

MADISON NEIGHBORS

MARCH 2021



Meet Dani, Cindy
& Family

Photo by
Karen Alquist
Photography



Best Version Media

Spring and New Beginnings

By Michael Perry

March is one of my favorite months of the year. Growing up it was always special because my brother's birthday is March 11th and that was our first family celebration after Christmas every year.

March has other important dates and this year we will begin Daylight Savings time on March 14th. And isn't it fitting that just as the world around us is "springing" to life, we all turn green on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. And only 3 days later, it's official with the first day of Spring on March 20th.

For me Spring really starts about 40 days earlier. It isn't a holiday and it's a different day every year. Spring starts on February 15 this year, when the Yankees open Spring Training Camp for Pitchers and Catchers. More often than not, I'm surprised when I hear the news. It's not something I really think about, and that makes the surprise that much more fun. When I know teams are getting ready to play baseball, that means winter is ending and before you know it, we will be in the heat of summer watching ballgames... at least let's hope so this year.

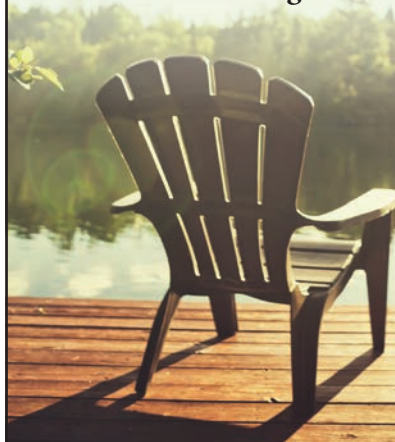
Spring and new beginnings, that's exactly what we need. And that's what I'm looking forward to.



Protect Your Family in Their Moment of Need

Protect Your Family in Their Moment of Need. You cared for and protected your family during life's biggest events. Now help them when you're no longer there. Sit down with a Funeral Director to help plan ahead, alleviate even more hardship for your family. By prepaying, you lock in today's prices to protect against future financial burdens. Your funds are protected when you prepay for Funeral or Cremation services in a third party escrow account.

Call to Arrange a FREE Consultation



*Serving Shoreline Families
for Over 100 Years*



Swan Funeral Home

825 Boston Post Road Madison, CT 06443

203-245-2488 • Swanfuneralhomemadison.com



We are the Coastal Home Experts



Do you have problems with a large Deductable or Sky-Rocketing Premiums?

We have several high quality providers that want to insure your waterfront home. We can customize a plan to meet your needs.

Call us we specialize in Coastal Properties.



Call Mike Cuoco now!

860-669-9288

16 West Main St., Clinton

www.clintoninsurance.com

PUBLICATION TEAM



PUBLISHER:
Michael Perry

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Lisa Lelas

DESIGNER: Robynn Schopf

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER:

Karen Alquist Photography

CONTENT ASSISTANT:

Lexy Lelas

ADVERTISING

Contact Michael Perry

Phone: (203) 984-9704

Email: mperry@bestversionmedia.com

FEEDBACK/IDEAS/SUBMISSIONS:

Have feedback, ideas, or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! "Deadlines for submissions are the 28th of each month, two months prior to issue date, except for November and December issues which are the 24th of the month, two months prior. (ie: July 28 for September issue)". Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas, and photos to: Lisa Lelas
Lisa.Lelas@bestversionmedia.com

Any content, resident submissions, guest columns, advertisements and editorials are not necessarily endorsed by or represent the views of Best Version Media (BVM) or any municipality, homeowners associations, businesses or organizations that this publication serves. BVM is not responsible for the reliability, suitability or timeliness of any content submitted. All content submitted is done so at the sole discretion of the submitting party. © 2021 Best Version Media. All rights reserved.

Dear Madison Residents,

Welcome to the lucky month of green! The luck of the Irish spills over onto everyone this month, no matter your ancestry...or at least that's what we would all like to believe! As the beautiful spring season begins we can look forward to nature's greenery popping up all around us.

This month we introduce you to Cindy Ringer, Danielle (Dani) Butsch and their beautiful daughters, Aurelia and Blythe. Dani grew up in nearby Niantic, but after living in New York and Boston while starting their family, they are happy to be back on the CT shoreline, close to family. Cindy, a well-known local photographer is enjoying her new home in Connecticut, after spending her childhood in the Midwest. Read this month's cover story to see how this 'two-mom' family keeps balance with raising kids, working in passion-fueled careers and giving back to the community.

What's YOUR back-story? How did you come to call Madison your home? Would you like your family to be featured in an upcoming cover story? Email me at the address below and maybe you'll see your family take center stage next.

Read on for more local stories, informative articles and all the events happening this month right here in town. As always, we encourage you to support our sponsors and always shot local!

Happy Spring,

Lisa

Lisa Lelas

Content Coordinator

(203) 533-7941

Lisa.Lelas@bestversionmedia.com



EXPERT CONTRIBUTORS



Atty. Michael Sweeney, Sweeney Law Firm, is an estate planning/business planning and probate lawyer who has been helping families buy, sell, manage and pass on their family wealth for 20 years. He does so with planning to avoid conflict and keep his clients out of court whenever possible. Plans are bound to change; having one is the first step. www.Sweeney-Law.com



Justin McLaughlin, Insurance - Justin is the principal and owner of McLaughlin Associates. A family run insurance agency that has been serving Madison and other shoreline communities for over 35 years. McLaughlin Associates specialize in coastal properties and businesses. For a free comprehensive consultation go to www.mclaassociates.com



Marci Martindale, The Children's Tree Montessori School - Marci founded The Children's Tree Montessori School (CTMS) over 20 years ago. The independent school serves toddler through 6th grade. Marci holds Montessori Teaching certificates for 3-12 year olds. She is a certified facilitator of Positive Discipline Workshops for teachers and parents. Marci continues to attend classes and trainings to expand her knowledge, help to support staff, families and larger community. www.ChildrensTree.org



Rose Ciardiello, CHP - William Raveis Real Estate: Experience, professionalism and a unique understanding of the market are just some of the resources that Rose uses to make her a Top Producing Realtor on the CT Shoreline. Attention to detail, honest evaluation and strategic marketing provides her clients with exceptional results, if they are buying or selling a home. RoseCiardiello.raveis.com



Steven Bousquet, Lawn Science: Steve started Lawn Science in 1990 in Madison & he has grown the business to include a comprehensive organic based lawn care division. Lawn Science services many homes in Madison and throughout the shoreline. Steve has studied soil science and turf management for over 30 years. Professional lawn care services from a local small family owned business. www.lawnscience.com



Amanda Swain, Cretella & Belowsky Insurance - Amanda is an Independent, Diversified Multi-Line Insurance Producer with over 13 years of experience with Health Insurance, Medicare, Life and Long Term Care Insurance Products. Amanda Focuses on offering her customers the Best Coverage for their needs. You can reach Amanda at 203-245-9663

