



Experience *Madison*

A P R I L - J U N E 2 0 2 5

Madison Chamber of Commerce
www.madisonct.com



Welcome to the spring edition of the Madison Chamber of Commerce digital magazine, Experience Madison! As the days grow longer and the shoreline comes alive, we're excited to share stories that highlight the heart of our community—our people, our businesses, and the experiences that make Madison such a special place to live, work, and explore.

In this issue, you'll find a full calendar of local events from April through June, exciting programs from Madison Parks & Rec, and features on beloved restaurants, standout small businesses, and impactful nonprofits. We're also shining a spotlight on recent Chamber celebrations and a recap from our 2025 Annual Awards Dinner.

Whether you're discovering a new favorite lunch spot or planning your weekends around town, we hope this issue inspires you to get out, support local, and enjoy all that Madison has to offer this season.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn".

Dawn Jackson

Executive Director

Madison Chamber of Commerce

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Madison Park & Rec Things To Do



Madison Beach and Recreation

Program information & registration

Call: 203-245-5623

Visit: 87 Surf Club Road, Madison

<https://www.madisonct.org/165/Beach-Recreation-Department>

Seasonal Sticker for Residents/Taxpayers

- Resident Adult Beach Parking Pass
 - \$40/1st car
 - \$20/2nd car
 - Age 64 and under
- Resident Senior Beach Parking Pass
 - \$10/car: Age 65 and up
 - (if you purchased a Senior pass last year, you will be grandfathered in to renew your pass at this rate).
- Resident Veteran Beach Parking Pass
 - (any age)
 - \$10/1st car
 - \$20/2nd car
- Resident Guest Day Beach Parking Pass
 - \$10/car
- Non-resident Daily Parking Pass*
 - \$20 per car
- Non-resident Seasonal Parking Pass* on sale beginning May 1, 2025 in person only.

Shoreline Pixels celebrates 10 years on the Shoreline

With Mother's Day and Father's Days approaching, we're offering a special on mini "Beach Photo Sessions", at a reduced price of \$200 (\$450 value). We'll pick a local seascape scene to create memories as Forever Keepsakes.

What's a "Mini Session" -It's an abbreviated version of a full photo session. Usually less than 30 mins each, and several client sessions consecutively. It allows the photographer to keep the costs to a minimum. Team up with a friend!

What do I get? - 3-4 Digital images (jpegs). I'll help you print and frame, if desired.



Shoreline Pixels
Digital Photography and Imaging Specialists

Interested?
Please contact us.

Peter Sikes
Peter@Shorelinepixels.com
203-671-7338

Madison Park & Rec Events & Activities



The following programs can be registered for through the town of Madison Beach & Recreation department:

Call: 203-245-5623

Visit: 87 Surf Club Road, Madison

<https://www.madisonct.org/165/Beach-Recreation-Department>

MADISON EXPLORERS VACATION CAMP, Ages 8 and up

Tuesday-Friday, April 15-18

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Discover the variety of ecosystems we have right here in Madison! Each day we'll meet at a different site for hiking and exploration. From the shoreline to the forests, we'll explore some of our Madison Land Trust trails and town preserves. Activities will include hiking, water studies, geocaching, and nature scavenger hunts.

\$150/\$160

BIRDING BY EAR AT BAUER PARK

Saturday, May 3

8:00-11:00 a.m.

Come listen and look for the beautiful birds of Bauer Park. We will walk several areas of the park in search of resident and migratory birds, with a focus on listening for their songs and calls. Our time will conclude with exploring how the Merlin app can help you identify bird sounds in your own yard. \$5/\$7

SEEDS GALORE FOR FAMILIES

Saturday, May 10

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Bauer Park is brimming with a variety of wonderful plants, and many are beginning to show their beauty this month. Learn how these plants started from seeds and some of the different kinds of seeds they produce.

The program includes a stroll around the Bauer gardens and meadows to enjoy the emerging spring flowers.

