

Madison

# events

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# The First Selectman's Corner

## Budget Workshops

Madison's budget planning cycle begins on in January with presentations from all Town departments (including the Board of Education) to the Board of Selectmen. Over the course of several weeks, the BOS will meet to review all requested budget line items before sending a recommended budget to the Board of Finance for their review and presentation to the public. The Budget cycle ends with a Referendum to approve the Board of Education and Town Budgets on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

## Chamber Mini-Expo Event!

The Madison Chamber of Commerce is hosting their annual Mini-Expo on Tuesday, March 5, from 4:30-6:30 pm in Hubley Hall at the First Congregational Church, 26 Meetinghouse Lane. They're expanding the scope and combining their popular Health & Wellness and Home & Garden events to include ALL businesses! This event is a reasonably-priced way to advertise, market and network your business in a relaxed atmosphere, and serves the needs of our businesses and the general public.

## Senior Center Activities

The Madison Senior Center at 29 Bradley Road Center is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am-4 pm and offers opportunities for Seniors both in and out of town. With 24 hour notice you can enjoy gourmet lunches 5 days a week by Chef Kevin Wolfe

in the Senior Cafe. If you need a ride, DIAL-A-RIDE operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 48 hour notice required. Call 203-245-5695. Ongoing activities at the Senior Center:

**Bridge** - Thursdays & Fridays  
10 am - 2 pm.

**Knitting** - 2nd & 4th Mondays  
3:30 - 6 pm.

**Canasta** - Tuesdays 1 - 3:45 pm

**Men's Poker** - Tuesdays 12:45 -  
3:45 pm.

**Coloring Club** - Wednesdays 1:30 - 2:30 pm.

**Poker** - Mondays & Wednesdays 12:45 - 3 pm.

**Cribbage** - Mondays 1 - 3 pm.

**Quilts of Joy** - Tuesdays 1:15 - 3:30 pm.

**Hand & Foot** - Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30 - 3:45 pm.

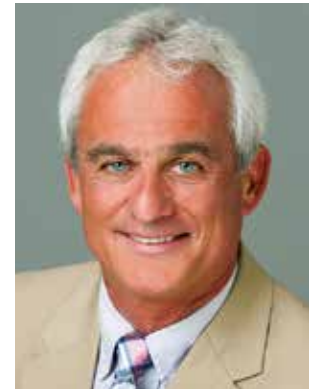
**Swedish Weaving** - Tuesdays 10 - 11:30 am.

**Judy's Bags** - Thursdays 1-2 pm.

**Walking Club** - Mondays Wednesdays 10 am.

## Foxwoods

Mondays- January 14th We will be alternating between Mohegan  
continued on page 2



Tom Banisch, First Selectman

An advertisement for Saybrook Home. The background is a photograph of a man and a woman sitting on a dark blue leather sofa in a living room. They are both smiling and looking at a magazine or book held by the woman. There are white coffee cups on a coffee table in front of them. On the wall behind them is a round clock and a framed picture. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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### Selectman... continued from page 1

and Foxwoods on a monthly basis. Depart MSC at 9 am. Fee: \$7  
**Pequot Museum & Foxwoods** - Wednesday, January 23rd. After the tour you will have time to visit the gift shop and lunch on your own. Depart MSC at 9:15 am. Fee: \$25.

**CT Flower and Garden Show** - Thursday, February 21st Connecticut Convention Center. Explore over 300 booths overflowing with fresh flowers, plants, herbs, bulbs, seeds & much more. Depart MSC at 9 am Fee: \$20. For more information, call the Senior Center at 203-245-5627.

### Other Goings-On

**Sunday, March 10**, 11 am – Exchange Club's Leprechaun Run 5 Miler, Surf Club – 11am.

**Thursday, March 14**, 6:30-8:30 pm - Career Fair at Daniel Hand High School.

**Saturday, April 13**, 10 am - Exchange Club Easter Egg Hunt – Madison Surf Club – 10 am.

**Saturday, April 27** – Green Up Clean Up Day 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and Madison Little League Opening Day Parade – 11:00 am from Stop & Shop to Jaycee Field.

