



# Experience *Madison*

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

Madison Chamber of Commerce  
[www.madisonct.com](http://www.madisonct.com)





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POINT**  
RESORT & MARINA



Dear Readers,

As the holiday season approaches, we are excited to share this special October-December edition of Experience Madison! Inside, you'll find stories that highlight the vibrancy of our local businesses, along with a variety of things to do and holiday events that will bring joy to the season. Our advertisers, all proud members of the Madison Chamber, are offering unique goods and services perfect for your gift-giving needs.

This issue also includes snapshots from recent Chamber events and community gatherings that took place over the summer. It's inspiring to see how our members continue to bring people together and strengthen our local community.

As we look ahead to the holiday season, we wish you and your loved ones a time filled with happiness and cheer. Don't forget to enjoy the delicious offerings from our local restaurants and support our wonderful small businesses while finding that perfect gift!

Wishing you all the best this holiday season!



Dawn Jackson  
Executive Director



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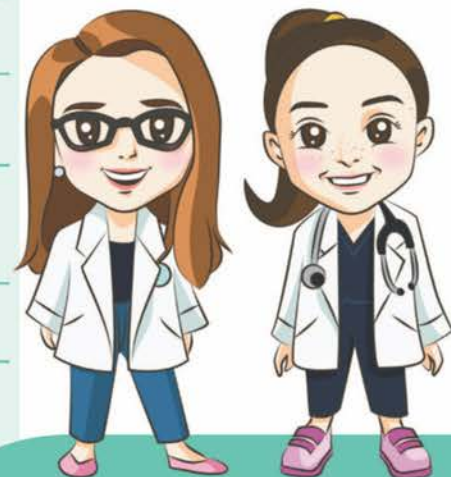
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Dr. CAREolyn Gross and Dr. JenniFUR Lansdowne

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*On the Cover:*

*The Homestead Inn  
391 Boston Post Road  
Madison, CT*

*[www.homesteadmadison.com](http://www.homesteadmadison.com)*

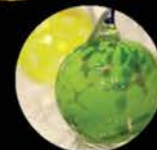
SHOP GUILFORD ART CENTER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**HOLIDAY  
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Guilford Art Center • 411 Church Street, Guilford • [www.guilfordartcenter.org](http://www.guilfordartcenter.org)



# *Experience The Homestead*

How can you encapsulate the feeling of coming home with the modern amenities of a quality inn? Ralph Guardiano has done just that with his family run bed and breakfast in The Homestead. The Homestead has been in operation by The Guardiano family for over 35 years and across three generations. The Inn was built in 1958 utilizing traditional New England Colonial Estate architecture. The Homestead was previously owned by Ralph's mom and operated as a luxury senior living facility. In 2018, Ralph and his daughter, Nikki, transformed the house into a B&B and have since enjoyed welcoming guests from all over the world.



This gem located on Boston Post Road, harkens to a simpler time. This is same road where colonist traveled between NY and Boston. As you pull into this traditional colonial inn, you can imagine travelers in years past checking into the very best inn the trip had to offer. The Homestead provides you with every convenience with a traditional flare. Each room has an ensuite baths for privacy. The B&B is filled with memorabilia from days past. To mix nostalgia and today's conveniences, each room is equipped with a record player with LP's in your room or additional selections available in the common room and of course a smartTV, wifi etc. Fresh muffins and coffee greet you in the morning and the staff is attentive without being intrusive.



A quick ride on one of The Homestead complimentary bicycles or minutes' walk gets you into downtown Madison. Madison itself is one of the best beach communities in Connecticut. Beach front, restaurants and shops are as charming as you'd expect from a Connecticut ocean front. The Homestead is uniquely situated, with the charm of traditional New England towns of Madison and Guilford just three miles west. As you expect, you can find fine and casual dining, shopping, roadside farmers markets and wineries to maximize your immersive experience. This remarkable B&B is a getaway for all seasons.

[www.homesteadmadison.com](http://www.homesteadmadison.com).



## Presidential Election November 5, 2024



### On Election Day polls will be open from 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM

District 1: Walter C. Polson Middle School

- All registered voters who live on the even numbered side of Green Hill Road and south.

District 2: Dr. Robert H. Brown Intermediate School

- All registered voters who live on the odd numbered side of Green Hill Road and north.

The Town Clerk's Office mailed Absentee Ballots for the Presidential Election on October 4, 2024, for applications received prior to that date. They will continue to mail ballots daily as applications are received.

Many campaigns and organizations send out applications for Absentee Ballots so you may receive duplicate applications. If you have completed one application, please disregard the others.

The drop box located outside the south entrance of Town Hall is open to receive applications and ballots. Absentee ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. You are not required to vote by Absentee Ballot and can choose to vote by early voting or at the polls.

## To keep your finances safe, keep your information private.

- Never share your Social Security number, PIN, account username, or password via phone, text, or email.
- If you receive a request for this information from someone representing your bank, contact your bank immediately as it is likely a scam.

### GSB clients are protected in many ways, such as:

- 1. Sophisticated, Layered Security:** Real-time security layers that monitor and detect suspicious activities.
- 2. Instant Alerts:** Immediate SMS or email notifications ensure you know of any potentially fraudulent activity.
- 3. Card Controls and Credit Score:** GSB debit cards include fraud prevention services, card controls and credit score monitoring.