MADISON NEIGHBORS

Recipe of the Month

Honey Butter Biscuits, EDD'S PLACE, Westbrook

By Chef Liz Wood

INGREDIENTS

5 Cups All Purpose Flour
4 Tablespoons Baking Powder
2 Teaspoons Sea Salt
1 Cup Unsalted Butter (Cold)
2 Cups Buttermilk
2 Tablespoons Local Honey

HONEY BUTTER TOPPING

1 Cup Salted Butter (Room Temperature)

4 Tablespoons Local Honey

1. Mix together Flour, Sea Salt, Baking Powder in a large bowl with a wooden spoon.
2. Cut the cold butter into small pieces.
3. Mix butter into dry mixture with fork or hands until a crumbly mixture is formed.
4. Add Buttermilk and Honey to Flour and Butter mixture and mix with wooden spoon.
5. Lightly work dough with hands until a ball forms. You will see pieces of butter, that's good!
6. Sprinkle the tabletop surface with flour. Roll out dough to 3/4 inch thickness.
7. Cut into squares and put on a parchment lined baking sheet.
8. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes.
9. Once finished baking, spread a small amount of honey butter on top of each biscuit. Letting the warm biscuit melt the butter.
10. Serve warm.

MAKES - 12 BISCUITS



The Highest Quality Gutter Protection for Your Home



The Gutter Specialist

Contact Us Today 860-876-2227
franklin@gutters-ct.com • gutters-ct.com

Providing expert gutter installation and maintenance services
to New Haven, Middlesex, and New London Counties since 2002.

HIC 0643225 | Licensed & Fully Insured



@thegutterspecialist

Angie's list



ROOFING & ROOF CLEANING



You want your home to
look its best and you
want to protect your
investment. Start by caring
for your homes roof.



100% Money Back Guarantee

860-663-3935 • theoriginalwatsonmyroof.com

CT HIC #0631203



karen Alquist
photography

www.alquistphoto.com



McLaughlin Associates
Insurance & Financial Services

McLaughlin Associates Insurance Agency *A Trusted Family Business*

By Lisa Lelas



The McLaughlin Associates Insurance Company has been a trusted name in the community for over 40 years. Owner Justin McLaughlin explains, "small-town personal access is the bedrock of our company. We take great pride in the relationships we have with our clients and strive to maintain the personal face-to-face service that has been key to our success. Without losing sight of this foundation, in recent years we have worked hard to modernize our technology and support, in an effort to meet the needs of people on the go with limited

time. To this end we have put in a place a more streamlined servicing department here in the office, with greater electronic capabilities adding ease and convenience for our policy holders. From their computers or cell phones, clients can fill out new applications, renewals, make payments and even file claims. I'm excited to offer our clients multiple servicing options. We have great technology now. We have streamlined systems where we can get anyone a quote on the same day with electronic signatures allowing the customer have coverage by the end of the day."

And, the future is moving in quickly. Justin has been working with digital designers and mobile app makers and has unrolled their all new client interface system, whereby everyone has access to all their policy information and digital ID cards from the palms of their hands via their smart phone. The digital age is in full swing at McLaughlin Associates Insurance Co.

Justin had an extensive background in the financial industry when he took over the firm in 2013 and has now increased his focus in that area to better service his clients. He has brought on the full-time financial services of Clapboard Hill Private Wealth in Westport, with the help of family friend and Madison resident, Walter Rich. Both Justin and Walter, along with the seasoned team at Clapboard Hill Private Wealth, now provide portfolio management and financial planning services for McLaughlin

Associates. Also, having the legal support arm from his brother, Todd, who is an attorney at Cloutier & Cassella, has been helpful as it offers clients in-need a legal outlet of additional resources. McLaughlin Associates Insurance is a unique 'one stop shop' to their customers, for all their insurance and/or financial needs.

"I believe one of our best attributes as an insurance agency is still being able to insure homes and businesses along the shoreline after many carriers withdrew after hurricanes Sandy and Irene." Justin notes, "after those devastating storms, we saw a complete shift in what carriers were willing to provide to at-risk properties within 3 miles of the coastline. Many chose not to write coastal properties anymore, while others added exorbitant deductibles often 10 times higher than their previous rates. We immediately did research and teamed up with carriers who WILL cover homes and buildings on the shoreline without increased deductibles. One of them we found is based out of Florida, so they are used to writing for coastal risks. It's a win-win situation for us and our community."

While McLaughlin Associates Insurance Agency services all of Connecticut, and parts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, their primary service area remains right here in our shoreline community. "We also continue working with clients who move out of state or retire to Florida," Justin adds, reminding his customers, they are in trusted hands for life.

Helping the Community we Love Protect the People and Property that they Love for over 35 Years

McLaughlin Associates is family owned and family run for over 35 years. We are a full service insurance agency with dedicated, experienced agents and support staff. Representing over a dozen of the top insurance companies allows McLaughlin Associates the ability to provide quality coverage at competitive prices. We offer a wide variety of insurance products to protect individuals and businesses alike, as well as legacy planning and retirement services.

Call Us Today! (203)245-8287



McLaughlin Associates
Insurance & Financial Services

www.mclaassociates.com



*Cindy & Dani's girls,
Blythe and Aurelia,
are their world!*

Meet the Ringer-Butsch Family

By Lisa Lelas • Photos by Karen Alquist Photography

When Cindy and Dani first met in 2000, it was by chance via an online apartment rental site. Cindy was moving in as Dani was moving out of a Boston apartment building. “I always joke that we met online, even before online dating was a thing,” laughs Cindy.

Cindy Ringer grew up in Illinois. She attended Lake Forest College as a Psychology major and worked in social services at a battered women’s shelter and at a sexual assault crisis center. Ready for a big life change, Cindy enrolled in Boston College Law School. Cindy met Dani in person for the first time the day she arrived in Massachusetts for law school. After graduation, Cindy clerked for a Justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. In 2003, the summer after law school, Cindy proposed to Dani the night she finished taking the bar exam. They planned a wedding for November of 2004, but things got complicated. It was only in June of 2004 that same-sex marriage had first become legal in Massachusetts, and it wasn’t yet legal in any other US state. When Cindy accepted an associate position with Kirkland & Ellis in NYC, set to start in September 2004, they realized their marriage plans were at risk. In order to have a legal marriage, they had to make it official while they were still Massachusetts residents. They decided on a small surprise ceremony, officiated by Justice David Mills, the judge that Cindy had clerked for. They still had their big wedding celebration that November with all their family and friends, the cake, the dresses, the works. It’s hard to believe LGBT rights were so different just 17 years ago.

After a few years in NYC, the couple moved back to Boston in 2007 where they started their family, and eventually moved back to Connecticut (where

Dani was from) in 2018. Prior to their move, Cindy had worked at a small law firm and then in a sales role for a legal technology company. She decided to pursue her long-time self-taught passion of becoming a full-time photographer in 2016. Cindy is currently self-employed at LJR Images (LJRIimages.com) doing headshots and portraits for all ages. She works with corporations, law firms, all sorts of small businesses, actors and even day care centers.