**Saturday, April 27** – Vista Starlight Ball, Waters Edge, Westbrook.

Tom Banisch, First Selectman

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Madison's Agricultural and Environmental Center  
257 Copse Road

## Winter Classes at Bauer Park

### ANIMAL TRACKS AND TRACES

Saturday, February 9 / 10:00-11:30 am

While it may seem too cold for any living creature to survive outside in February, many animals are scurrying all around our northern forests and fields. Go on a mystery hunt for tracks and other signs of winter animals venturing out in the snow. Create a fun craft to help you remember the tracks you saw. For preschoolers ages 3-5, accompanied by an adult. \$11

### A MICROSCOPIC TOUR OF TREES

Sunday, February 10 / 1:00-3:00 pm

Trees may look similar in winter, but their twigs and buds give them away. On a brief walk outside, learn how to distinguish species by their bark and form. Then come inside to explore the secrets of each species' unique twigs and buds. These intricate structures tell the story of a tree's past and foretell its burst into lush green life in the spring. This is an indoor-outdoor science program. Dress for the weather and a short easy walk. For adults and children age 6 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5



Learn how to identify trees in winter at Bauer Park on February 10th

### FAMILY MAPLE SUGARING

Saturdays, February 23 or March 2 / 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Come learn how maple syrup is made, from tree to table. We'll tap Bauer Park's maple trees, taste the sap, and learn how to turn it into syrup (which we'll also taste!). Information on where to acquire sugaring supplies, and when, where and how to tap the maple trees in your own yard will be provided. Boots are recommended as we'll be hiking into the woods to tap the trees. For adults and children ages 3 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5

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## HARROWING TALES OF OUR BAUER BIRDS

Sunday, March 24 / 1:00 -2:30 pm

Experience the extraordinary adventures of the birds that nest at Bauer Park. This program will take you from the forests and fields of Bauer Park to the tropics of South America. Each species has its own fascinating stories to tell through its unique behaviors and adaptations. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions about birds throughout the program. Instructor Susannah Graedel holds a master's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and spent many years banding songbirds. For adults and children age 6 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$7

## GET READY FOR BLUEBIRDS!

Sunday, April 7 / 1:00-3:00 pm

Bluebirds start nesting in Madison in early spring. Indoors we will learn about what these lovely songbirds need to raise a family. Then we'll tour the Bauer Bluebird Trail to see the birds in action. Learn how to become a bluebird nest box monitor as part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology citizen science program. Nest box plans are available. All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$7

Registration and more information at [www.madisonct.org/recreation](http://www.madisonct.org/recreation) or in the Madison Beach & Recreation Office. 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.

## Madison Land Conservation Trust

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 2, 1:00 pm

#### Groundhog Hike, Indian Rock Shelters Trail

Look for tracks and hiding places of groundhogs and other woodland creatures with MLCT president Ben Diebold on Groundhog Day. See the modest beginnings of the Neck River, and rock ledge caves used for winter shelter by members of the Hammonasset Tribe. Hikers are advised to wear sturdy boots, or snowshoes if appropriate. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash. To get to the Indian Rock Shelters trail, take Summer Hill Road, North of Route 80 to the second left, Twilight Drive. Turn left on Lake Drive and park at the cul-de-sac.

