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# The First Selectwoman's Corner

As we enter the final months of 2020, I am grateful for the tremendous efforts our residents have made to contain spread of the coronavirus. It is great to see so many of our kids back in school full-time and enjoying outdoor activities. And I am happy to witness many of our local businesses adapting to the roll-out of phase 3 of the state's re-opening plan.

However, it is important to note that a recent spike in cases across the state is a reminder that community spread can ramp up very quickly - we must remain vigilant in our efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. As always, wash your hands frequently and continue to follow state directives on social distancing and mask wearing, both indoors and outside, particularly when social distancing cannot be maintained.

The Madison Health Department continues to track positive COVID-19 cases in our Town through contact tracing to determine how many of these cases may be connected and what behaviors may be causing these increases. We know COVID-19 can also be transmitted asymptotically, which is why it is critically important for residents to always wear face coverings in public. If someone is feeling symptomatic, they should get tested and quarantine while awaiting results. If you receive a positive test result, it is very important that you contact the Madison Health Department as soon as possible at (203) 245-5614.



In order to stay up-to-date on what's happening in our community, I encourage residents to sign up for the Town's new communications system called Madison Alerts. This system will provide important community alerts and information, as well as the First Selectwoman updates. These can be received via an app downloaded on your phone, email, text or phone call. You can subscribe to this service through the town website at <https://www.madisonct.org/MadisonAlerts>, and also watch a video on how to sign up.

As we enter the 2020 holiday season under very challenging circumstances, there are still many ways that residents can safely enjoy this celebratory time of year. This includes strolling downtown to visit Madison's many unique small shops, or sampling our many restaurants through in-person dining or take-out. You can also enjoy the Madison Economic Development Commission's "Light Up Madison" display which will offer a safe, uplifting experience to celebrate diverse holidays of the season in our town. More details will be available soon on the Madison Chamber of Commerce website at [www.madisonct.com](http://www.madisonct.com).

In addition, the Madison Beach and Recreation Department will be hosting its annual Tree Lighting on Friday, December 4, in **continued on page 4**



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# events

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### First Selectwoman... continued from page 3

the evening on the Madison Green, and other holiday activities and traditions are in the planning process. Please check the town website at [www.madisonct.org](http://www.madisonct.org) to stay up-to-date on the latest holiday-related activities.

Above all, safely enjoy this great time of year with family and friends by practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and adhering to state and CDC guidelines. Now is the perfect time to finish house projects that have been put off, to write letters to elderly residents and to spend quality time with the members of your household.

The Town of Madison wishes everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

Peggy Lyons  
First Selectwoman



## Online Meetings



Did you know that our town meetings take place virtually due to the ongoing pandemic?

**The links to the meetings are located on the calendar on our website.**

- Visit [www.madisonct.org/calendar](http://www.madisonct.org/calendar)
- Click on the title of meeting and "more details".
- Here you will be able to view or download the agenda and click on the link for the Zoom meeting.
- If you don't have a computer you can still listen to the meeting by calling the Contact Number from your telephone.

For more in-depth instructions please visit our website and click on "How to Watch Town Meeting Online".

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## 2020 HOLIDAYS



Wednesday, November 11, 2020 Veterans Day

Thursday, November 26, 2020 Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 27, 2020 Day after Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 24, 2020 Day before Christmas

Friday, December 25, 2020 Christmas Day

Approved at the Board of Selectmen Meeting  
on November 12, 2019.

Occasionally a holiday will be observed on a different day.

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## Events Presents Play Café

*"Where Kids Play"* Have you ever wanted to find that special place to bring the kids? A place that's fun, safe, interactive, and just lets you recharge and reconnect? It's here, thanks to the ingenuity of entrepreneurs Garrett & Maggie Sullivan, and Camille Murphy of Murphy & Co.

The Sullivans have launched Play Café. Located at 439 Boston Post Road, it is a 4100 square foot interactive indoor play area for children ages 1 - 8+. The overall mission of Play Café is to give parents, grandparents, and caregivers a place to bring the kids to play - all in a safe, clean environment and where all can enjoy much needed "me time" as well as interaction with other adults and gourmet coffee and snacks. It's a place to recharge, relax and join in the fun.

The Sullivans have two young children of their own and found that there was something missing around the community when it came to indoor play. For example, for younger children bounce houses and inflatables may be too difficult and dangerous. The place is designed with the parent and child in mind. With experience in building businesses from the ground up, the Sullivans came up with a plan and set it in motion.

They've built the entire place from the ground up. And just in the midst of it all, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. "Timing wasn't perfect, let's be honest," explains Garrett. "Shooting for a mid-July open amid a pandemic hasn't been great. However, we've continued pushing through managing the renovation in smaller groups for safety." There will be sanitizing stations, temperature checks for clients at check in, and health questionnaires.