Danielle (Dani) Butsch was raised in Niantic, CT. She attended Northeastern University, where she played Division 1 Field Hockey and earned her Bachelor’s degree in Physical Therapy. She also earned an MBA from Northeastern and a DPT from the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute for Health Professionals. After practicing physical therapy for over 20 years, she now manages the physical therapy office at Yale University through a contract with PTSMC (Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Clinics).

When she, Cindy and their kids moved back to Connecticut it was primarily to be closer to family. “We wanted a better quality of life for our family and to be closer to the beach,” she smiles. “And my brother and his family live here in Madison, so we already knew how much we love the town.”

“We love living here in Madison,” adds Cindy, “the schools, the beaches, the town, it’s all great. And, we love our home. It’s not perfect, but it’s our dream house.”

The couple has two daughters. Aurelia, 11 years old, is in sixth grade at Polson Middle School. She enjoys softball, swimming, horseback riding,

painting, reading, cooking, hiking and singing. Her favorite subject is Language Arts. "I love writing and telling stories. I also love art because it's fun and it's like writing but in a different form!" She's not yet sure what she wants to be someday, but for now she loves just hanging with her neighbors in their fun neighborhood setting. Something she says her classmates might be surprised by... "I don't like cheese!" (Her moms think that's hilarious, since pepperoni pizza is her favorite food – "by the way, did she mention she's also a vegetarian?") Her younger sister, Blythe, is 9 years old and in third grade at Jeffrey Elementary. Blythe enjoys soccer, swimming, horseback riding, painting, drawing and organizing (not to be confused with "cleaning"). She loves Social Studies "because you can explore humans in the past and future." At her young age she already seems to have a goal for the future: "I'd like to be a writer and an actor in my spare time."

Cindy and Dani both love Madison for its beaches and woods. As a family, they all love camping and taking weekend trips to Maine, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. "I'm more the cook," admits Cindy, "and Dani's more of the baker. Our kids like doing both." With so much time at home during Covid, they've become a serious movie-night family. "We play board games together and

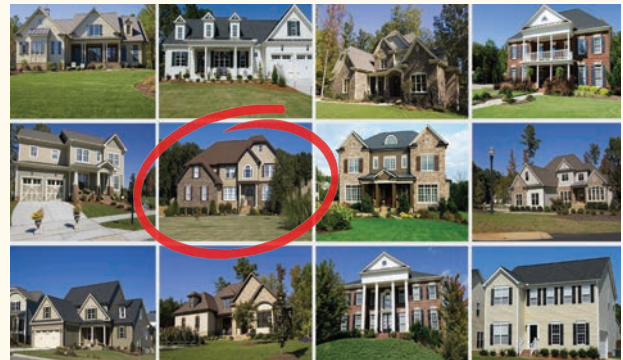


Cindy taking photos of Aurelia, Blythe, Butterscotch and Clover

spend time in the yard around the fire-pit when the weather is good. We've all become a bit hardier since the only way to spend time with friends is outdoors." Their puppies helped all of them survive 2020. "Butterscotch is a mini-Golden Doodle and Clover is a Cockapoo. The kids chose the names!"

The Madison Neighbors Family Feature is sponsored by Essex Savings Bank - Service & Trust since 1851

Found a House? Apply Online or In Person. essexsavings.com



Essex, 35 Plains Road, 860-767-2573
Essex, 9 Main Street, 860-767-8238
Chester, 203 Middlesex Avenue, 860-526-0000
Madison, 99 Durham Road, 203-318-8611
Old Saybrook, 155 Main Street, 860-388-3543
Old Lyme, 101 Halls Road, 860-434-1646
Toll-Free: 877-377-3922
www.essexsavings.com



ESSEX SAVINGS BANK
Service & Trust Since 1851

Member FDIC

 Equal Housing Lender

FAMILY FEATURE

When the family first moved to town, they got involved with the community quickly. As a small business owner, Cindy joined the Chamber and a local BNI chapter. Dani launched a small side project, Shoreline Composting, which led her to serve on Madison's Conservation Commission. When Cindy's photography business slowed down in 2020, she was quick to find creative ways to give back to the community through her camera. She photographed the first Pridefest in Madison (which is close to their hearts being a 'two-mom' family). She single-handedly photographed 159 families, raising over \$7,000 for Madison's Neighbor to Neighbor Fund (part of the Madison Foundation) through The Front Steps Project. Recently, she initiated a campaign to 'Save CT Restaurants' by doing free photo shoots for shoreline restaurants.

"We love to travel," says Cindy, "we took a dream trip family vacation before Covid to Costa Rica. With family in both Sweden and Israel, we are hoping to visit there when travel is safe again." Around town, they enjoy dining at Bar Bouche for date night and taking the kids downtown for ice cream at Ashley's, a croissant at Madison Coffee House, or browsing shelves at RJ Julia Booksellers. "We also love Cohen's and Cristy's and exploring all the beaches," adds Cindy, "we love this whole town. I hope we'll be here forever!"



Dani with Blythe and Aurelia standing proudly in front of their compost container, as part of Dani's Shoreline Composting project in town.



Aurelia working on a painting as sister, Blythe watches. Both girls love art.



Making outdoor treats for the birds is important to the family

WE LOVE YOUR CAR, WE WANT TO SERVICE IT.



GET SERVICE NOW SO YOU'RE READY FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

- Family Owned & Operated
- Foreign Car Specialists
- Master Technicians with Decades of Experience and Training
- Advanced Diagnostics
- 36 Month/36,000 Mile warranty
- Complimentary Shuttle & Loaners Available

M&M MOTORS
INTERNATIONAL

Quality Sales & Service

M&M Motors International
333 East Main St. Clinton, CT 06413

Service: (860) 664-0446

Sales: (860) 664-5145

mandmmotorsinternational.com

MARCH 2021

***Note: Please check with all venues to check status of scheduled events. All programs, dates, time and locations are subject to changes related to Covid19.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Happiness Club: Need a little happiness in your life this year? Join the Happiness Club, each Thursday evening at 7 PM for presentations on how to live happy despite all that's going on. To be added to the email list to receive your weekly Zoom link, contact Tina Garrity at ting45@aol.com

Spring Story Stroll at the Library: Stop by the library building for a story stroll this March to celebrate the beginning of spring! Stroll along and read from our picture book panels, starting at the front doors facing Boston Post Rd. and ending on the Wall Street side of the building.
@E.C. Scranton Memorial Library, 801 Boston Post Rd. Madison, all day throughout month. No registration required. Info: scrantonlibrary.org/events

Eye Spy in Madison... Swing by the library starting the first Friday of the month to pick up your Eye Spy sheet. This fun, easy scavenger hunt will challenge you to find various objects in Madison. E.C. Scranton Memorial Library, 801 Boston Post Rd. Madison
Scavenger sheets available all month. No registration required. Info: scrantonlibrary.org/events

EVENTS:

MON, MAR 1,8,15,22 & 29

Little Readers Storytime

Sing, rhyme, read and play on Monday mornings on Facebook Live. This storytime is best for babies and toddlers ages 0-2.

