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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Middlesex County

Philanthropy • Leadership • Legacy

April News & Notes

Eclipse - Spectacular
Earthquake - Really?
Rain - No drought foreseen for Middlesex County
Snow - No more, please!

Just like Mother Nature and the month of April,
CFMC has been hard at work and full of surprises.
From helping our feathered friends fluff their nests,

to welcoming celebrity Clinton Kelly at The RiverLane,
to releasing the latest episode of our Meaningful Mondays podcast, CFMC continues to *Build a Better Today and Brighter Tomorrow - for ALL*.

Spring is for the birds - and so is CFMC

The Janvrin Fund bird nesting ball project is taking flight!

Did you see the full story earlier this month?
If not, you may be wondering ... what are bird nesting balls?
They are twine balls filled with alpaca fur, that we hang in our yards, and are then plucked by the birds to fluff their nests.

The *Mary Janvrin and Natalie Janvrin Wiggins Fund for Birds, Other Animals, and Nature* provides grants to support birds and the environment in the region that meant so much to them.
Learn more about the Janvrin Fund **here**.

What creative minds our librarians have! They continue to WOW us with fun ideas as they educate their patrons about birds and nature. From bird drawing contests, to games, to identifying local birds, and raffles, our librarians are bringing joy to all those who stop by.

Here are just a few of the fun ideas going on now ...

Killingworth Library Association turned their nesting balls into prizes for their annual game of Tic Tac Towhee!

Cromwell Belden Public Library paired the nesting balls with the Passport to Connecticut Libraries event.

Acton Public Library is running a contest to win your very own nesting ball!

As our "fluff balls" find their new homes, our feathered friends are waiting patiently to build their nests and birdwatchers, old and new, are observing amazing sights right in their own backyard.

A very special THANK YOU to Leslie Bulion, Durham author, for signing copies of her book *Superlative Birds*, and Dottie Smith, A Pocketful of Posies, for the nesting balls and beautiful packaging.

"Looking Good, Feeling Good, Doing Good" A Stylish Mix Indeed

the RiverLane
AN ESSEX VILLAGE BOUTIQUE

On April 6th celebrity Clinton Kelly, from "What Not to Wear" and "The Chew," came to The RiverLane in Essex, for an afternoon of empowerment, community, and style.

Guests from as far as New York gathered to hear Clinton's insights and tips, and came away inspired to embrace their own individuality.

There's More!

We think philanthropy is always in fashion and our thanks to Robin Zubretsky, owner of The RiverLane, and her team for modeling the Live Local, Give Local spirit. A percentage of the proceeds from The RiverLane sales and donations supported CFMC's **Sari A. Rosenbaum Fund for Women & Girls**. Robin shared that the event "wasn't just about looking good; it was about feeling good and doing good. The charitable element was a bonus, but the true magic was in empowering women to look and feel their best." The Sari A. Rosenbaum Fund for Women & Girls embraces this same philosophy through its grantmaking to organizations in Middlesex County that are improving the lives of women and girls each and every day.

Start your day off with April's remarkable guests

Tune in today for another Meaningful Mondays conversation.
Episode 8 – Leslie Carson, Westbrook High School Career Connections and Career Pathways Program, spoke with Cynthia Clegg, CFMC, about helping our youth consider their next steps after high school. Who knows what the future holds? How do I make a good choice? What are the choices? Westbrook High School has developed a program to help our youth answer these daunting questions - and offers the tools and tips to navigate the next steps.

Did you catch up with our first April guest? *DS*
Episode 7 – Damion Grasso, founder and director of the Connecticut Youth Excellence Project (YEP) spoke with Cynthia Clegg, CFMC, about how his college experiences as a mentor and his love of being outside led to the creation of YEP. Mentoring programs help our youth learn important social and decision making skills, build strong relationships, and connect with our community. Through YEP, boys and young men gain life and leadership skills that help them build resiliency in the face of adversity and challenges.

We hope you'll take a few moments to tune in and be inspired!

The CFMC Meaningful Mondays podcast airs twice a month sharing stories of *Good People Doing Great Things - Locally*. We are fortunate to live in a wonderful community full of remarkable individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, who make Middlesex County a great place to live, work, and play.

Visit our Website Spotify iHeart Radio

Happy Earth Day

April 22nd is Earth Day!

Our planet is an amazing place and we have the power to keep it that way.

Let's add to her beauty by planting flowers and trees.

Let's show our appreciation for nature by exploring on foot or bike.

Let's do our part to leave our communities a little better than we found them by cleaning up our beaches and recycling.

No action is too small! **TOGETHER** we can make Middlesex County a greener place to live, work, and play.

Thank you for helping
Good People Do Great (and Green) Things!

See an idea that interests you?
Want to learn more about how you can give back to your community?
We welcome you to reach out to us at (860) 347-0025.

Just a few more things ...

Mark your calendars for fun events on the horizon!

(*More information to come ...*)

We look forward to you being part of the fun!
Contact us at (860) 347-0025 to learn more.

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