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BOTTLE HILL DAY

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Photo by Andrew Dutton

An aerial view of Bottle Hill Day in Madison, looking down at Waverly Place, in 2024.

Bottle Hill Day has it all

MADISON – This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bottle Hill Day. This event has continued to grow every year since it was first established in 1974 by Mayor Elizabeth Baumgartner to promote the business district. It is named for Madison’s original establishment in 1715 as the village of “Bottle Hill.”

In addition, as in years past, the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce and Madison Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 92 will host its 30th annual Madison Car Show at 9 a.m. at the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps., 29 Prospect St.

Over the years, it has grown, evolving into a family, entertainment, and community celebration, which draws between 10,000 and 20,000 people to the heart of Madison every fall. This event is free and open to the public.

With the expansion a few years ago



Photo by Brett Friedensohn

Madison resident Matt Lepore, 16, plays mini golf during Bottle Hill Day in 2024.

PLEASE SEE ALL, PAGE 6

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Come experience a vibrant celebration of the rich cultural contributions and traditions of Hispanic communities. Join us for an array of activities, including music, dance, delicious cuisine, all highlighting the shared heritage and history.

WHEN: Thursday, October 9, 2025; 5:30 – 7:30 PM

WHERE: Boszhardt Family Teen Center at the Madison Area YMCA's Family Center: 111 Kings Road, Madison, NJ

WHO: All ages!



Registration is not required. See you there!



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Photo by Andrew Dutton

With the town clock visible in the distance, crowds pack onto Central Avenue looking towards Main Street and Waverly Place during Bottle Hill Day in 2024.

ALL: Plenty to do Saturday

FROM PAGE 5

onto Kings Road, this rain or shine street festival now spans over six blocks. It includes sidewalk sales, four stages with live music, three Amusement Areas, food, and more than 250 vendors, including non-profits, crafters and retail businesses.

There will be great food options, including the Food Court on the corner of Central Avenue and Cook Avenue, other food vendors throughout the festival, local restaurants, and a Food Truck Court on Kings Road.

Park & Ride Shuttle: Just Park your car in the parking lot at the Madison Community Pool and ride downtown, where the shuttle will drop you off right in the center of town. The shuttle will run from 9:15 to 5 p.m. in a continuous loop between the parking lot and the town center.

Family Activities & Rides: Provided by Seashore Amusements at Central Avenue School and Kings Road.

Other Activities: The Presbyterian Church of Madison will once again host a Petting Zoo & Pony Rides at the church at 18 Green

Ave.

More than 20 electric vehicles (EVs) will be on display at Bottle Hill Day in the Train Station Parking Lot, 32 Kings Road. Attendees can see EVs from Honda, Hyundai, Volvo, Chevy, Porsche, VW, Mercedes, Karma, BMW, Audi Polestar, Lucid, Tesla, Rivian and others. This is a National Drive Electric Month event.

The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts will kick off the United States' 250th birthday in 2026 a few months early from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 9 Main St.

The 3rd New Jersey Regiment will cook on the front lawn and perform drills on the back lawn. Makerspace and crafts will take place in the Education Annex, 23 Main St.

There will be free admission to the museum on Bottle Hill Day.

Registration can be done at metc.org/event/bottlehill.

Street Closures and Parking: Waverly Place, Central Avenue (Main Street to Brittin Street), Kings Road (Prospect Street to

PLEASE SEE ALL, PAGE 7

ALL: Oct. 4 is 50th Bottle Hill Day

FROM PAGE 6

Green Avenue), and Green Village Road (Main Street to Kings Road) will be closed, but the municipal lots (Waverly Green, Cook Avenue, and Elmer Street) will be open for parking. Additional event parking will be available at the Madison Junior School parking lots, which are accessible via Brittin Street (behind the school). The Kings Road Parking Lot behind the Public Safety Building will be open for public parking. Street parking, where allowed, will be available as well. Main Street remains open all day.

Street Closures and Parking: Waverly Place, Central Avenue (Main Street to Brittin Street), Kings Road (Prospect Street to Green Avenue), and Green Village Road (Main Street to Kings Road) will be closed, but the municipal lots (Waverly Green, Cook Avenue, and Elmer Street) will be open for parking. Additional event parking will be available at the Madison Junior School parking lots, which are accessible via Brittin Street (behind the school). The Kings Road Parking Lot behind the Public Safety Building will be open for public parking. Street parking, where allowed, will be available as well. Main Street remains open all day.