@Facebook Live

9:30 AM, no registration required.

Info: facebook.com/scrantonmemoriallibrary

MON, MAR 1,8,15,22 & 29

Preschool Storytime

Books, movement and songs for ages 3-5. Help your preschoolers develop their pre-reading skills through this fun, half-hour program.

@Facebook Live

10:30 AM, no registration required.

Info: facebook.com/scrantonmemoriallibrary

TUE, MAR 2, 9,16, 23 & 31

Take Home Tuesday

We'll provide the materials, you take it home and make the craft! Crafts available for pickup between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Hold-Pick up room. *Supplies limited, first come first served.

@ E.C. Scranton Memorial Library, 801

Boston Post Rd. Madison

10 AM- 4 PM, no registration required. For kids in ages birth-12.

INFO: Scrantonlibrary.org/events

WED, MAR 3

Waking Up Your Garden

Sometimes the prospects of waking up your garden for Spring can feel overwhelming. Where should you start? What needs to be done to make sure that your garden is beautiful and functional this growing season? Come and join us to find out how you can get your garden off to a fabulous start this year...
@ Online Zoom Meeting.
7:00 PM, Please register to attend.

INFO: Scrantonlibrary.org/events

WED, MAR 3,10,17,24 & 31

Writing Wednesdays

Each week on Facebook Live, we will present a creative writing prompt for you to respond

to! Please submit your pieces to info@scrantonlibrary.org for our continuing creative writing project.

@ Facebook Live

10:30 AM, no registration required.

Info: facebook.com/scrantonmemoriallibrary

THU, MAR 4, 11, 18 & 25

Novels & Nibbles

Looking for some intelligent interaction during this time of social distancing? Join us for a virtual book club where, instead of reading the same book, we come together to discuss our current favorites!

@ Zoom Meeting.

7 PM, Please register to attend.

INFO: Scrantonlibrary.org/events

THU, MAR 4,11,18 & 25

Bedtime Stories

Put on your PJs and join us for a bedtime story on Facebook Live. Shake all those sillies out before bed, listen to a story or two, and don't forget to bring your favorite stuffed friend!

@Facebook Live

6 PM

INFO: facebook.com/scrantonmemoriallibrary

FRI, MAR 5,12,19 & 26

Peek-A-Book

Want a sneak peek to books coming to a shelf near you? Join Ms. Lydia and Ms. Myla while they talk about their favorite brand new books, available at the Scranton Library!

@ Facebook Live

12 noon, no registration required.

Info: facebook.com/scrantonmemoriallibrary

FRI, MAR 5,12,19 & 26

Craft of the Week

Join us on Fridays for an all-adult crafternoon! Each week you can pick up the supplies for a new project, available for curbside pickup at



Madison



757 Boston Post Road Madison
97 Orange Street New Haven



New Haven

MARCH 2021

the library, and then meet on Friday via Zoom to put your craft together!

@ E.C. Scranton Memorial Library, 801 Boston Post Rd., Madison

Craft Pick-up: Thursdays from 4-8 p.m., Fridays from 10 AM – 2 PM; Program, Friday at 2:30 PM on Zoom,, Please register to attend.

INFO: [Scrantonlibrary.org/events](https://scrantonlibrary.org/events)

FRI, MAR 5, 12, 19 & 26

Pre-Pub Friday!

Join us on Fridays for a discussion of soon-to-be published novels & non-fiction!

@ Facebook Live.

4:30 PM, no registration required.

Info: facebook.com/scrantonmemorallibrary

SUN, MAR 7, 14, 21, 28

Sunday Movie Matinee

Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m. for a virtual movie discussion! Each week we'll announce a new film choice from Kanopy, a free streaming service accessible with your library card.

Watch at your leisure and then participate in our movie discussion!

@ Zoom Meeting.

10 AM, Please register to attend.

INFO: [Scrantonlibrary.org/events](https://scrantonlibrary.org/events)

TUE, MAR 9

Toddler Tango

Rock out with your toddler in this 30-minute music and movement class for children ages 1-3. A link to a recording of this session will be provided for anyone who registers that is unable to attend live.

@ Zoom Meeting

10:30 AM, Registration required.

INFO: [Scrantonlibrary.org/events](https://scrantonlibrary.org/events)

TUE, MAR 9 & MAR 23

Virtual Writers' Group

Are you interested in writing but don't know

where to begin? Join our virtual writers' group to get yourself started!

@ Zoom Meeting.

7 PM, Please register to attend.

INFO: [Scrantonlibrary.org/events](https://scrantonlibrary.org/events)

SAT, MAR 13

Montessori School Open House

Come to an open House at The Children's Tree Montessori School to learn about the Montessori curriculum at our Independent Elementary School, Toddler & Preschool.

@Children's Tree Montessori, 96 Essex Rd, Old Saybrook

9 AM-12 noon

Info: 860-388-3536, www.childrenstree.org.

WED, MAR 17

If You Build It

Come to the library and pick up your building kit, then tune in on Facebook at 2 p.m. for step by step instructions. This month, we'll build a musical kazoo!

*Supplies limited. First come, first served.

@ E.C. Scranton Memorial Library, 801 Boston Post Rd. Madison, CT 06443

10 AM-8 PM, no registration required.

INFO: facebook.com/scrantonmemorallibrary

THU, MAR 11

Adulting 101: How to Maintain Your Car

Our guest speaker from AAA will teach you how to maintain your car so that it lasts as long as possible, and be safe to drive.

@ Zoom Meeting

7 PM, Please register to attend

INFO: [Scrantonlibrary.org/events](https://scrantonlibrary.org/events)

TUE, MAR 16

International Cooking Club!

Each third Tuesday of the month we

experience the cuisine of another country.

Everyone gets a chance to pick out a recipe, try

it out at home and then compare notes with the other club members via Zoom!

@ Zoom Meeting.

7 PM, Please register to attend.

INFO: [Scrantonlibrary.org/events](https://scrantonlibrary.org/events)

THU, MAR 19

It's Science!

We'll show you a new, in depth science project on Facebook every third Friday of the month.

Have you ever wondered what fruit DNA looks like up close, or how to grow plants on a sponge? Here's your chance to find out. For grades K-5.

@ Facebook

12 noon, no registration required

Info: facebook.com/scrantonmemorallibrary

WED, MARCH 17

Outdoor Craftivities

Stop by the library to pick up an exciting Outdoor Craftivity for kids ages birth-12!

Tune in on Facebook at 2 PM and we'll show you how to make the most of your outdoor kit.

*Supplies limited. First come first served.