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**GSB FRAUD PREVENTION**  
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# Madison Events & Things To Do : October/November

## Madison Youth & Family Services

### Fall Parent Workshop:

Join Nicole McDonough and MYFS for our Fall Parenting Workshop. **Stressors are on the rise** (social media concerns, school work stress, sports/activities commitments, EVERYTHING), and we've heard how much **parents want to stay close and connected with their kids**. In this workshop explore practical ways to stay connected and calm through the nonstop stressors of modern family life. **October 23rd from 7-8:30, for the FREE workshop**. Email [michaudl@madisonct.org](mailto:michaudl@madisonct.org) for registration.

### Youth Entrepreneurs Holiday Market:

Madison Advocates for Youth (M.A.Y.) are looking for Youth (2nd-12th grade) entrepreneurs to participate in our Youth Entrepreneurs Holiday Market on **November 7th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM to sell your crafts, products, or extra toys, Pokemon cards etc.** Space is limited so sign up quickly! Suggested donation to secure a table is \$5 and all proceeds go to MYFS' helping families with holiday gifts during December. Groups/teams/clubs are welcome to register for a table as a fundraiser! Contact Justin Zeigler at [zeiglerj@madisonct.org](mailto:zeiglerj@madisonct.org) for more information

### Man Challenge:

Calling all **dads, grandpas, uncles, and other male identified trusted adults!** This **NOVEMBER**, team up with the **male youth (6th-12th grade) you care about** for weekly challenges designed to help you **connect and grow your relationship**. Each weekly task takes just 30-60 minutes and can be done at your own pace and place. From cooking a meal together to playing a game, it's a fun and easy way to create a stronger bond. Complete all the challenges and earn a trophy—because who doesn't love a trophy? Don't miss out on this chance to strengthen your bond and have some fun along the way! To register **email Justin at [zeiglerj@madisonct.org](mailto:zeiglerj@madisonct.org)**

## Blue Candle of Hope

**Make a statement that children must be honored, loved and cherished, not neglected or abused.**



**During the holidays the Exchange Club encourages people to embrace children that have been abused or neglected by placing a candle with a blue bulb in the window of their home or business.**

**Blue bulbs may be obtained at the Club's Christmas tree sales on the Madison Green starting November 29.**

**Exchange Club of Madison [www.madisonexchange.org](http://www.madisonexchange.org)**



# Madison Events & Things To Do : October/November



## MADISON FALL SHREDDING EVENT

**Saturday**  
**OCTOBER 19th**  
**9:30 - 11:30 AM**  
**12 School Street**  
**Madison, CT**  
**[www.madisonct.com](http://www.madisonct.com)**

Thank you for your support:



**Shor Walton & Peter Scranton**

**Clear out your office, basement, attic and safely dispose of old tax forms, bank statements, bills, and any other confidential documents before the holidays!**

The Shredding Source will ensure your information stays secure. Not only will you be cleaning up, but you'll also be protecting yourself from identity theft and fraud.

- 1 standard box of papers to shred \$10.00
- 2 standard boxes of papers to shred \$20.00
- 3 standard boxes of papers to shred \$28.00
- 4 standard boxes of papers to shred \$37.00
- Shred 5 boxes get the 6th one free (6 total boxes)\$50.00

## THE MADISON CHAMBER IS LOOKING FOR YOU TO VOTE!

### SCARECROWS INVADE DOWNTOWN MADISON

Take a stroll along Boston Post Road in downtown Madison to **DISCOVER OVER 30 CREATIVE SCARECROWS** crafted by local businesses and organizations. While you're enjoying the festive displays, explore our local shops and **VOTE** for your favorite scarecrow along the way!

**Cast your vote online from October 15–30**  
**by scanning the QR code**  
**or visit at [www.madisonct.com](http://www.madisonct.com)**



Thank you for your support:





# Madison Events & Things To Do : October/November



Join Madison Beach and Recreation for some Halloween fun with a showing of "It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" followed by the movie "Hocus Pocus". Bring your lawn chairs and blankets (we recommend sitting in chairs as it gets damp and chilly on the ground) and dress for outdoor fall weather and don't forget to bring your movie snacks!

This free event will be held at **Bauer Park on Copse Road in Madison on October 25th from 5:30 - 9:00 PM.**

Registration is required through Park & Rec so the town can have an approximate count of attendees and your contact information to keep attendees posted on any weather cancellations. Call Carrie or James at Madison Park & Rec at 203-245-5623 with questions. Rain date is October 26th at 5:30 PM at Bauer Park.





# *Madison Senior Center Events*

**Questions and reservations please contact the Madison Senior Center:  
Ellie Gillespie at 203-245-5695 or email: [gillespiee@madisonct.org](mailto:gillespiee@madisonct.org)**

## **Medicare Open Enrollment: October 15th to December 7th**

Medicare health and drug plans can make changes to things like cost, coverage, and what providers and pharmacies are in their networks may change in 2025. The open enrollment period is when all people with Medicare can change their Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage for the following year to better meet their needs. Contact the Senior Center for an appointment with Heather Noblin, a Choices trained Medicare counsellor, and to find out what information you will need to bring.

