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Good Morning, Hopkins County WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018 Madisonville, Kentucky \$1.49

## Woman's Club announces auction, window painting



Photos by Laura Harvey, The Messenger

Woman's Club of Madisonville members Donna Travis, left, and Trish Noel auction off a plate of fudge at the October meeting. On Tuesday, the group kicked off its "Tree-mendous Auction" season in observance of the club's 50th year in Hopkins County.

## Popular civic group kicks off 50th year in Hopkins County

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They've come a long way, baby, and they are only just getting started.

For the past 50 years, the Woman's Club of Madisonville has been holding a variety of social events to raise money for various local nonprofits, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Breaking Bread Ministries, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Door of Hope Pregnancy Counseling Center, Hopkins County Schools and Madisonville Community College.

And just to think, one of its first large-scale fundraisers made only \$227.50. Luckily, that was in 1973 dollars. It would be



more than \$1,000 today. The Woman's Club of Madisonville, now more than 80 members strong, kicked off its "Tree-mendous Auction" season

**Left:** Fifty-year member Faye Florida gives a history of the Woman's Club, complete with past and present fundraisers.

this week during its October meeting, a season that is celebrating the club's 50th local year. The club, which is a branch of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, was founded in 1969. The national federation began in 1890.

Hopkins County resident Faye Florida has been with the local club since the beginning. During the Tuesday meeting, Florida read aloud from a few of many archived journal entries regarding the club's many fundraisers over the years.

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## CLUB

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The year 1973 marked the club's first holiday bazaar, which sprang from the group's already established summer auction. The event, which sold homemade items and baked goods, earned just over \$227.50. During the 1970s, tickets to enter were only 50 cents each.

In 1977, 240 area residents attended the Christmas auction, which brought in more than \$500 for the club. Since then, things like the name have changed, but the annual "Tree-mendous Auction" is basically the same as it has always been.

That isn't to say that there hasn't been some healthy competition between members over the years. For quite some time, the late Nell Lee and Mildred Fox held a friendly feud over whose chocolate fudge could rake in the most dough at the auction.

"You found yourself very lucky if you could be the winning bidder," Florida said. "This year is our year to celebrate our birthday and honor both of these women."

During the kickoff Tuesday, club members Trish Noel and Donna Travis auctioned off their renditions of Lee and Fox's famous fudge to their fellow members. Both confections sold for \$160 each, proving that yet again, a true winner may never be determined.

"During those early years, we were willing to try something new," Florida said. "We had something new just about every year."

The club's Home Tour, which takes residents on a holiday-themed sightseeing tour of neighborhood homes, was introduced in 1972. The following year, the women held a charity ball to help raise money for what would become to Glema Mahr Center for the Arts, and to start a girls' softball team at

the YAA. In 1985, a "dinner musical" with a live choir was introduced.

Many of the fundraisers, however, have come and gone. While the charity ball was initially a hit with partygoers, the disco era led to an abysmal turnout in 1979. The dance had lasted only five years. The dinner musical enjoyed much lengthier success, but was discontinued in 2000. The choir went on to become the MCC Singers.

The Christmas auction and home tour are still going strong. This year's live auction will take place Nov. 8 at the Ballard Convention Center, 605 Arch St. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at The Gift Horse, 36 W. Lake St. or Merle Norman Cosmetics, 226 Madison Square Drive.

The Home Tour will be held from 1-5 p.m. Dec. 2 and will be headquartered at the Hopkins County Tourism and Convention Commission, 28 Sugg St. in Madisonville. The French home on Trotters Lane, two Legate homes on Claiborne Drive, Metcalfe at Pleasant View, the Hagerman home on Shoal Creek Drive, and the Hunt home on Sycamore Lane will be on view. Tickets will be available at the Nov. 8 Christmas auction.

Also returning this year is the club's popular Halloween Window Painting Contest, which is co-hosted by the Downtown Turnaround Partnership and the city of Madisonville. Registration will take place from 3-6 p.m. Oct. 18 and from 2-5 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Hopkins County Regional Chamber of Commerce, 15 E. Center St. Painting will begin at 3 p.m. Oct. 19 and judging will begin at noon the following day.

The window painting contest is free to Hopkins County schoolchildren in grades K-12. Participants are asked to bring a sketch of their painting during registration for approval.