@E.C. Scranton Memorial Library, 801 Boston Post Rd. Madison

10 AM -8 PM, no registration required.

INFO: facebook.com/scrantonmemorallibrary

WED, MAR 17

Library Bingo Night!

Join us for a virtual Bingo tournament! We encourage you to invite friends & family and compete together for a prize in this exciting game of luck.

@ Online Zoom Meeting.

7 PM, Please register to attend

INFO: [Scrantonlibrary.org/events](https://scrantonlibrary.org/events)

Custom Engraving

Awards, Plaques, Trophies & More...



Acrylics & Glass
Plaques



Trophies & Cups



Medals



Clocks & Gifts
Metal Castings



Office Signage
ID Products

(203) 488-7789

www.custom-engraving.net

804 East Main St, Branford CT 06405







**Bring the community together with a positive,
local and family-friendly magazine!**

Contact the Publisher of this magazine for more information.

The Nuclear Family Grows Up

By Michael J. Sweeney



Way back when the nuclear family was mother, father (married to each other), biological kid-one, biological kid-two and a pet. This is Ozzie & Harriet, Leave it to Beaver; all made for TV. Our first exposure to the blended family was the Brady Bunch.

These days we have increasingly more families that are blended, between unmarried couples and/or same-sex marriages.

If you have not taken the time to work with an Estate Planning Lawyer, bloodlines will largely determine how your legacy will be spread among your "family." Legal Zoom and Nolo.com may scratch the tip of the iceberg and that may be "good enough," or an easy way to "settle" for "something being better than nothing." I submit it is not.

- Connecticut does not recognize "common law" marriage. No plan means the surviving partner is shut out.
- No plan has a statutory formula that provides an off-the-top amount for a married spouse and then a formula splitting the balance among the married spouse and biological children.
- A plan that provides: "All to my spouse then to my children," never gets to your children if you pass first.
- No plan is the functional equivalent to "I don't care," "WHATEVER," or they will all "do the right thing."

Modern estate planning fills in the gaps where the Connecticut legislature has not yet developed a plan. Estate planning is not just for the affluent to pay less tax. Estate planning is the key to the have your loved ones legally recognized. It offers a mix between bargaining with the future and creating a shared expectation against which we can measure success.

One example is the ability for your (unmarried) partner to make decisions on your behalf if you are hospitalized; both for treatment and access to bank accounts.

A blended family example would be mapping out the inheritance rights for biological children, step-children and children of your unmarried partner.

I believe it is critical that you clearly define any legally established relationships between you, your spouse (or non-spouse partners and loved ones) and your children, biological or otherwise, to ensure your wishes will be carried out in the event of your death or incapacity. You run the risk that your children could be removed from the home of the non-biological parent or wind up in the care of someone you would have never wanted or trusted.

Estate planning is your opportunity to the people you love and your assets safe by building a plan on your terms.

An Estate Planning Lawyer can guide you in creating a comprehensive estate plan that protects and preserves your family's values, as well as your assets. The planning process at the Sweeney Law Firm starts with us sending you a questionnaire that will get you thinking about what you own, what matters most to you and what you want to leave behind and ensure that none of your assets are lost to the Court or government processes that doesn't complete your wishes.

Make Yourself Safe. Build a Plan.



For more Information, please call 203-244-9522
or go to www.Sweeney-Law.com

SWEENEY LAW FIRM



ESTATE AND PROBATE ASSISTANCE

Has COVID Changed How, When and Where Your Plan Works?

Power of Attorney | Medical Proxy | Revocable Trusts

The Answer is YES.

Attorney Sweeney is a graduate of Gettysburg College and Quinnipiac University School of Law and has been practicing in the areas of real estate, probate, and trusts & estates since 1998.

Call us for a free consultation:
203-244-9522

**COVID-19 Creates New
Challenges. We can help you
meet them.**



Michael J. Sweeney

77 Wall St. Ste. 1-W
P.O. Box 1370 Madison, CT 06443-1370
Tel. 203-244-9522 Fax 203-244-9533
mjs@Sweeney-Law.com
www.Sweeney-Law.com

*American Hero/First Responder
Discount-Courtesies*



Fostering Family Hope

HOPE WINS!

The Foster Closet/Fostering Family Hope

By Erin Johnston & Megan Pearson

At first glance, you would never know that anything special existed in a little storage unit in Middletown. But a little over two years ago, a small group of women headed by Erin Johnston & Megan Pearson got together in just that place to fill a need in our community. Being foster parents themselves, they have witnessed the lack of basic essentials that these children arrive with - whether it is a newborn wearing only a hospital onesie and a borrowed car seat or a three year-old that arrives with nothing but the shirt on his back. These needs are undeniable but often go unnoticed. Erin & Megan quickly put their heads together and with the help of some close friends and generous neighbors they gathered clothing & toiletry donations along with backpacks to make care bags for children coming into the foster system. And so, the heart of Fostering Family Hope was formed. From the moment children come into care to the time they reunite with biological families or adoptive homes, the goal of Fostering Family Hope is to provide these basic essentials, encourage the growth of positive relationships within the children's family circles and offer ongoing emotional support. With the community's generosity, FFH established a Foster Closet at that little storage facility in Middletown, where they store donations with the purpose of providing care bags for foster children.

As Erin & Megan worked with caseworkers, foster, and biological families, they began to see other needs and jumped at the opportunity to help. They first collaborated with Mastering Motherhood, a local mom's group, to update the family visitation rooms at the Middletown Department of Children & Families, the office which covers the Shoreline region. Once word got out about their work, the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution in Suffield, CT reached out for help. FFH provided toys, games, art supplies and even furniture creating a nurturing environment for foster children to engage in and form positive bonds with their incarcerated fathers, which may not have otherwise been there. Erin & Megan saw from first-hand experience how a positive relationship with biological families can impact the collective family unit for the better. Programs such as theirs are proven to have a great impact on incarcerated parents to form healthy relationships and even decreases the rate of return to prison. To date, FFH has provided these spaces for six correctional facilities throughout Connecticut.

Whether collecting donations, working with biological families, or offering support groups, FFH seeks to meet the outlying needs of the foster community. As the vision of FFH continues to expand, Erin & Megan are working to become established as a non-profit and are grateful for the continued help & support of their local community. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, contact them at: fosteringfamilyhope@gmail.com.



The current Foster Closet operated by Fostering Family Hope in Middletown



FFH foster parents & volunteers, Karen Alquist, Erin Johnston, Megan Pearson and Heather Kjos

Fosteringfamilyhope.org
 Fosteringfamilyhope@gmail.com
 (203)903-8430



The Story Our Numbers Tell

By Sunnie Scarpa and Charlie Tyson

Dear neighbors, it will come as no surprise to you that Librarians love data and its many uses! We track statistics for our library constantly throughout the year, and at the end of every fiscal year (ending July 31) we spend quite a bit of time compiling these numbers for what is known as the "Public Library Annual Report." This comprehensive, 22-page survey of statistical data asks library staff to answer over 200 questions, providing information on everything from how many e-books were downloaded to how many hours were offered and how many physical items are on the shelves.