Recommended for ages 3 and up. \$5/\$7

FAMILY INSECT ADVENTURE

Saturday, June 7

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Insects and spiders can sometimes be scary pests, but there are quite a few that are actually helpful to plants, animals and people. Learn the differences between insects and spiders and explore why all these "creepy crawlers" are important. The program includes a "bug hunt" and insect craft for kids. Our adventure will begin in the Bauer classroom, but mostly take place outside. Recommended for ages 3 and up. \$5/\$7

y exploring a different Bauer habitat, such as the forest, the pond and the meadow. We will discover what makes these ecosystems unique while finding that many may share the same plants and animals. This is a drop-off program for Preschoolers, Ages 3-5. Children must be toilet-trained and Pre-Kindergarten.

\$114/\$124

Madison Park & Rec Events & Activities

GET READY FOR BLUEBIRDS!

Saturday, June 21

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Bluebirds start nesting in Madison in early spring. Learn about what these lovely songbirds need to raise a family, then 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. This is an outdoor program, so dress for the weather. All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain date is June 22. \$5/\$7

POND DIPPING FOR FAMILIES

Saturday, June 21

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what critters live in the pond at Bauer Park? Join us for some pond dipping with nets, and you'll have the chance to observe freshwater creatures up close. Please wear clothes and shoes/boots that you don't mind getting a little wet and muddy. Our adventure will begin in the Bauer classroom, but mostly take place outside. Recommended for ages 3 and up. \$5/\$7

MINI EXPLORERS CAMP: HABITAT SAFARIS

Monday-Thursday, June 30-July 3

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We will spend every day exploring a different Bauer habitat, such as the forest, the pond and the meadow. We will discover what makes these ecosystems unique while finding that many may share the same plants and animals. This is a drop-off program for Preschoolers, Ages 3-5. Children must be toilet-trained and Pre-Kindergarten. \$114/\$124

BAUER BUDDIES CAMP: HABITAT SAFARIS

Monday - Thursday, June 30-July 3

1:00-4:00 p.m.

We will spend every day exploring a different Bauer habitat, such as the forest, the pond and the meadow. We will discover what makes these ecosystems unique while finding that many may share the same plants and animals. This is a drop-off program for children who have completed kindergarten, Elementary Ages 5.5 - 7. \$114/\$124

Register for the above programs at www.madisonct.org/recreation or in the Beach & Recreation office at the Surf Club, [203-245-5623](tel:203-245-5623).

THE RACE IS HERE

Saturday, May 17 | 8:00 - 9:30 AM | The Madison Green

5K

Run or Walk & Kid's Fun Run



Lace Up for a Great Cause!

An event for students, families, and the whole community!

Join the Madison Chamber of Commerce for a fun, family-friendly event supporting Night in Hand — a safe and unforgettable graduation night celebration for the Daniel Hand High School Class of 2025.

Your participation helps make this special night possible!

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Madison/RunForGraduation>



Students 18 and under registering for the 5K use code **STUDENT** for \$5 off

Madison Events & Things To Do

History Happy Hour

Friday, April 25

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Our popular **History Happy Hour series resumes on Friday, April 25**, at 6 pm with an Earth Day theme. Conservation Commission Chair Heather Crawford will discuss how colonists arriving in New England came with seeds for many plants they considered vital for settling into a new land. She will detail what makes a plant invasive and which ones hark back to colonial days.

The suggested donation is \$15 (\$10 for MHS members). Reservations are required. Register online at www.madisonhistory.org/history-happy-hour or call (203) 245-4567 to make a reservation.

Madison Newcomers Club to Host 16th annual Touch A Truck

Sunday, April 27

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rev your engines and get ready to "brake" for a good cause! The Madison Newcomers Club is shifting into high gear with its **16th Annual Touch A Truck event at the Surf Club in Madison**. Bring the whole family for a wheelie fun day exploring big trucks—from fire engines to bulldozers—plus live music and delicious food from local trucks.

