

Pretty cars for a pretty good cause July 31



Kellie Lambert McGuire Observing The Arts

Car shows are a summer tradition.

Pretty cars sparkle in the sunlight like auto art, and usually there's extra entertainment to go along with the eye candy.

The 2nd Annual Plainville Charity Auto Show promises all that and more from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 31 at General Electric, 41 Woodford Ave. The event is a benefit for the United Way of West Central Connecticut.

Live music will be on the menu for the entire event. The Bassix Trio will perform from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The Chainsaw

Poets will appear live from 1 p.m. until the show ends.

Admission is \$5; children under age 12 years old are free. For more information, call (860) 747-7906 or e-mail seth.cutler@ge.com.

JUNK FOOD DIET:

Gregory J.E. Ladas will sign copies of his health and fitness book, "The Couch Potato Diet: A Snacker's Guide to Losing Weight and Keeping It Off for Good," from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Borders in Farmington.

The book talks about not giving up fun foods like pizza, pasta, burgers, ice cream, candy and more, yet losing weight and keeping it off. Ladas did just that and lost more than 50 pounds.

Borders is located at 600 South East Rd. in Farmington.

BELLY LAUGHS:

Former NBC "Last Comic Standing" contestant Kathleen Madigan will perform at Waterbury's Palace Theater on Aug. 27 at 8 p.m.

Madigan is a winner of the American Comedy Award for "Best Female Comedian" and was dubbed by Jay Leno as "one of America's funniest female comics." She was the only comedian every to



Kathleen Madigan will bring her stand-up comedy to the Palace Theater in Waterbury on Aug. 27.

go unchallenged on NBC's "Last Comic Standing" and in 2007 was a talent scout during the show's fifth season.

Tickets are \$38 and \$28 and can be purchased at (203) 346-2000, online at www.palacetheaterct.org.

POETRY AND MUSIC:

The Sunken Garden Poetry & Music Festival will celebrate its closing night of the season on Aug. 4 with poetry from Taylor Mali and the winners of "Fresh Voices," as well as music by Ed Fast with Conga Bop.

Taylor Mali is one of the most well-known poets to have emerged from the poetry slam movement.

"Fresh Voices" features six high school winners of Hill-Stead's Young Poets Competition selected from all corners of the state, including Megan Brookman of Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts and Farmington High School.

Conga Bop, led by drummer/vibist/composer Ed Fast, combines the harmony and sensibilities of hard-bop with the rhythms of the Caribbean to produce an original and vibrant sound that is both Latin and jazz.

The performance begins at 6:30 p.m.; gates open at 4:30 p.m. for pic-

nicking. Visitors may bring their own food or purchase food on site from vendors. Attendance is free; on-site parking is \$10 per vehicle. Blankets and lawn chairs welcome. The event will be held indoors or under a tent if it rains.

For more information, call (860) 677-4787 or visit www.hillstead.org.

COOL "GIG": The New Haven-based band Mile Marker Zero is the first band from the state to have its music available for the popular video game RockBand. The group is one of the first set of unsigned bands who have music available for download via the RockBand Network.

Gamers can download songs at www.rockband.com on their game systems and try their hand at the guitar, bass, drum or vocal tracks.

The first song made available was "A Thousand Nights," and has sold across the country and as well as internationally. It is garnering RockBand performance videos on YouTube featuring young music fans hearing the band's music for the first time. Later in the year, three more songs from the

bands self-titled debut album will be available including "Laceration," "A Kiss to Fix," and "Crimson Red."

The group, which has its roots in Middlebury and Southbury, released its self-titled album one year ago, and has been working to promote the release. The band is currently in pre-production for their first music video, and are tracking new demos at the well known Horizon Music Studios.

To keep tabs on the band's latest accomplishments and upcoming shows, visit www.milemarkerzero.com.

NEW OPENING ACT:

Country singer Sara Evans will be the support act at Brooks & Dunn's "Last Rodeo Tour," set for Aug. 14 at Hartford's Comcast Theater. Tickets range from \$20 to \$75. Visit www.live-nation.com.