continued on page 6

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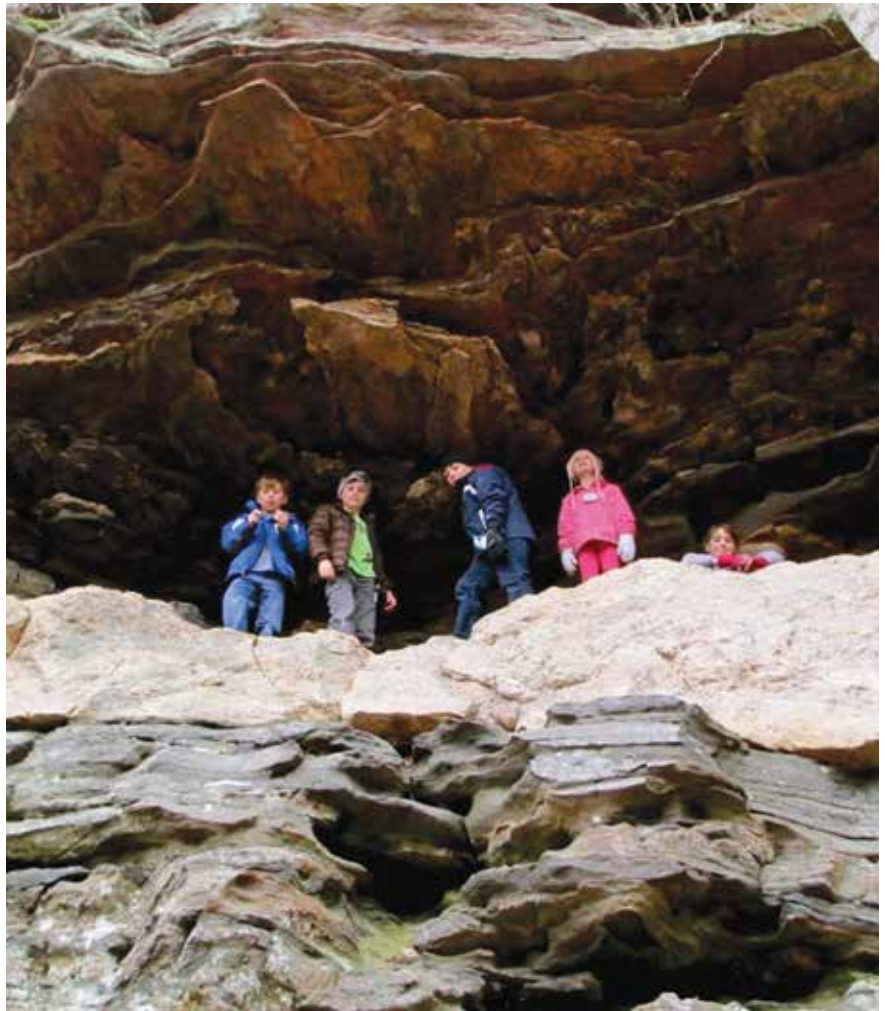


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## Land Trust... continued from page 5



Search for wildlife and explore rock shelters with the Madison Land Trust

### Saturday, April 27, 6:30 pm Wild & Scenic Film Festival

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is on tour and will be making a stop along the shoreline! Wild & Scenic is a film festival with a purpose, bringing together storytellers and stories that reflect a love and appreciation of the natural world. The Madison and Clinton Land Conservation Trusts are teaming up to bring this globetrotting event to our area. The evening will feature a series of short award-winning environmental and outdoor adventure films from around the world. The festival was started in 2003 to inspire activism to protect and preserve the environment.

The Madison and Clinton Land Trusts will co-host the festival in the Andrews Memorial Town Hall auditorium at 54 East Main Street in Clinton. Light refreshments will be served. Both land trusts are non-profit volunteer organizations dedicated to conserving our local natural resources. Go to [www.madisonlandtrust.org](http://www.madisonlandtrust.org) to purchase tickets and view the film festival trailer. Learn more about the film festival at [www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org](http://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org).

Visit [www.madisonlandtrust.org](http://www.madisonlandtrust.org) to view trail maps and see the full 2019 hike and event schedule. For event weather updates and photos, visit [www.facebook.com/madisonlandtrust](http://www.facebook.com/madisonlandtrust).