Visitors can expect a clean, safe and organized environment for their children and themselves. "With a clean design, melding rustic touches with modern influence,



an open layout, themed play areas, birthday room and coffee bar for adults, we are catering to everyone," notes Garrett. Look for monthly events such as author readings, magicians, critters, and more. Special days for parents and guardians will include chair massages, nail painting and crafts.

"We are so excited to finally open our doors after all of the hard work we have put into this for our community," says Sullivan. "Play Café will be entertaining for all, able to host birthday parties which this area has been missing for years and offer a unique approach to imagination, interaction, education and play. We can't wait to see you soon!"

### Play Café

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# Madison Board of Education Names New Superintendent

The Madison Board of Education appointed Dr. Craig Cooke as the new Superintendent of Schools at its regular Board of Education meeting on September 22, 2020. The appointment follows a rigorous four-month search.

Dr. Cooke has been an educational leader in Connecticut for 24 years. He has been Superintendent of the Windsor Public Schools since 2013 and Assistant Superintendent there since 2009. He previously served as the Human Resources Director of Enfield Public Schools.

“I am extremely honored and excited to be the next Superintendent for Madison Public Schools,” Dr. Cooke said. “I feel my background and experience have positioned me to join Madison, a school district with such rich traditions and history of success. I look forward to working with the Board of Education and the entire community to move our schools forward.”

The Madison Board of Education used community input to focus its search. The input informed the Board of the qualities, characteristics and experiences community stakeholders prioritized for the next superintendent. The input drove the recruitment and selection of candidates, the questions and performance tasks posed to the candidates, the referencing process and the final decision. The Board unanimously agreed Dr. Cooke is the right candidate for Madison.

As a community that highly values education, the Madison Board sought candidates who have proven success in promoting high levels of student achievement while providing a balanced and well-rounded education. Dr. Cooke provided convincing evidence that he has been able to meet that target by sharing a 2020 accountability report for his district, which posted impressive index gains on test metrics as well as other indicators of success. He places high value in recruiting and retaining excellent staff, developing them, and trusting them. Ultimately, he expects demonstrated results and sustainability. His approach to academic program review is not to dismantle

what’s working but rather to build upon that which is solid and successful.

Stakeholder input identified facilities upgrades and financial management as two priority challenges. Dr. Cooke holds a BS and a Masters of Business Administration and is highly regarded for his ethical, creative and strategic approach to financial challenges. The Superintendent-elect expressed both humility and excitement about the facilities challenges that lie ahead in Madison.

The Board responded in earnest to the stakeholder call for a Superintendent with outstanding personal qualities and interpersonal skills. The Board underscored the importance of relationships, communication and the ability to coalesce people around vision, goals and the resolution of issues. Dr. Cooke’s presence and references speak highly to his humility, intellect, integrity and genuineness. He was praised extensively by educators, parents, and community members for his ability to convene groups in search of common ground in planning and in problem solving.

The Madison Board has high confidence in Dr. Cooke’s readiness to transition to the District, even in these most challenging times. He is well versed in planning and adapting to the circumstances created by the ever-changing pandemic. His past equity work will be key in ensuring that all Madison students are prepared to live in a diverse world.

Dr. Cooke is highly respected by his peers. He is currently Vice-President of the Hartford Area Superintendents Association and was awarded the 2019 Superintendent of the Year Award by UCONN’s NEAG School of Education. He holds a PhD in Educational Administration from the University of Connecticut.

Craig Cooke lives in Old Saybrook with his wife, Kristen, and their three children. He will begin his duties as Superintendent on Dec. 7, 2020.



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# Madison Senior Center

29 Bradley Road, Madison, CT (203) 245-5627  
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## TAI CHI

Suzanne Hanley is offering Tai Chi via Zoom. T'ai Ch'uan is a gentle way to nourish body, mind, and spirit. The slow movements can improve health, vitality, balance, and concentration. All the things we need right now. If you would like to learn to use Zoom, try our Zoom 101 class or contact us, we can help! Minimum 6 students (5 classes). Tuesday, Nov. 10th - Dec. 8th at 10 am. Fee: MM\$32|NMM\$42

## MADISON SENIOR CENTER BOOK CLUB

The Madison Senior Center Book Club is adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic and is shifting in-person meetings to email reviews. If you are interested, call the Senior Center and we will

