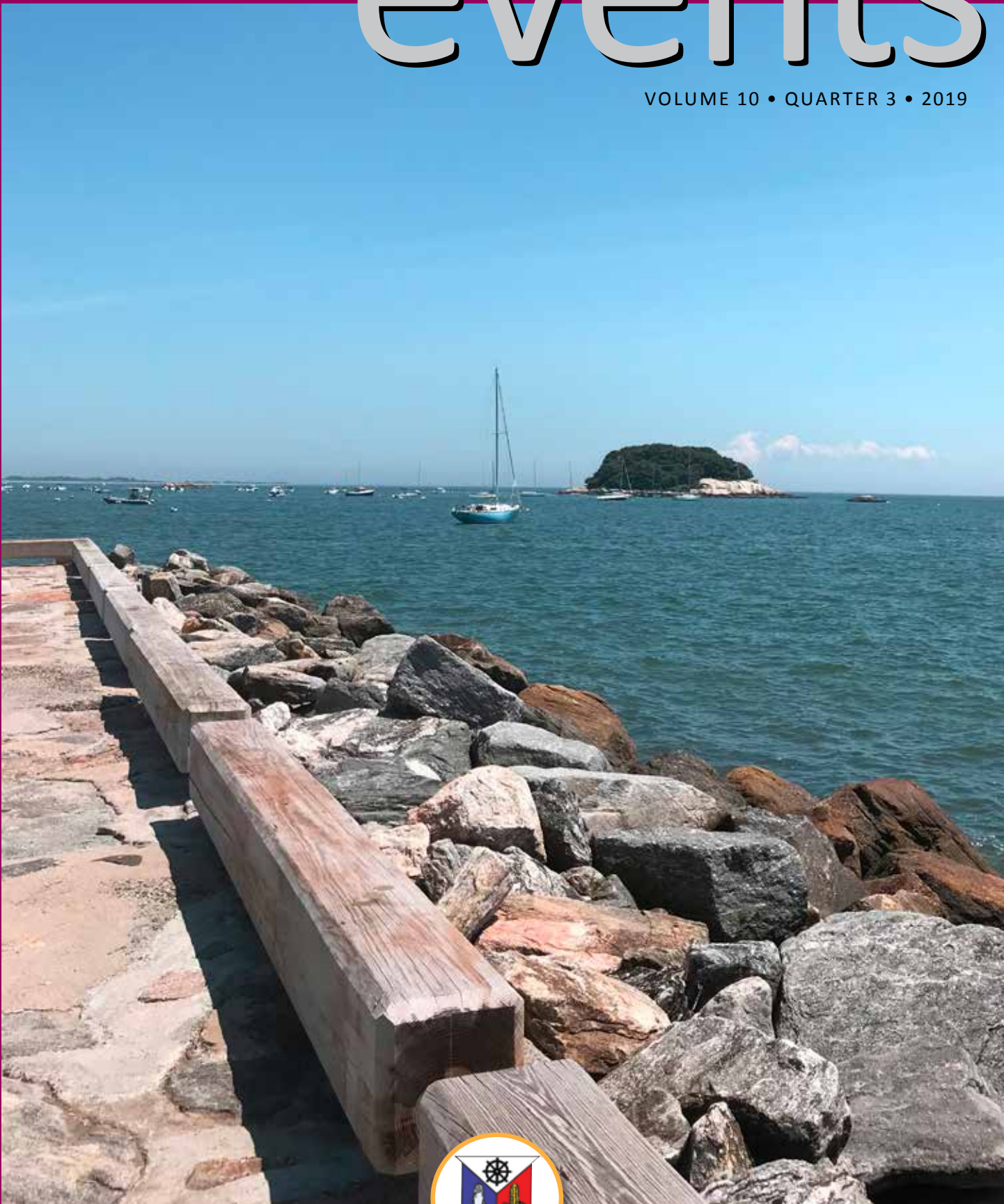


# Madison events

VOLUME 10 • QUARTER 3 • 2019



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TO EVERYONE IN TOWN

A photograph of two hikers, a man and a woman, crossing a stream by stepping on large, smooth rocks. The man is on the left, wearing an orange jacket and white shorts, with a backpack. The woman is on the right, wearing a red jacket and blue shorts, also with a backpack. They are both looking towards each other. The background is a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