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## Madison Senior Center



29 Bradley Road, Madison, CT 06443  
(203) 245-5627 / www.madisonct.org/seniors

### AARP INCOME TAXES

Get Free Help with Your Tax Return - AARP Certified Tax-Aide counselors provide free income tax preparation assistance for low-and-middle-income taxpayers of all ages, with special attention to those 60 & older. Taxpayers MUST bring copies of their 2017 tax return. Tuesdays from 9:30 am - 3 pm from Feb. 5th





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You may call for an appointment beginning 1/15/19 at (203) 245-5627.

#### TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES

Just a reminder that on January 1st membership fees are due for all seniors attending the Madison Senior Center. Membership is required to participate in any Senior Center program/activity/lunch. Thanks for your cooperation. Madison Resident Membership Fee: \$15, Non-Madison Resident Membership Fee: \$20

**ZUMBA GOLD** is perfect for the active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba® class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower-intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba® choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Come ready to sweat, and prepare to leave empowered and feeling strong. Classes focus on all elements of fitness: cardiovascular, muscular conditioning, flexibility and balance! For your safety we ask you only wear sneakers. If you come in dress shoes, sandals, slippers or bare feet will be asked not to participate for your own good. (6 classes) Thursdays, Feb. 7th - Mar. 16th 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Fee: \$42.

#### THE NIMBLE THIMBLE NEEDLEPOINT GROUP

Cynthia Barker, an experienced needlepoint teacher, is running a needlepoint group at the Senior Center. There will be instruction and a project for beginners as well as offering a place for more seasoned needle workers to complete their unfinished projects. The group is free but the beginner needlepoint kits will have a fee of \$15. Thursdays, 10-11:30 am. Please Register. FREE.

continued on page 10



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## Madison Senior Center... continued from page 9

### ARTISTS' GROUP

Come get your creative juices flowing! Join a friendly group of artists to work on a current project or start one here. Please Register Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30 pm.

### DIAL-A-RIDE (203) 245-5695 or (203) 245-5627

Mondays: 8 am - 4 pm / Wednesdays: 8 am - 4 pm / NEW Thursdays: 12 noon - 6 pm / Fridays: 8 am to 2 pm. The Senior Center provides transportation for Madison residents age 60 or older and disabled Madison residents over the age of 18 having certification of a medical disability. Rides are given in a 14 town region for medical appointments, and personal business on a first-come, first-served basis, so call early as we are often booked several days in advance.

### LUNCH WITH TOM

Come enjoy lunch with our First Selectman, Tom Banisch. Tom joins us on the 3rd Tuesday of every month to have lunch and chat with Madison seniors. Bring your questions, concerns and compliments. PLEASE REGISTER in advance. Lunch Fee: \$4.

### TRIPS AND TRAVEL

#### CT Flower and Garden Show - Thursday, February 21st

Spring in February arrives annually at the Connecticut Convention Center. Explore over 300 booths overflowing with fresh flowers, plants, herbs, bulbs, seeds, gardening books, garden equipments & much more. View beautifully landscaped gardens. Visit the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut design & horticulture competition. Wonderful and informative seminars and demonstrations will be available to attend there. Depart MSC at 9 am Fee: \$20.


#### CORSETS & TOP HATS - Tours of Distinction - April 16th

Meet Mrs. Caroline Astor, the Grande Dame of Newport and New York society in the late 1800s. Mrs. Astor is the step-on guide who will take us on a time-travel Gilded Age tour of Newport. Our tour route includes the famous Ten-Mile Ocean Drive, the "cottages" of the Gilded Age along Bellevue Avenue, and plenty of gossip! Be sure to bring a camera as there will be opportunities to get off the motor-coach to take photos. During the driving tour, there will be crystal ball moments where Mrs. Astor can peek into the future. She will tell us about such events as the sinking of the Titanic, on which her son perished, and the wedding of John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier in Newport. Lunch will be served at La Forge Casino Restaurant which is situated on the grounds of the International Tennis Hall of Fame and overlooks the first grass tennis courts in America. During dessert, Mrs. Astor will talk about Gilded Age dining etiquette, calling card customs, and how Newport is the American side of the Downton Abbey story. She will also give updates about the current owner of her former mansion and tell about today's descendants of the Gilded Age Astor and Vanderbilt families. After lunch, we bid adieu to Mrs. Astor and have free-time to explore the wonders of Newport. Depart MSC: 7:45am, Estimated Return: 7 pm. Fee: \$105.