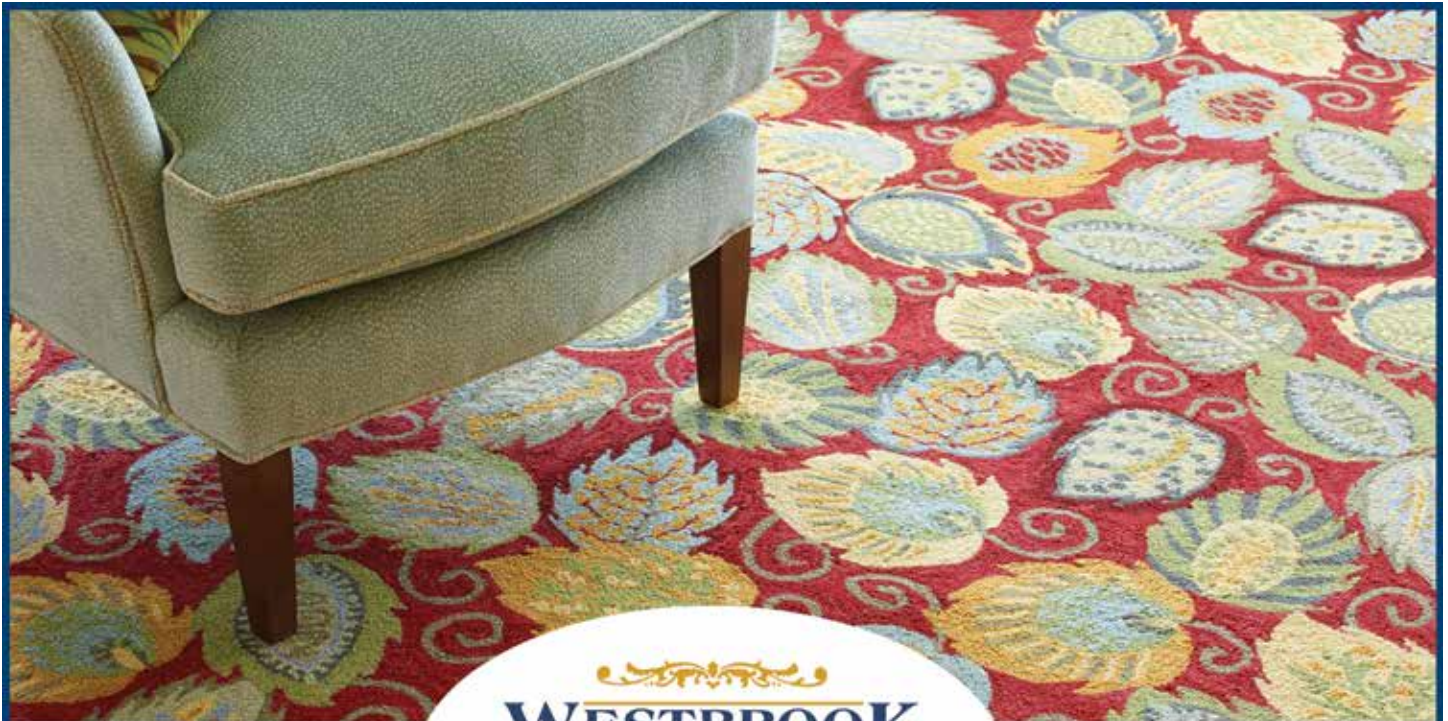
forward your contact information to Barbara Zekala, who is overseeing the Book Club. She will contact you with the details of how to participate. The upcoming books to discuss are: November 24: Captains and Kings • December 22: The Thorn Birds • January 26: A Town Called Alice • February 23: The Tuscan Child • March 23: The Henna Artist

## THE FOOD PANTRY

Madison Community Services operates a food pantry for those residents who need a little extra help and food support. The Food Pantry is located at 50 Mungertown Rd, Madison, CT and is open on Wednesdays from 11 am to 3 pm. Due to COVID-19, to use the pantry you must register for a time. This can be done at www.madisoncommunityservices.org/food-pantry/ or via phone at (203)245-3031. Proof of residency is required. For those unable to drive to the pantry, arrangements can be made for a delivery. Please contact Heather Noblin for more information.

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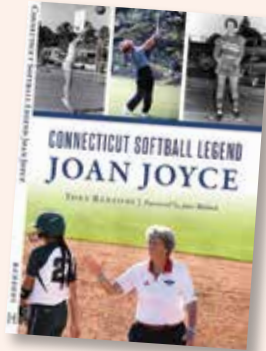
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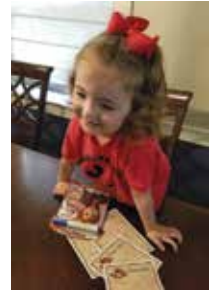


The book is available at Amazon  
and Barnes & Noble.

Signed copies can be found locally at:  
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“Goods and Curiosities” store (Essex),  
and Seaside Homes and Gifts (Branford).