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# The First Selectman's Corner

## "Free Keys"



Three pianos have been placed in downtown Madison as part of the "Free Keys" program. Free Keys is designed to provide a shoreline-wide interconnected resource for the public to express themselves through making, listening to, and enjoying music. The pianos are placed throughout downtown Madison to inspire spontaneous performance in our public spaces and to encourage creativity and community. There's one at Walker-Loden at the corner of Boston Post Road and Samson Rock Drive; one at Creations on the south side of Main Street near the Courtyard, and one on Wall Street in front of "Willow and Birch." It is our hope that the public will enjoy Free Keys respectfully. For more information: [FreeKeysCT.org](http://FreeKeysCT.org)

## Other Music in Madison

Madison Beach & Recreation Summer Concerts on the Green are all free and family friendly. Starting at 6:00 pm each Sunday through July and August, the line-up is as follows:

July 28 - LA's Backstage Pass  
(Music of the 80s)

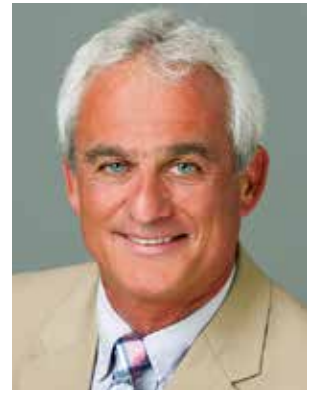
August 4 - Eddie Seville and Stell Rodeo (Country, Americana, Rock)

August 11 - Vinyl Revolution  
(the 70s)

August 18 - 1Wild Night (Bon Jovi Tribute Band)

August 25 - Number 9 (The Beatles Tribute Band)

Concerts are held each Sunday evening beginning at 6 pm on the Town Green. All events are free of charge. Bring your own lawn chairs and a picnic dinner if you like.



Tom Banisch, First Selectman

## Chamber Events

On Thursday, August 15 from 5-8 pm, the Madison Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 10th Annual Beachcomber's Night, an evening of shopping and entertainment in downtown Madison. Stroll along our beautiful sidewalks sampling a variety of wines

continued on page 2



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# events

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and beer from Connecticut vineyards, local brewers and distributors while enjoying the sounds of live music along the way. Meander into the shops and restaurants to find out what wonderful specials they have for the evening. In addition to wine, beer, music and tasty snacks, you can play along to be entered into a drawing to win some incredible prizes including bundles of gift certificates to local merchants. A portion of proceeds will benefit the E.C. Scranton Memorial Library. It will be a summer night to remember in Madison!

The Chamber will be hosting its annual fall Antiques and Repurposed Goods Show on September 14th on the Town Green. For more information and a complete list of participating vendors, please visit madisonct.com or call the Chamber at 203-245-7394 for more information.

### Bauer Park Harvest Festival



On October 19th the Madison Beach & Recreation Department and the Bauer Park Committee will host the 22nd annual Bauer Park Harvest Festival from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Bauer Farm at 257 Copse Road. The Harvest Festival is an entirely volunteer-run event held at Bauer Park, Madison's historic farm, every October on the Saturday following Columbus Day. It's a beloved tradition that brings our community together for four hours of pure enjoyment, with food, live music, crafts, animals, games exhibits and so much more - all free of charge. It's a slice of life the way it used to be, and it's the only event of its kind in Madison.