Spring Bird Walks at Hammonasset

Join Scott and Co. for a small group Wednesday Spring Migration Bird Walk at Hammonasset, one of Connecticut's premier birding "hot spots". Hammonasset Beach State Park here in Madison is widely regarded as one of the premier birding spots in CT, and springtime migration is a lot of fun. Approximately 240 species of birds occur there annually, as the park boasts diverse habitats such as marsh, open water, woodland, grassland and shoreline. **Wednesday Spring Bird Walks run April 30 – May 28, five dates.** No need to pre-register. **Meet Scott at 7:50am in the parking lot at the Audubon Shop**, 907 Boston Post Road in Madison. You will return around 10:30 AM. Cost is \$6 per person paid in cash before departing.

Shoreline Greenway Trail First Saturday Walk

Saturday, May 3

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Walk or roll the beautiful trails of Hammonasset Beach State Park skirting Long Island Sound to Meig's Point. If time permits, be sure to visit the Nature Center while there. The full distance round trip is about 4 miles but you can opt for a shorter outing if you prefer. Meet at 10:00AM in the Shoreline Greenway Trail parking lot off Route One just east of the park's main entrance. Questions: 203-318-9649

Garden Club of Madison Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

At the picturesque backdrop of the historic Deacon John Graves House gardens in Madison, has the antidote to your garden dilemmas. The sale boasts an exceptional variety of perennials, all lovingly grown by GCM members. The event is rain or shine. Whether you need a quantity of day lilies to fill a large sunny space, or some unusual ground cover to keep the weeds at bay, this is your one stop. Garden Club members, including Master Gardeners, will be on hand to advise you and share useful tips.

Madison Events & Things To Do

Madison Historical Society Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 20

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The Madison Historical Society is holding its annual meeting on May 20 from 5 to 7 pm in the Johnson Community Room at the E. C. Scranton Memorial Library. All are welcome to join us and enjoy refreshments. The meeting will start with a brief overview of MHS programs and finances, followed by the election of new trustees. Registration is encouraged. As our special guest for the evening, Scranton Library trustee Laura Downes will speak about the evolution of the library since 1900 and will highlight the special features of the building and its remarkable collection of artwork. As a member of the Library Expansion Building Committee, Laura was involved with the library's recent renovation and expansion, and she will share little-known stories of Madison's key community resource.

Grassy Strip Concert Series

Madison Beach Hotel

Thursday evenings June - August

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

The greatly anticipated concert series is back for the 2025 summer **season**! Free, live outdoor shows begin Thursday, June 26th. Free and open to the public, Summertime food and beverages will be available for sale. The lawn opens prior to 7 p.m. for seating. Guests are encourage to bring their own chairs and blankets to enjoy these free summer time concerts.

CT Open House Day at the Allis-Bushnell House

Saturday, June 14

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us at the Allis-Bushnell House museum for an open house from 11 am to 2 pm, at no charge. Docents are available to guide guests and explain the treasures you will find on the lower level of this historic home. As you explore, take a moment to browse our gift shop, where you'll find books, posters, local maple syrup, handmade gifts, in the gift shop you'll find books, posters, local maple syrup, handmade gifts, and more.

Madison Cultural Arts 4th of July concert

Saturday, July 5

7:00 p.m.

Celebrate at the 4th of July Concert on the Green in Madison. Come for an evening of music and community spirit. This year, we're celebrating "A Salute to the Boston Pops." Plus, enjoy an exciting opening act by the Lancraft Fife & Drum Corps at 6:30 p.m. *FREE & open to all—bring a chair and grab a spot! *VIP seating is available with a donation to help support MCA and the concert. *Your support keeps this beloved tradition alive. We welcome business sponsorships—a great way to connect with the community. Learn more at madisonculturalarts.org

It's more than just about the birds and the bees...

Pollinators need you. We need pollinators. Why? Because pollinators do lots of heavy lifting and are responsible for much of the food we eat, the flowers we grow and the health of our ecosystem. Here at NMCC we take pollinators and their pathways very seriously. Matter-of-fact, we have made pollinator plants and pollinator education the focus of our upcoming Goodness Grows Plant sale.