### SOUTHERN CHARM

#### Charleston, Jekyll Island & Savannah - May 18th -24th

Day 1: Arrive. Day 2: Travel to the exclusive Jekyll Island Club Hotel, situated in the midst of the fabled Golden Isles. Jekyll Island was once the winter retreat of prominent Gilded Age families. Day 3: Journey to another fabled Golden Isle, St. Simons Island. Explore the quaint shops and restaurants in the village. Gather at a popular local restaurant on Savannah's famous River Street for a



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cooking demonstration and dinner showcasing regional culinary specialties. Day 4: Take in the "Old South" with a trolley tour highlighting Savannah's sprawling Historic District. In the afternoon, visit Savannah's lovely squares or explore River Street, where old cotton ware-houses house trendy shops, taverns and restaurants. Day 5: Tour the coastline through South Carolina's Low Country on your way to historic Charleston, which still exudes elegance, charm and grace. A local guide will show you the historic homes and restored buildings. Continue on to City Market, one of the oldest public markets in America and the epicenter of Gullah sweetgrass basketry. The remainder of your day is free to enjoy this very walkable city. Day 6: Choose to explore Boone Hall Plantation where you'll experience southern plantation living -OR- opt to explore Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Includes: Group transportation to/from airport, round trip air from new york, air taxes and fees/surcharges and hotel transfers. Not included: cancellation waiver and insurance of \$275 per person and any airline baggage fee. Call for current pricing.

Subscribe to receive a copy of the Senior Center newsletter by email at <https://www.madisonct.org/list.aspx>.



## Scranton Library Friends

Scranton Library has entered the much anticipated remodeling and renovation phase of their in-town location is currently located at 1250 Durham Road.

### TWO BOOK SALES

The friends of Scranton Library are currently in a temporary location at 114 A Bradley Road behind Tuxis Laundromat. The Friends of Scranton Library will have two book sales at their temporary location:

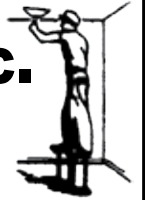
**Friday and Saturday March 29 and 30, 2019**

**Friday and Saturday May 24 and 25, 2019**

### FUND RAISING CONCERT

March 24 - Fund Raising Concert featuring Claire and Aimee Chang at the First Congregational Church of Madison at 26 Meetinghouse Lane. The concert is sponsored by the Scranton Library Friends. A \$10 donation is welcomed. The concert will be held at 2 pm in the sanctuary, followed by a reception to meet the musicians.

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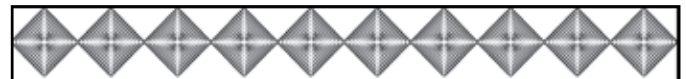
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# Madison's Most Popular Babysitting Class!



## The Women's Club of Madison Babysitting Seminar

This year the Women's Club in coordination with the Madison Beach & Recreation Department will be sponsoring their 49th Babysitting Seminar. 49 years ago it was started as a service program and has been a yearly service program since then. Much to the surprise of the Club 49 years ago - 116 students registered that first year, beginning its popularity.

The program which is offered to students, male & female ages 11-13 is run by the Members and consists of 4 weekly classes held at the Polson Middle School. Each week offers a different volunteer presenter from local community emergency services. Police, Fire and EMS/Ambulance do a wonderful job of educating the students on any and all emergencies that may occur and how to best handle them. One week is devoted to a local School Nurse who instructs the students on the handling of babies and young children, including signs and symptoms of medical issues such as Allergies and Asthma. Parent volunteers bring their babies to the class to teach diaper changing. Certificates are awarded at the completion of the course if all

four classes have been attended. The fee for the class is \$40. The net proceeds will be distributed to local organizations such as the local food bank, Strong House, Bikes for Kids and a variety of organizations throughout the Shoreline that benefit many. Pre-registration is required and class size is limited.