Tom Banisch, First Selectman

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# Madison Land Conservation Trust

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, August 4**

**4:00-7:30 pm - BBQ & Tunes at Rettich Preserve**

Fire in the Kitchen concerts and Field House Farm present the third annual benefit dinner and concert at Rettich Preserve. See ticket availability and information at [www.madisonlandtrust.org](http://www.madisonlandtrust.org).

**Saturday, September 21**

**9:00 am - Buds, Birds & Bugs Walk, Bauer Park**

Former state entomologist Carol Lemmon and wildlife artist Mike DiGiorgio will lead a walk at Bauer Park, pointing out flora and flying fauna along the way. Learn from the experts about our local plants, insects and birds. Be prepared for walking in fields and meadows, and along woodland trails. No dogs please.

**Sunday, October 13**

**7:00 pm - Autumn Moonlight Walk**

We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of this amazing event! Bring a flashlight and join us for an evening stroll on the Garvan Trail at the Surf Club. A bagpiper will lead the way. After the walk, refreshments will be served in the Surf Club building, and members of the Astronomical Society of New Haven will set up telescopes for viewing the full moon, planets and stars in the night-time sky.



**Saturday, October 19**

**8:00 am - Fall Birding Hike, Hammonasset State Park**

Join nationally recognized wildlife artist and birder Mike DiGiorgio on a search for fall migrants at Hammonasset. Binoculars are recommended. No dogs, please. Meet at the Meigs Point Nature Center parking lot.

**Sunday, November 3**

**1:00 pm - Geocaching Hike**

Learn the popular sport of geocaching with MLCT board member and active geocacher Ian Taylor. There are geocaches hidden on all 22 MLCT trails and Ian has found them all. Discover how to access clues, then use your GPS or cell phone to navigate and locate hidden treasures. The hike location will be posted on the MLCT website.

Trail maps, directions and more are posted at [www.madisonlandtrust.org](http://www.madisonlandtrust.org). For event weather updates and photos, visit [www.facebook.com/madisonlandtrust](http://www.facebook.com/madisonlandtrust).

# Attention Madison Veterans and Families



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

The Town of Madison's Veterans' Advisory Committee is now available to you as a resource for questions and concerns. This is a result of a requirement by the State of Connecticut. You can contact The Veterans' Advisory Committee through the Madison Town Clerk's office.

Please call 203-245-5672 for any needed assistance. Your request will then be referred to a committee member who will contact you. (If you have an emergency situation, please contact 911.)

All communications are confidential. We look forward to working with you.

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## Madison Historical Society to Host 48th Annual Antiques Fair on the Green

ARE YOU A LOVER OF ANTIQUES?

Searching for the perfect piece to tie your room design together? Look no further than the Madison Historical Society's annual antiques fair on the green. This highly anticipated end-of-summer event, now in its forty-eighth year, will be



Antiques Fair 2018 photograph by Bob Gundersen

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held on Saturday, August 24, from 9 am to 4 pm. More than sixty vendors of fine antiques and collectibles will set up carefully edited booths at the largest continuously operating outdoor fair on the shoreline.

The fair will feature one-of-a-kind objects and treasures for any style or budget. The offerings will include antiques, furnishings, accessories, paintings, rugs, porcelain, collectibles, repurposed goods, and much more!

All are invited to browse the wares of notable exhibitors from across the region. The cost is \$5 per person or \$4 with discount coupon.

### MHS SEEKS DONATIONS TO ENHANCE COLLECTION

As we have detailed in previous installments of this publication, MHS trustee Bob Gundersen has been a powerhouse since he became the MHS collections chair more than two years ago. His contributions to the society are immeasurable. More than four years ago, Bob single-handedly began to create our digital archive on Flickr, which features just over 8,000 photographs of important items from the collection as well as documentation of our events. A few short years later, he tackled the seemingly insurmountable task of further curating our extensive collection. This effort involves sorting, organizing, labeling, packing, accessioning, and cataloguing hundreds of



Waterloo products from the 1950s - photo courtesy of The Antique Advertising Expert

treasured objects. The distinct needs of our collection have been revealed through this important work.

