

Chester events

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Park & Rec Summer Program attendees enjoy Pelletier Park



DELIVERING TOWN NEWS

TO EVERYONE IN TOWN

A photograph of two hikers crossing a rocky stream. The hiker on the left is an older man with white hair, wearing an orange jacket and white shorts, standing on a large grey rock. The hiker on the right is wearing a red jacket and blue backpack, reaching out to assist the older hiker. The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

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First Selectwoman's Corner

YAY Summer!

Wow it has been a busy spring! We have accomplished a lot, planned more, and have a ton of ideas for the future.

PLAYTIME

The ever-popular Park & Rec Summer Program is now underway and campers are having a blast most days at Pelletier Park. Cedar Lake has never looked better!

Families are also turning out in great numbers to enjoy North Quarter Park, where major improvements to the playground have recently been completed. Kudos to our Park and Recreation Director, Elizabeth Netsch, the Park and Recreation Commission and our Public Works Department. Great job, everyone!

There are movies, concerts, festivals, farmer's markets, theater events, beaches to visit and friends and family to love and laugh with this summer. Please enjoy the season!

BUDGET

On May 29th, you passed a budget for the

2019-2020 fiscal year, despite the effect it will have on Chester taxes. Due to a leveling of student population compared to Essex and Deep River, the costs associated with a new teacher contract, a steep increase in medical insurance premiums for the school district, and a pressing problem with dying trees in town, unfortunately, most residents' tax bills are increasing. Most of the increase is directly related to the education budgets, and decisions about where to spend and what can be cut are extremely challenging.

During our conversations about school budgets this spring, it became obvious that, due to our complicated structure, multiple boards of education, and partial regionalization, many residents do not have a clear understanding of who controls what, especially when it comes to the budget. Here is a simple outline that may help:

1st BUDGET

Supervision District: Covers Central Office administrative staff and other shared

services including but not limited to transportation, special education, employee benefits, and various teaching staff including music, art, physical education, library/media center, and IT network techs. Supervision District's Budget is the first to get set, because the expenses included in this budget are distributed and included in every other budget. This budget is approved solely by the Supervision Board members (includes representatives from each of the other Boards of Education). Chester's portion of the Supervision District Budget is based on our percentage of the overall school population sharing the cost of these services.

2nd BUDGET

Region 4 School District: Includes John Winthrop Middle School and Valley
continued on page 2



Lauren Gister,
First Selectwoman



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COVER PHOTO

A gang of excited lads await the bus from Cedar Lake to Lake Compo as part of Park & Rec's "Adventure Camp" for grades 4 to 7.
Photo by Ivey Gianetti.

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First Selectwoman... continued from page 1

Regional High School. Budget set by the Region 4 Board of Education, which includes members elected from each of the three towns. This Budget is the one voted on at referendum the first week of May each year. The votes of the three towns are aggregated and the result is based on the total number of votes cast, not the results in any one town. Chester pays a percent share of the Region 4 budget based on our relative percent of the Region 4 school population, which fluctuates from year to year.

3rd BUDGET

Town of Chester and Chester Elementary School. This budget includes the General Government Budget, Capital Improvement Budget, and the Chester Elementary School Budget. These are the smallest dollar budgets, and since the already set portion of the Supervision Budget is already ensconced in the Elementary School budget, and the passed Region 4 budget is no longer part of the discussion, at this point in the process there is not a great deal of leeway to change the numbers without affecting the regular day to day functioning and maintenance of our town and/or the teaching staff or programming at our wonderful elementary school.

So, here's the point...

THESE DECISIONS ARE HARD
THESE DECISIONS ARE IMPORTANT
YOU ARE THE ONES WHO MAKE THEM

Because these financial decisions have such a great effect on all of our residents, it is vitally important that these decisions not be made by a couple of dozen individuals who show up to a Town Meeting. Just as in the November elections, voter turnout is critical to fairness and equity. We are trying some new ideas for how to get more people involved and make the meetings and votes more accessible. This May we started with two ideas – we used our already employed and insured Park and Rec camp counselors and provided childcare during the Budget Town Meeting. Additionally, we gathered names of volunteers willing to help drive their neighbors to the meeting so that anyone who does not drive after dark or has no transportation could be part of the conversation and decision. I hope to continue these programs for future Town Meetings wherever possible, but especially for budget and other decisions which may be controversial or have significant financial effects to the taxpayer.

VETERANS

Chester has a new Veteran's Representative! Charlie Park has volunteered to serve as the municipal representative for veterans. He will serve as a resource to help find answers and connect with the appropriate contacts at the Veterans Administration or with the State of Connecticut. He can be reached at charlietpark@yahoo.com or a message can be left for him with the Selectman's Office at 860-526-0013.

MAIN STREET PROJECT

The next phase of the Main Street Project is moving along. The final design and bid documents are expected in August or September, which then need to be approved by the State DOT. We are hoping to go to bid and begin construction in early spring of 2020. Because this is a state funded project, there are multiple approvals needed from the DOT along the process, and there are still many questions to be answered. We are preparing a *Frequently Asked Questions* sheet to put on the website and will be putting together a team to brainstorm creative ideas to help our downtown merchants and residents get through this major construction project. This will be very disruptive to the downtown area. As we did with the State bridge project two years ago, it will be up to all of us to support our businesses enthusiastically. Additionally, due to the fact that downtown parking will be severely limited during the project, we will be working to improve the Maple Street parking lot surface and lighting, along with the walkway from Main Street before construction starts. I will try to update you as residents at least monthly. Please check the Main Street Project page on the Chester website and feel free to contact my office with questions or ideas at any time.