Class will be held on the following dates in March; Wednesdays 3/6, 13, 20 and 27 from 6:30-8:00 pm.

To register visit the Beach & Recreation website or stop by their office. (203) 245-5623.



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## Winter's Long Road

*"What good is the warmth of summer, without the winter to give it sweetness" - John Steinbeck*

Have you ever headed out on a road trip and it seemed like you would never get to the destination? Winter can seem that way. It's not just that it is cold and dark but more than anything winter is so very long. New England winters can be harsh. Personally though, I would not want to live anywhere else. It is the change of seasons here in New England that makes me appreciate each one for what it has to offer.

For me, although I love the summer months for the lovely gardens and flowers galore, I appreciate the slower pace of winter. I love long walks in the woods, playing in the snow, catching up on reading, sitting by the cozy fire, watching the birds and dreaming about spring.

But if you are not a winter person waiting for spring can feel like a long long road, especially when the road is challenged with icy snowy conditions. Many people suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD) which makes winter particularly long.

Even if you do not suffer from SAD, winter's long road can be wearisome. Just as you prepare for a long road trip by packing

## Portraits of Beethoven: Celebration Concert

Vista Life Innovations, a community based program dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities in achieving personal success is partnering with Project: Music Heals Us to present the third event in a series of three, Portraits of Beethoven: Celebration Concert. This event is generously sponsored by the Danielle Rose Paikin Foundation.

Taking place at The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook, this event will explore the music and life story of Ludwig van Beethoven through storytelling and music as performed and spoken about by the Solara Quartet.

As an individual who overcame many obstacles - including significant disability - during his life, the lifeworks of



Beethoven show what is possible to achieve with perseverance and determination - concepts that mate perfectly with the core philosophy of Vista Life Innovations.

The event is scheduled for 7:00 pm on February 20th at The Katharine Hepburn

Cultural Arts Center. To purchase tickets, please visit The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center's website at: [katharinehepburntheater.org](http://katharinehepburntheater.org). For more information about this event, the three part series or Vista Life Innovations, contact Jessica Lillge at: 860-399-8080 ext. 269.

snacks, audio books, favorite music or whatever it is that makes the time pass more enjoyably, you can also prepare for the long winter road by planning some enjoyable activities and keeping a positive attitude.

Here are a few ideas to help you along the road.

**Self-care Ideas**

- Take a walk outside each day
- Attend garden talks and presentations
- Visit garden centers and indoor botanical gardens
- Visit the CT Flower Show (Feb 21-Feb 24)
- Visit your library
- Practice relaxation techniques such as yoga, tai chi and meditation
- Treat yourself to an in home spa treatment using herbal lotions and essential oils
- Exercise regularly.

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Registrar of Voters	203-245-5671
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## Winter Pet Safety Tips

Pieper Veterinary's 24-hour emergency and specialty hospitals see pets from all over Connecticut, and with our weather they have plenty of experience with winter hazards. Freezing temperatures and winds can put your pet at risk of hypothermia and frostbite, especially for smaller, older, or short-haired cats and dogs.

To keep your pet comfortable and healthy it's very important that they always have access to warmth, shelter, and fresh water.

For dogs, the salt used to clear sidewalks and roads can be painful to their paws and even cause chemical burns. Make sure that your dog has access to unsalted space for walking and playing, or utilize booties to help protect their feet from the salt and ice.

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# Madison Historical Society



New York Harbor c. 1855 by Henry Fitz Lane. Courtesy of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

In January 2019 the Madison Historical Society opened its twelfth season of the Frederick Lee Lectures. Held in Hubley Hall at the First Congregational Church, the three-part series explores shipbuilding in Madison and the coastal trade of Long Island Sound during the colonial and post-colonial era. In the past, the lectures have explored such local-interest topics as the summer community in Madison, historic homes and farms, important Madison women, and stories of war, crime, and punishment.