## **Stonewall Speakers**

**Tuesday, October 15th, 1:00 - 2:00 PM FREE**

In celebration of LGBTQ History month the Stonewall Speakers, an all-volunteer speaker's bureau comprised of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, pansexual, queer people and their allies, come to speak at the Senior Center. This program is an opportunity to meet LGBT people and their allies to hear personal accounts of their lives and obtain informed answers to any questions you may have. Registration is required

## **History with Charlie Fischer**

**Monday, Oct. 21st & 28th, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, Fee: MM\$25 - NMM\$35**

The Civil War: The First Modern War. Mr. Fischer will tackle this subject in two sessions, the first on the "Technological Changes" and the second on the "Ideological Changes." Don't miss this wonderful speaker, teaching what he knows best!

## **JOY of Sketching**

**Wednesday, Nov. 6th-27th, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Materials Fee: \$30**

A class intended to be a joyful exercise towards self-expression and self-discovery, without any rules or preconceptions of artistic standards of excellence. Using only a pencil, paper and your imagination you will get started on your new personal journey. The class itself is free, but there is a \$30 materials fee, that covers sketch paper, pencils and Conté à Paris crayons. Deadline to register is Oct. 25th

## **Fall Prevention**

**Thursday, November 14th, 1:00 PM, Free**

It's important to be prepared in the event of a sudden fall or other life-impacting emergency that could threaten your health and your independence. Join Tyler Carmen, Support Specialist from Masonicare, as he guides you through solutions, tips and new technology that can help keep you independent longer.

## **Radio City Christmas Spectacular**

**Monday, Dec. 9th, Depart Madison Senior Center at 7:00 AM, Est. Return: 8:00 PM, Fee: \$199pp**

Kick up your heels this afternoon at Radio City Music Hall, where you'll have reserved orchestra seats to see the all-new Radio City Christmas Spectacular! Using Christmasvision and digital technology, the interior of Radio City will transform into a massive and magical canvas. See the world-famous Radio City Rockettes perform their classic Parade of Wooden Soldiers, New York Christmas, and the Living Nativity.



# Holiday Happenings

## **Holiday Cocktail Class**

Thurs November 20

## **Thanksgiving Grand Buffet**

Thurs November 28

## **Black Friday Concert ft Savage Dueling Pianos**

Fri November 29

## **Bonfire & Tree Lighting**

Sat November 30

## **Annual Repeal Day Party**

December 5

## **Gingerbread Cookie Decorating & Wine Night**

December 3, 10, 11, 17

## **Big Holiday Bash with Savage Dueling Pianos**

Thurs December 12

## **Cookies & Storytime with Mrs. Claus**

Sat December 14

## **Princess Holiday Tea**

Sun December 15

## **Santa Breakfast**

Sat December 14 & Sun December 15

**The Wharf Restaurant is open for the holidays. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.**

**Watch our Instagram Page for news on our Pop Up Holiday Bake Shop.**

**@MadisonBeachHotel**

**To learn more and purchase tickets to any of these events, visit [MadisonBeachHotelEvents.com](http://MadisonBeachHotelEvents.com)**



**Madison Beach**  
HOTEL

CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON





# HARVEST DINNER!

**Saturday, November 2, 2024**

**2 Seatings: 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm**

**Generous take out meal also available!**

Meals include fresh roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, locally grown turnip, green beans, cranberry sauce, pumpkin muffins, and fresh baked apple or pumpkin pie. All lovingly prepared by our church family. Wow!

**\$30 per person • \$30 take out**

**\$25 Seniors 65+ • \$15 Kids 12 & under**

***RESERVATIONS REQUIRED***

*Whole apple & pumpkin pies & secret-recipe salad dressing  
will also be available for sale.*

**North Madison Congregational Church (on the circle)**

**1271 Durham Road, Madison CT**

To view more information or make your reservation, visit

[www.northmadisoncc.org/harvestdinner](http://www.northmadisoncc.org/harvestdinner)

For assistance with ordering,

email [office@northmadisoncc.org](mailto:office@northmadisoncc.org) or call 203-421-3241





# Madison Events & Things To Do : October/November

**November 2, 2024 - Dine-In and Take-Out Options available at the North Madison Congregational Church Harvest Dinner** tradition that **dates back to the 1920s** or even earlier. Folks come from all over for the event to not only enjoy the meal but volunteer to help in its preparation. As Eileen McCann, Chair of the Harvest Dinner shared, "It is more than a fundraiser," she said. "It's a time for fun, fellowship and "all hands-on deck." All generations come together to peel apples, mash potatoes and turnips, assemble and bake the pies, serve on the wait staff wearing our signature red aprons, and the smiles on diners' faces is what it's all about.

Enjoy pumpkin muffins, roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, mashed turnips (grown by church members on their farm just a mile from the church), green beans, cranberry sauce, ending with home baked apple or pumpkin pie. Dine-in \$30.00 adults, \$25 Seniors (65+), \$15 children (12 and under); Take Out: \$30 per meal (all ages).

**Reservations and takeout orders are required and must be made by 12pm on November 1.**

**Simplify your reservations, takeout orders and pre-payment by ordering online:**

**<https://www.northmadisoncc.org/harvestdinner>**.

Or **email the church office**, [office@northmadisoncc.org](mailto:office@northmadisoncc.org) and **note on the subject line "Harvest Dinner"** or call 203-421-3241. Send payment of parties or orders of 4 or more in advance to: NMCC Harvest Dinner, 1271 Durham Road, Madison, CT 06443.