The CT State Library then compiles all the information from CT's 191 libraries into a report that becomes the source for all information provided to the federal government regarding public libraries in Connecticut. The State Library also synthesizes this data into an annual statistical profile that can be used to track statewide trends over time. These statistical reports can also be used by individual libraries in a variety of ways. Libraries can compare their own statistics year to year. They can also compare their own statistics to libraries they choose themselves or libraries that the CT State Library has grouped together based on population size and AENGLC wealth ranking.

If you like numbers too, here are some of the ones from our FY 19/20 report:

- The Scranton Library had 24,885 visitors last year while we were still at our temporary location on Durham Rd.
- Library users borrowed 102,168 items, including 69,915 books and 35,504 electronic items.

- 27% of all items checked out were from the Children's Dept. Madison families love our library!
- As a result of the extra time we all spent at home last year, audio and e-book downloads went up 21% and movie downloads went up 140%.
- The library offered 333 programs, a mix of in-person and virtual, with 5,499 attendees across all age ranges.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic our library:

- expanded remote services to include offering reference assistance by phone and email
- offered remote library card registration
- extended due dates
- waved overdue fines
- added additional titles to our downloadable collection
- offered 86 virtual programs that were seen by 5,530 library users

Just like a good book, numbers tell a story too, and last year our numbers showed just how much our community values and uses the services we offer – with or without a physical building to go to.

As the story of 2021 unfolds, we're looking forward to seeing more of you in person, checking out more books than ever, and continuing to serve the residents of Madison with innovative library services, no matter what comes our way!

YOUR LOCAL MADISON MORTGAGE PROFESSIONAL

203.627.2895

GERARD MCGUINNESS
PRODUCTION MANAGER

gmguinness@primelending.com
lo.primelending.com/gmcguinness

Built by hustle. Driven by heart.

GERARD MCGUINNESS
nmls: 99280

DIVERS COVE LLC

7 Essex Plaza Essex Ct. 06246
P-860-767-1960 f-860-767-3356

Full Service Scuba Equipment
Repair & Scuba Diving Shop

SCUBA & SNORKEL	REPAIRS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALES • INSTRUCTION • TRAVEL • RESCUE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRY AND WETS SUITS • REGULATORS • BC'S AND TANKS • AGA'S AND RESCUE SUITS

Call Us Today!
Ed & Chris Rosacker
info @diverscove.com

Monday -Friday 10am to 6pm
Saturday 10am to 3pm
www.diverscove.com

Local Artist, Babette Bloch

By Jackson Paris • Photos by Marc Mellon

With the recent renovation of Madison's Scranton Library, we have not only built a beautiful new building, we have added fantastic new works of art. One of my favorites is a stainless steel sculpture of magnificent blooming flowers by Connecticut artist Babette Bloch

Babette Bloch is a pioneer in the use of laser cut and water jet stainless steel to create evocative works of art. Her sculptures explore form and the interplay between object and light. The unique surface of her works reflect their environment, expanding the ways in which stainless steel is used in contemporary art.

Bloch received both classical and modern training at the University of California, Davis, studying with legendary artist Wayne Thiebaud, Robert Arneson, and Manuel Neri. Her personal style embraces her eclectic taste, her sometimes – whimsical visions, her pleasure in aesthetics, and her technical curiosity.

Bloch's practice includes site-specific one of a kind public artworks and limited-edition



Babette Bloch in her studio

Get FREE Grub Control

When you sign up for our
5-Step Lawn Care Program

B-1203

Order Our
5-Step
Lawn Care
Program
Today!



**LAWN
SCIENCE**

Offer Code: MD21

lawnsience.com

860-669-1880



Call us today for a free estimate on your
ORGANIC based lawn care program

sculptures. Drawing on several traditions in American Art, she creates work that touch on modernist abstraction, the cut-outs and collage found in pop art, and the long-standing practice of storytelling in art.

Bloch creates paper and wire maquettes developed from her refined black and white drawings. The paper models allow Bloch to keep aesthetics and structure in mind while switching between 2D and 3-D visualizations of her work. The maquettes are further refined and adjusted in stainless steel. For public and large scale private works structural engineers are consulted. A computer-driven laser beam cuts the drawings out of large sheets of stainless steel to her predetermined scale. She wields a hand held grinder, thinking of it as a paintbrush creating an illusion of dimensionality in each cutout. Bloch directs the twisting, bending, welding and refining in the completion of all her large scale works of art.

Come to the library, welcome spring and this new work of art.

For more information you can
call 203-938-5865 or go to
babbetebloch.com

Babette Bloch & Sculpture Scranton Library

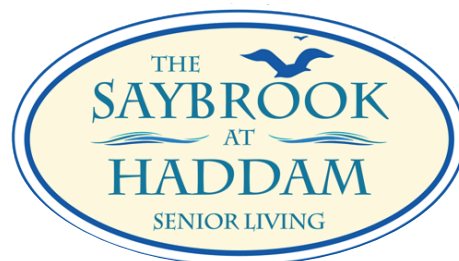


knock, knock!

Hear that? It's your opportunity to join the area's premier senior living community, The Saybrook at Haddam, at our lowest price point. Enjoy a brand-new studio apartment, amenities galore, and a luxurious, carefree lifestyle. Call for special introductory offers. Reserve your apartment now for the New Year!

- 3 gourmet meals per day
- a robust social and recreation program
- 24/7 staffing, including nurses
- scheduled transportation

Please call for more information or to schedule a video tour.
We're ready when you are!



1556 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT 06438
860-345-0090 TheSaybrookAtHaddam.com

Say connected. Say supported. Say safe. The Saybrook At Haddam.

Are You an Ideal Team Player?

By Patrick Lencioni, founder and president, The Table Group

Have you ever wondered what makes a person easy to work with? I'm convinced that there are three required virtues that make someone an ideal team player.

The most important of those values is humility. The ultimate foundation of being a team player is a person being willing and able to put the team's interests ahead of his or her own. Only a truly humble person can do this effectively. Most people recognize and define humility by contrasting it with arrogance, which, to an extent, is accurate. People who are boastful, proud, egotistical and over-confident are certainly not humble, and they are poison on a team. Whether we're talking about Little League Baseball, corporate leadership or emergency response, team members with big egos tend to bring down team performance by distracting attention away from the collective goals of the team and demotivating peers who resent their excessive need for attention.

But some team members who are not arrogant lack humility, even if others around them don't see it. Many of these people are beloved for their selflessness, modesty and support for others, but can't be described as humble because they have an inaccurate, deflated understanding of their

own talents and abilities. They hurt their teams by failing to contribute at the level that they could. But that's not as bad as the people who, like them, discount their abilities, but don't support and encourage their peers. These may be the most dangerous kind of "non-humble" team players.