Best wishes,
Lauren

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Craft Fair - Mark Your Calendar!

The Chester Hose Company Incorporated, located at 6 High St., Chester is holding "Fall Back, Spring Ahead" Art & Craft Fair being held on Saturday October 26th from 10 am to 3 pm.

There will be an array of one-of-a-kind unique handmade items to purchase. You'll be sure to find the perfect gift for anyone on your list or maybe something for yourself. Food available to purchase through Chow Food Truck and weather permitting

Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Truck. We offer a prize drawing, free parking and free admission.

If you would like to participate by showing off and selling your creative creation or know someone else who does, feel free to contact us by emailing fallbackspringahead7@gmail.com. Come join us for a fun filled day. Can't wait to see you there!

The Meeting House Players Celebrates 40 Years of Community Theater

The Meeting House Players are celebrating 40 years of creating memorable theatre productions in the intimate environment of the Chester Meeting House. We are a small, non-profit, all volunteer community theatre organization whose goal has always been two-fold. We endeavor to produce great theatre to delight our audiences and we strive to bring the joy, the fun and the comradery to all those involved in the creative process that brings our productions to life. Established 1979, The Meeting

House Players have produced more than sixty-five plays. We are busy planning the fall 2019 production. The performance dates will be November 8, 9, 16 & 16, 2019 at the Meeting House located at 4 Liberty Street in Chester, CT. Open audition for the November production will be held at the end of August. Please look for future announcements that will provide updates and additional details. We produce two theatre events each year and we invite area residents with an interest in theatre to join

us and we encourage those who want to act to audition for us. We are currently looking for an individual or individuals who would be interested in volunteering to assist with set design as well as overseeing the set construction. Please visit us online at www.TheMeetingHousePlayers.com, email us at TheMeetingHousePlayers@gmail.com or call Debbie Alldredge at 860-526-3684 for more information.

Submitted by Debbie Alldredge

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Chester Tax Collector / Using a New Collection Agency

Because some people do not pay their motor vehicle (MV) bills on time, we have started to utilize the services of a different collection agency. We have signed up with Credit Information Bureau (CIB) based out of Rhode Island to help us collect some back MV and personal property taxes. In most cases, it is people who have moved away and we have not been able to locate them. So far, I have sent about 70 accounts to CIB which covers the grand lists of 2012, 2013 and 2014 along with any older or newer ones that are connected to these 3 lists. My goal will be, each January, to send one or two newer lists and one older list and see if CIB can find any of these delinquent people and collect the money due.

The sad part is that this process takes a long time for us to accumulate the correct information and code it for the collection agency. The other sad part is the process then adds 15% to the total bill, meaning it adds to both the tax amount and the interest amount, causing people to have to pay a lot more than originally billed. But we need to do this process to make the collecting of taxes fair to each and every taxpayer.

The hope is that all will pay the amount due, and not have just the conscientious people doing so. So far, in less than one month, the collection agency has found two people and one has, indeed, paid. I hope people who read this realize that we are attempting to get all those who have been billed to pay. This should help the town in the long run by having the collection rate even higher than it has been. We have collected over 100% of what was asked of us so far this year, and 97.7% of all that is due for the 15 years that we can collect (that is still on the computer).

We have used collection agencies in the past, but not much money was ever collected, probably because we gave the agencies some very difficult accounts. CIB has the ability to search many different ways, so they are apt to find more people than we could or the other agencies could in the past. Another thing that has helped us collect more money recently is that I put a different insert in with the delinquent mailings. I created an insert that stated: "MV taxes are due in July or January for the supplemental list. The taxes are NOT due when the MV needs to be registered." I hope people pay attention to this statement, since the State of CT might allow all of us to register our MVs every three years, instead of every two. That might help cut down on the lines at DMV for all of us, but it will mean that the people who normally don't pay until they absolutely are forced to, will be paying every 3 years and not every 2 and it will bring their bills up much higher, since the bills will then include 3 year of interest instead of 2 years. This will just make it harder for them to find the total money due. So hopefully, more people pay on time in July or in a few cases, in January from the supplemental list. Good luck with all of this and I am sure "my readers" do not have to worry, since

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they all faithfully pay on time. See you in July or better yet, mail in your payment & avoid any line that might sometimes occur!

Sincerely,
Madaline Meyer, TC and Susan Shrack, Tax Clerk

5th Annual Cruise, Blues & Brews Festival

Most Family Friendly Event of the Entire Festival Season

The young and the young-at-heart are in for a great time at the 5th Annual Cruise Blues & Brews Festival, held Saturday, September 21, 10 am to 5 pm (rain or shine), at the Chester Fair Grounds.

This festival features hundreds of antique and unique cars on display, performances by Connecticut's top Blues Bands, a food court with a variety of up-scale food trucks, locally brewed craft beer on tap,

a marketplace of vendors, a kid's play area full of activities, trophies, games and prizes. All proceeds from Cruise Blues & Brews Festival support the At-Risk Boys Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

Established only five years ago, The At-Risk Boys fund has awarded over \$75,000 in grants to organizations throughout Middlesex County. These grants have helped hundreds of boys and young men achieve success and a better life.

The 5th Annual Cruise Blues & Brews Festival will be held Saturday, September 21, 2019, 10 am to 5 pm (rain or shine), at the Chester Fair Grounds. Admission: \$10 donation, children under 12 are free and tickets can be purchased at the gate during the Festival.

To learn more about this fun-filled event or to make a donation please go to www.atriskboysfund.com.

Visit the Chester website at www.chesterct.org

A Round of Applause for Supporting the Arts.