“We have a fairly robust collection of objects from the Civil War-era to the early 1900s, but we have few items representing the last one hundred years,” says Gundersen. “Our mission is to preserve the past to protect the future, so if we don’t start to collect items from the end of World War I onward, we may lose the opportunity all together.”

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## Hammonasset Festival

The 9th Hammonasset Festival will return to the Guilford Fairgrounds at 111 Lovers Lane to honor the environment and Native American cultures. The two-day celebration will take place on Saturday, October 5, from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday, October 6, from 10 am to 5 pm.

“We invite you to join us for a weekend of fun, celebration, education, and entertainment,” says Barbara Hanson, Festival Chair. “We chose Mother Earth is in Our Hands as this year’s theme. We wish to express our gratitude for Mother Earth’s many gifts and learn ways to care for them.”



The Festival is presented by the Friends of Hammonasset, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which provides public environmental awareness programs and serves as an advocate for Hammonasset Beach State Park.

Find more information including ticket prices and schedule of events at [Facebook.com/HammonassetFestival](https://Facebook.com/HammonassetFestival). Vendor/exhibitor pre-registration required.

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## VISTA Life Innovations



For many years now, Vista has proudly been counted among the many local nonprofits to benefit from the Magical Charity Carousel at Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale in Madison, CT. The carousel, which operates from May–October, is known as the, “flying Menagerie for Charity” because all of the proceeds from it are donated to local charitable causes and organizations.

During Vista's designated days, students and members, and staff provided a fun activity for the children to participate in

who were there to ride the carousel with their families! Vista member, Amanda Lawler, shared that she enjoyed, “helping out and supporting the kids in having fun doing the art project.”

Vista appreciates Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale's continued support of our programming and services, and takes great pride in being able to participate in this event each year. Over a 20 year period, the Magical Charity Carousel has raised over \$1.1 million. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future!

For more information about the Magical Charity Carousel at Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale, you can visit their website by [www.ljfishstale.com](http://www.ljfishstale.com).

## Madison Senior Center



### AARP Safe Driving Course

Sponsored by and located at the Madison Senior Center. A refresher course aimed at the 60+ driver. Call your insurance company. You may be eligible for a discount after completing this course! The class will be held on the second Wednesday of the month from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. August 14th • September 11th • October 9th • November 13th.

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# Death to Chocolate?

By Katherine, Village Special Projects

Insects and bees are so small, we seem to only notice them when they're bothersome and buzzing by our ears. However, if bugs disappeared, we would be begging to have them back. Take chocolate midges, for instance. They're only the size of a pinhead, but without these mini miracle workers, there would be zero chocolate on the planet! Unfortunately, because of climate change, deforestation, and increased chemical use, the idea of a world without chocolate is quickly becoming a reality.

But it doesn't just stop at chocolate. One out of every 3 bites of food we take would not be possible without pollinators. Avocados, apples, berries, coffee, 35% of our food crops, 75% to 95% of all flowering plants, and 50% of the world's oils, fibers and raw materials would suffer without pollinators.

Butterflies, beetles, and other pollinators all around the world are declining at an alarming rate. In 2006, beekeepers reported mysteriously losing 30-90% of their hives, which is 2-6 times higher than what is considered a healthy rate. However, honeybees are essentially a commodity that can be regulated and revived. The real problem lies in the decline of wild pollinators. A 2017 German study showed that the flying insect population decreased by over 75% since 1990. Wild bees are 2 to 3 times

more effective at pollinating plants, especially native plants, but about 40% of pollinators aren't even bees at all!

Remember the 5 B's: Bees, butterflies, beetles, bats, and birds. If we are going to save pollinators, therefore our food and our livelihoods, we need major conservation efforts. Luckily, just as the insects we are trying to protect are small, but numerous, our efforts can be as well. Here are the 5 best ways an individual can help pollinators, and the world, just from your own backyard.