The series opened on January 13 with a presentation on nineteenth-century coastal shipping and trade within Long Island Sound. The talk highlighted the collaboration between Long Island and Connecticut farming interests, the movement of produce and goods, and the effort required to bring goods to the waterfront.

## Madison Art Society

Two Madison Art Society artists, Melissa Imossi and Maryanne Rupp have award winning art being displayed at the Madison Town Hall, 8 Campus Drive, Madison, CT from now through the month of February. The exhibit can be seen during regular business hours.

Melissa Imossi, a Madison resident, is an award-winning realist painter. She is known for her close-up studies where she examines the graphic quality of a single subject. Her unique style has been honored through years of study and discipline. She studied at The Art Students League of New York City and the Angel Academy of Art,



Last Blush oil Melissa Imossi / 10x8

Shipbuilding activity within the area of present-day Madison is the subject of the second presentation on February 10.

Attendees will enjoy an overview of local shipbuilding activities and a technical segment on shipbuilding during the nineteenth century, with a focus on West Wharf (Hoyt's Yard) and East Wharf (C. M. Miner & Sons). This presentation will feature readings from the journals and log books of ships' captains and merchant marines.

The series closes on March 10 with a presentation by Joel Helander - author, Guilford town historian, and past chairman of the Faulkner's Light Brigade. His program will touch on the history of the island while focusing on the life of Captain Oliver N. Brooks, the Faulkner's Island lighthouse keeper from 1851 to 1882 and a distinguished captain during the heyday of the Long Island Sound coastal trade. His records provide a window into this hardy life and its necessary engagement with maritime traders.

The Society is grateful for the use of the FCC's Hubley Hall and the support of the Dalton Fund of the Madison Foundation, which has provided generous funding for this year's series. The Frederick Lee Lectures are open to the public with a suggested donation of \$5. Each presentation begins at 4 pm and is followed by a brief Q & A session.

Florence, Italy where afterwards she won "First Place" in The Artist Magazine's 2005 student competition and also in 2006 was "Finalist" in the magazine's Annual Competition competing against 10,000 entries.

Melissa's awards include "Award of Merit" from Joan Young curator of the Guggenheim Museum in 2010 and "Best in Show" in the American Art Awards, juried by 25 of the leading galleries in the U.S. In 2014 she was awarded the "Williams Prize for Drawing Award" and then in 2018 the "Graphic Arts Award" at the Academic Association's 68th Annual National Exhibit.



Red Dahlia / oil  
Melissa Imossi



Shining Bright Web / oil  
Melissa Imossi

She is an elected artist at the Madison Art Society, and the Lyme Art Association, having had her work accepted in

juried shows. Her website address is: [melissaimossi.com](http://melissaimossi.com).

Maryanne Rupp a Killingworth resident will also be displaying her work at the Madison Town Hall. She paints and exhibits along the greater Connecticut shoreline. Pastel is her primary medium. Maryanne has taken classes at the Lyme Art Association and workshops taught by Joann Ballinger, her principal teacher and mentor, Lou Bonaparte, Richard McKinley, Chris Ivers and other nationally known pastel artists.

Maryanne holds membership in the Essex Art Association and the Academic Artist's Association with elected artist's status in the Madison Art Society, the Clinton Art Society and the Lyme Art Association. She also holds Signature Membership in the Connecticut Pastel Society.

Maryanne's paintings are representational and capture a certain quality of light effect

that transforms an often mundane subject or landscape to a thing of beauty.



Edge of November / pastel  
Maryanne Rupp



Taking the Back Road / pastel  
Maryanne Rupp

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## Dr. Robert Ballard - The Race to Save the Human Race by Sigrid Kun



Above center, increasing our oceans' productivity can provide the way to human survival.



Above right, each Nautilus expedition includes scientists, student interns, and educators.