The second virtue that is required of an ideal team player is hunger, the desire to work hard, make a difference and get things done. It's not hard to understand why being hungry makes someone an asset on a team; a complacent person rarely makes a team great. However, hunger alone is not a good thing for a team, as it can be directed toward the benefits of the individual more than the team. Only when a person's drive is applied to benefits of the greater good does hunger become a team asset.

The third and final virtue of an ideal team player is something I call smarts. It has nothing to do with intelligence, however, but is all about social awareness and interpersonal common sense. Ideal team players, in addition to being humble and hungry, know how to understand their colleagues and work with them effectively. They can read a room and understand non-verbal cues, avoiding unnecessary problems that socially awkward people often create.

Now, you may be asking, is an ideal team player perfect? Of course not. Even the best team player is going to have a tough day or week or moment from time to time, but those that work to develop their humility, hunger and people smarts will have a serious advantage on teams and in life.

Other Resources:

Pat's Ted Talk on becoming an ideal team player:

www.ted.com/talks/patrick_lencioni_are_you_an_ideal_team_player

The Ideal Team Player Self-Assessment:

www.tablegroup.com/books/ideal-team-player/self-assessment/



Patrick Lencioni was named in Fortune magazine as one of the "ten new gurus you should know." His passion for organizations and teams is reflected in his writing, speaking and executive consulting. He is the author of eleven best-selling books.



Your "Life Is Better Together" Store.

Stop by today to try our exclusive line of award-winning & third-party tested SunMed™ products including USDA Certified Organic Tinctures, Water Solubles, Topicals, Gummies, Beauty, Pet Products, and more!

Your CBD Store®

Clinton, CT

114 E Main St. #3
(860) 664-4636

Women & Family Life Center

By Meghan Scanlon

Dear Neighbors,

As many of you may know, I have the honor and privilege of leading the Women and Family Life Center, a non-profit helping women and families on the Shoreline navigate life's challenges and transitions with strength and confidence in order to thrive.

The Shoreline is home to ALICE (stands for Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) families— those households whose income is above the poverty line but not sufficient to meet all their basic needs. As a result, when faced with a crisis, setback or unexpected life event, lack of financial security, and lack of traditional government assistance, results in women and families seeking our services in order to get themselves and their family back on track to financial independence and a better, more stable life.

One thing we have all learned this past year is that it just takes one thing to tip our stable lives into a chaotic, downward spiral. Whether it is the loss of a job, the crumbling of a marriage, domestic abuse or an unexpected illness or death of a loved one, much is out of our control. It can be difficult to cope or envision a way out.

Our staff will stop at nothing to help someone. All at no cost. All because of you. Through this pandemic you have been there to help our neighbors in need. We cannot do this work without you.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, it seems only fitting that I ask you all to take a moment to honor the resilient women and families we serve. These are brave women who deserve to be celebrated alongside all the trailblazing women we are accustomed to recognizing every March. They

too are blazing a trail all their own. Additionally, on behalf of the board, staff, volunteers and women and families we have the privilege of serving, I simply want to honor you and say thank you for your support and investment in women and families. When women succeed, we all succeed.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Blaze your own trail,

Meghan Scanlon

PS - To learn more about the work we do and how to get involved please visit our website at www.womenandfamilylife.org



Accredited Montessori Preschool

a better way to learn



OPEN HOUSE • March 13 • 9am-12pm



THE CHILDREN'S TREE
MONTESSORI SCHOOL
96 Essex Road • Old Saybrook

Call for Private Tours 860.388.3536

Toddler - 6th Grade
www.ChildrensTree.org

Do You Have a Healthy Home?



Safe • Natural • Effective

From mold removal and treatment to improving the indoor air quality for your loved ones, our specialists are experts at creating Healthy Homes. Our business was built on a foundation of 20+ years in the construction industry. We've seen the causes and effects of mold, bacterial growth and allergens that jeopardize the health and comfort of your family, friends or employees. Remember, our proprietary products are Safe, Natural & Effective.

Contact Us Today for a FREE Consultation

HealthyHomeCT.com
(203) 927-2770





Madison Green Historic District

By Jennifer Simpson

Fifteen years ago, on March 16, 2006, the Madison Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed Madison Green Historic District. Bounded to the north by Meetinghouse Lane, the district runs from west to east encompassing most of the houses, churches, and structures surrounding the green. A Greek Revival home once located at 438 Boston Post Road originally marked the district's westernmost point, and the Deacon John Grave House is its easternmost structure.

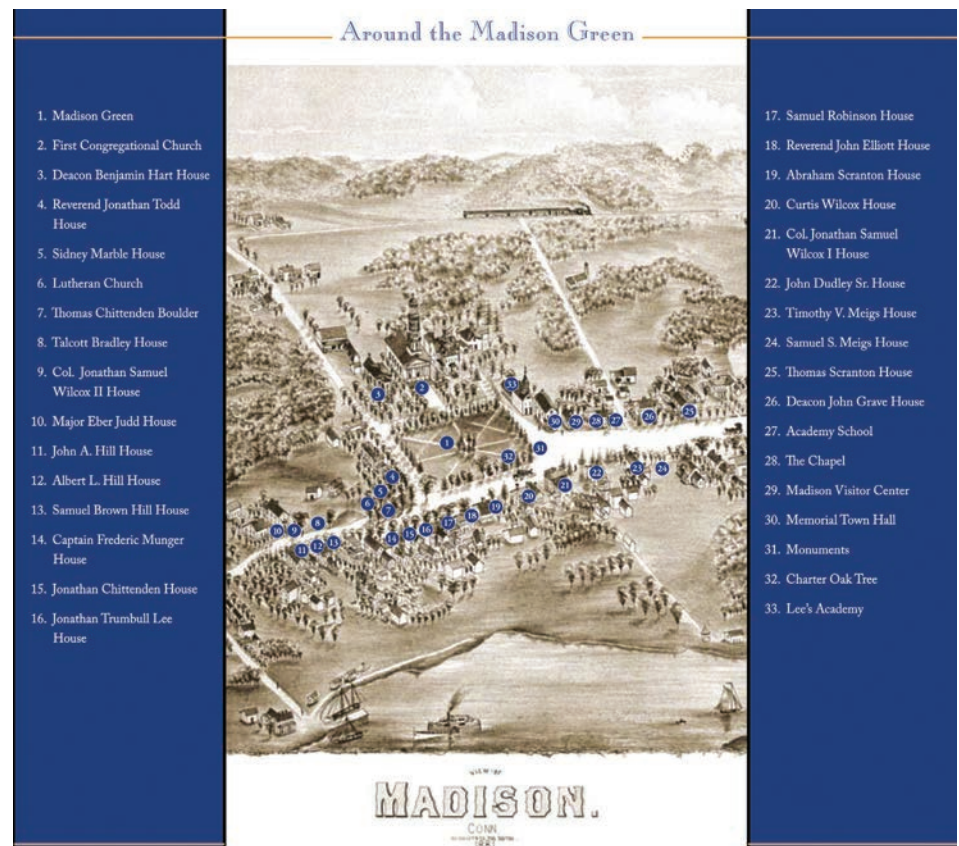
Proponents of the proposed district recognized the importance of the town green and its surrounding buildings. They commissioned a study "to examine the feasibility of establishing an historic district to protect this community asset." John Lind, who served as co-chair of the study committee and who currently serves as the Chair of the Historic District Commission, said the effort was intended "to preserve the historic quality of the district," rather than to prevent change.