**TEA & TAROT**  
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MADISON CT 06443  
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*Gather Witches!*



# Madison Events & Things To Do : December

## Shop Small Saturday & Visit with Santa

*Saturday, November 30th, 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM*

*Join us for a festive tradition that kicks off the holiday season in downtown Madison when Santa arrives on a horse-drawn sleigh, escorted by the Madison Volunteer Fire Departments and the Madison Police Department. (Parade starts at 11:00, visit with Santa from 11:30 - 1:30)*



## Ladies Shopping Night Out

*Thursday, December 12th, 5:00 - 8:00 PM*

## Men's Shopping Night Out

*Thursday, December 19th, 5:00 - 8:00 PM*

*Meet up with friends and explore stores in Downtown Madison along Boston Post Road and Wall Street. Enjoy in-store holiday specials, drinks, and treats while taking care of everyone on your holiday shopping list!*



## Madison Annual Tree Lighting Event

**Friday, December 6, 2024 starting at 5:00 PM**

**In front of the Memorial Town Hall adjacent to the green. Enjoy music, hot cocoa from Troop 490, candle lighting, a visit from Santa and Olaf and more!!**





## *The Madison Food Hut: A Place of Community and Support*

Did you know Madison has its very own Food Hut? Since early 2020, under the compassionate guidance of Peter Loden and Carol Brennan, the team at Walker Loden brought to life the Madison CT Food Hut with one simple mission: to ensure no one in our community goes hungry. Open 24/7, this self-serve hut provides non-perishable food anonymously to anyone in need.

The Food Hut is always open, always free, and completely anonymous. Whether you're facing unexpected hardship or just need a little help this week, you're welcome to take what you need. And for those who can, it's a wonderful opportunity to give back, helping to ensure no one in our town goes without.



### **How can you help?**

1. Donate Food: Drop new, non-perishable food items directly into the cabinet located behind Walker Loden at 788 Boston Post Road.
2. Shop with Purpose: Take advantage of store sales or Buy One Get One offers and place those extra items into the Food Hut.
3. Monetary Donations: Even small amounts make a difference. Bring cash donations into Walker Loden, where the staff will purchase much-needed food supplies.

**"Take what you need, leave what you can!"**

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# Madison Events & Things To Do : December

## **Pancake Breakfast with Santa December 14, 8-10:30am.**

Pancakes taste better when someone else cooks and serves them to you! Join us at the North Madison Congregational Church for the Circle Nursery School Pancake Breakfast with Santa. This event, which has been going on for over 20 years, is open to the whole community and not just for families with young children.

Held upstairs in Fellowship Hall, the delicious breakfast of fluffy pancakes, maple syrup, sausages, orange juice, and coffee are just the beginning—whipped cream and chocolate chips are available to create a decadent delight. A small fee will be collected at the door, \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

Downstairs in a Circle Nursery classroom, Santa will be eagerly awaiting any children who want to share their Christmas wishes or pose for a picture—so be sure to bring your camera. This annual event has become a tradition for so many shoreline area families. What a wonderfully nostalgic way to get into the holiday spirit!

We look forward to seeing you on December 14th! For more information, please visit [www.northmadisoncc.org/cnsevent](http://www.northmadisoncc.org/cnsevent) or call Kathy at 203-421-0997. The "Church at the Circle", 1271 Durham Road in Madison.

NORTH MADISON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**29th Annual**

**Holiday Artisan Fair**

**SAT, DEC. 7**

**TH**



**35+ QUALITY ARTISANS**

**RAFFLE**

**OVER 2500**

**HOMEMADE COOKIES!**

**1271 Durham Road, Madison, CT 06443**

**NORTHMADISONCC.ORG**

*Karen's Cafe*

*Homemade  
Turkey Pot Pie  
and Soups*





Please Join Us For  
**CIRCLE NURSERY SCHOOL'S**  
ANNUAL

**PANCAKES**



*with Santa*



**Saturday, December 14th**  
**8:00–10:30 am**



*Take  
Photos  
with  
Santa!*

At the

**North Madison Congregational Church, 1271 Durham Rd, Madison**

Contact Kathy with any questions. 203-421-0997

**Pancakes, Sausage, Orange Juice, Coffee Adults \$8 Children \$5**

**Tickets Available at the Door**

Fire up your holiday spirit with cookies, handmade goods, a cozy lunch, and Christmas carols by stopping by the **29th annual Holiday Artisan Fair at North Madison Congregational Church on Saturday, December 7 from 9am-2pm.**

Over thirty-five artisan and craft vendors from all over Connecticut invite shoppers to peruse a wide variety of hand-made items, including wood crafts, pottery, glass, jewelry, Christmas decorations, soaps, knitted items, and tasty treats.

Cookies, cookies, cookies! The NMCC bakers create over 2,500 cookies each year and **experienced shoppers of the Cookie Walk know to come early for the largest selection!** Shoppers pick out the number of boxes they want filled, point out their choices of the clearly-labeled cookies to the 'cookie pickers' who fill their boxes."

When you are ready for a break from shopping, stop by Karen's Café, named in memory of Karen Gardener. Karen launched the turkey pot pie, sold by the slice or as whole pies, and the signature cranberry chutney served with the pie. Sit down and relax in the bistro or take your pies and soups home.



## *Discover the Guilford Art Center*

In the summer of 1957, a small group of artisans held an equally small but decidedly impressive craft show on the Guilford Green, planting a seed that grew into today's Guilford Art Center. These visionary artisans originally created the Guilford Handcraft Center, to support the community's interest and enthusiasm and to further support the endeavors of working artists. Now Guilford Art Center is a thriving hub of creative activity, featuring a school, shop, gallery, as well as the annual Craft Expo event on the Green.

