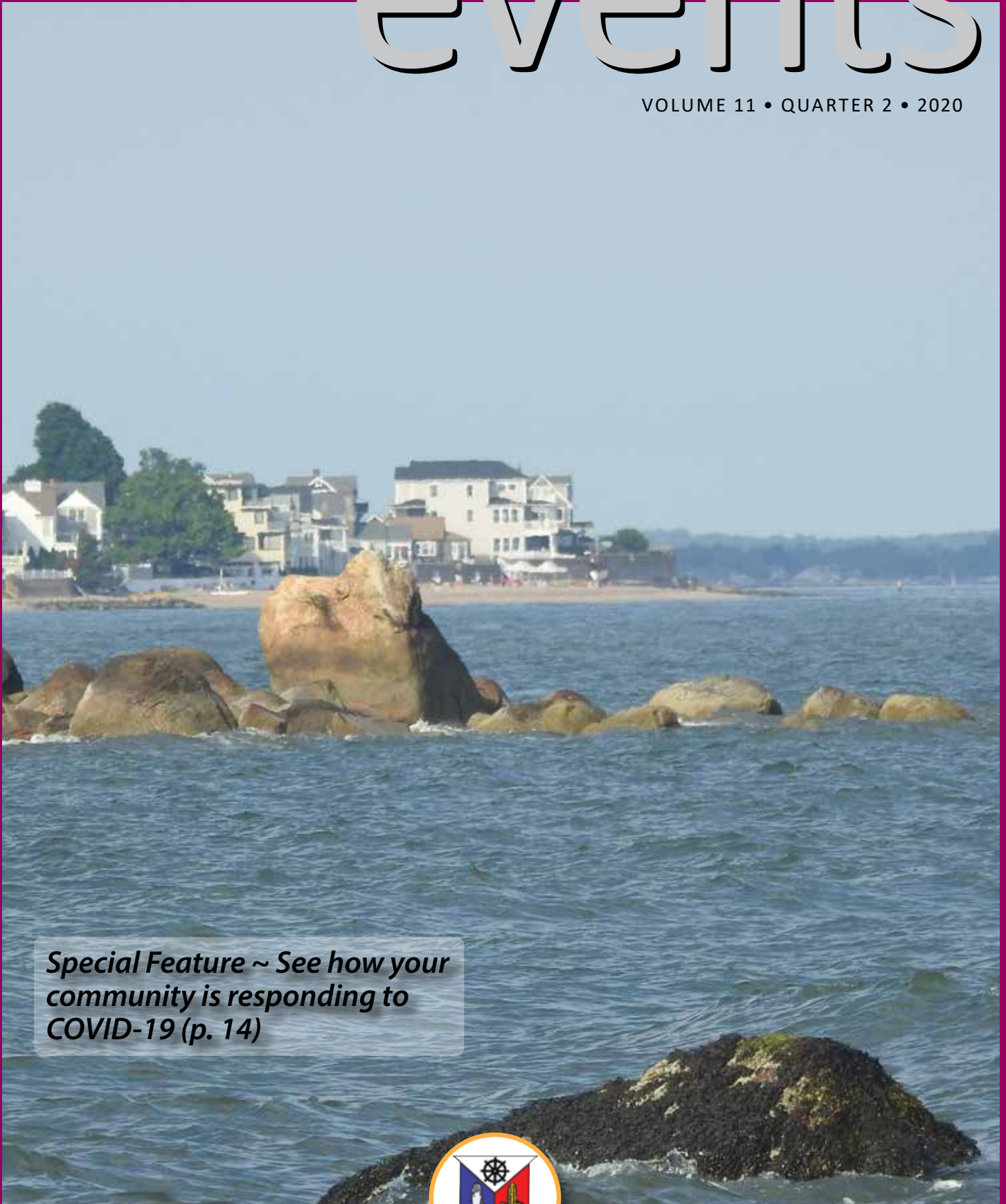


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*Special Feature ~ See how your community is responding to COVID-19 (p. 14)*



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# The First Selectwoman's Corner

As I pen this article, Madison is in the middle of a challenging public health emergency. Our town has already suffered some painful losses while other members of our community are currently battling illness. No one in the community is untouched by this crisis. I want to assure everyone that your town government is here for you and working hard to rise up to this unprecedented challenge.

All essential services for our community are fully operational. Police, fire, and ambulance are working to ensure the safety of our community. We have a very dedicated team of first responders in our community. Public works continues to maintain our infrastructure, and important business services across all town departments like the town clerk, assessor, tax collector, etc., are working diligently to be as responsive as possible under these unusual circumstances via website, email or by telephone. Please check the town website at [madisonct.org](http://madisonct.org) for updates on policies and town services, and visit [CTAlert.gov](http://CTAlert.gov) to sign-up for emergency communications by phone.