The historic resources in the district include two churches, the Memorial Town Hall, Academy School, the Deacon John Grave House, private residences, and the Madison green, owned by the First Congregational Church. The structures within the district represent architectural styles and building techniques that span four centuries. The study found that "these examples are especially powerful since many of them retain significant architectural integrity."

In 2017 the Madison Historical Society celebrated an array of structures within the district during its centennial celebration when it created a digital walking tour of a portion of the area. This online resource, created in collaboration with DHHS faculty and students and a UCONN graduate,

is an exploration of the area's historic places and people. Available for download from the MHS website or accessible on mobile devices, the self-guided tour offers audio recordings, printed narratives, and videos that can be enjoyed at one's own pace. The Green People, A Walking Tour of the Green, by Warner P. Lord, published by the Charlotte Evarts Archives, was an important resource for the students' research.

Enjoying the outdoors has become a refuge for many during this challenging year. With hope for a return to normalcy and warmer weather on the horizon, we encourage you to explore the iconic structures and monuments surrounding the town green. Visit our website: www.madisonhistory.org/historic-district-tour to discover some of Madison's architectural treasures and the stories of the fascinating people who lived there.



Map of historical structures on the town green

Bradley & Wall

Gourmet Foods • Pizza • Catering

203.318.0300

96 WALL STREET | MADISON, CT 06443

WWW.BRADLEYANDWALL.COM

Genovese, Zdon & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

FULL SERVICE ACCOUNTING FIRM

Areas of Expertise - Tax Services, Audits, Financial Reporting, Strategic Planning and Consultations

Offices in Westbrook and Cheshire, CT

www.gz-cpa.com

Call us in Westbrook for a free consultation:

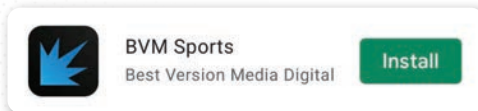
203 250-2075

Gino Genovese

► **HEY, SPORTS FANS!**

DOWNLOAD THE BVM SPORTS APP AND:

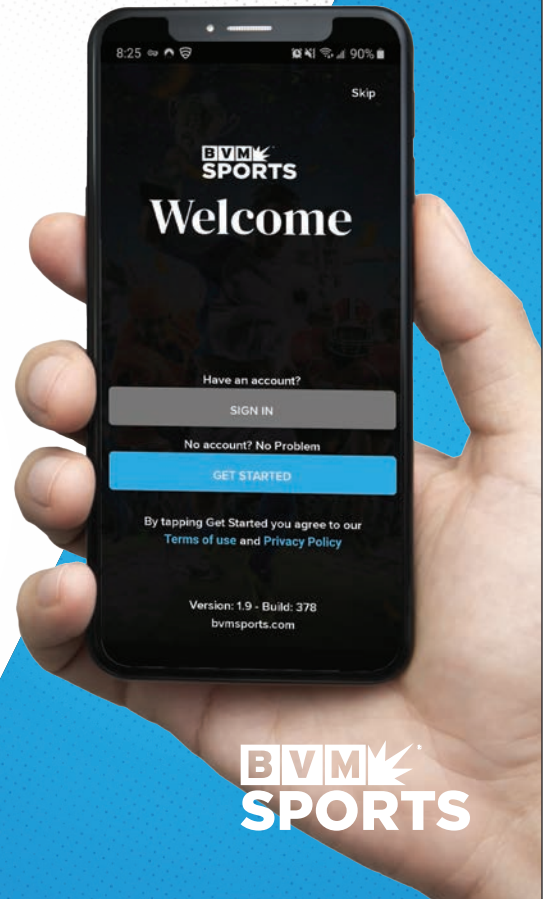
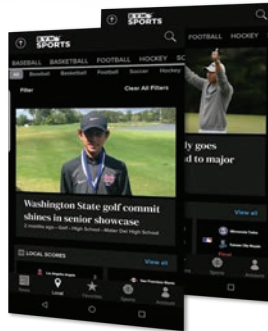
- **ENJOY** local and national sports content all from the palm of your hand!
- **CREATE** an account to keep up with all your favorite local and national teams.
- **SHARE** your favorite sports content via social media, text or email with just a few clicks.



Have everything sports right at your fingertips.

► ► **Download the BVM Sports App today!** ◀ ◀

BVM Sports: One Place. All Sports.



BVM
SPORTS

MEDICARE is
Stressful Complicated

Simple

Call for a FREE Consultation

Cretella & Belowsky Insurance

2 Samson Rock Dr. Madison, CT 06443

203-245-4107 ex 203



Amanda Swain
Insurance/Benefit Broker
& Account Manager



FAST, FRIENDLY, RELIABLE SERVICE



- 💧 Residential Service
- 💧 Well Pumps
- 💧 Sump Pumps
- 💧 Drain Cleaning
- 💧 Excavations Sewer/Water
- 💧 Gas Repairs/Conversions



CT License P1-0285743
HIC.0644636

the
JOE Plumber
Clinton 860-744-4511

calljoetheplumber.com

Madison Town Hall 203-245-5600 www.madisonct.org

Emergency	911	First Selectman, Peggy Lyons	203-245-5602
Police Department	203-245-2721	Youth Services	203-245-5645
Fire Department	203-245-2772	Senior Center	203-245-5627
Chamber of Commerce	203-245-7394	Madison Public Schools	203-245-6300
Beach & Recreation	203-245-5623	Health Department	203-245-6581
Emergency Management	203-245-5681	Rackliffe Lock and Safe	203-245-7611
Animal Control	203-245-2721	Joe the Plumber	860-744-4511

WILLIAM RAVEIS

REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE

ROSE CIARDIELLO



TOP AWARD-WINNING, TOP RANKING SHORELINE REALTOR!

Ranked #1 Agent in Connecticut brokerage

#1 in Closed Sales Volume, William Raveis Real Estate

Platinum Club - TOP 1% company-wide based on annual sales volume of \$30+M

TOP 1/2 of 1% of 1.4M licensed Real Estate Professionals in the country - per
RealTrends America's Best

Winner Best on the Shoreline - 2019, 2020 based on consumer picks

For, As seen on HGTV Beach Hunters

Rose has successfully closed over \$170,000,000+ in Sales Volume!



CALL ROSE FOR RESULTS! 203-314-6269

ROSE.CIARDIELLO@RAVEIS.COM