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It takes a community to improve the quality of life for all – neighbors and friends who give their time and resources to support a passion or area of interest. We applaud the good people who are working in partnership to enrich and inspire creativity through the visual, written and performing arts.

Together, we are making a real difference. Thanks to our donors, funds, and our nonprofit partners, the arts are flourishing in our community – both “on stage” and “behind the scenes.” Together we are teaching our young people – and people of all ages – to sing, dance, sketch, paint, and even play an instrument. We are helping performing arts organizations purchase updated sound and lighting equipment to enhance production capability and audience experience. Thanks to you, our artists are sharing their talents and receiving that wonderful “Round of Applause.”

Thanks to you, by combining our resources, we are able to make even the smallest gift have a big impact - through charitable funds that support not only arts and culture, but also animal welfare, health and social services, education, history, the environment, civic improvements, recreation, and economic security and opportunity.

We celebrate all of you who share the same desire to help our local community thrive today, and tomorrow.

We invite you to learn more by calling us or visiting us online.

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Planning & Zoning Commission Sees Chester as Alive and Growing

People are always looking for new things to see and do, places to learn and grow. Chester has been an incubator community for many changes over the years. The Planning and Zoning Commission has worked to not only address those moves, but also to protect the town's history, heritage and our residents.

Recently an application has been received that will see Camp Hazen-YMCA taking giant steps with new buildings, a new look as it replaces failing trees with new landscaping, improved vehicle access and other features. New business applications offer opportunities for growth and economic development. Each is reviewed to ensure it will be appropriate, beneficial and maintain Chester standards.

Main Street will face challenges as the Main Street Project moves ahead to continue the upgrade of the Village Center. The Commission encourages people to take advantage of our local merchants and others during the construction. These businesses have worked hard to grow in the Village and we'd like to see them thrive in a "new and improved" Chester.

As Chester grows and changes, some things move with slow regularity. The election process is one of those things. Commission members are elected; new members with interest in Chester, willing to put in the time and effort, are always encouraged. Please contact your local political party if you would like to be considered for this important job. Members give freely of their time and energy, but rely on the community as a whole for Chester to be all it can be in the days and years to come.

Chester Harbor Management Commission

Of interest to our boaters, and viewers of our "overlook" area at the end of Railroad Avenue, we at Chester Creek have applied for a grant to dredge the mouth of Chester Creek.

Silt coming down the river fills up the channel in and out of the Creek. Roughly every ten years we have to dredge it out. We received a grant to prepare for the dredging process, so, we should be in good shape.

Up the Creek, we have 457 slips, two boat launches, and two maintenance facilities with travel lifts and winter storage capabilities. Plus, we have dock space for our river incident responders.

Joel Severance, Chairman

Connecticut River Area Health Department

We all enjoy the sun. It provides us warmth and light, which is beneficial to our overall health. Upwards of 90% of our vitamin D comes from the sun, however too much of a good thing is not so good, as the sun can burn your skin, cause skin cancer, premature aging of the skin, cataracts, eye damage, and immune system suppression. For most people, 15 minutes of sun per day will not have adverse effects on the skin and will provide you with enough Vitamin D. Skin cancer, although preventable, is the most common cancer in the United States. Approximately 3.5 million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed every year.

The USEPA and CRAHD recommends the following to protect yourself:

Avoid recurrent sun tanning and tanning beds: Dangerous Ultra Violet (UV) radiation from tanning beds and direct exposure to the sun for prolonged periods of time can cause skin cancer and premature wrinkling.

Apply lots of sunscreen: Use at least one ounce of sunscreen to cover all exposed skin 15 minutes before going outside. Use a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 with broad spectrum protection from both Ultraviolet A (UVA) and Ultraviolet B (UVB) sun rays. Reapply sunscreen generously every two hours, even on cloudy or overcast days and after swimming or sweating.

Wear protective clothing: Long shirts, pants, hats, and sunglasses should be worn when outdoors.

Spend time in shaded areas: Seek areas of shade, especially between the hours of 10-4 when the UV rays are most powerful. Avoid sunburn.

Check the UV index prior to outdoor activities: Another way to limit sun overexposure is to pay close attention to the UV index. The UV index has an Exposure Category of low to extreme. Less than 2 on the index is considered low, and 11+ is considered extreme. The UV index forecast is issued by both by the National Weather Service and EPA.

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Robbie Collomore Concert Series

For its 46th season, the Robbie Collomore Concert Series will present four concerts in the fall, from September 22nd to November 24th. All concerts are at 5 pm in the Chester Meeting House.

The season begins on September 22nd with the Ansonia String Quartet, an ensemble formed at The Juilliard School in 2016. Sumire Hirotsuru and Byungchan Lee, violins, Grace Takeda, viola, and Isabel Kwon, cello, have been acclaimed as a new, exciting string quartet. They have been awarded several prestigious awards and have given several world premieres. Their concert will include music of Beethoven, Ravel, and Mendelssohn.

Our October 13th concert presents jazz and blues artist Hubby Jenkins, a multi-instrumentalist who endeavors to share his love and knowledge of old-time American music with his audiences. Hubby got his start busking on the sidewalks of New York City, and ended up with the Grammy award-winning group "Carolina Chocolate Drops." The buzz has already started about his upcoming appearance!

Our first November concert, on the 3rd of the month, features J2B2, an all-star bluegrass group (also known as the John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band). Four legendary musicians: John Jorgenson on acoustic guitar, mandolin and vocals; Herb Pedersen on banjo, acoustic guitar and vocals; Mark Fain on bass; and Patrick Sauber on acoustic guitar and vocals join together to form a union of impeccable musicianship. Their debut album, *From the Crow's Nest*, was recently recorded in Sheryl Crow's Nashville recording studio.