The town is also making great efforts to connect those individual and families in need with state and local resources. Madison residents under the age of 65 and needing assistance can contact Madison Youth and Family Services at 203-245-5645 or at [madisonwillrise@madisonct.org](mailto:madisonwillrise@madisonct.org). Those seeking help for someone 65 or older can contact Madison Senior Services at 203-245-5627

or at [madisonwillriseforseniors@madisonct.org](mailto:madisonwillriseforseniors@madisonct.org). If you are a business owner, the town has initiated a business task force, in conjunction with our Chamber of Commerce and elected state representatives, to identify and co-ordinate resource needs of our business community for the immediate and medium-range. Contact our Director of Planning and Economic Development at [andersond@madisonct.org](mailto:andersond@madisonct.org) for more information about the task force and potential resources.

I want to highlight that Madison is also shining at this moment. Every day we send off an army of professionals who are fighting this crisis on the front lines. Whether it's a doctor, a nurse, allied health professional or a first responder suiting up to respond to a call for a suspected COVID case, our town is home to a range of highly dedicated, inspirational professionals willing to risk their lives to serve all of us in so many ways.

Thank you for your bravery, generosity and service to our community.

**continued on page 4**



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# events

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### First Selectwoman. continued from page 3

We are also home to throngs of citizens donating masks or needed medical supplies, buying gift cards to support local businesses, or delivering groceries to a housebound senior. The Madison Senior Center has a drive-up collection site for non-perishable food donations, as well as a bin for any unused personal protective equipment and supplies. For those seeking to volunteer, contact Madison Senior Services directly at [madisonwillriseforvolunteers@madisonct.org](mailto:madisonwillriseforvolunteers@madisonct.org) and they will guide you to organizations accepting volunteers.

All of these activities reflect Madison's best, and I am proud to work for and represent all of you in this time of crisis. Please stay safe, healthy, and at home Madison.

Peggy Lyons, First Selectwoman





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## Publisher's Note

As of press time, our country is still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. These are, indeed, difficult times for all. Included in this issue of Madison Events Magazines is information regarding various programs and activities that span the upcoming quarter. Given the circumstances, some dates and times are subject to change. Please check with the applicable organizations for any potential changes and/or cancellations or go to [www.madisonct.org](http://www.madisonct.org) for more information.

We hope that the situation resolves as quickly as possible and that we can all get back to some sense of normalcy! Please also take note of our The Last Word feature (on page 14). It provides information on services that are being provided by the Madison Senior Center, online archives launched by the Madison Historical Society, and virtual learning happening at the Madison Arts Barn. While the COVID-19 pandemic has created great challenges, there is so much good that is occurring through the efforts and ingenuity of those in our community. In this issue of Madison Events, we have also include scenes of support that are found all over town.

We are pleased to be able to continue to provide you with Madison Events Magazines. Please stay safe and healthy. We look forward to celebrating better times ahead!

William E. McMinn  
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# 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.

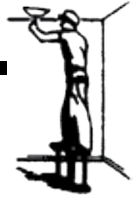
## Madison Public Schools

**Kindergarten Registration**



Registration for the 2020-2021 Kindergarten class is open! We are taking enrollments online and through the USPS mail. All details can be found at [www.madison.k12.ct.us/kindergarten-registration](http://www.madison.k12.ct.us/kindergarten-registration).

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# May is Here

By Leigh, *The Village Horticulturist*

It's May, and the days are longer, warmer, and brighter. Although this winter proved to be a no show, with not too many snow days or difficult driving conditions, it did bring a whole different set of stressors. Concerns over seasonal flu, COVID-19, changing work and life patterns, and economic uncertainties have kept many of us inside, and perhaps too dependent on the constant stream of news.

Now it is time to go outdoors and enjoy the fresh earthy smell of the air in the spring. Listen for the sounds of nature re-awakening the wood frogs and peepers, and the songs of both our resident and returning migratory birds.

For each of us, our home and yard should be our sanctuary...our place to both rest and re-energize. Take the time now to observe the bones of last year's landscape. Check out those photos on your phone of your favorite plants and planters from last summer, and make plans for this season. A little extra time spent outdoors, observing and planning, will reward you with less time spent on maintenance, and more time to enjoy your accomplishment. Good mulching will prevent weeds, keep the plants moist, and help enrich the soil, and free you up from weeding.

As you consider your planting choices, be sure to include some

native plants. These plants, both woody and herbaceous, are adapted to our growing conditions. They provide prime food and shelter for wildlife. They may not be as showy as some of the non-native ornamentals, but they have an irreplaceable role in the ecology of our area. Look for those plants that help pollinate.