On Saturday, May 3rd the dedicated NMCC gardeners and friends will offer a wide range of locally sourced perennial plants, shrubs and herbs that can be used to create pollinator pathways. These corridors of green can be as small as a window box or curb strip or extend to backyard gardens and meadows.

If you are not sure what pollinator pathways are and how they fit into your landscape, our resident environmentalist, Heather Crawford, the Chair of the Madison Conservation Commission will be available to help answer your questions. Heather can give you the information you need to create, encourage and sustain a wildlife garden. Whether you want to start small or rethink your front yard we are committed to helping you take the important step of making your landscaping practices more beautiful, sustainable and healthier for everyone. Other members of our NMCC team of expert gardeners will be ready to help you select plants for your garden among the many perennial, shrubs and herbs for sale.

And... if you are looking for that nearly new garden pruner or perhaps a colorful, slightly loved garden pot or an extra hose, our Garden Tools/Goods tent is back! Our motto is reduce, reuse and recycle. Stop by and see what gently loved/refurbished garden treasure belongs in your shed or garden!

North Madison Congregational Church, the "Church at the Circle" is at 1271 Durham Road, Madison.
[Www.northmadisoncc.org/goodnessgrows](http://www.northmadisoncc.org/goodnessgrows)



madison
lyric
stage
Marc Deaton, Artistic Director

MAY 9-11



A MEMORY OF TRUTH?

BY MARC DEATON
MUSIC BY NATHANIEL BAKER



DEACON JOHN GRAVE HOUSE
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madison
lyric
stage
Marc Deaton, Artistic Director

June 13-22

We've Got Magic to Do!

Music of
Stephen Schwartz

Marc Deaton, Director
Nathaniel Baker, Musical Director

Deacon John Grave House
madisonlyricstage.org



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stage
Marc Deaton, Artistic Director

July 18-August 3

Peter Shaffer

Amadeus

Directed by Marc Deaton

Deacon John Grave House
madisonlyricstage.org



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Marc Deaton, Artistic Director

September 19-21

The Medium

By Gian Carlo Menotti



The Human Voice

By Francis Poulenc & Jean Cocteau

Marc Deaton, Director
Nathaniel Baker, Music Director

Deacon John Grave House
madisonlyricstage.org



SAVE THE DATE:

Annual Fireworks celebration

Madison Surf Club

Wednesday, July 2

9:30 PM

Independence Day Parade

Exchange Club of Madison

Downtown Madison

Thursday, July 4

10:00 AM

Beachcomber Night

Downtown Madison

Thursday, August 14

4:30 - 7:00 PM

4TH OF JULY CONCERT ON THE GREEN IN MADISON

PRESENTED BY MADISON CULTURAL ARTS

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2025 (Rain date Sunday, July 6, 2025)



A Salute to the Boston Pops

AN ALCOHOL-FREE EVENT
madisonculturalarts.org

Wallingford Symphony Orchestra Conducted by Philip Ventre at 7PM

Opening Act: Lancraft Fife & Drum Corps at 6PM



Garden Club of Madison Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17, 2025 🌿 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

**At the historic Deacon John Graves House gardens
581 Boston Post Rd, Madison**



Madison Park & Rec Events & Activities

**Come out and discover an exceptional variety of native perennials,
all lovingly grown by Garden Club members.**

**Whether you need day lilies to fill a large sunny space, or
ground cover to keep the weeds at bay, this is your stop.**

**Garden Club members, including Master Gardeners,
will be on hand to advise you and share useful gardening tips.**

Proceeds of the sale go to maintaining the numerous civic gardens that the Club tends in Madison, including East Wharf Seaside Garden, Deacon John Graves Perennial Gardens, DJG Wildflower Walk, Veterans' and 9/11 Memorial Gardens, the new Education Garden and orchards at Bauer Park, and adding to the 20,000 daffodils the Club has planted throughout the town of Madison.

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Camp Laurelwood

Beginning - 1931

From 1931 to 1936, and inspired by a Jewish camp in Massachusetts, Camp Laurelwood began as a day camp facility. But after 1936, the rapidly growing operation no longer fit its rented space along the Pine River in Northford, Connecticut. After an exhaustive survey to find a suitable permanent location, the current property in North Madison, Connecticut was purchased.