We end our season with wonderful cello and piano recital, featuring Carter Brey and Benjamin Pasternak performing works of Debussy, Britten, and Mendelssohn. Carter Brey was appointed principal cellist of the New York Philharmonic in 1996 and has appeared as soloist with many of America's major symphony orchestras, and performed and recorded with many well-known artists. Benjamin Pasternak, pianist, has performed as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician on four continents, and has won numerous awards. Together they will make some incredible music!

Every concert is followed by a reception in the hall, catered by a local restaurant, where you can meet the performers. Buy a season subscription now to save money (only \$105) and ensure that you have a seat for all four concerts. Individual tickets are \$30 each. Student tickets are \$5 or \$15 for a subscription. Tickets are on sale now at www.collomoreconcerts.org or call 203-488-8403.

The Robbie Collomore Concert Series is presented under the auspices of the Chester Historical Society.

Today is Tomorrow's History ~ News from the Chester Historical Society

MUSEUM VISITS

It's our 50th year sharing and making history! Be sure to visit our museum as well as take part in our programs as we celebrate this important milestone.

Our redesigned first floor – thanks to Sandy and Marilena Vaccaro and Keith and Sandy Dauer - will “knock your socks off!” Our new displays about what's happened in each decade since our 1970 founding will thoroughly impress you. The exhibit is also a tribute to Jan and Peter Good who have generously created posters, logos and more for the Historical Society and the town for the past 50 years.

Upstairs, our award-winning, long-running “**Streams of Change**” exhibit has something for everyone, including brand-new attractions. Picture yourself getting your hair curled with the (then) latest technology at Andy's Beauty Shop. Learn of Chester's four early school districts, the Union School and the evolution of education sites since.

continued on page 12

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Historical Society... continued from page 11

The museum is open every Saturday afternoon from 1 to 4 and every Sunday from 10 to 4 until the end of October, at no charge (but donations are always welcome!). We offer air conditioning and handicapped access. Please plan a visit soon!

MEMBERSHIP OPENS OUR DOORS FOR SPECIAL TIMES

Having a gathering of family or friends? Wish to share Chester with others? Chester Historical Society members can consider a visit to Chester Museum at The Mill at times other than normal museum hours (Sat 1-4, Sun 10-4). In season, off-season, we'll work with you to schedule a visit tailored to your needs and times. Call Diane Lindsay (526-2443) to start the process.

FALL PROGRAMS

Fall programs begin on Sunday, Sept. 15 with Al Malpa, a Chester resident and longtime ephemera collector and dealer, discussing some of the items in our Chester collection in terms of their value, and Jan and Peter Good reflecting on some of their favorite Chester designs on Sunday, Nov. 17.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, in collaboration with the Deep River Historical Society, we'll be showing some of the old films of our two towns (including the '36 flood and '38 hurricane) that

have been digitized and edited, thanks to our collaborative grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. This program will be held in the Auditorium of the Deep River Town Hall.

WANT TO HELP?

Our curator, Diane Lindsay, can use assistance in our archive room. She's there on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings. If you want to know more about what's involved and how frequently you'd be needed, please give Diane a call at 526-2443. Want to help us tape the memories of our longtime citizens so we can preserve their oral histories? Please call Cary Hull at 860-558-4701. We can also use help with occasional refreshments (call Sandy Dauer at 526-2331) and museum and grounds cleanup (call Ed Meehan at 526-2938). And don't forget, we are always looking for old (and not-so-old) Chester photos that we would scan and return to you. Please let Diane Lindsay know you've got something to share.

Please stay in the know through our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/chestercthistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/chestercthistoricalsociety)) or our monthly e-news (to receive it, please send your email address to chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com). You can also watch our website, chesterhistoricalsociety.org.

Valley Shore Clergy Association

Peace Potlucks

Friends of all faiths are invited to evenings of food, fellowship, and learning.

Wednesdays at 6:15 pm:

July 17 - UCC Chester

August 28 - House of Peace Mosque, Meriden

Please bring a dairy or vegetarian meal to share, an open mind, and an open heart.

We'll talk, study text, and build bridges, and we look forward to you joining us!

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Chester Public Library

ADULT PROGRAMS

Sept. 21 – “Woodstock: a 50th Anniversary Celebration.”

Come celebrate Peace day with Craig Harris, a master percussionist, educator, author, photographer, and the host of a popular weekly Friday night show 88.5 FM in Washington, DC. During his lecture, Craig will incorporate rare recordings, archival video, insightful storytelling, group singing, and guided music-making. The August 1969 Woodstock Exposition of Music and Art continues to reverberate cultural ripples and this program will not only stir memories but provide new perspective.

Town Hall 11 am.

Sept. 25 – “Beneath a Scarlett Sky, by Mark Sullivan.”

Facilitator and discussion leader Marsha Bansavage is back for our fall book discussion. This program will take place at the library from 6:30 to 8:00 pm and is free, but registration is encouraged. Books will be available at the library on a first come, first served basis.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Come celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing...

with space-themed programs and an incentive-based reading challenge for all ages! The Chester Public Library is using ReadSquared this year in addition to paper reading logs to track summer reading. Sign-up at the library to receive a registration prize; turn in completed reading logs by Saturday, August 10th to enter our raffle drawing. The raffle winner will receive a brand new TELESCOPE!

June 25 - “Animal Embassy: Over the Moon Animal Adventure.”