1. Flower, flowers, flowers! Pollinators LOVE flowers, especially native plants which provide more nutrients than foreign plants. It is essential to have plants blooming from the beginning of the spring to late fall, to allow our flying friends to feast throughout the year. Milkweed (asclepias) is the only plant consumed by Monarch butterflies as they navigate north from Mexico. Don't have much space? A window box should do the trick! Don't have much time? Throw a packet of wildflower seed mix anywhere onto your property and watch your little ecosystem grow!
2. Limit chemicals. One of the largest causes of death for bees and pollinators is the massive overuse of pesticides. Anything you put onto your garden or lawn will leak through the ground, into the waterways, and eventually to the Sound and ocean. Even plants miles away can be negatively affected by your chemical use. The best way to help is to eliminate pesticide use entirely,



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use it as sparingly as possible, or switch to a safer alternative. Neonicotinoids are largely responsible for the deaths of insects and bats, so make sure to check labels and research products before purchasing anything for your lawn/garden.

3. Support local farmers and beekeepers! Purchasing locally made honey and produce is one of the best ways to improve your community and the environment. It cuts down on the environmental impact of shipping and the produce is more likely to be organic. Also, beekeepers commonly set up near farms/ orchards, which helps with both the pollination of

our food crops and also honey production. 4. Reduce, reuse, and recycle! Climate change is one of biggest dangers to pollinators. Dramatic swings in weather, amplified by climate change, can destroy crops i.e. food sources for pollinators. Pollinators are extremely sensitive to changes in the weather/ temperature and it can endanger native ranges or overwintering sites.

5. Get kids involved! Kids are our future and fewer and fewer children are becoming involved in gardening. Gardening is proven to have therapeutic benefits and is a great way to each kids valuable life

lessons, like planning ahead and understanding that hard work creates positive results, though not instantaneously. Gradually introduce them to new topics and watch as their passion grows along with their plants!


For more information on pollinators and how to help, visit <http://pollinator.org/> or stop by your local garden center! Taking any one of these small steps can make the difference between enjoying a bar of chocolate with you grandkids or describing to them how this bygone treat once tasted.

## Red Wines for Summer

With many barbecues going on and parties for the summer this calls for a lighter red than you would have with a heavy winter meal. There are quite a number of wines from all over the world that will go with your tasty summer dishes. One of the lighter and more refreshing wines is made from the Gamay grape, which partakes the flavors of red fruits such as cherries, strawberry and raspberry. Most of these style wines come from Beaujolais, France. Typically they are light in body with bright


fruit and a light finish. For a higher quality one there are 10 villages and each one has own unique taste. The ten villages are: Brouilly, Chénas, Chiroubles, Côte de Brouilly, Fleurie, Juliéas, Morgon, Moulin-à-vent, Régnié, and St-Amour. These are called Cru Beaujolais. They pair well with grilled chicken and light salads. The next light wine to examine is Pinot Noir. This red is usually drier than those previously mentioned.

continued on page 12



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**Red Wines... continued from page 11**

The Pinot Noir grape is grown all over the world. It originated in Burgundy France and has flavors of red fruit and a dry, slightly earthy finish. The California Pinot Noirs have a different taste profile. They have less of an earthy taste and are a bit softer in the finish. The fruit flavors can vary from bright cherry to dark fruit such as blackberry and cassis but is still light in body. Oregon Pinot Noir, due to its similar climate, tends to resemble the wines from Burgundy, rather than California. For wine, Oregon is known best for its Pinot Noirs. They are also available from Argentina, Chile, New Zealand, and many other parts of the world. When they are produced in Italy they are called Pinot Nero. Pinot Noir pairs best with heavier seafood dishes, swordfish and light meat dishes like barbecue pork ribs. One type of wine that pairs well with any barbecue dish is a Cote du Rhone. Coming from the southern Rhone area in France, it is a light to medium bodied wine with a good amount of fruit with a spicy dry finish, but not tannic or too heavy. Most Rhone wines are a blend of Grenach and Syrah. They can also include grapes such as; Mourvèdre, Cinsaut, and Carignan. A few other reds to try this summer are Malbec, Petit Sirah and Zinfandel. Have a fun time experimenting with these reds!