Camp Laurelwood started with no money in the bank; it had only the spirit, devoted service and will of self-sacrificing men and women, to provide deserving Jewish children from New Haven the benefits of a summer camp experience. A \$1,000 loan from the New Haven Jewish Community Center covered more than one-third of the \$2,850 purchase price for the North Madison property.



Tents were staked out to house the children, camp director and staff - one side of the road for girls and the other for boys. The first essential need was drinking water, which was obtained by driving a 200-foot deep well into the bedrock. The dining hall from the rented location in Northford was disassembled, transported to North Madison, and erected on a new foundation. Part of the building was used for a small office.

1950s - the "T" Pool

During the 1950s Camp Laurelwood looked to begin construction on a pool, regularly called the "T" pool. Given the board's fundraising success and the excitement of the greater Jewish community in New Haven for the pool project, Camp Laurelwood quickly raised the \$35,000 required to build both the pool and the adjoining shower house facilities.

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Community Spotlight (cont.)

However, swimming pools that large require thousands of gallons of water, which Camp Laurelwood did not have in abundance. Borrowing a page from an old dime-novel, Board President Milton Holiner hired a local “diviner” named Mrs. Chandler who used a forked tree branch found on Main Campus to locate additional ground water. After a few dry holes dug, she successfully located a spring with an abundant supply of water.

Thus, in the summer of 1960 - and with a fresh well pumping water - Camp Laurelwood opened its newest place to stay cool.



Late 20th century to today

Before the Chuppa was built, the Rec Hall was the official camp gathering place. And for many years, it was like a museum with Big “O” flags from years past hanging from its rafters.

The Rec Hall hosted Shabbat services, rainy day movies, camp socials, theatrical productions, and even served as a barbershop in the 1960s. During chilly summer evenings, counselors and staff often huddled in front of a roaring fire set in its massive fieldstone fireplace.

For over 80 years (88 in Summer 2025), Camp Laurelwood has operated as the premier overnight Jewish summer camp in Connecticut. At Laurelwood, from the moment a camper arrives, they are immersed in the decades long traditions that allow campers to feel a part of the Laurelwood family. This connection to Laurelwood lasts a lifetime, making Laurelwood a place you can always call home.

Stu Katz, Camp Historian

Thrive
Coffee

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Welcome to the following NEW Madison Chamber member businesses:

Art Matters Studio

www.artmattersstudio.com

Advanced Window Systems

www.advancedwindowsystems.com

Autumn Lake HealthCare at Madison

www.autumnlakemadison.com

Brian R Jones Studio, Shoreline Clay Club

www.brianrjones.com; www.shorelineclay.com

Bright Path

www.brightpathkids.com/us

Douglas S.M. Callis D.M.D.

callisfamilydentistry.com

Franco's Wines

<https://www.francoswines.com/>

Grand Apizza

<https://www.grandapizza.com/>

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Donahue's Madison Beach Grille

It may come as no surprise that three brothers raised together in an Irish Catholic household of 12 children learned valuable life lessons about family unity, hardcore work ethics and the importance of following a dream. These vital core values have become a part of the partners and co-owners of the popular Madison eatery, Donahue's Madison Beach Grille. The brothers Patrick, Chris (CD) and David Donahue represent just a slice of their family's Americana upbringing in Stamford, Connecticut. Patrick, the 7th son and 8th child of Al and Virginia Donahue, grew up with his 11 siblings on the Shippan Point peninsula in Stamford.



Showing early signs of entrepreneurship, Patrick first began working as a paperboy when he was very young, delivering papers to a local bar near his neighborhood. He became intrigued with the business and at 16 years old he started working in the kitchen there. By 18 he was bartending. He was hooked. He told his dad at the time that he wanted to continue in the business. His dad and told Patrick that he had better know his way around the kitchen. On the advice of his father Patrick applied to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in New York. Years later he married his wife, Debbie. Together, nine months later, as Debbie was pregnant with her son Rory, Patrick opened the first Rory's restaurant in Darien. He and his brothers would go on to open several spots in Fairfield county.