## The Women’s Club of Madison

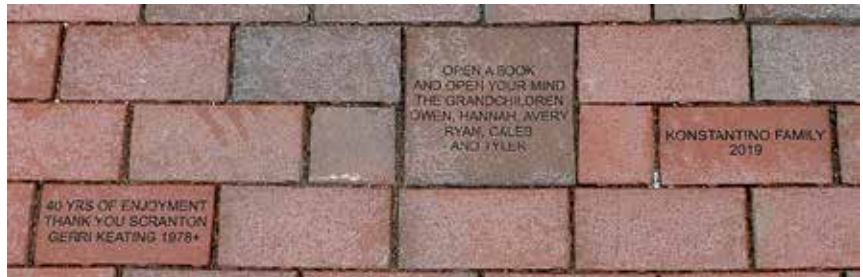
*We are helping the children of Madison get their letters to Santa.*  
Santa Claus is putting out his special red mailboxes on Friday,  
November 27 and they will be picked up on Saturday, December  
19, 2020. He wants to hear from the children of Madison and  
surrounding towns! Santa’s red mailboxes will be located at  
Robert’s Food Center in North Madison and Stop and Shop in  
the center of Madison.



Madelyn De Burra  
is getting ready to  
write her letter  
to Santa.

Please write Santa a letter and tell him what you would like  
him to pack in his sack for you this Christmas. After you have  
written your letter, put it in an envelope, along with a self-  
addressed stamped envelope. Mail your envelope in one of the  
red mailboxes at the Madison Stop and Shop or Robert’s Food Center. Santa needs  
the self-addressed stamped envelope in order for him and the elves to write back to  
you! The Women’s Club of Madison is honored to deliver the letters to Santa at the  
North Pole.

## Scranton Library Offers New Buy-A-Brick Opportunity



For those who were not able to take advantage of the Scranton Library’s original  
Buy-A-Brick campaign, which supported capital costs for the renovation,  
everyone can again BUY A BRICK TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY! This time  
around all funds will go towards defraying the library’s annual operating costs,  
which for FY 2020-21 amount to \$176,000.

Imagine: You can inscribe your own personal message on a brick to be placed  
on the outdoor patio at the library. Permanently visible, it will literally be “cast  
in stone” for all to see.

In addition to supporting the Scranton Library, bricks are a great way to honor  
someone, alive or in memoriam; or write a favorite theme or message of your  
own choosing. Bricks can also make great recognition gifts for birthdays,  
holidays, graduations, or special occasions.

Bricks are available for purchase in two different sizes: a 4”x 8” brick for \$200, or  
an 8”x 8” brick for \$300. Here’s a chance to be really creative!

You can pick up a brick order form inside the library, or go to [www.scrantonlibrary.org](http://www.scrantonlibrary.org) and click on “Make a donation” to download one. You will  
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## The "Taste" of Wine

What makes a wine takes all kinds of flavors although it could be made of one or two grapes? Simply put, it is your taste buds (pockets of cells that are on the sides, top and tip of your tongue), and mostly your olfactory sense (sense of smell). The receptors of smell are located in the region of the nasal cavity. All these receptors including temperature, taste and aroma, send messages to your brain which are crucial to our enjoyment of the wine. The sense of smell is so important, hence when you have a cold, things don't taste as good, or if you get a bad wine your nose usually detects it before you taste it.

The components of taste are: sweet, sour, salty and bitter; all the things you can also find in wine. Although perception is somewhat personal, it can be persuaded by the power of suggestion. Did you ever taste a wine and someone tasting with you says "Hey, I taste some black cherries in this wine?" Even though you didn't get that flavor at first, you then take another sip and declare "Yes I do too." Your taste can also be affected from what you have just eaten changing how you perceive the wine. Example; if you just finished eating something spicy this could overpower and affect some of the nuances and subtleties of that wine.

This is where pairing wine with food comes into play. Some wines hold up well to grilled meats which enhance the

flavors. Try a full rich cabernet sauvignon with a delicious juicy steak or a red from the southern Rhone area with grilled ribs. Another aspect of the difference in taste is the saltiness and minerality. Shellfish would go well with a Muscadet for an inexpensive wine and perhaps, for a more expensive wine, a French chablis (both having similar attributes).



Other factors that contribute to the different styles of wine are: where the grapes are grown (the types of soils), whether they are fermented in oak, stainless steel, or concrete, or if the wine is aged in oak. The process of fermentation will also determine the taste. For example using malolactic fermentation breaks down malic acid to softer lactic acid giving the wine a richer and slightly buttery taste. This just shows how the grapes can be manipulated to form different tasting profiles.

Even though each person has his or her own unique taste, so much goes into developing a wine that will be a favorite to many. Enjoy finding your own tantalizing favorite or favorites!

Cheers,  
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# Madison Arts Barn

## THE BARN IS EVOLVING TO THE NEW NORMAL...

There have been many changes in the world and at The Barn. We are adjusting to guidelines as they change to ensure everyone's safety while keeping up with the community's ever-changing needs. We have created detailed COVID policies and procedures that go above and beyond local/state guidelines and adjusted our programs and events to accommodate them.