GAC's school is the heart of the organization, annually serving over 2,000 students of all ages and abilities, and led by professional artist instructors. Students can try everything from ceramics, weaving, jewelry and metalwork, painting, and fiber arts to glass, photography, and sculpture. The blacksmith studio is one of the few forges in the area, open to beginners and experienced smiths.

In the summer the campus is filled with the Summer Youth program, which has grown in popularity over the past few years, now serving more than 300 students in 650 spots. Kids spend week-long sessions reaping the benefits of arts education, creating their own "masterpieces," and having a fun social experience.



The annual July Craft Expo on the Guilford Green continues the Center's founding event—2025 will be the 68th year of the show! It now features 175 contemporary artisans and makers from across the country, presenting high quality, inspirational examples of fine craft while also serving to support participating artists. As a major statewide tourist event, it also contributes to the economic viability of the town of Guilford.

GAC's gallery is the largest public exhibition space between New Haven and Old Lyme. It features a wide range of exhibitions, from juried national shows, exhibits featuring faculty and students, and events with local arts organizations such as the Guilford Art League.

The shop features contemporary handcrafted works by American artisans and serves as a go-to destination for gifts and treats. The annual Holiday Expo, this year from November 1 through January 5, expands the shop to include works by hundreds of artists. It's a gift shopping experience that also "does good" by supporting the artisans and the Center's educational programs.

Especially in the past few years, participation in Guilford Art Center's classes and event has been growing, indicating that visitors and students are thriving on the benefits of creating together, learning together, and sharing artistic experiences. GAC's creative energy and welcoming environment strives to honor its credo of "Creating Art and Community."



# Sally Stafford Esborn

## Business Development



Sally is a proud Madison Chamber member and the one to contact for your printing and digital needs. She will be your advocate and act as your liaison to the Mosaic Team to find unique solutions to every project. We at Mosaic look forward to speaking with you.



Scan to see our catalog

**MOSAIC** MARKETING & ADVERTISING

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# SUNMED™

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CLINTON

### ENJOY RELIEF WITH SUNMED CBD

Your CBD Store is a locally owned franchise of the largest brick and mortar CBD Store in the nation! We exclusively sell Award-Winning SUNMED products that are Third Party Lab tested for purity and quality, Certified USDA Organic and made in the USA. Our Supercritical CO2 Extraction process ensures the highest purity CBD products

available. High Quality CBD Products are widely known to provide relief for the following: Stress, Anxiety, Insomnia, Arthritis Pain, Sciatic Pain, Back Pain, MS, Fibromyalgia, Crohns's Disease, ADHD, Diabetic Nerve Pain, Muscle Aches, Seizures and more.

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# *Places of Worship Holiday Events*

**Temple Beth Tikvah**  
**196 Durham Road**  
**Madison, CT**

**Yom Kippur**

Friday, October 11th, Kol Nidrei, 8:00 PM

Saturday, October 12th

Yom Kippur Morning, 10:00 AM

Discussion Group (In person only), 2:00 PM

Yom Kippur Family Service (In person only), 2:30 PM

Mincha, Yizkor, Ne'ila, 4:00 PM

Break-the-Fast to follow Ne'ila (~ 6:30 PM)

**Sukkot - (In the Sukkah - in person only)**

Wednesday, October 16th

Pizza "in the hut" & Family Service, 5:00 PM

Adult Sukkot Service with hors d'oeuvres, 6:00 PM

**Simchat Torah**

Wednesday, October 23

Dinner, 5:15 PM

Simchat Torah Service (for all), 6:00 PM

All services will be at Temple Beth Tikvah and Streamed Live unless otherwise noted.

**Lutheran Church of Madison**  
**9 Britton Lane**  
**Madison, CT**

**Christmas Craft Fair**

Saturday, November 16th, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Decorations, Gifts, Baked Goods, German Butter Stollen, Scherenschnitte, Luncheon, Silent Auction, Handcrafted Items Made with Christian Love!

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service**

Wednesday, November 27th, 7:00 PM

Come and give thanks to the Lord for all of his blessings. Join us for this special service.

**Living Nativity**

Friday, December 13th, performances at 6:00 and at 7:00 PM

Featuring costumed performers; live animals, such as a donkey, sheep and a llama; with music by the LCM choir and a narration of the Biblical events surrounding the birth of Christ.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 PM

Please join us in celebrating the birth of Christ! Make plans to bring your family and friends to our Traditional Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve.



# Places of Worship Holiday Events

**First Congregational Church in Madison**  
26 Meeting House Lane  
Madison, CT

## **Christmas Caroling**

Sunday, December 15th, 6:30 PM

Join us in front of the church to sing classic carols and spread holiday cheer! Candles, songbooks and hot chocolate provided.

## **Longest Night Worship: An Advent Service of Healing and Hope**

Wednesday, December 18th, 7:00 PM

Gather with us near the Winter Solstice - the longest night of the year - to acknowledge the shadows and darkness in our lives and look forward together in hope for the coming light. This worship service is marked by song, silence, candlelight and prayer. We invite you to join us for a time of peace and centering in a busy season. All are welcome.

## **Christmas Pageant**

December 22nd, 10:00 AM

Come hear the Christmas story told by children and youth. All are welcome.