Chris, known as 'CD,' the ninth child in the Donahue clan, grew up as a musician playing in several bands. He played with such notables as Ronnie Spector at Madison Square Garden and the Chamber Brothers at Lincoln Center. He also was swept into the restaurant business working with his brothers at the first Rory's in Darien and then with brother Dave, he opened CD's café in Norwalk featuring great pub grub and nightly entertainment. That property sold five years later and CD and Dave said their sites on a new venture in Stamford. It was a beautiful 10,000 square-foot catering hall which they converted into "The Terrace Club." After a small renovation, the brothers hosted many famous acts at a 1,700 seat theater, such as the Rolling Stones, David Bowie, Little Feat, Dana Carvey, and many others.

Restaurant Feature (cont.)

David, the youngest son, came into the business out of Providence College, working Darien at the first Rory's and then opening CD café with brother Chris. He moved onto The Terrace Club and The Capitol Theater as well as Next Door Café and Rory's in Fairfield. All three brothers eventually met Madison to operate the restaurant they currently own. Growing up, their parents taught them all to love and respect each other. Their mother's wish was for them all to get along, take care of one another and be grateful for each other. Every day a holiday, every meal a banquet!

In 2008 Pat sold Rory's in Darien and The Terrace Club closed after 12 years so the brothers looked for a new place to open somewhere by the water. They scouted venues all over the shoreline from Rhode Island to New York. They were familiar with Madison, but knew it as a quiet town and had some reservations. Luckily, they made a great choice to stop one day while passing the old Vickie's bar which had a for sale sign in the window. Vickie's had been closed for nearly 10 years. Fortunately, they struck a deal and Donahue's Madison Beach Grille was born. The place took off immediately! It's all about the food. It's about the total experience from the moment people get out of their car to a clean parking lot to the good food and exceptionally friendly service. About four years after opening Donahue's, the Clam Shack next-door came up for sale and the brothers bought the business and then the property a few years later. The Clam Castle was sold in 2023.



The Donahue brothers are very grateful to the town of Madison. "The Madison community has welcomed us so warmly. It's very similar to how it felt where we grew up back in Shippan Point," smiles David. "It's a real neighborhood feel where everyone is smiling and friendly. We feel very much at home in Madison. "In turn, they have always given back by supporting various sports teams in town, joining the Chamber of Commerce and hosting many of their events at the restaurants. They have supported and run many fundraisers for the Police and Fire departments in the ambulance core, as well as Hand High School. "We support our local restaurants in our prodigy part of the Madison restaurant scene. Lenny & Joe's, Life Bowls, Cristy's, Madison Beach Hotel, Grand Apizza, Steamed, and Brother Mike's to name a few of our favorites," says Pat. The Donahue's enjoy what they do and are so thankful to the Madison community and all their loyal patrons.

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Chamber Businesses & Celebrations

Welcome to the following NEW Madison Chamber member businesses (cont.):

Guilford Insurance

www.guilfordins.com

Solstice Senior Living

www.solsticeseniorlivingguilford.com

Mary Kay

www.marykay.com/Ameliafox/en-US/

Soundview Wildlife Control

www.soundviewwildlifecontrol.com

Richard Ranciato and Associates

www.callrichnow.com

Travels Discovered, LLC

www.travelsdiscovered.com

Salon de Oasis

Member Celebrations



Property Girl Home Staging



Shoreline Clay Club



Walker Loden Celebrating 35 Years!

The Homestead

Tucked away at the end of a long, graceful driveway, far from the traffic on Boston Post Road, you will find The Homestead Bed and Breakfast. A local physician built the house in 1958 to use as his home and office. Throughout its history, the property has undergone various transformations before evolving into the luxurious bed and breakfast it is today.