When the schools announced hybrid and online learning models we created our structured study hall to help families with remote learners. Our study hall gives students a safe and quiet space to follow their school's online schedules while a proctor monitors their progress and keeps them on task. The Madison Foundation has generously given a donation to The Barn which has allowed



us to lower our rates and provide scholarships for families who are in need of financial assistance, helping us

keep our promise to never turn away a child due to financial ability.



Theater is a big part of The Barn and although an in-person live performance is not possible this year due to capacity limits and social distancing, the show must go on. Our fall production,

Mirror Mirror on the Wall, is a fractured fairytale about the classic tale of the magic mirror and the evil queen but with a particularly interesting twist that allows the characters to keep socially distanced. As for the final performance, the actors will be filmed on our stage and our creative production team will add special effects creating a whole new level of magic. Stay tuned for viewing details...

Another event born out of quarantine is The Barn's online



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monthly trivia nights. Either on their own or with their family, kids enjoy music while testing their knowledge of different subjects/ themes like Disney, Harry Potter, holiday movies, and more. Points are earned and can be used to exchange for fun items in our prize closet.

Finally, many of our workshops have been adapted to a hybrid format so that families who want to take extra precautions by staying at home can pick up a kit with all the supplies needed so they can participate online, and the students who may prefer an in-person experience may join us in person. November workshops include photography, crafts and lighting and special effect design.

To see what our current or future events are, go to [madisonartsbarn.org](http://madisonartsbarn.org). If you wish to contact us: [madisonartsbarn@gmail.com](mailto:madisonartsbarn@gmail.com) or 203-245-2689

## Beware of Scams.. 'Tis the Season

Scams keep popping up all the time. They've become more and more insidious – and easy to fall for. Please take a note of these.

### COVID-19 SCAM

Over the last few months, you have heard about contact tracing in regards to COVID-19. Contact tracing is a program that tracks the people who have been in close proximity to an infected person once that person has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The Contact Tracer then tracks down those people who are at risk of infection and explains that they may have been exposed. They work to help those people get tested and isolate for a set quarantine period to limit further exposure to the community. There is no fee for this program.

Recently, scammers have figured out that they can pose as contact tracers and call you to inform you of a fake exposure. The fake scammers will run through a series of questions in order to sound authentic. They then request a credit card or debit card number for the \$50 testing fee. This is the scam... do not give your personal information or any financial information. These scammers will clear out your accounts and send the money to untraceable accounts before you can cancel the card.

### IRS SCAM

This time of year, IRS scammers are looking to steal your money. Thousands receive letters, phone calls and emails indicating that they owe back taxes and will be penalized, both criminally and financially, if they do not pay the amount due immediately. The written correspondence appears legitimate with IRS letterhead formatting and personal information. The phone calls are equally convincing and very intimidating. The truth is, the IRS will not call, email or send a letter of that nature in a not certified fashion.

continued on page 14

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## Scams... continued from page 13

The IRS will want to know if you have received a letter and document the contact via certified return/receipt letter.

If you receive some type of correspondence from the IRS or a call from someone claiming to be the IRS, contact the IRS directly via the online listed number, not the number listed in the letter, email or phone call. Do not give out your personal information. If they are calling you, they will have it. Tell them you will call them back on the number listed for the IRS online or in the phone book. Often times, the caller will hang up as they have realized that you have been educated on the scam and will not be a willing victim at that point.

Taking the extra step to determine if the IRS contact is legitimate will save you, possibly thousands of dollars, down the road. The IRS website has a list of known common scams associated with their agency. What you should know, is that this scam list is evolving almost daily as

scammers out there seek to relieve you of your money in new ways. For more information go to IRS.gov or call the New Haven office at 203-492-8609.

### COMPUTER SCAMS

Have you received the call from "Microsoft" claiming something is wrong with your computer and they need access to it to fix the "bug". It's a scam. Microsoft will not call you to fix anything. The caller is attempting to gain access to your computer for one of two things. Either they are accessing your computer to take information from your hard drive or they are downloading a "keystroke virus" that will document your login and password information for banks, email, or other sites that contain personal financial information. They will use this information to steal your identity and wreak havoc on your credit.

### Have you ever heard of "click bait"?

The scammers are hoping you haven't and are fishing for victims with links they

send in emails or videos on social media. Click bait is something as simple as an article with an interesting title that you 'click' your computer mouse on to view. While you are viewing the link, the virus is spreading throughout your computer. The viruses vary. Some just steal your email contact lists or social media contact lists. Others access personal information and search for usernames and passwords for online banking, insurance and tax sites. Don't fall victim to this scam. If you don't know who sent the email, if the email looks suspicious from someone you do know or if the article or video is not from a trusted source, DON'T OPEN IT. Just delete it or skip over it on social media. Make sure your anti-virus software is up to date on your computer and if you think your computer may have been accessed, disconnect it from the internet and bring it to a computer expert to make sure it is not infected.