Just back from the last leg of a 7 month-long expedition by his Corps of Exploration, Dr. Robert Ballard was at his Lyme, CT home - busy summarizing the 2018 series of expeditions by his 64-meter exploration vessel, the E/V Nautilus. Yes, he discovered the Titanic in 1985 (old news, he says, of what was actually a cover for a top secret naval operation). Yes, his work caused a wholesale change in how science was taught by uncovering the secrets of plate tectonics and hydro thermal vents (a revolutionary revelation evidencing that sunlight wasn't needed to support life). And the 30-year naval veteran and /geologist/undersea robotics developer/explorer has for so many years revealed to the world human history lost beneath the sea - with over 35 National Geographic television specials and countless books. After 150+ expeditions, starting at age 17, retirement isn't in the works for the 76-year old.

### Our Oceans - The Last Frontier

Dr. Ballard's unrelenting pursuit of ocean education and exploration through his non-profit organization, the Ocean Exploration Trust ("OET"), is urgent. There are sobering facts: 95% of the Earth's population lives on less than 5% of the Earth's surface; farmland is being replaced with housing tracts; while 95% of all living space is located in largely unexplored international waters. But 90% of all large, predatory fish have been hunted down and killed. The carrying capacity of our planet is already at the brink. By 2050 we will not have enough food to feed everyone.

The Wichita, Kansas-born explorer explains that the Earth's waters, largely unexplored, are the human race's final hope. "I'm worried about the human race," he says. "The big question is, will the human race survive? The Earth will be fine. The planet is a creature. It was born. It evolves. It will die. It just has a long life expectancy. But there's no Plan B for the human race." The key, he says, is to move from hunting/gathering in the ocean to creating productive waters via deep sea farming - just as society thousands of years ago moved away from hunting and gathering on the Earth's lands and into organized food production. Every Ballard/OET/Nautilus expedition provides vital information as to how our Earth's waters can provide for the survival of humanity. The programs run on

multiple tracks; internships, community STEM and STEAM (to include the Arts) programs, and fellowships. Each ocean expedition includes scientists, student interns and educators as part of the Nautilus corps. The OET website is maintained on a 24/7 basis while the Nautilus is at sea to provide for live communication and interaction. During the last expedition, over 24,000 questions were answered live. Each expedition cultivates a new set of students and mentors (both on and off-board). "The key is to do it wave after wave after wave," he says. To make a difference you needed to reach millions of students.

### No Boundaries

Dr. Ballard's message, however, is about more than just the ocean. Life's lessons include understanding one's self. Dr. Ballard is dyslexic. For quite a while, he didn't even know it. It took the book "*The Dyslexic Advantage*" to explain me to me. It was a strange but enlightening experience. Those affected (which is 10% of the population) are often loathe to admit it. To him, it is a gift - an interesting advantage. "I created a dyslexic world that I excel in," he explains. Dyslexia has caused him to rely on visualization and memorization. "It's perfect," he says. "In the sea, it's all dark...it's pitch black. But the water goes away and I see everything." He recalls a dive in 1986 to explore the Titanic. Everything went wrong. No sonar. No tracking. Landing 12,000 feet below surface in the mud, there were no signs of the Titanic to the other crew members. "It's over there," pointed Ballard. And, indeed, the Titanic was.

Dr. Ballard is also a keen proponent for empowering women. As he puts it "males as top leaders is by their design." Empowering women, he maintains, is a key to saving the human race. Accordingly, he mandates that 50% of his team be comprised of women.

### Where Do We Go From Here?

Dr. Ballard is a problem solver - from 15 years spent restoring an earlier home to jigsaw puzzles (even when the 1,000 pieces are the same shade of blue, with no border pieces, holes in the puzzle, and extra pieces just for kicks.) But he doesn't have the ultimate answer. Will the human race survive? "I am a realist. The Earth is becoming aware of us and deeming us as a threat," he observes. "We still have time but indications are we are going in the wrong direction." What can we do? "Look at the first 12 feet around you. Look at what you are doing," urges the avid recycler. "Leave things better than you found them. That's what my grandmother taught me."

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