The Guardiano family has maintained The Homestead for three generations, starting with Philomena Guardiano, who immigrated to the US from Naples, Italy at the age of twenty-one, with a just few dollars and only speaking Italian. Not long after her husband died at the age of forty-seven, Philomena realized she needed a new sense of purpose to keep her going and thanks to a chance encounter with a local shopkeeper, she found one.



The shopkeeper's elderly mother was residing at a local senior care facility, and he asked Philomena for assistance in looking after her. The long-term relationship that began with that encounter led Philomena to buy the senior care facility in 1988 when the owner needed to sell.

At sixty, running the entire home and caring for all its senior residents was quite an undertaking. She approached that challenge by leaning on traditions she grew up with in Italy to create a true feeling of hospitality, community, and respect for everyone.

Enter the second and third generations. In 1990, Ralph Guardiano returned to Madison from Boston to help establish what would eventually become a three-generation family business. The house was expanded to serve more seniors, and the Guardiano family worked together to provide a home-away-from-home environment for seniors.



Small Business Highlight (cont.)

In 2018, Philomena handed the reins over to her son Ralph Guardiano and his daughter Nikki. Ralph leveraged his skills and background in the hospitality industry, and together, he and Nikki transformed The Homestead from a senior living facility into an award-winning bed and breakfast inn.

The Homestead Bed and Breakfast now proudly welcomes guests from all over the world. It features twelve unique rooms, each with a private bath and superior amenities.



Guests enjoy a complimentary breakfast consisting of locally sourced quiches, pastries, fruit, and juices, and the tea and coffee options are endless – a consistently noted positive aspect in guest reviews.

Three EV charging stations are available on-site for guests to use, and, at the insistence of Heartman, the resident canine, The Homestead is dog-friendly, allowing dogs under 30 lbs. in specially designed pet-friendly rooms with private entrances.

The Homestead team takes pride in the local community, encouraging their guests to get out and experience all Madison and Guilford have to offer. Whether it's exploring by bike on one of the inn's complimentary bicycles, providing passes and equipment to enjoy a day at one of the area's amazing stretches of beach, helping with restaurant reservations, recommending a local farm or winery, or assistance planning a shopping excursion or outdoor adventure. Guests are welcomed in every season, and many return time and time again, saying The Homestead feels like home and they feel like part of the family.





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Serving the Shoreline Community for Over 30 Years

Leading with Heart: Celebrating Helen Bosch's Journey at Vista Life Innovations

As Helen prepares to retire as CEO of Vista Life Innovations (Vista), the entire Vista organization and the community that surrounds it reflect on her impact and life's work. Her retirement marks the end of a remarkable chapter—one filled with purpose and legacy—and the beginning of a new chapter rooted in the organization she so thoughtfully built.

Vista is a fully accredited, nationally recognized nonprofit that empowers individuals with disabilities to lead independent and fulfilling lives. Since 1989, Vista has served individuals with autism, brain injuries, learning disabilities, and other neurological conditions through a wide range of training and support services. At the core of Vista's mission is a deep commitment to helping individuals with disabilities achieve personal success and belonging. Programs like the Discover Program, a residential life skills college, and the Engage Program, a long-term support model for independent living, help participants navigate life with confidence.



Helen Bosch, CEO of Vista Life Innovations, shares a joyful moment with Discover students on campus.



Helen Bosch congratulates a student on a job well done. Her support has empowered countless students and members to pursue their goals with confidence.

Helen Bosch has been the pulse of Vista Life Innovations since 1991, when the organization was small and not yet developed. With 34 years of service, she has shaped the organization's mission and impact. Whether chairing the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services or mentoring future leaders at Vista, Helen's impact is felt across the organization and beyond. Under Helen's leadership, Vista grew from a small local program to a widely respected national model in disability services. Each milestone has not only elevated Vista's reputation, but more importantly, changed lives.