Our Summer Reading Kick-Off! Join Animal Embassy on this nocturnal journey through the fascinating night life of the animal kingdom! We will help children to understand the differences between “nocturnal,” “crepuscular” and “diurnal” animals by providing exciting, live examples of each. Discover what these amazing creatures do while we are tucked tightly in our beds dreaming. 1 pm at the Chester Meeting House.

July 10 - “Children’s Museum of Southeastern CT: Our Marvelous, Mysterious Moon.”

Watch actual NASA space footage and participate in a variety of hands-on activities to better understand the solar system. Make craters, lunar paintings and Oreo cookie moon phases. 3 pm at the Library.

continued on page 14



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Chester Library... continued from page 13

July 17 - "Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center: Alien Insects!"

Want to contribute to a growing global scientific initiative? Your little bug-collectors can help by collecting an insect sample for DNA barcoding. Find insects using Life Scanner kits that include vials, collection instruments and DNA preservation fluid. Perhaps the etymologist in your life will have found a new species! Join Kim Hargrave in the instruction and practice using these kits. 3 pm at the Library.

July 24 - "The Mind and Movement Project: Space Yoga."

5-4-3-2-1... Families are invited to join us on a Space Yoga Adventure. We will blast off into space and soar into the universe stretching our imaginations as well as our bodies. Breath work, poses, and relaxation

will be incorporated into the class as well as plenty of fun and laughter! 4 pm at the Library.

July 31 - "Jedi Training with Darth Vader."

Is there a Star Wars fan in your life? Here's a chance for your young Jedi warrior to defeat the evil Sith Lord. Each participant will receive a lightsaber and the opportunity to use his or her best moves against Darth Vader. This professional costumed actor will interact with your little hero and provide a memory to last a lifetime! 3 pm at the Town Hall.

Aug. 7 - "Kidscapades: Little Astronauts."

Let your toddler explore outer space through sensory bins and science. The

benefits of sensory play for young children are endless, including the enhancement of fine and gross motor skills and overall brain development. Leave the mess to us as Elena Bigio of Kidscapades coordinates a galactic, tactile adventure for your busy voyager. 4 pm at the Library.

Aug. 14 - "Out of this World Magic Show by Mr. Magic."

Conclude our Space Mission with a family magic show. The stars will align as this veteran magician will combine music, tricks, and audience participation to create a dazzling cosmic event! 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

**Story Hour with Miss Trish will continue every Monday at 10:30 am. All children welcome.

Essex Printing Wins Eight Print Awards

The Print Industry of New England (PINE) has announced that Essex Printing received eight awards in PINE's New England Regional Awards of Excellence competition. With these new

awards, Essex Printing has won a total of 28 print awards over the past 7 years.

"We are so pleased to have won so many awards this year. It is a testament to the dedication of our staff and the commitment we make to our customers," said Essex Printing's President, William McMinn. "It shows not only our dedication to quality but also our versatility," added McMinn. "Over the years, we have received awards for a variety of printed materials - from marketing pieces to books, from brochures to calendars. It's a great feeling when you have affirmation that you are providing your clients with print materials that they can feel very proud of."

PINE's Awards of Excellence Competition attracted over 300 entries from over 35 printing and imaging companies across New England competing in a variety of printing and graphic communications categories. A panel of judges with extensive experience in printing and print production examined the wide range of work submitted. Each entry was judged anonymously on its own merit in a category with similar printed pieces. The judging criteria included: registration, clarity and neatness, sharpness of halftones and line drawings, richness and tonalities of color, paper and ink selection, ink coverage, difficulty of printing, effective contrast or softness, overall visual impact and bindery.

Essex Printing is a commercial printing company located at 18 Industrial Park Road in Centerbrook, Connecticut. Its operations are part of the same company that produces and publishes Events Magazines for 13 towns along the Connecticut Shoreline and into the Connecticut River Valley, including Chester Events Magazines. You can contact Essex Printing at 860-767-9087 or visit www.essexprinting.com.

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Growing Vascular Program Uses the Latest Technology

Surgeons from The Vascular Experts practice at the Middlesex Health Center for Advanced Surgery are led by Dr. Bart Muhs. The Vascular Experts team is comprised of capable board-certified surgeons who are solely dedicated to vascular care and who can tackle simple or complicated cases.

They use the latest technology provided by Middlesex Health to best help patients. A recently renovated, state-of-the-art Diagnostic & Interventional Suite at Middlesex Hospital includes a hybrid catheterization laboratory designed to meet the needs of patients requiring heart, vascular and other interventional procedures. The suite also features intravascular ultrasound equipment that enables surgeons to view images from inside blood vessels in real time to identify blockages or ruptures.

This cutting-edge technology gives surgeons the tools needed to perform complicated procedures at Middlesex Health. For example, surgeons are able to perform fenestrated grafts, a vascular procedure that's generally performed only at larger tertiary care centers.

Middlesex Health vascular surgeons also perform a number of more common vascular procedures, including abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, carotid endarterectomy, leg angioplasty and stenting, and peripheral bypass surgery.

At Middlesex Health, vascular surgeons pioneer minimally invasive techniques and they're committed to providing personalized care. They take the time to develop a unique care plan for each patient to ensure the best possible outcome.

The Vascular Experts has offices in Middletown and Old Saybrook and can be reached at 844-482-7285.

United Church of Chester

Come spend a quiet hour of contemplation and fellowship from 9-10 am on Sunday morning during July and August, away from the bustle of the week.

Upcoming Events/Worship

Wednesday, July 17: Peace Pot-Luck, 6:15 pm United Church of Chester, sponsored by the Valley Shore clergy Association. Theme is "Children of Abraham and Sibling Rivalry." All are welcome.