## **Christmas Eve Worship**

December 24th, 4:00 & 10:00 PM

Join us for celebratory worship of lessons, carols and candlelight

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The holiday season is often seen as a time of joy, but for many Madison families, it can also be a period of stress and financial strain. **Madison Youth and Family Services (MYFS) recognizes these challenges and is once again launching its annual “Blizzard of Giving” program to support families in need during this festive season.**

The “Blizzard of Giving” is a community-driven initiative designed to provide additional support to Madison families who may struggle to make ends meet during the holidays. Through the program, families can request assistance from the MYFS Community Support team, which provides gift cards to stores such as Walmart, Target, Stop & Shop, Nike, and Amazon to help cover holiday expenses. In addition to gift cards, MYFS transforms its lobby at 10 School Street into a Winter Wonderland, filled with toys and treats for young people. Families are invited to visit and pick out a few extra items to create more joyous holiday memories.

The success of this program depends entirely on the generosity of the Madison community, as the funds are not part of MYFS’s regular operating budget. Local residents, businesses, and organizations contribute through donations collected from schools, places of worship, and neighbors who understand the importance of supporting each other during the holiday season.

“We’re so grateful for the support we receive from the community each year,” says MYFS Assistant Director for Community Support Justin Zeigler. “Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference. It’s incredible to see how our town comes together to help families in need during the holidays.”



The **2024 “Blizzard of Giving” campaign is accepting donations of gift cards and financial contributions through December 13th.** Anyone interested in supporting the program can drop off donations at the MYFS office, located at 10 School Street, Madison. **For more information or to participate, please contact Justin Zeigler at [zeiglerj@madisonct.org](mailto:zeiglerj@madisonct.org) or Molly Fahey at [faheymo@madisonct.org](mailto:faheymo@madisonct.org), or call 203-245-5645.**

The **“Blizzard of Giving” is more than just a program; it’s a testament to the spirit of kindness and generosity that defines the Madison community.** By coming together, residents can help ensure that every family has a joyful and memorable holiday season filled with warmth, love, and support. Your contribution can make a world of difference for a family in need. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community and for helping to spread holiday cheer to those who need it most.





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## *Downtown Madison Business Feature: The Dressing Room*

Every time Christine Rinere turns into the parking lot of the 1892 Victorian home that now houses the Dressing Room Boutique, a wave of pride washes over her. Each piece of furniture, clothing, accessory and jewelry is carefully organized and displayed to create a unique shopping experience of the three-story historical home on 7 South Elm St., where Rinere sells a collection of women's clothing from sportswear and denim to formal gowns and bridal wear. The Dressing Room Boutique has been a staple in Wallingford for 15 years, dressing and encouraging customers to look and feel their best.

September marked the 15th Anniversary of The Dressing Room and it gave Christine a cause for reflection and an opportunity to share with her loyal customers a bit more insight into how much their support has meant to her and her family over the years.

"I was reflecting on the 15 years and where we started and where we are now and just how grateful I was to all these people that I've met that supported us along the way," she said. "I just felt like it was time to share my story with them, and the response was really so overwhelming, kind and wonderful." You can read her message on The Dressing Room's Facebook Page.



Rinere became a small business owner because her husband had been struggling with pretty severe mental illness and had attempted suicide. For the first time since their partnership, the future was very unknown and Christine felt very financially vulnerable and responsible for 3 children. Her oldest daughter had just been accepted at Choate Rosemary Hall and that is what initially introduced Rinere to Wallingford.

Rinere bought the Dressing Room Boutique, originally located at 3 North Main St., from its owners in 2009. Looking for a space to sell her athleisure clothing line with co-designer Elvis Alejandro, the available boutique for sale was the perfect opportunity to pursue. Both Ashley and Rinere's younger daughter, Lyndsay, started helping at the Dressing Room. Her original plan was to expand her clothing line, but over the years, the boutique took on a life of its own.

After 15 years The Dressing Room has dressed loyal customers from their Junior High dances right through Proms, Graduations and Weddings. "We've really taken families through just so many different special moments in life, and it's really special to be a part of that and to have that connection with people."

For as long as she could remember, Rinere's daughter Lyndsay said The Dressing Room was their home away from home and a major part of their family life. However, she appreciated the store even more after reading her father's book which detailed his mental health journey. It made her realize the store and community's significant role in helping their family.

(There's Coffee in the Fridge)

With support from Lyndsay, who became a permanent fixture in the company after graduating college seven years ago,





## The Dressing Room (cont.)

the pair opened a second location in Madison, their family's hometown, launched a full e-commerce business ([www.thedressingroomboutique.com](http://www.thedressingroomboutique.com)) and eventually moved the original Wallingford flagship location to the house where it now resides.



Now, Lyndsay Rinere is the franchise's formal wear stylist and co-owns it with her mom. She runs the online store and social media marketing, hosts weekly livestreamed sale events, and offers private styling and bridal appointments. She loves that she and the other Dressing Room staff can be a small part of a customer's milestone through fashion.

The Madison Store became known as their Girl Gang when Aquinnah jewelry designer Kelley Solomon, Lindsay Johnson of Lindsay J Beauty and News Anchor Ann Nyberg of Annie Mame boutique all joined forces. These women have all curated spaces inside the Madison boutique to offer an expanded experience of shopping not found anywhere else. You can have your hair and makeup done, design a custom piece of jewelry, pick up a gift and be styled for any of life's occasions all under one roof!