Key milestones include:

- Serving hundreds of individuals with disabilities and their families
- Creating relationships with over a hundred community-based companies, hiring Vista members, or providing them with training and volunteering opportunities
- Achieving full accreditation from the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES)

Key milestones continued:

- Launching programs like A Shared Stage Productions, Create or Connect Through Art supporting quality of life endeavors
- Expanding employment opportunities through social enterprise initiatives like the Creations gift shop and Ventures Business Services, both located in Madison
- Establishing Vista's Endowment Fund and creating fundraising efforts to secure a sustainable future

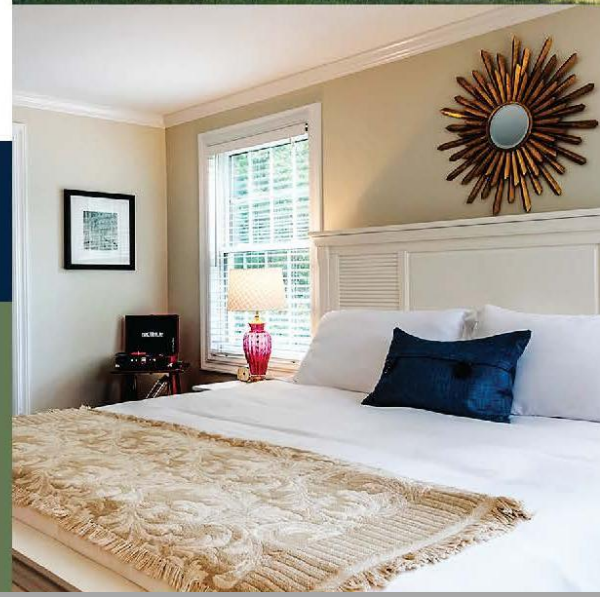
Helen Bosch's retirement is a culmination of an extraordinary career—one filled with innovation, hard work, and vision. As she steps into retirement, Helen shares that what she will miss most is the daily connection with the people who made the mission real—students, families, and the dedicated Vista team. "What is most important as I look upon my 34 years are all of the individuals that I have touched and who have touched me. Vista would not be Vista without the people that have created it, supported it and nurtured it. They are the lifeblood that will continue long after I retire to make an impact on individuals with disabilities and their families."



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2025 Madison Chamber Annual Awards Dinner

The Madison Chamber of Commerce proudly announced the installation of our 2025 Board of Directors and honored seven outstanding individuals, businesses and organizations at the 2025 Annual Awards Dinner. The event was held at the Woodwinds with over 180 Chamber members, friends and guests.



**Madison Citizen of the Year:
Fred Muzer**



**Madison Chamber of Commerce
2025 Board of Directors**



**Legacy Award:
Walker Loden 35 Years**



**Executive Director Award:
Madison Police Department**



**Legacy Award:
The Garden Club of Madison 100+ Years**

2025 Madison Chamber Annual Awards Dinner (cont.)



Business of the Year:
Madison Earth Care



Nonprofit of the Year:
Madison A Better Chance



New Member of the Year:
Body By Aja Fitness and Nutrition



Madison A Better Chance

Madison ABC is one of National A Better Chance's most successful and long standing Community Schools Programs, celebrating their 55th year, in 2025! Community Schools Programs provide Scholars with real-life experience of living and learning in a community with the benefit of an extensive support system and nurturing environment. Madison ABC's purpose is to educate, prepare, and support talented young men of color for college and to be successful leaders in society.

We do this by providing a challenging and nurturing high school experience, and by cultivating the interests and talents of our Scholars both in and out of the classroom.

The Madison ABC Program is committed to racial equity and encourages integrity, mutual respect, personal growth, and brotherhood for all who are associated with the program.



"I am eternally grateful for how ABC changed my life and I am extremely proud to have been part of the program. The memories of my experience at ABC lie deeply centered in my heart, I can never stop thanking you. Madison ABC not only offered me an opportunity to learn but also provide a secure, healthy, and productive environment, away from situations that you can only imagine. Once again, thank you all."

-Cesar Perez, Madison ABC Alumnus | DHHS

MADISON **Artisan & Antique** **Summer Festival**

The Madison Art, Artisan & Antique Summer Festival invites you to a day of creativity, craftsmanship and the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors on the charming Madison Town Green.

Saturday, May 24th
Madison Town Green

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Rain or Shine!)