Enjoy the summer with friends, family and great wine.  
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## PICTURE PERFECT



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## DEEDED BARBERRY FARMS



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## The Big Event!

The Madison Senior Center and Madison Youth and Family Services are partnering to bring The Big Event to Madison, again!

This community service event will be a day where youth can give back to their fellow Madison residents on August 8th with a rain date of August 15th. This project will provide a rare opportunity for intergenerational collaboration. Seniors will be able to apply for a job request and the youth volunteers, along with adult volunteers, will show up on the day of the Big Event and work on the requested job. These jobs can include but are not limited to; mulching, trimming bushes, washing windows, organizing a garage or storage unit, misc. yardwork, etc. However, jobs CANNOT require power tools or ladders for liability reasons.

Job request forms are available at the Senior Center and need to be completed by July 29th. It is our hope (weather permitting) that after the jobs are completed, there could be a celebratory lunch at the senior center where everyone involved with the project will be invited!

## Summer Programs at Bauer Park

**Madison's Agricultural and Environmental Center**  
257 Copse Road

### BUTTERFLY WALK

Saturday, August 3

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Led by members of the Connecticut Butterfly Association, this walk will focus primarily on the open fields. Please wear clothing and footwear for protection from poison ivy and ticks. Sunscreen and water are also recommended. Children are welcome with adults. FREE and open to the public. Registration is not required.

### WEARABLE BAUER NATURE ART

Sunday, August 4

1:00-3:00 pm

Use nature to create artistic expression that you can wear! Participants will collect natural objects from Bauer Park's woodland trail to make colorful prints using fabric paint. Bring a tee shirt, pillowcase or other articles of your choice. As fabric paints are permanent, participants should dress accordingly. All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5. Pre-registration is required.





Create Wearable Nature Art on August 4th at Bauer Park!

Visit [www.madisonct.org/recreation](http://www.madisonct.org/recreation) for registration and information about After-School Programs. Questions? Call 203-245-5623. Learn about upcoming events at Bauer Park at: [www.facebook.com/bauerparkmadisonct](http://www.facebook.com/bauerparkmadisonct).

Educational programs can be arranged for school, scout and community groups at Bauer Park, Rockland Preserve and the town beaches. Contact the Beach & Recreation Office at 203-245-5623 for more information.

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Assessor	203-245-5652
Beach & Recreation	203-245-5623
Building Department	203-245-5618
Emergency Management	203-245-5681
Fire Marshal	203-245-5617
Health Department	203-245-5681
Human Resources	203-245-5603
Inland/Wetlands	203-245-5632
Madison Public Schools	203-245-6300
Planning & Zoning	203-245-5632
Police Department	203-245-2721
Probate Court	203-245-5661
Public Works & Engineering	203-245-5611
Registrar of Voters	203-245-5671
Selectmen's Office	203-245-5602
Senior Center	203-245-5627
Tax Collector	203-245-5641
Town Clerk/Vital Statistics	203-245-5672
Youth Services	203-245-5645
Zoning Board of Appeals	203-245-5632

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# Madison Winter Club Presents ~ Murder Mystery Dinner

Presented by **The Murder Mystery Co.**

This fun filled event which is a first for the Club will be held on September 21st. By all accounts these evenings are fun filled and certainly mysterious. So join us and experience firsthand the excitement of participating in solving a murder and finding out WHO DID IT !

For more information and to book your spot call one of the numbers below, hurry we expect this to be a sold out event.