Photos by Brett Friedensohn

Madison resident Emma Bartley, 5, slides down an inflatable slide during Bottle Hill Day in Madison Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024.



Stay the Salon stylist Ashley Farley, right, adds a pink extension into the hair of 10-year-old Madison resident Avery Graziano during Bottle Hill Day in 2024. Stay the Salon donated the money from its extension sales to Minette's Angels, a charity which provides services including supermarket gift cards and flowers to breast cancer patients.



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Photo by Brett Friedensohn

Madison Mayor Robert Conley grills at the Madison Rotary stand during Bottle Hill Day on Oct. 5, 2024.

Rotarians to serve burgers, hot dogs

MADISON – Members of the Madison Rotary Club will be back at the intersection of Central and Cook Avenues grilling hamburgers and hot dogs during Bottle Hill Day Saturday, Oct. 4.

Bottle Hill Tavern donates all the food, and the Rotarians get help from Interact Club members at Madison High School.

Rotarian Joe Smith has been running the cooking for the Rotary at Bottle Hill Day since about 2007 and said the Rotarians have been doing this for as long as he

can remember, and he moved to the borough in 1989.

“I think longtime residents, they’re always happy to see us there and see that we’re still doing it,” Smith said.

The food sale is a fundraiser for the Rotary who uses the money for grants to local charities, Smith said.

“The long-term members get to see people they haven’t seen in years, just walking by,” Smith said. “So it’s almost like a little reunion.”



Photo by Liz Parker

Madison Rotary members, from left, Tom Haralampoudis, Barry Kroll, in the rear, and Frank Mangravite flip burgers at the Rotary tent on Bottle Hill Day in 2021.



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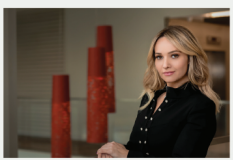
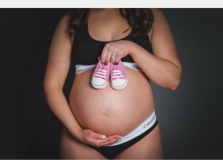
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MADISON CAR SHOW TO FEATURE HOT RODS, CUSTOMS, CLASSICS AND MORE

MADISON – The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce and Madison Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 92 will host its 30th annual Madison Car Show at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps., 29 Prospect St.

The show will run until 4 p.m. The rain date is Saturday, Oct. 18.

This event coincides with Madison's Bottle Hill Day street festival, with Pine Manor Associates serving as the main sponsor.

The car show is just a short walk from the Bottle Hill Day festivities, which are held in Madison's Business District.

The show features a wide array of vehicles across various categories including hot rods, trucks, customs, antiques, classics and street machines. While there is no set admission fee; donations are welcomed and greatly appreciated at the gate.

Participants in the show have the chance to win awards and door prizes. The Best



Photos by Brett Friedensohn

Madison resident Michael Mantone, a member of the Rose City Rodders, stands next to the 1932 Chevrolet previously owned by his late brother Paul "Skeeter" Mantone of Madison during the Madison Car Show on Oct. 5, 2024. Michael said the car still belongs to Skeeter, and that he is "just taking care of it." This year's iteration of the event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4.

PLEASE SEE CAR, PAGE 10

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CAR: Madison Car Show to feature hot rods, customs, classics and more

FROM PAGE 9

in Show award is sponsored by Pine Manor Associates, Painting & Wallcovering Specialists.

The grand door prize is a \$500 Stop & Shop gift card donated by Stop & Shop of Madison. All car show entrants are eligible for the drawing.

The awards ceremony will start at 3 p.m. To be eligible for judging and prizes, all cars must arrive at the show by 11 a.m.

The day-of registration fee is \$20.

Registration forms can be obtained by contacting Peter Daniele at (973) 377-4037. For any questions or concerns on the day of the show, attendees are asked to call (973) 886-7849.

The Madison Car Show will present eight top awards, twelve special awards including categories for engine, paint and vehicle type and "Top 50" awards for the best 50 entries. All awards are sponsored by local businesses.



Photos by Brett Friedensohn

Madison resident Tommy DeBiasse, a member of the Rose City Rodders, stands next to his 1957 Chevrolet Belair during the Madison Car Show at the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps. on Oct. 5, 2024. This year's iteration of the event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4.



Madison resident Tommy DeBiasse III, a member of the Rose City Rodders, stands next to his car during the Madison Car Show at the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps. on Oct. 5, 2024. This year's iteration of the event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4.