**Have you ever typed in the wrong website into your browser?** For instance, google.



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com instead of google.com. Hackers are counting on you to misspell websites and then will send you an alert that you have a virus on your computer. The alert looks official, like it was sent from Microsoft or Apple. However, the virus alert is false and the scammers are trying to get you to click on the link they provide or call the number they provide to get access to your computer. If you see this happen, close your browser and disconnect it from the internet. Clear your browser history, clear the cache and cookies. Reboot the computer and you should be fine. Again, make sure you have up to date virus protection on your computer.

There is no definitive way to protect from all viruses and scams but the most important tool for computer safety is educating yourself on the scams and viruses out there. These criminals are lurking out there and waiting for someone to fall into their trap. See the Federal Trade Commission's website for further information on scams and computer crimes: <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/> To report these types of crimes go to <http://www.ic3.gov> to make sure the complaints are tracked and investigated.

### SOCIAL SECURITY SCAM

Many people have reported receiving calls from the Social Security Administration scammers who are calling to advise that your social security number has been suspended. They also threaten legal action in some cases if you do not comply with their requests. The callers will initially present as legitimate but with a few questions, they will either hang up or begin to yell at you with various threats. As with most scam calls, the best prevention is to not answer unknown calls. If you are concerned that there has been a violation or breach of your social security number, make sure to contact the Social Security Administration directly at (866) 331-5281 and report the fraud to your local police as well as online @ [OIG.SSA.GOV](mailto:OIG.SSA.GOV).

### CAR WARRANTY SCAM

Anyone else tired of the 24/7 calls for you car warranty? They are scams... the more you answer the calls, the more they call you... even if you block it. These scammers actually sell your phone and contact info to other scammers the minute you answer. As with all the other phone scams, the best practice is to not answer unknown calls.

### PACKAGE THEFTS

As the holiday season approaches, be aware that Porch Pirates are out there looking to steal your delivered packages right from your front steps. These thieves drive around neighborhoods looking for packages or follow delivery trucks from place to place, waiting to whisk away your goods in broad daylight.

It is important to set up a safe drop location for your packages with your delivery drivers. If you don't have a regular driver, try to have a note placed somewhere the driver will see, to drop the packages in a safe location. You can also coordinate with neighbors to get your packages if you will not be home. Exterior cameras that have instant alerts to cell phones are very helpful in these cases. This technology has come down significantly in price in recent years to make home security more readily available and can help deter, prevent and solve these cases.

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## Madison Land Conservation Trust



Dr. Tracy Rittenhouse will speak about bears and bobcats in Connecticut at the Madison Land Trust virtual annual meeting.

**Thursday, November 5, 7:00 p.m. MLCT Virtual Annual Meeting, “Wildlife Out Your Window – Bears, Bobcats and more” with Dr. Tracy Rittenhouse**

Dr. Tracy Rittenhouse is an Associate Professor at UConn in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment and is the director of the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Center. Tracy and her students study where wild animals live, how they travel through habitats, and why some wildlife populations increase while others are extirpated or reduced to low abundance levels in forests that are intermixed with urban development. The COVID pandemic is causing people to stay safe at home, yet we live in exurban development and your neighborhood includes both people and animals. Dr. Rittenhouse will show you that bears, bobcats, and more live just outside your window.

The meeting link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6503343133>  
Visit [www.madisonlandtrust.org](http://www.madisonlandtrust.org) for more information.

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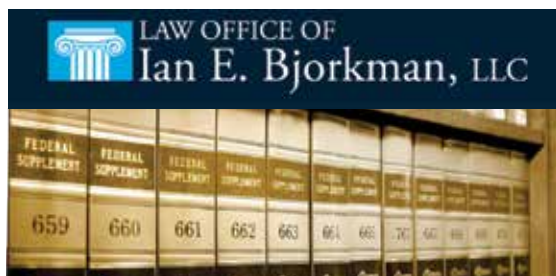


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# Fall Home Projects To Boost Your Comfort and Energy Efficiency

By: Enoch Lenge

Fall is a great time to tackle those home improvement projects that have been put off because of the summer heat. In addition to landscaping, gutter cleaning, power washing, and deck repair, here are some home improvement projects to add to your list to boost your comfort while helping save you money and energy this winter:

- Upgrade Your Lighting – Did you know that the average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting? Now that it's getting darker earlier and your lights are on longer, consider switching your current light bulbs with LEDs. According to Energy.gov, ENERGY STAR-certified residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.
- Insulate Doors and Windows – Air sealing, especially in an old, drafty house, can save homeowners more than 20% on their heating and cooling costs. Installing weatherstripping around your doors and windows is an easy and low-cost way to improve your home's energy efficiency and keep the cold winter wind at bay.
- Check Your Attic for Air Leaks – An unfinished, poorly insulated attic is another common area where homeowners experience significant heat loss. Adding insulation to the attic floor and sealing any air leaks can help stabilize the temperature inside your home, prevent ice dams, and save on energy costs.
- Maintain Your Heating and Cooling Systems – Be sure to add scheduling a preventative tune-up with your local



- HVAC company to your list to keep that system running efficiently and preserving air flow. A clean system that is free of dirt and debris will run more efficiently and preserve airflow.
- Install Programmable Thermostats – You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day from its typical setting. Programmable thermostats allow you to easily set your home's temperature in advance to avoid coming home to a freezing house. A smart thermostat takes that a step further by allowing you to set your temperature from your smart phone or tablet. Some even learn your habits and adjust accordingly – saving you even more.
- Window Replacement – While this may not be at the top of your list, replacing old windows, especially with high performance ones like triple-pane windows, can improve a home's energy efficiency and overall comfort.

Before researching various contractors or DIY-ing these improvements, take advantage of the limited time only, no-cost Home Energy Solutions<sup>sm</sup> program offered by Eversource. To get started, you can schedule an appointment with an Eversource-authorized energy expert to evaluate your home's energy efficiency needs. During in-person visits, energy experts, while following COVID-19 safety requirements, will also conduct important safety tests and install weatherization measures and energy-saving improvements, such as air sealing, LED lighting, and advanced power strips.

To help make these improvements more affordable, program participants can take advantage of 0% financing on approved energy-saving improvements, and up to 100% off of eligible insulation projects. Eversource has you covered with a wide range of energy-saving rebates and discounts, including a new triple-pane window rebate.

From now through December 31, Eversource is offering a \$100 rebate per window for each window replaced with an ENERGY STAR-certified triple-pane window.

Whether you're looking to improve the comfort of your home, save on your energy bill, or help save the environment, Eversource has several budget-friendly solutions to help you get started. To schedule your energy assessment, call 1-877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873), or visit Eversource.com to learn more about Eversource's residential offerings and additional ways to save.

**Enoch Lenge** is Eversource's energy efficiency spokesman and provides energy saving tips on the company's blog.

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Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

**HOLIDAY DECORATING** - Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant. Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect. Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged. Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

**HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING\*** - Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan. Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet. Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stove top. Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them. Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

\*Please remember to follow all applicable COVID-19 guidelines and mandates for gatherings.

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## Madison - Guilford Court

The Madison-Guilford Court is a division of the Connecticut Judicial Branch - a State Court that by law must have a facility provided by the municipalities comprising the districts it serves. Madison Memorial Town Hall became a logical seat of the consolidated court because it is a prominent, historic building in a relatively central location. The interior and exterior of the building convey the feelings of decorum that a court house deserves.

The Probate Court is the oldest court system in the United States, carved from the larger "General Courts" in the year 1698. When Guilford Probate District was established by the legislature in 1719, it included Madison and all the shoreline towns from Branford to the Connecticut River. Gradually, this large judicial district was pared down to serve individual towns as individual districts. Thus, the recent consolidation of courts reflects a return trend to larger districts.

### People's Courts

Probate courts are sometimes referred to as "People's Courts" because they serve people in so many sensitive matters- often during the most painful and vulnerable times in their lives. In particular, the Probate Court tends to serve minor



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children and elderly citizens, such as in proceedings for guardianships and conservatorships. However, the Probate Court also serves to protect all people, such as beneficiaries under wills, persons with disabilities of all kinds, and even unborn persons.

**Due Process**

The Constitution of Connecticut and the United States guarantees that “No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or happiness without the due process of law.” Due process is how the Probate Court honors and protects your Constitutional freedoms by providing:

- A fair hearing before an impartial tribunal
- Proper notice
- Opportunity to be heard
- Right to counsel (legal representation)

**Jurisdiction**

While the Probate Court is a limited statutory jurisdiction court with regard to powers and authority, it has a wide

jurisdiction over diverse matters, beginning with decedent’s estates, which was the Court’s original role. The word probate is a Latin derivative and means “to prove or make valid,” which is the first step of the Court when validating or “admitting” a will to probate. This process is proving that a last will and testament is genuine and distributing the property in it is called “probating”.