Send arts and entertainment news and listings, including information on local musicians, artists, theater, film, books and more, to kellmccuire@yahoo.com.

Music listings

FRIDAY, JULY 23

BRISTOL
SISTER FUNK. Downtown Café, 118 Main St., Bristol.

SPIRIT SHAKER. 10 p.m. Bleacher's, Middle Street, Bristol. BleachersBar.net

LAKE AFTER DARK. 7 to 9 p.m. Musical performance. Lake Compounce, Bristol. LakeCompounce.com

SOUTHINGTON
ROB CANNILLO. Folk music. Plus Shotgun Comedy Show. Jitters, 1273 Queen St., Southington. (860) 747-1100.

OTHER
BIG JIM'S BIRTHDAY BASH/ Dio Tribute/ Cancer Benefit. Megahertz (performing an all Dio set), Threat, Category 5, Karmic Justic, Mike Corwell, Gargamel, Vengeance, Solar Angels. 7 p.m. Toad's Place, 300 York St., New Haven. ToadsPlace.com.

THE FELIX CULPA, SAINT-HOOD REPS, CASTLES, BREAKTHROUGH FREQUENCIES. 7 p.m. The Space, 295 Treadwell St., Hamden. TheSpace.tk

YAW GEEZ and Guests. 6:45 p.m. Lilly's Pad, Toad's Place, 300 York St., New Haven. ToadsPlace.com

SATURDAY, JULY 24
BRISTOL
HIGH OCTANE. 10 p.m. Bleachers, Middle Street, Bristol. BleachersBar.net

SOUTHINGTON
ALEKSIS BILMANIS. 8 p.m. Jitters Coffeeshouse, 1273 Queen St., Southington. (860) 747-1100.

OTHER
KURT VILE, REAL ESTATE SORE EROS. 7 p.m. Lilly's Pad, Toad's Place, 300 York St., New Haven. ToadsPlace.com

THE SAWTELLES. 8 to 10 p.m. Javapalooza, Main Street, Middletown. TheSawtelles.com

LISTEN TO THE SKY, HEROES ON PARADE, PARACHUTE STAGE, MATT TALMAGE. 7 p.m. The Space, 295 Treadwell St., Hamden. TheSpace.tk

GRUNGE DAY. Stash's Café, 95 Pequot Ave., New London.

SUNDAY, JULY 25

BRISTOL
KARAOKE. Downtown Café, 118 Main St., Bristol.

OTHER
THROWING COLOR, Call Me Kat, The Press. 7 p.m. The Space, 295 Treadwell St., Hamden. TheSpace.tk

MONDAY, JULY 26
OTHER
CLEARVIEW. 7 p.m. Presented by Fine Arts Connection of Thomaston. Seth Thomas Park, South Main St., Thomaston. Free. Rain location Black Rock School, Route 109, Thomaston. FineArtsConnection.org (860) 283-4937.



The Spill Canvas opens for the Goo Goo Dolls on Wednesday, July 28 at the Mohegan Sun Arena.

TUESDAY, JULY 27
BRISTOL
KARAOKE. Downtown Café, 118 Main St., Bristol.

MASS-CONN FUSION. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Brackett Park, Bristol. Sponsored by Bristol Parks and Recreation Department.

OTHER
OPEN MIC NIGHT. 6:30 p.m. The Space, 295 Treadwell St., Hamden. TheSpace.tk

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28
BRISTOL
ELECTRIC OPEN MIC. Downtown Café, 118 Main St., Bristol.

OTHER
GOO GOO DOLLS, Switchfoot, The Spill Canvas. 7:30 p.m. Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville. MoheganSun.com

THURSDAY, JULY 29

BRISTOL
ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC. Downtown Café, 118 Main St., Bristol.

OTHER
MRS. DANVERS, PAM AUTUORI, THE WOUA COULDA SHOULDAS, MAGARI, SOIL AND THE SUN, TIMBRE, SMALL HOUSES. 7 p.m. The Space, 295 Treadwell St., Hamden. TheSpace.tk

OTHER
STRETCH with Dave Laure. 8 p.m. Lilly's Pad, 300 York St., New Haven. ToadsPlace.com

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