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Madison resident Peter Daniele stands next to his 1955 Chevrolet during the Madison Car Show at the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps. on Oct. 5, 2024. This year's iteration of the event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4.

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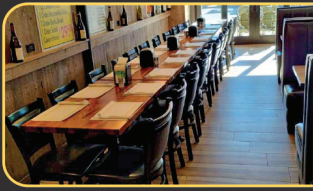
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Photo by Brett Friedensohn

Madison resident and 101.5 WDHA DJ Jim Monaghan sings and plays guitar as part of the band Dead Aire at Bottle Hill Day in Madison on Oct. 5, 2024. Monaghan will return to Bottle Hill Day with his band at 12:20 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4 in front of the Hartley Dodge Memorial Building, 50 Kings Road.

Live music with a local flair will be at Bottle Hill Day

MADISON – Several local musicians will perform at Bottle Hill Day’s five stages on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Hartley Dodge

Starting at 9:50 a.m., at the Morris County Economic Development Alliance and Morris County Tourism Bureau Stage in front of the Hartley Dodge Memorial Building at 50 Kings Road, there will be the National Anthem and opening remarks.

The Madison-based Kings Road Band will perform at 10 a.m. This band includes Madison resident Michael O’Keefe on acoustic guitar and backing vocals.

Then, the Widow Brown Band will perform at 11:10 a.m.

Dead Aire, featuring Madison resident Jim Monaghan who works as a DJ at 105.5 WDHA on guitar and lead vocals, will play at 12:20 p.m.

The Candice Lee Band, featuring Florham Park resident Candice Lee on guitar and lead vocals, will perform at 1:30 p.m. Lee will also perform again at noon at the Downtown Development Commission (DDC) Stage in the Beer Garden between Prospect Street and Maple Avenue on Kings Road.

Oobatz will perform at 2:40 p.m., followed by Jumping the Gun at 3:50 p.m. This band includes Madison residents Bob

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MUSIC:

FROM PAGE 14

Rocco and George Mandala.

Central Avenue

At the Egan Wealth Advisors Stage on Central Avenue, Mama D & the Vexations will open at 10 a.m. This band's lead singer is Donna Ward McEachern, center, a music teacher at Kings Road School and Torey J Sabatini School in Madison.

Then, Flying Cars will perform at 11:10 a.m., followed by South Street Live. This band includes Chatham Township residents Justin Hovi on saxophone, keyboard and horns; Carl Hovi on vocals, saxophone and keyboard; and George Lavecchia on bass.

Boombox Rockers will perform at 1:30 p.m.; Hudson Heights will perform at 2:40 p.m., and Neil Mastrobuono & the Group will perform at 3:50 p.m.

Cook Avenue

At the Unity Bank Stage on Cook Avenue, Mike Sitsch's Lagan's Love will perform at 10 a.m., followed by the Johnny Woods Band at 11 a.m. and Anthology at noon.

PLEASE SEE MUSIC, PAGE 16



Photo by Alex Parker-Magyar

Ben Wheelless, left, of Jersey City, and Jeff Ertz of Madison belt out tunes to open the Elmer Street music stage on Oct. 21, 2023 at Madison's annual Bottle Hill Day street festival. Ertz will return to Bottle Hill Day at 4:15 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Unity Bank Stage on Cook Avenue.

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MUSIC:

FROM PAGE 15

Madison-based Tom & The Moms will perform at 12:30 p.m. The “Tom” in Tom & The Moms is Madison resident Tom Sellwood, owner of Sellwood Studio.

Madison native and Los Angeles resident Michael Gribble will perform as part

of Michael Gribble & Friends at 1:15 p.m. Electric Pandemonium will play at 2:15 p.m., followed by the Dave Murphy Band at 3:15 p.m. This band features former Madison resident Dave Murphy on guitar and lead vocals.

PLEASE SEE MUSIC, PAGE 18



Photo by Brett Friedensohn

Donna Ward McEachern, center, a music teacher at Kings Road School and Torey J Sabatini School in Madison, sings for Mama D and the Vexations during their concert at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts on Friday, July 11. At left is South Orange resident John Holmok on drums, and at right is Vauxhall resident Jasmine Bloch-Krempels on bass. The band will perform at 10 a.m. during Bottle Hill Day on Saturday, Oct. 4 on Central Avenue.