Jim @ 203-245-2551

Josephine @ 203-245-0706

Cost \$50.00

## OPEN HOUSE

**Friday October 25th**

Come and see what the Madison Winter Club is all about, we are open 9 months a year with varying programs available to suit many taste's and always willing to try new ones. Fabulous weekly dinner's incorporating menus from various parts of the globe prepared by our own chef



Ben, along with good friends and interesting conversation Saturday nights are fun!

Wine and Hors d'oeuvres will be served at the Open House.

For more information, call Bob at 203-245-7934.

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## News from The Women's Club of Madison

We closed out the 2018-2019 year by making disbursements to local charities and a scholarship of \$1500.00 to a deserving high school senior. Checks were also given to the ABC house, Food Bank and Vista.

Pictured to right: Lindalee Ludwick accepting our check on behalf of the ABC house.

A fund-raising event was held July 21st at Lenny & Joe's. They graciously give us all the money from the Carousel Rides on that day for our Scholarship Fund.

We will be collecting items for Safe Homes as we try to bring attention & awareness to Domestic Violence Prevention by supplying information as to where help may be obtained. Towels, face cloths, single bed sheets and socks any of these would be appreciated. You may call the number below for drop off information.

A Military Whist is in the works for the fall. Keep checking for updates. We appreciate your support in helping us in our fund-raising efforts which in turn help those in need.

Josephine 203-245-0706.



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# Madison Arts Barn

The Friends of Madison Youth is a non-profit organization that runs programming out of the youth center at The Madison Arts Barn. The Barn aims to act as a creative outlet and venue of expression for local teens and young adults. The youth of the Connecticut shoreline can attend and participate in concerts, creative workshops, theatrical performances, social events, and more all in a safe and supportive environment.



It is our goal to bring the community together through music, arts and culture and to empower young people by supporting them in the exploration of their interests and passions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUMMER CAMPS

Most camps are open to students entering 4th grade and up. Tuition including supplies is \$295 per week. Payment plans and financial assistance are available. If you have more than one child attending any of our summer camps or your child is attending more than one week use the discount code MULTI for an additional savings. Check them out below and register now at [madisonartsbarn.org](http://madisonartsbarn.org)!

#### August 5th - 9th / Creating Television

Dreaming of a life in front of or behind the camera? Jessica Spinelli, The Barn's very own experienced producer, is spending a week teaching the ins and outs of television production. From brainstorming ideas, writing scripts, creating sets and costumes, to filming, recording sound, and putting it all together as a finished piece, students will enjoy the full TV show experience, ending with the final project being edited into a Variety Show and broadcasted on Local Cable TV Channel and Youtube.

#### August 12th - August 16th / Murder Mystery

A faint scream fell over the pews, everyone sat in silence. A murder had taken place and everyone is a suspect. We must race against the clock and discover the truth. Do you have a suspect in mind? The story will unfold and reveal all secrets at the live performance on Friday. Although this is a relaxed atmosphere participating students will naturally improve in reading comprehension, fluency, self confidence, and become more poised in their presentation skills. Most importantly, they will have a fantastic time and make lasting friendship and creative connections with like-minded peers!

**August 19th-August 23rd-Exploration of Art:** Join us for a week of exploring the wonderful world of art! Campers will enjoy working with a number of mediums such as acrylics, pastels, collage, watercolor, sculpture and more! They will learn tips and tricks for creating intricate works of art. When the week comes to an end they will be able to show off their hard work to friends & family at our Art Show!

**Auditions: Into The Woods Jr.:** Auditions will be held at The Barn on August 25th from 4-6 pm and August 29th from 6-8 pm. Auditions are open to kids ages 8-18. To register, purchase tickets, or even just keep up with our amazing events follow us on facebook and head over to our website at [www.madisonartsbarn.org](http://www.madisonartsbarn.org).

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## Jackie Robinson: An Ongoing Legacy of Impact and Achievement

by Sigrid Kun



Rendering of future Jackie Robinson Museum. Courtesy Gensler/Ralph Appelbaum Associates/Mopix Studios.