Wednesday, August 28: Peace Pot-Luck, 6:15 pm, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Baitul Aman "House of Peace" Mosque in Meriden. Theme is "Spiritual Practices." All are welcome.

Sunday services at 10:00 am beginning September 1.

Sunday, September 8: Rally Day and Pot-luck Picnic at Cedar Lake

Sunday, September 15: Church School begins. Call UCC office to register.

Food donations for Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantry accepted every 1st Sunday.

Saturday, October 19: Annual Pot Roast Dinner at 6 pm.

29 W. Main Street, Chester.

Summer office hours: 9-1 pm T-F

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Preparing for A Hurricane

Hurricane readiness should begin long before the event occurs. If you live in a hurricane-prone area, you can prepare far in advance for the possible dangers to health and safety resulting from a hurricane by learning about your community's emergency plans, warning signals, evacuation routes, and locations of emergency shelters.

- identify potential home hazards that could develop during a hurricane, such as those involving gas, electricity, chemicals, and structural damage
- install a smoke detector
- buy a fire extinguisher and make sure your family knows where to find it and how to use it
- conduct an evacuation drill for two ways out of your home
- provide escape ladders for multi-story structures
- establish an assembly point where your family can meet in the event of fire
- know the location of your important papers, such as insurance policies, wills, licenses, stocks, etc.
- inform local authorities about any special needs, i.e., elderly or bedridden people, or anyone with a disability
- properly dispose of all chemicals, pesticides, and solvents not being used

You should stock your home with supplies that may be needed during the emergency period:

- several clean containers for water, large enough for a 3-5 day supply of water (about five gallons for each person)
- a 3-5 day supply of non-perishable food
- a first aid kit and manual
- a battery-powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries

- sleeping bags or extra blankets
- a large supply of non-breakable spoons, forks, knives, cups, plates, etc.
- prescription medicines and special medical needs
- baby food and/or prepared formula, diapers, and other baby supplies
- disposable cleaning cloths, such as "baby wipes" for the whole family to use in case bathing facilities are not available
- alternate heat and cooking sources, such as a kerosene heater and/or camp stove
- candles and matches
- plastic trash bags and ties

During the Storm

To get through the storm in the safest possible manner, monitor the radio or television for weather conditions, if possible.

Stay indoors until the authorities declare the storm is over.

Do not go outside, even if the weather appears to have calmed, the calm "eye" of the storm can pass quickly, leaving you outside when strong winds resume.

Expect the loss of electricity, gas, and water.

Stay away from all windows and exterior doors, seeking shelter in a bathroom or basement; bathtubs can provide some shelter.

Prepare to evacuate to a shelter or to a neighbor's home if your home is damaged, or if you are instructed to do so by emergency personnel.

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The Flying Menagerie for Charity



For many years now, Vista has proudly been counted among the many local nonprofits to benefit from the Magical Charity Carousel at Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale in Madison, CT.

The carousel, which operates from May - October, is known as the, "flying Menagerie for Charity" because all of the proceeds from it are donated to local charitable causes and organizations.

During Vista's designated days, students and members, and staff provided a fun activity for the children to participate in who were there to ride the carousel with their families! Vista member, Amanda Lawler, shared that she enjoyed, "helping out and supporting the kids in having fun doing the art project."

Vista appreciates Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale's continued support of our programming and services, and takes great pride in being able to participate in this event each year.

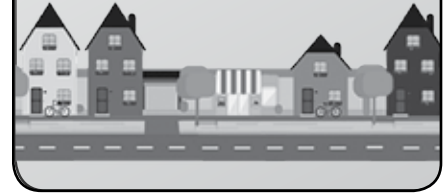
Over a 20 year period, the Magical Charity Carousel has raised over \$1.1 million. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future!

For more information about the Magical Charity Carousel at Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale, you can visit their website at www.ljfishtale.com.

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For the Love of Chester ~ And So Much More

Everyone, it seems, knew and remembers Barbara and Edmund Delaney, particularly Barbara and her big heart. Since the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC) only knows Great People Doing Great Things, it didn't take long for Barbara to make her way into CFMC's circle of friends. In fact, Barbara established one of the earliest funds, the Edmund T. and Barbara S. Delaney Fund, at the Community Foundation in 2001, right after CFMC got started.

Barbara amazed everyone. Barbara's energy and interests were boundless. She loved Chester, of course, and that, coupled with her love of history, led her to become a founding member of the Chester Historical Society. She didn't stop there. She loved music and all of the arts, the environment and so much more. Barbara invested in all of her interests with her time, talent and resources and she wanted to do more to help the nonprofit organizations working in those arenas to thrive and prosper – now and well into the future.

She also wanted to honor Edmund in a meaningful and lasting way. Working with the Community Foundation, she chose to establish an unrestricted fund - a fund which is part of CFMC's annual grant making cycle. This type of fund presented her with the flexibility to support a broad range of issues and needs, right in her own backyard and throughout all of Middlesex County.

Since Barbara established the fund in 2001, her unrestricted gift has done so much in so many ways: provided new technologies to archive our local history for future generations; brought musical performances to local stages and schools; offered food to our hungriest neighbors; introduced our youngest residents to the joys of reading; and on and on. Her fund is truly the "gift that keeps on giving".

It is CFMC's honor to work with all donors and fund holders. It is indeed an honor to see Barbara's and Edmund's legacies continue through Delaney Fund.