Photo by Nicole Flanagan

Florham Park resident Candice Lee smiles as she performs Taylor Swift’s “Love Story” at the Madison Community Arts Center Summer Concert Series on Friday, Aug. 15. Lee will play during Bottle Hill Day on Saturday, Oct. 4, first at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Hartley Dodge Memorial Building at 50 Kings Road, then at noon at the Beer Garden between Prospect Street and Maple Avenue on Kings Road.



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Photo by Brett Friedensohn

The South Street Band performs at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts on Aug. 16, 2024. From left are Chatham Township resident Justin Hovi who sings and plays saxophone, keyboard and horns; his father, Chatham Township resident Carl Hovi who sings and plays saxophone and keyboard; Gladstone resident Chris Bukata on guitar; Pompton Lakes resident Chris Kania on drums; Glen Ridge resident Lezlie McKenzie on vocals; Chris Beaver on guitar; and Chatham Township resident George Lavecchia on bass. The band will perform at 12:20 p.m. during Bottle Hill Day on Saturday, Oct. 4 on Central Avenue.

MUSIC: Local acts to take the stage at Bottle Hill Day

FROM PAGE 16

Madison resident Jeff Ertz will close the show on Cook Avenue as part of Jeff Ertz & Friends at 4:15 p.m.

Beer Garden

At the Downtown Development Commission (DDC) Stage in the Beer Garden between Prospect Street and Maple Avenue on Kings Road, Florham Park resident Candice Lee will perform at noon.

Lee is also scheduled to perform as part of the Candice Lee Band at 1:30 p.m. at the Morris County Economic Development Alliance/Morris County Tourism Bureau Stage at the Hartley Dodge Memorial at 50 Kings Road.

Anthology will perform at 1 p.m., followed by Madison resident Jeff Ertz at 2 p.m. Val Schuszler will play at 4 p.m., and Dan Baldan will close the show at 5 p.m.

Green Village Road

At the Madison Arts & Culture Alliance (MACA)/Madison Music & Arts Stage on Green Village Road, Madison Public Schools students will open the show at 10 a.m.

Then, the Spotlight Kids company of Madison will perform at noon, followed by School of Rock Chatham at 12:45 p.m.

Sellwood Studio of Madison will then

perform at 2 p.m., followed by the Regulars.

“36 Madison Ave.,” an a capella group at Drew University, will perform at 4:05 p.m. Closing the show on this stage will be A Work of Heart Productions at 4:30 p.m.



Photo by Brett Friedensohn

Madison resident Katie Holzer, 16, plays piano and sings at the Sellwood Studio of Performing Arts stand at Bottle Hill Day in 2024. Sellwood students will perform at Bottle Hill Day this year at 2 p.m. on Green Village Road.

The Bottle Hill Day Music Committee is chaired by Madison resident Phil Duffy. Some years, Duffy performs at Bottle Hill Day with his band What's What.

“Each year, we try to make things a little

bit different,” Duffy said. “We don’t want all the exact same bands every single time in the same order on the same stages. But by the same token, the real focus for us is the Madison connection.”



Photo by Judi Whiting

Jumping The Gun performs outside the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts at Main Street and Green Village Road in Madison on June 24, 2022. The band will play at 3:50 p.m. during Bottle Hill Day on Saturday, Oct. 4 in front of the Hartley Dodge Memorial Building, 50 Kings Road.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Photo by Judi Whiting
From left, Grace Ruiz, 3, of Madison, brother Jack, 7, and Corinne, 5, enjoy kielbasa and fries outside the Hartley Dodge Memorial building on Bottle Hill Day in 2022.



Photo by Judi Whiting
Chatham Township friends Morgan Kocis, left, and Noelle West, both 11, enjoy cotton candy at the Bottle Hill Day street festival in 2022.



Photo by Meg Mullin
Located along Bottle Hill Day's main drag on Central Avenue, Bethel AME Church serves up a signature soul food buffet each year at the festival. Volunteers in 2023 included Orinthia Conway, Lea Alexander, Tremaine Cooper, Jayda Washington and Kashima Tyler.



No one goes hungry at "Bottle Hill Day." Abbey Holmes, left, sister Sydney Holmes and mom Jeanne Holmes of Madison enjoy treats from Palm Thai at the 2019 festival.



The 3rd New Jersey Regiment will visit the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts on Bottle Hill Day, Saturday, Oct. 4.

MUSEUM TO KICK OFF U.S.' 250TH BIRTHDAY

MADISON – The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts will kick off the United States' 250th birthday in 2026 a few months early from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Bottle Hill Day, Saturday, Oct. 4 at 9 Main St.