Jackie Robinson's legacy is stronger than ever. It's not just every April 15th when each Major League Baseball team celebrates Jackie Robinson Day. Through the Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) he and his family continue to impact lives and improve the communities in which we live.

### BREAKING BARRIERS

Born on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia, Robinson grew up in Pasadena, CA. He later attended UCLA where he became the only student to letter in four varsity sports in the same year. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 and became second lieutenant. In 1944, while riding a bus back to Camp (now Fort) Hood, he was court martialed for refusing to move to the back of the bus. This ultimately led to his honorable discharge that same year.

It was around the same time that the Brooklyn Dodgers found it important to integrate Major League Baseball. Robinson signed a contract with the Dodgers in 1945 and began his baseball career with the Montreal Royals. On April 15, 1947, the color barrier was broken. Robinson became the first African American to play Major League Baseball, playing first base for the Dodgers. He carried himself with honor and grace despite facing opposition from crowds and teammates as well as threats to himself and his family. Named Rookie of the Year in 1947, his 10-year MLB career was outstanding - including being named MVP in 1949 and a World Series win in 1955. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

### ADVANCING EQUALITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Robinson transformed more than baseball. He and his wife, Rachel, became increasingly involved in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. It was during this time (mid-1950s) that the family home in Stamford, CT was purchased - not without adversity. "Our parents faced housing discrimination during their search for a home," recalls Jackie Robinson's daughter, Sharon, who serves as Vice Chair of the JRF Board of Directors. "Andrea Simon, a prominent resident, heard of our difficulties and intervened." As Sharon and her brothers integrated into the neighborhood and schools, they faced various levels of racism. The home offered privacy, freedom, friendship, and sports.

And there were the wonderful jazz concerts. "Our family hosted our first 'Afternoon of Jazz' on our Stamford property in June of 1963," relates Sharon. "Dad was a fundraiser for the Civil Rights Movement." Robinson was also working with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr to raise money to rebuild black churches that had been bombed. The first concert was a fundraiser for Southern Christian Leadership Conference and came on the heels of Dr. King's efforts in Birmingham, Alabama.



Family portrait left to right: Sharon Robinson, Mom Rachel and Dad Jackie Robinson. Courtesy Jackie Robinson Foundation.

The concert was managed by a massive volunteer force of family and friends. Musicians (like Dizzy Gillespie) volunteered their time and talents. "My brother, David and I - along with our friends - sold hot dogs and sodas. Dad and Jackie Jr. parked cars. Mom was the directress with her hands in all aspect of the concert," recalls Sharon. The second concert was shortly after the Robinson family returned from the March on Washington. "Dr. King came and spoke to the crowd. It was one of the most amazing days of our young lives." The Afternoon of Jazz became a regular fundraiser for the Civil Rights Movement during Jackie Robinson's life. After he passed in 1972, the tradition continued with proceeds to support JRF.

### A LEGACY OF IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENT

Rachel founded JRF in 1973. JRF not only honors the memory of Jackie Robinson and his heroic achievements but also provides college and graduate student scholarships and leadership development opportunities for students of color with strong capabilities but limited financial resources. It is a two-pronged approach with four-year grants and hands-on, comprehensive support.

This year, JRF is commemorating the 100th birthday of Jackie Robinson with a year-long series of events to benefit not only the organization's programs but also the future Jackie Robinson Museum. The culminating event will be the opening of the Jackie Robinson Museum in New York City in December of 2019. "It has been our family's dream to have a physical space where my father's legacy and the values and ideals by which he lived could inspire others," says Sharon. "We are excited to shine a light on my father's life, while raising funds to continue to positively impact the lives of others."

"My parents taught me the importance of loving your world," adds Sharon - an accomplished nurse-midwife, professor, author and educational consultant within the Commissioner of Baseball's Office. "We have a favorite Jackie Robinson quote: *'A life is not important except for the impact on other's lives.'*"

Photo of Jackie Robinson/Getty Images.

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