Don't forget to include mixed planters as a source of easy all season color for your steps, deck, or patio. Let your imagination run as you consider these. They may be herbs, vegetables, tropical plants, or flowers.

Plant your own decorative planter or find a custom, already beautiful one. How about one with tomatoes for your deck?

Now is a great time for annuals. Some herbs and vegetables can also go outside. Consult any Garden Center for advice on early spring planting.

For those of you without the luxury of an outdoor space, bring some green indoors. Potted plants bring life and warmth to indoor living spaces. And houseplants clean the air inside your home.

Above all, enjoy this spring! It is a time of re-birth, awakening, and looking forward.



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# Madison Land Conservation Trust (MLCT)



You're probably feeling the need to get outside as much as we are at the MLCT. As we all do our part to lessen the spread of this virus by staying home, we still need to stay fit and do things that make us happy. According to Time Magazine, Spending time outdoors, especially in

green spaces, is one of the fastest ways to improve your health and happiness. It's been shown to lower stress, blood pressure, and heart rate, while encouraging physical activity and buoying mood and mental health. ... Just 20 minutes in a park ... is enough to improve well-being.

The Land Trust wants to help you get out and get some fresh air, exercise, and mood uplift—while social distancing, of course! There are over 35 miles of trails to enjoy on 23 MLCT properties in town. Go to [www.madisonlandtrust.org](http://www.madisonlandtrust.org) for maps and directions to the trailheads. Let our trails help you stay “grounded.”

To help us keep these open spaces available to the public while still supporting national and local efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, we need your help.

We encourage you to visit our preserves while also observing the latest recomen-

dations regarding social distancing:

- Stay at least six feet or more apart at all times.
- Limit the number in your hiking group to no more than three people.
- Please keep your dog on a leash. Keep your distance and do not reach out to touch other dogs you may meet on the trail.

If you visit a trailhead that already has three cars in the parking lot, please visit another trail.

Please pay attention to trespassing and pet restrictions on neighboring private, State Forest, and Water Authority land. Water Authority land requires a permit for hiking and does not allow pets especially around reservoirs. Note that State Parks and Forests are open for solitary outdoor enjoyment.

We at the MLCT hope you and your family stay well, and please #Stay Safe Outdoors!



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# Bauer Park

Madison's Agricultural and Environmental Education Center

The outdoor educators at Bauer Park look forward to teaching classes and leading school field studies again soon. In the meantime, here are some fun screen-free nature activities to do at or near your home. Be sure to practice social distancing and stay safe outside!



- Build a Fairy House – use non-living natural materials such as twigs, stones and fallen leaves to create a tiny home for magical visitors
- Go Pond Dipping – look and listen for life in and around ponds and streams, then carefully dip a net to see what lives there
- Explore the Shore – the sandy and rocky inter-tidal zone is home to algae and animals adapted to survive the changing conditions between high and low tide. How many can you find?
- Keep a Nature Journal – draw and describe what you see, hear and feel when you're outside
- Watch the Seasons Change – choose a favorite tree or plant and document when leaves bud or flowers bloom. Record the first sightings of birds, animals and insects around your home.

continued on page 12

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## Bauer Park... continued from page 11

- Plant Some Seeds – measure how long it takes them to sprout and how quickly the plants grow

- Be a Nature Detective – search for tracks, scat, and signs that animals have visited your yard

- Dig for Worms – gently turn over loose soil to search for creatures that live below ground. Be sure to return them safely to their homes and leave the area as you found it.

- Take a Color Walk – choose a crayon, then see how many things you can find outside that are the same color

- Look Up – draw the clouds you see



during the day, or the constellations you see at night

- Go on a Scavenger Hunt - use the idea above or make up your own!

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# Women & Family Life Center

Please take note of some of the free programs available (currently virtually) that serve Madison.

**Guided Assistance Program (GAP)** provides personalized support and referrals for women and families facing difficult life challenges. Through GAP, a participant learns how to outline her personal or family needs and to create an action plan. GAP is a unique service, not offered at any other organization on the Shoreline.

**Breastfeeding Moms Group.** Build your community and confidence as a new mom, working mom or mother of two, three, four or more! Meets every Wednesday, 10:00 am to 11:00 am (currently virtually, via Zoom).

**Divorce Support.** RESTART Support Group allows you to connect with other women to share experiences, gain knowledge, and boost your confidence to positively change your life. ADAPT Divorce Workshops are for you if you are looking for a comprehensive overview of divorce to help you acquire the tools you need to make the best choices for you and your family.