The Probate Court manages more than probate estates. Interestingly, only about 50-60% of the Court’s case load involves the settlement of the decedent’s estates. Other cases in the Court’s jurisdiction include:

- Conservatorships (for persons deemed to be incapable of managing their own affairs)
- Guardianships of minor children (removal/termination of parental rights)
- Guardianships of intellectually disabled adults

- Adoptions (step-parent/co-parent)
- Name changes
- Civil commitments (psychiatric/substance abuse)
- Custody of remains of deceased persons
- Trust accounts (testamentary trusts created under wills)
- Disputes over custodial property held for minor children
- Disputes over actions of persons acting under power of attorney
- Emancipation of minors
- Marriages/civil unions



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## Joan Joyce - Our Finest Athlete by Sigrid Kun

Many fondly remember going to Raybestos Memorial field in Stratford, CT. Amid chants of "Joanie, Joanie," the softball phenom mowed down the competition. Joan Joyce dominated women's fast pitch softball for decades - beginning her amateur career at age 13 with the Raybestos Brakettes. The Waterbury, CT native excelled at every sport she tried - a true competitor, a lifelong coach/mentor. Joyce combines an unbridled, remarkable talent with a matter of fact, humble personality. While she readily speaks about her success, there is no bragging.

Many consider her as "The Greatest Woman Athlete of All Time." Her jaw-dropping achievements/honors take pages to list, including 20 Hall of Fame inductions, Connecticut Athlete of the Year (selected by the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance), and a softball field renamed Joan Joyce Field (a part of Municipal Stadium in Waterbury).



Women's softball coach at Florida Atlantic University.

### A LIFETIME OF ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Joyce's softball career covered 1954-1963 and 1967-1975 with the Brakettes and 1964-1966 with the Orange Lionettes. The slingshot pitcher notched 150 no-hitters and 50 perfect games with a lifetime earned run average of 0.09. An outstanding hitter, her career batting average is .327. In 1974, her Brakettes were the first American team to win the World Championships.

She co-founded the International Women's Professional Softball Association, being the star player for

and part-owner of the Connecticut Falcons. The Falcons won every championship of the IWPSA's existence (1976-1979).

She is a four-time Women's Basketball Association All-American and three time AAU Basketball All-American. She played on the USA Women's National Team in 1964 and 1965, setting a national tournament basketball single-game scoring record (67 points) in 1964.

She formed the Connecticut Clippers volleyball team in 1968, and competed as a player/coach. She was named to the All-East United States Volleyball Association Regional Team. Taking up golf at age 35, she spent 19 years on the LPGA tour (1977-1995). She still holds the LPGA and PGA record of just 17 putts in one round of golf.

Now 80, Joyce is the women's softball coach at Florida Atlantic University. Starting the program from scratch in 1994, she has amassed 12 Conference Championships, participated in 11 NCCA Tournaments, and won 8 Coach-of-the Year Awards.

### THE SECRET TO SUCCESS?

"I don't know," she says. "The only thing I can say about me is that I am very competitive. . . . I will beat you at just about everything. If you beat me, I'd shake hands. But I'd say to myself, you are not going to beat me a second time."



Joan with her biggest fan - Dad (Joe Joyce).

Photo courtesy of Joan Joyce.

Her mother worked days. She, her father (above) and brother played sports all the time. "We would end up going to my father's softball games," she recalls. "We had no gloves. We'd run around everywhere while my father was playing. When they came in from the field, they'd put the gloves under the bench. We'd take them and start catching. When they went back in the field, they'd have to come and get the gloves back from us." When her father played basketball, she and her brother would wait for the halftime buzzer and then fly onto the court to play.

### SPECIAL MOMENTS - JOYCE SHARED A FEW



**Striking Out Ted Williams/Hank Aaron.** She calls striking out Ted Williams (left) and Hank Aaron her favorite moments. "It's the easiest thing I've ever done in my life," she relates. "They had no chance against a softball pitcher just because of the distance." She faced Williams as part

of fundraisers in 1961 and 1966; Aaron in 1978 in a West Hartford exhibition. There were no radar guns then. A doctorate study from USC determined her pitching speed to be the equivalent of 119 mph in baseball.

### Invited to China by the All-China Sports Federation (1979).

"It was the first team ever invited to China," she recalls of the Connecticut Falcons. "When we played our last game sixty thousand people came to the game. I was looking out and it was like a flood of people just coming and coming and coming. And I'm thinking, 'Oh, my God!'" The American team won all six games. In the final game, Joyce pitched a no-hitter to beat the Chinese all-star team.



### Softball World Championships (1974).

Joyce pitched a no hitter against Australia. "Only one walk. And we picked her off," notes Joyce. "It would have been a perfect game." She also stymied Japan, giving up only two hits. No team wore helmets then. Japan showed up wearing them. Was it to distract her or out of fear of her? "It didn't work," she laughs. "You did not want to get me focused or to get my attention. Stare at me? Give me looks? I would say to myself,

keep doing that 'cause you're never going to beat me. I just didn't like to lose."

Photo of Joan coaching (far left) courtesy of FAU Athletics.

Photo of Joan pitching (left) and photo of Joan with Ted Williams (above left) courtesy of Joan Chandler.



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