The 3rd New Jersey Regiment will cook on the front lawn and perform drills on

the back lawn. Makerspace and crafts will take place in the Education Annex, 23 Main St.

There will be free admission to the museum on Bottle Hill Day.

Registration can be done at metc.org/event/bottlehill.



Photo by Brett Friedensohn

First Baptist Church of Madison members and Morristown residents Gwen Ptichett, left, and Jovita Fant sell baked goods at the church during Bottle Hill Day in Madison on Oct. 5, 2024. This year, the church members will sell food at the church and baked goods at the food court on Central Avenue on Saturday, Oct. 4.

First Baptist Church to serve up the hits

MADISON – Members of the First Baptist Church of Madison will support their food pantry by serving some of Bottle Hill Day's favorite foods at the church at 36 Cook Ave. Saturday, Oct. 4.

Food for sale includes fried whiting fish filet, barbecued ribs, pulled pork sandwiches topped with coleslaw, mac and cheese, and collard greens.

Church members will also hold a bake sale with dessert items which could include pies, cookies and brownies at the food court on Central Avenue.

The menu has stayed the same for at least the past 11 years, according to church Trustee Eddy Sallie who handles the logistics of the food sale at Bottle Hill Day.

"Because people walk off of the main drag of Bottle Hill Day to come up to the

church," Sallie said.

"And if someone comes there, and we're not selling the ribs, it's not a good look. So we've been pretty stable that way. So we get people that come every year looking specifically for a specific item off of our menu."

Sallie, who is originally from Madison and now lives in Union, said Bottle Hill Day is a good time for people from Madison and the surrounding towns to see the Rose City.

"The Word says that we are to go out and make disciples, and we're about interacting with the community," Sallie said.

"And that's where the food pantry comes in, and where we think there's need, we like to interact with the people to kind of supply that need wherever we can. But we like it because it's community. It involves community."

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BEER GARDEN IS BACK ON KINGS ROAD FOR BOTTLE HILL DAY

MADISON – The Bottle Hill Day Beer Garden returns for its 13th year on Kings Road between Prospect Street and Maple Avenue from 12 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4.

The Beer Garden will feature a variety of beer on tap, wine, and will also include some specialty items.

More than 30 volunteers will be on hand to check IDs, serve customers, and monitor patrons. Wristbands for each patron are \$5, which will allow them fast and easy access to the taps. And for \$5 per cup, attendees can enjoy an icy cold brew on tap, specialty craft beer, or glass of wine, while supporting the DDC's efforts to improve downtown Madison.

Thanks to J&M Home and Garden, this fenced area will boast a tropical atmosphere, adorned with lush plants and flowers.

"Our goal was to have a little oasis, a place for friends to gather and take a little time to relax during all the excitement of Bottle Hill Day," said Russell Stern, Beer Garden coordinator and DDC commissioner.

"It's the perfect place to come to eat and drink, or when you need a few minutes to recharge. We are always looking for new ways to help the DDC raise funds. By supporting the Beer Garden, Bottle Hill Day



Photo by Alex Parker-Magyar

Fall foliage and the Hartley Dodge Memorial building clocktower rise above the Bottle Hill Day beer garden on Oct. 15, 2022.

and other DDC events, you are contributing directly to the success of our downtown."

Gary's Wine & Marketplace will serve as the Beer Garden Title Sponsor. Bottle Hill Tavern and Hollenbach Family Chiropractic will again return as Beer Garden sponsors.

sors.

Serving as a new sponsor this year will be Mosaic Animal Health Center at St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center.

The DDC's goal is to create a fun, successful, social event, while ensuring every-

one inside and outside of the Beer Garden is safe. Before the event, volunteers are required to undergo special training by law enforcement personnel on properly checking identification, as well as safety protocols.

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SEE YOU SATURDAY!



Photos by Brett Friedensohn

Left: A crowd gathers on Central Avenue during Bottle Hill Day in 2024. **Above:** Madison resident Tessa Polke, 15, plays a relay race game during Bottle Hill Day in 2024.



Master Byung Uk Kim of World Champion's K Tae Kwon Do gives a lesson to Madison resident Liam O'Connor, 8, during Bottle Hill Day in 2024.



Madison resident Owen Sands, 7, does burpees at the stand of the Fitness for Mankind gym stand during Bottle Hill Day in 2024.

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