For more information on these and other programs contact the Center at 203-458-6699.



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## Madison – A Caring Community



As of press time, the State of Connecticut continues to operate under various Executive Orders issued by Governor Lamont. It is unclear when and how the State of Connecticut will ultimately re-open. We continue to practice social distancing. We wear masks. We've been instructed

on how to make hand sanitizer, wash our hands, and sneeze properly. So many events have been cancelled or postponed.

However, amid the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, there are those who recognize the importance of giving selflessly and the importance of these moments in time. We'd like to share how a few organizations are making a difference in our Madison community.

### Madison Senior Center

#### Errands on Wheels Program

Are you in need of someone to grocery shop for you? Do you need a prescription picked up or an important errand run? Are you concerned about a Madison family member getting out to get supplies? The Madison Senior Center will help! Guidance from the CDC suggests that if you are an older adult or have a compromised immune system or with a serious underlying medical condition, making every effort to stay home is in your best interest. Let us match you up with a local volunteer to run these errands for you, while you stay safe at home. The Madison Senior Center has developed guidelines and has screened local volunteers to help. For more information please email: [noblinh@madisonct.org](mailto:noblinh@madisonct.org) or call 203-245-5627.



#### Madison Senior Services Resource Guide

Check out the MSC Resources Guide on the Senior Services webpage! It will tell you how to get up to date information on the pandemic, where to get take out, how to sign up for Zoom and other online meeting programs, where to stream movies and download

books, take a virtual tour of numerous museums and do a puzzle. It also tells you about scams that are common right now, and services available in Madison that will help you during these challenging times. Go to: [www.madisonct.org/seniors](http://www.madisonct.org/seniors) for more information.

#### Art In Isolation

Madison Senior Center is having a virtual art exhibit called "Art in Isolation." We are encouraging seniors who are visual artists, staying home and staying safe to photograph their work and submit it to the Senior Center. We will display it on the Madison Senior Services website.

### Madison Historical Society

While these are challenging and stressful times, we are also experiencing a tremendous period in history. The Madison Historical Society is asking you to make sure that history is preserved.

#### MHS LAUNCHES ONLINE ARCHIVE OF PANDEMIC STORIES

On October 1, 1918, young Charlotte Dowd wrote in her diary, "The Spanish

Influenza is spreading over the country rapidly. Many are dying of it." She also described the day's events. Her father sold a cow, and she went to the store after school to purchase a birthday gift for her mother. Her journal entry ends with this remark, "The Women's Suffrage bill was defeated in Congress today 52-31." The Madison Historical Society treasures the diaries of Miss Dowd. Indeed, today they are among our most valuable artifacts. Charlotte's simple act of recording her daily thoughts documented events in real-time, providing a window into the experience as it happened. Today, more than 100 years later, her writings help us understand the impact of that pandemic on the world- and on our local community.



In response to the current crisis of COVID-19, the Madison Historical Society has created an online archive that can preserve new pandemic stories of sheltering in place, struggle, and survival. Knowing that many Madison citizens of all ages may be creating a record of their daily lives and personal experiences in these "COVID Days," the Society invites

all residents to help us preserve these written reflections, images, videos, and voice memos for future generations.

MHS wants to capture these stories before they are lost to history! Please tell us how your life has changed, how your family has adapted to working and learning from home, and how you are coping with the stresses of life during the time of COVID-19. Doubtless, many stories will tell of challenging hardships from illness and from the loss of jobs and educational momentum. Worse, we fear some stories may tell of the loss of loved ones. We also anticipate that many submissions will be inspiring recollections of extraordinary kindness, generosity, creativity, and inventiveness. Our children and grandchildren will likely share tales of living through the great coronavirus pandemic of 2020. But, with time, memories fade. Please help the Madison Historical Society preserve the history of local pandemic stories by leaving your own accounts orally, in song, or in writing and artwork at [www.madisonhistory.org/pandemic-archive/](http://www.madisonhistory.org/pandemic-archive/).

### Madison Arts Barn

The Madison Arts Barn ("The Barn") is a small non-profit providing programming for Connecticut youth. With the current public health crisis and the shuttering of its doors, The Barn has been continuing to provide kids (and adults) with activities through online programs using the Zoom App. Its "Boredom Busters Trivia" has been very popular for kids big and small! The 50 member cast of its production of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, that was to take place at the end of April and beginning of May, continues to have online rehearsals three days a week in hopes of performing for an audience. You can find more information at [www.madisonartsbarn.org](http://www.madisonartsbarn.org) or The Barn's facebook page at [www.facebook.com/TheMadisonArtsBarn](https://www.facebook.com/TheMadisonArtsBarn).



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