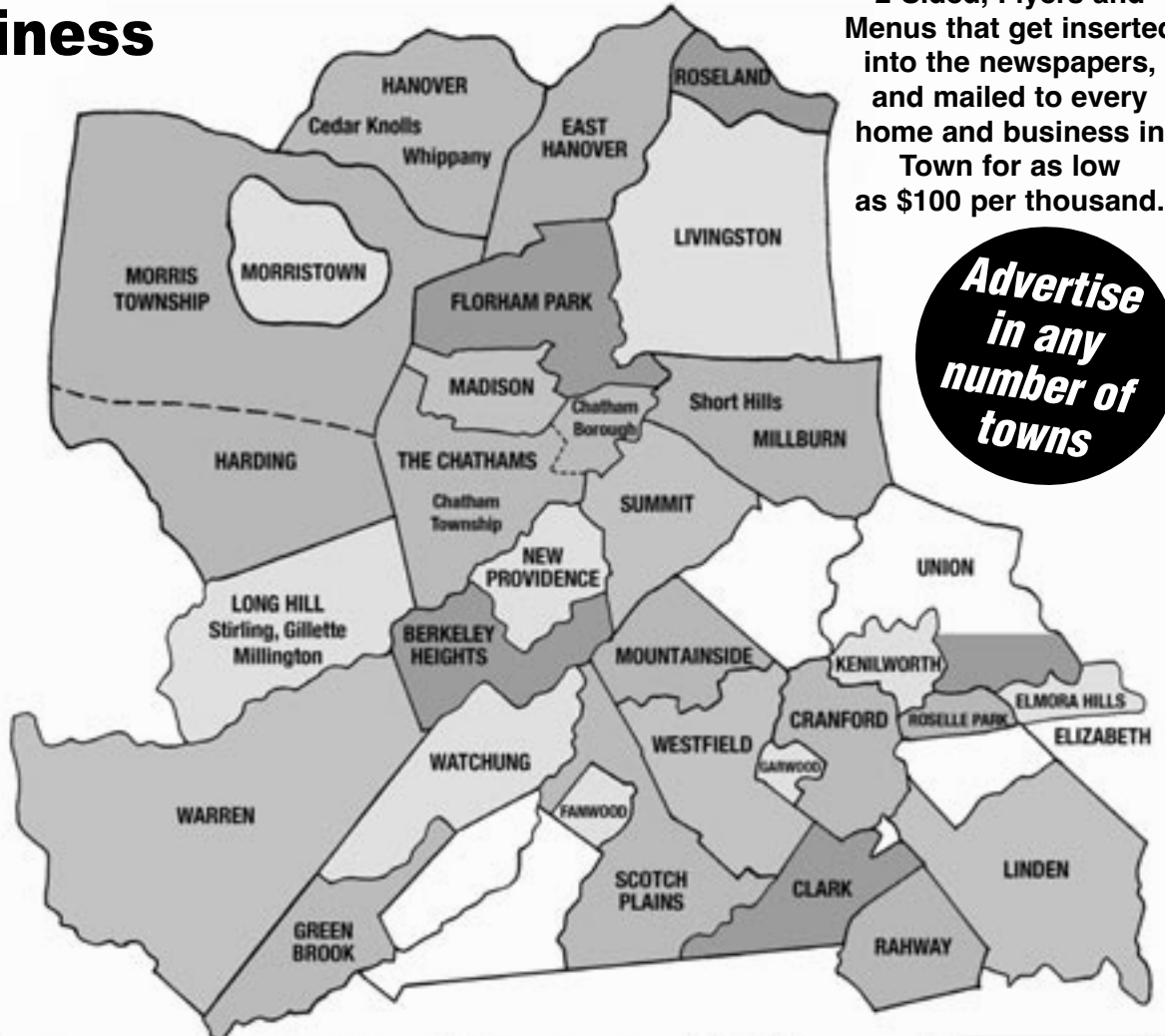
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
18 FULL PAGE	10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
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# FEBRUARY SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave – we encourage visitation, and all are welcome. Our motto is “Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends.” The organization was founded in 1930. Learn more about us at [summitoldguard.org](http://summitoldguard.org).

In February, we will have four speakers:

**ERICK A. FORD, VICE PRESIDENT  
STEVENS & LEE PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

On Feb. 4th, our speaker will be Erick A. Ford, Vice President of Stevens & Lee Public Affairs. Erick is a recognized leader in policy and business. In 2024, he was recognized by ROI-NJ as one of New Jersey’s leading energy and utilities influencers, highlighting his significant impact on the state’s energy landscape. He will discuss the state of the energy markets in New Jersey.

**DR. D.J. PERON -  
THE SURREALIST ART MOVEMENT**

On Feb. 11th, Dr. D.J. Peron will discuss the Surrealist art movement. DJ will show how Dadaism emerged during World War I as a rebellious movement against world war one and the societal ‘establishment,’ and how surrealism came into being. These two movements have been of extreme importance in the evolution of art from post-war modern art up to the present day. The presentation will be like a stroll in a museum with many art representations shown.

**SUMMIT MAYOR ELIZABETH FAGAN**

On Feb. 18th, Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, will discuss Summit’s current and future trends. Mayor Fagan has been an active resident of Summit for more than 20 years. She will discuss recent and future projects for the City. Some of her updates will be about the coming old firehouse land project and street closings for

restaurant dining. Also, state regulations, specifically the Mount Laurel decision, regarding affordable housing is a topic that affects all municipalities in New Jersey and a current issue for Summit. Bring your questions for the Mayor.

**MARYKATE VAUGHN - DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY**

Finally, on Feb. 25th, we will learn about hearing loss and hearing aids. Marykate Vaughn, AuD, CCC-A, is a doctor of audiology affiliated with Summit Health. She will speak about the various ways to evaluate hearing in children and adults. She will discuss the large variety of hearing aid devices on the market with their pros and cons. She will also discuss the common reasons why people end up not using their hearing aids and the remediating solutions. Dr. Vaughn has over 30 years of experience in audiology. This topic should elicit a few questions from the Old Guard members!

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