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CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Chester Land Trust.....(860) 526-2775
- Chester Fair(860) 526-5947
- Chester Democratic Town Committee...www.chesterctdems.com
- Chester Republican Town Committee(860) 398-0690
- Chester Garden Club(860) 526-2998
- Chester Historical Society.....(860) 526-5781
- Chester Merchants Association.....www.visitchester.com
- Lions Club.....deepriverchesterct.lionwap.org
- Deep River and Chester VFW.....(860) 526-3521
- Tri Town Youth Services Bureau(860) 526-3600
- Chester Meeting House.....(860) 526-0013

USEFUL NUMBERS

- Consumer Protection.....(860) 566-2294
- Community Foundation of Middlesex County(860) 347-0025

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- Chester Public Library(860) 526-0018

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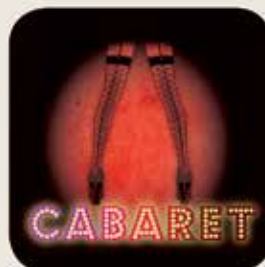


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Book by Joe Masteroff

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Chester/Deep River Cub Scouts Pack 13



Chester/Deep River Cub Scout Pack 13: Post hike at the Spring 2019 Campout

Cub Scout Pack 13 in Chester/Deep River is dedicated to the growth and development of boys and girls in grades K-5. Through close interaction with our local schools, towns people and the Chester/Deep River Boy Scout Troop 13, Cub Scouts in Pack 13 are exposed to wonderful opportunities for physical, mental and intellectual development. Most of all - Everything is focused on FUN! Boys & girls involved with Cub Scouts are all given the opportunity to learn to be a leader.

In the spring Pack 13 marched with Boy Scout Troop 13 in the Memorial Day Parades in both Chester and Deep River, held a pack campout with fishing at Cockaponset State Forest youth sites, a rocket launch day with picnic and CT Tigers minor league baseball game with a campout on the outfield. Be sure to look for Pack 13 this summer. In July we have another rocket launch event planned and an August Conservation Project.

INFORMATION

For more information or to join Cub Scout Pack please email Pack Committee Chair, Lianne Ruty at cdrcubscoutp13@gmail.com. Pack 13 welcomes and serves all youth grades K-5 in Chester and Deep River & any surrounding towns.

September Joining Night information will be published in the Valley Courier and posted in the Community Announcement tab of the Region 4 website.

The Pack meets once a month as a large group and dens are made up of youth of the same school grade. Dens meet 1-3 times each month to work on requirements, field trips or do service projects. Training is required for all adult volunteer leaders, and is provided by both the Pack and the Boy Scouts of America Council office.

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News from BRAYCE

At right, Margot Calder, BRAYCE President, welcomes Brazilian student Claudio Cardoso at Bradley International Airport on June 14, 2019.

Claudio Cardoso is the first of five Brazilian recruits who will participate in the BRAYCE Cultural Exchange Program in 2019. Claudio returns to Camp Hazen as an Assistant Counselor, a staff position and prestigious appointment, well-earned by this gifted young man. Four other recruits, all from favela communities in Rio de Janeiro, will also be participating in the Leadership Program.

BRAYCE is entering its 15th year of providing enriching educational opportunities for motivated, capable youngsters from Brazil. BRAYCE students participate in Leadership Programs at Camp Hazen, here in Chester, where they develop their English, acquire new skills, and most important, the self-confidence to plan a future. To learn more about the BRAYCE Program, see www.brayce.org.



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Troop 13 - Chester/Deep River Boy Scouts



Chester/Deep River Boy Scout Troop 13 Clean Up Campout at Selden's Island in May of this year.

Troop 13 Boy Scouts serve boys ages 11-18 of Chester and Deep River. The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to help

young men develop their character and life skills all while having fun. There is much emphasis placed on assisting these young men to develop into strong healthy citizens who will lead our communities and country in the years ahead. The Boy Scout methods help to promote these ideals through the challenge of putting them into practice with the Troop Program. This is done in a way that is both challenging and fun.

A BUSY YEAR FOR TROOP 13

The Boy Scouts of Troop 13 have been actively camping and enjoying the outdoors this spring. The troop had a fishing hike and campout at Cockaponset State Forest, participated in an environmental service project at Selden's Island State Park with a naturalist from CT River Expeditions and many worked on earning the Bird Study Merit Badge.

JUNE COURT OF HONOR:

Troop 13 held its June Court of Honor at the Camp Hazen Pavilion on June 12, 2019. The following boys earned Rank advancements.

LIFE - Connor Douglas

STAR - Jack Whittaker

FIRST CLASS - Cooper Edwards, James Guyer, Paul Knudsen, Logan Parker, Aiden Stone

2ND CLASS - Stephen Courcy, Sebastian Peterlik

SCOUT - Joshua Clark, Bryce Huntley, Jack Knudsen, James Preston, Churchill Roberts

UPCOMING PLANS FOR SUMMER 2019:

- This June, nine Boy Scouts from Troop 13 along with Assistant Scout Masters Mike Ruty, Robert Hart and Matthew Raymond will head out to hike at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of the Rocky Mountains.
- Troop 13 will attend June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford, CT for Summer Camp in July. The boys will enjoy swimming, climbing, boating, archery, rifle & shotgun shooting, sports, ATV and camping.

SUPPORT SCOUTING ~ CHESTER/DEEP RIVER FALL FUNDRAISER

Boy Scout Troop 13 will be taking orders for 8 inch mums this August - September. Mums are grown at a nursery in Connecticut and can be ordered from any Boy Scout in Troop 13 or contact Lianne Ruty at LER997@aol.com. rple for \$10/per pot. The mums will be delivered September 21st.