As both Christine and Lyndsay reflect on all that the past fifteen years have given their family, they are appreciative of each person they have met along the way, the community they have created and all that the future holds for them. "It's always just been about the community and building women up because that's what my mom did for herself", Lyndsay Rinere said. "That's how she started everything, and that's what we aim to do every day with the people that walk through our doors."



Madison Emergency Medical Services will be accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages. Help make this holiday season merry & bright for the young girls & boys in our community.

### **DROP OFF LOCATION:**

Madison Ambulance, 9 Old Rte 79 Madison.

**Last day for donations: Friday, December 13, 2024**

For more information, please call Sherry White @203-245-9821 or [sherry.white@madisonctems.org](mailto:sherry.white@madisonctems.org).



## *Home & Design: Tidewater Lighting*

Tidewater Lighting & Design opened its doors in May of 2021 in Madison. The vision of Carla Snowdon, Owner and Certified Lighting Consultant, had for her showroom was to offer a curated small selection of table and floor lamps and light fixtures. After all, we were in the tail end of the Covid epidemic, and homeowners were feeling the comforts of home still, not willing to go out to eat, shop or even work outside the home. Carla saw this as an opportunity to offer products that allow homeowners to improve upon their existing home décor and lighting by offering better lighting solutions. So, it began, Tidewater started with 1700 square feet of rented space behind the Wine Thief on Wall St. A showroom with solutions for all your lighting needs. When her landlord came to her six months after opening asking if she would like to expand by taking the space next door, it was an easy yes. The CT shoreline had the need for a showroom that sells lighting and lamps, shades and home accents. As Carla quickly learned customers such as builders, designers, architects and electricians stated they did not have a source to send their clients to when in need of lighting. Therefore 6 months later after her initial opening, a 3200 sq ft showroom was formed. A lot of hard work, determination and a knowledgeable staff have made the success of Tidewater. Now it has been almost 3 ½ years since Tidewater Lighting & Design established itself in Madison. As business grew so did the need to expand to cater to other shoreline towns stretching to Mystic and Stonington. Carla, as a smart business owner and recognizing what the shoreline needs, she realized another location needed to open. In August of this year Tidewater Lighting & Design opened a second location in Old Saybrook. A bold move but an important one.

Tidewater Lighting & Design is woman owned, and staffed by woman professionals that care to make sure you are selecting the proper light fixture or lamp. Carla's philosophy is to make sure customers are educated first on what is the right size, finish, style, wattage and price point for their need and then selling is second. Carla states that is what sets us apart from competition and home centers. Taking the time to care and hear what the needs are for anyone that walks through our doors. Hand holding customers and not pressuring them into decisions is the proper way to succeed.



Tidewater is an award winning showroom. For two consecutive years they won Showroom of the Year from the Furniture, Lighting & Décor magazine. Tidewater Lighting is also a HOBI award winner with the CT Home Builders and Remodeling Association. Along with their awards there have been several nominations and runner up placements as in Best of CT and Best of the Shoreline.

Tidewater is a retail showroom but is open to the trade as well. Displays are carefully selected by Carla to assure you see the latest designs and finishes. An eye for detail, understanding their customer base, and years of being in the business to know quality lighting has helped Carla build the name. Carla and her employees love what they do and that is a must to be successful, without your heart into your business, you will never succeed. Visit their website [www.tidewaterlgt.com](http://www.tidewaterlgt.com)





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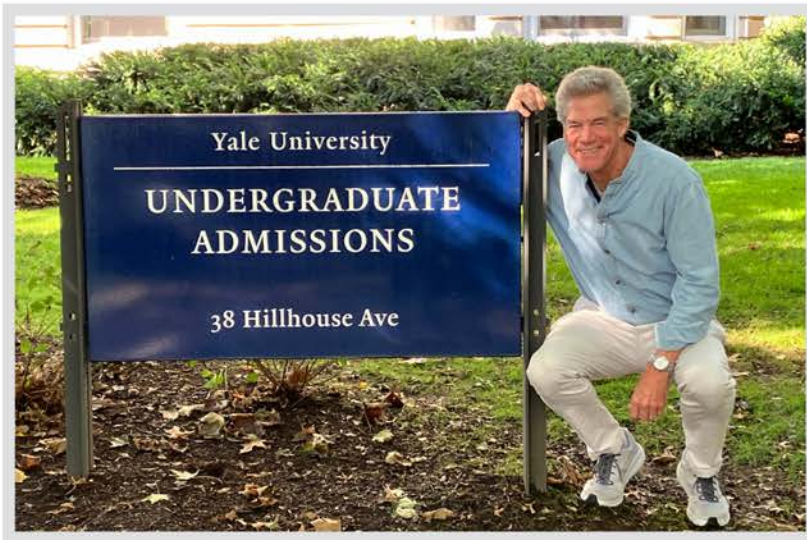


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Chris Teare is a Certified Educational Planner and has been a college counselor more than 40 years ago and like the guy on the Farmers' Insurance ads he has **"seen a thing or two."** Many things about the college admissions process have changed, but some absolutely essential aspects have not. Some thoughts on how to sort through the noise to find the signals to guide a search:

First, try not to let the media make you anxious. Having been trained as a journalist, worked as a television anchorman, written a weekly newspaper column and hosted a radio show on the college process, Chris urges readers, viewers and listeners to understand that "names make news." Editors have reporters constantly—as in the film classic *Casablanca*—"rounding up the usual suspects." Headlines incessantly use "elite" and concern themselves again and again with what are now the "Ivy Plus" places: the 8 Ivies, Chicago, Duke, MIT and Stanford. Sure, they're great universities, and their admit rates are low, but they are simply not right for everyone. A student's self-knowledge, not a publication's headlines, is crucial in navigating this process. In ancient Greece, visitors to the oracle at Delphi had no idea how to interpret what they heard unless they first understood the inscription over the cave: **"Know Thyself." What works best for YOU?**



Second, don't just consume whatever colleges say about themselves. Do your own research, ideally by visiting campuses. Last month Chris toured five in Texas: the powerhouse public flagship, the University of Texas at Austin; the superb medium-sized university Rice; the archrival neighbors SMU of Dallas and TCU of Fort Worth; and the national liberal arts college Trinity University, which has made an enormous leap in the new national rankings. Each has fabulous attributes that are just right for certain students—yet perhaps wrong for others. One aspect to consider is size: With 38,000

undergraduates, UT Austin is huge; with 2,500, Trinity offers much more personal attention. Different students need different scales of school. The academic programs, settings, and personalities of the campuses also differ. I was told that a difference between TCU and SMU is that female football fans wear cowboy boots to games in Ft. Worth, while those of the same gender wear high heels in Dallas. Who knew?

Third, pay attention to shifts in policy: On another trip Chris was back at Bowdoin in Maine: another great liberal arts college, the first in the nation to go test-optional, in 1969. It will never go back to requiring testing, which Yale has recently decided to do, though with some flexibility: students can submit the SAT, ACT, all of their AP scores, or all of their IB scores. Most of the public universities in the Southeast require testing; by contrast, the University of California system won't read testing if you send it. A student's transcript of courses and grades (challenge yourself and excel to the best of your ability) will always be the first criterion of selection; testing may or may not matter, and that may change from one year to the next. Know each college's policy.



Fourth, outside the classroom, identify things that you would do if no one were paying attention. Do them for their intrinsic value, as well as you can, and they will add up to a resume worth sharing on your applications. Do not ask “How will this look to a college?” Ask “Do I really love doing this?” Or, perhaps as in caring for an elderly relative or younger siblings, or making money to help your family: “Do I simply need to do this?” Then stick with it and do it to the very best of your ability. Colleges seek authenticity and commitment as well as accomplishment. You don’t have to do everything; you need to do the things you choose to do as well as you can throughout high school, in order to demonstrate what types of contributions you will make to a residential community.

Finally (for now), don’t obsess over any particular college. Start with developing your self-knowledge and do your research to come up with a list of places that have the size, location, personality, program, and price tag that make sense for you and your family. Then use data to consider the probability of your acceptance. Say you decide small liberal arts colleges are right for you. Some are harder to get into than others. Here in New England, Amherst and Williams are tougher shots than Connecticut College and Trinity College. Say you want flagship public universities in the Midwest. Michigan is super selective, Wisconsin a bit less so, Ohio State and Indiana more accessible.



If you work this process properly, you will find places that are right for you, and some that will love you in return. Good luck with your search. “Be in touch if I can help.” To learn more, check his website: [www.christeare.com](http://www.christeare.com)

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# Meet Attorney Bradford Sullivan

**Attorney Bradford J. Sullivan** is a long-time member of the shoreline legal community. He has been practicing law on the shoreline for more than twenty years. Brad graduated in 2001 from the Quinnipiac University School of Law and is licensed to practice in Connecticut and New York. He has owned his law practice since 2007 and has been a solo practitioner since 2019. Being an attorney was not Brad's first career choice. "After graduating from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, which I attended with the assistance of the GI Bill, I began a career in sales and marketing. I have sold calling cards, Rainbow vacuum cleaners, long distance service, network services, Medicare gap insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, and specialty courier services. I am a people-person."

Brad attended law school primarily because his wife, Peggy Sullivan, AIA, hated the hours of an insurance sales representative. "I used to work late afternoons into the evenings six days of every week. You had to meet people where they lived: in their kitchens and living rooms. It was a grind, but I learned a lot about communicating with people." Peggy is the one who registered Brad to take the law school entrance examination while the couple was living in New York. Brad ultimately decided to attend Quinnipiac Law School because of the tuition scholarship he received. The couple relocated to Connecticut and purchased a home in Clinton, where they raised a daughter and a son, both Morgan School graduates and Yankees fans. "I am originally from Lakeville, Massachusetts. If you had told me in 1987 that I would meet Peggy, a New Yorker, settle in Connecticut, be an attorney, and raise two Connecticut Yankees, I would have laughed in your face!" That is exactly what happened.

Brad practiced law in Clinton for years on East Main Street. "I am primarily a trial attorney. I have a diverse practice representing clients with personal injury, criminal defense/DUI, construction/home improvement, and alternative dispute resolution matters. If I cannot handle your matter, I will find someone who can." Brad eventually relocated his law practice from Clinton to Madison in 2019 following the dissolution of his prior, long-term partnership in Clinton. "I had this large office in Clinton that was simply too much space for my needs. My colleague, Attorney Lynn Pinder, suggested we share expenses for our separate solo practices, and I agreed. Recently, I moved my office to 752 Boston Post Road behind Coldwell Banker. I have a long-term lease and look forward to serving Madison and the surrounding communities for many, many years."



Brad and Peggy Sullivan



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To learn more about Attorney Sullivan's practice, visit [www.BJSullivan.com](http://www.BJSullivan.com), or call the office to schedule an appointment.



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