INFORMATION

To learn more information about joining Troop 13 please contact our Scoutmaster, Steven Merola @ 860-526-9262. Colors available are Red, Orange, Yellow, White, Pink and Purple for \$10/per pot. The mums will be delivered September 21, 2019. Please consider supporting Boy Scouting in Chester and Deep River.

To learn about joining Troop 13 please contact our Scoutmaster, Steven Merola at 860-526-9262.



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MUSIC SCHEDULE

Friday Night August 23 through
Sunday Night August 25, 2019

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6:45 pm - 11:00 pm

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th

AMY GALLATIN & STILLWATERS

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

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3:45 pm - 7:00 pm

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Jackie Robinson: An Ongoing Legacy of Impact and Achievement

by Sigrid Kun



Rendering of future Jackie Robinson Museum. Courtesy Gensler/Ralph Appelbaum Associates/Mopix Studios.

Jackie Robinson's legacy is stronger than ever. It's not just every April 15th when each Major League Baseball team celebrates Jackie Robinson Day. Through the Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) he and his family continue to impact lives and improve the communities in which we live.

BREAKING BARRIERS

Born on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia, Robinson grew up in Pasadena, CA. He later attended UCLA where he became the only student to letter in four varsity sports in the same year. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 and became second lieutenant. In 1944, while riding a bus back to Camp (now Fort) Hood, he was court martialled for refusing to move to the back of the bus. This ultimately led to his honorable discharge that same year.

It was around the same time that the Brooklyn Dodgers found it important to integrate Major League Baseball. Robinson signed a contract with the Dodgers in 1945 and began his baseball career with the Montreal Royals. On April 15, 1947, the color barrier was broken. Robinson became the first African American to play Major League Baseball, playing first base for the Dodgers. He carried himself with honor and grace despite facing opposition from crowds and teammates as well as threats to himself and his family. Named Rookie of the Year in 1947, his 10-year MLB career was outstanding - including being named MVP in 1949 and a World Series win in 1955. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

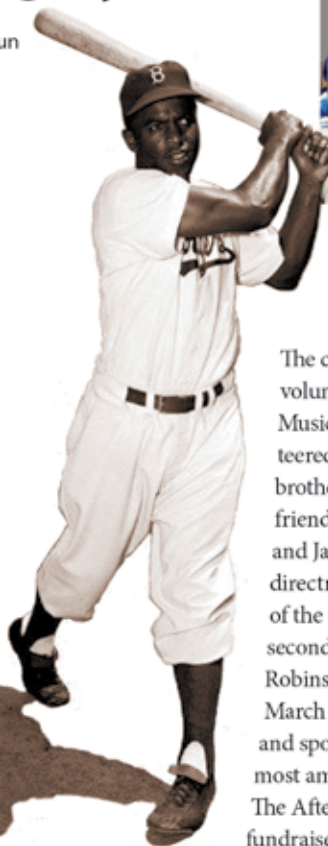
ADVANCING EQUALITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Robinson transformed more than baseball. He and his wife, Rachel, became increasingly involved in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. It was during this time (mid-1950s) that the family home in Stamford, CT was purchased - not without adversity. "Our parents faced housing discrimination during their search for a home," recalls Jackie Robinson's daughter, Sharon, who serves as Vice Chair of the JRF Board of Directors. "Andrea Simon, a prominent resident, heard of our difficulties and intervened." As Sharon and her brothers integrated into the neighborhood and schools, they faced various levels of racism. The home offered privacy, freedom, friendship, and sports.

And there were the wonderful jazz concerts. "Our family hosted our first 'Afternoon of Jazz' on our Stamford property in June of 1963," relates Sharon. "Dad was a fundraiser for the Civil Rights Movement." Robinson was also working with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr to raise money to rebuild black churches that had been bombed. The first concert was a fundraiser for Southern Christian Leadership Conference and came on the heels of Dr. King's efforts in Birmingham, Alabama.



Family portrait left to right: Sharon Robinson, Mom Rachel and Dad Jackie Robinson. Courtesy Jackie Robinson Foundation.



The concert was managed by a massive volunteer force of family and friends. Musicians (like Dizzy Gillespie) volunteered their time and talents. "My brother, David and I - along with our friends - sold hot dogs and sodas. Dad and Jackie Jr. parked cars. Mom was the directress with her hands in all aspect of the concert," recalls Sharon. The second concert was shortly after the Robinson family returned from the March on Washington. "Dr. King came and spoke to the crowd. It was one of the most amazing days of our young lives." The Afternoon of Jazz became a regular fundraiser for the Civil Rights Movement during Jackie Robinson's life. After he passed in 1972, the tradition continued with proceeds to support JRF.

A LEGACY OF IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENT

Rachel founded JRF in 1973. JRF not only honors the memory of Jackie Robinson and his heroic achievements but also provides college and graduate student scholarships and leadership development opportunities for students of color with strong capabilities but limited financial resources. It is a two-pronged approach with four-year grants and hands-on, comprehensive support.

This year, JRF is commemorating the 100th birthday of Jackie Robinson with a year-long series of events to benefit not only the organization's programs but also the future Jackie Robinson Museum. The culminating event will be the opening of the Jackie Robinson Museum in New York City in December of 2019. "It has been our family's dream to have a physical space where my father's legacy and the values and ideals by which he lived could inspire others," says Sharon. "We are excited to shine a light on my father's life, while raising funds to continue to positively impact the lives of others."

"My parents taught me the importance of loving your world," adds Sharon - an accomplished nurse-midwife, professor, author and educational consultant within the Commissioner of Baseball's Office. "We have a favorite Jackie Robinson quote: 'A life is not important except for the impact on other's lives.'"

Photo of Jackie Robinson/Getty Images.



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