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**and more**





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## First Selectman's Corner

Hello, my name is Ed Meehan; I was elected to serve as Chester's First Selectman for the two year term beginning November 22, 2011. It is an honor and privilege to serve the people of Chester.

Also elected to the Board of Selectmen were incumbents Tom Englert and Larry Sypher. Tom stepped up to serve as interim First Selectman when Tom Marsh resigned in August to pursue a career as the Town Manager for Windsor, Vermont. Former Selectman Peter Zanardi again volunteered to serve Chester and returned to the Board for the interim transitional period of August to November. Their service during Hurricane Irene and quick action to correct fire code defects at the Meeting House demonstrates how the spirit of working together makes Chester a special community.

As we begin the new term, there are potential projects which will require public discussion, priority setting and Town approvals before moving forward. The projects that we will be working on include:

- Library – The Chester Library Expansion Committee has selected the architectural firm of Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. to prepare a conceptual study of the library's existing conditions, prepare alternative designs for the building renovation and/or expansion and preliminary cost estimates for each alternative. If the committee and the Library Trustees select a

particular plan the architect will be directed to prepare a more detailed cost estimate for further consideration.


- Community Center – The Community Center on Middlesex Turnpike was severely damaged by a heavy snow storm on January 2011. The extent of structural damage necessitated that the 4,800 square foot building be demolished. The Town has a pending grant application for STEAP funds of \$500,000, net insurance funds of \$280,000 plus an additional insurance payment of \$172,000 if facility replacement is completed within two years. The preliminary estimated project cost is \$1,452,000 leaving a budget gap of \$500,000 to be raised from local funds or additional grants. The Community Center is located next to North Quarter Park and together they are vital to the Town's Parks and Recreation's youth programs as well as meeting space for adult and senior activities.

- Middlesex Turnpike Route 154 Water Line Extension – The Middlesex Turnpike Route 154 water line extension will



First Selectman Ed Meehan

*continued on page 3*



Kelly Layden, formerly at A Style Above, has opened her own shop in Deep River. She and her creative team provide the service and personal attention that clients deserve. They all share a passion for making people feel and look their best. The stylists are talented, friendly professionals that are ready to design a unique style that best suits you as an individual.

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• *Selectman's Corner continued from page 1* •

bring Connecticut Water Company service to Denlar Drive. An 8 inch main, approximately 650 linear feet along Middlesex Turnpike and 1,150 linear feet to the Denlar Drive cul de sac will be constructed. The purpose of the water main is to provide safe drinking water to Denlar Drive's residential and business properties. Project engineering will be performed by the Connecticut Water Company. This project will be funded by a STEAP Grant. The schedule is to complete engineering plans this winter and bid project for Spring 2012 construction.

- Meeting House Fire Code – On August 11, 2011, a routine Fire Code inspection of the Meeting House was conducted for the purposes of determining compliance with the State Fire Codes. Inspections of places of assembly are necessary to insure safe public occupancy. Several items were identified for corrective action which necessitated outside contractors to address. With the assistance of the Fire Marshal, the Board of Selectmen quickly moved to correct the priority code requirements that included ensuring safety of the balcony area and upgrades to emergency exit lighting. These compliance renovations were completed and re-inspected in time to permit use of the full building for the Robbie Collamore concerts on October 16th.

- Main Street Project Committee – The Board of Selectmen has appointed an 11 member multi-discipline Main Street Project Committee and requested their assistance in developing a plan for the reconstruction of Main Street. This project will be complicated because of the scheduled for State reconstruction of the Water Street Bridge over Great Brook and the Main Street Bridge in the Village Center. The Water Street bridge project will start in May 2012 and take six to seven months for substantial completion. The tentative schedule for the Main Street Bridge replacement is 2014. With only twelve to fourteen months between bridge projects the risk of disruption to the village's businesses must be carefully evaluated. Funding for the Main Street improvements, estimated at \$1,000,000, will necessitate an additional \$600,000 from town and/or State grants, above the \$419,000 now available (\$219,000 Town Capital budget and \$200,000 STEAP Grant).

We are fortunate to have a committee with expertise relevant to the challenges of this complex project. Working with our business community and residents, a project will be developed and if supported by townspeople scheduled to insure the safety of the center and with as little as possible disruption to the economy of the village.

— *First Selectman Ed Meehan*

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries provides food and fellowship to those in need, serving the towns of Essex, Chester, Clinton, Madison, Old Saybrook, East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme, Killingworth, Westbrook and Deep River.

Learn how you can help at:  
[www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org](http://www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org)

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# Events

MAGAZINES



## Chester Events

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#### Magazine Layout

Amy Bransfield

Cover Photo: Wig Hill Field by Skip Hubbard

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## Take the Chill Out of Winter

Whether you live on the East Coast or West Coast, in the freezing northland or the milder south, winter brings a chill to the air that makes spending quiet time at home more appealing.

In the bustle of the many winter holidays, a focus on home can bring calm and balance to each of us, young and old. Here are some ideas for creating warm family times and for taking advantage of the inclination to be quieter and more reflective:

- Whatever holidays you celebrate, enrich the season by creating family traditions to mark this special time.
- Set up a regular family video evening. Have special snacks, build a fire or snuggle under blankets, and watch a movie you chose together. After the movie, talk about the story and the characters. Which characters in the movie had the strongest values? What messages did the movie give about important topics like money, fighting, or family?
- Schedule a trip to the library – with a student, your own child, a neighborhood youth, or the young person you mentor – to find a great biography of an admirable person, a gripping adventure novel, or a reference book about her or his favorite animal or hobby.
- Quiet evenings are perfect for thinking about all the dreams you and the young people in your life have for the future. Ask young people about their dreams and hopes, about all the things they want to do in their lives. Tell them about your aspirations, and what you've done to overcome your disappointments when things haven't worked out the way you'd hoped.

## A Note from the Public Works Foreman

It's time to think about WINTER and PLOWING....

- Please remember to move your vehicles off the streets during winter storms for efficient snow plowing.
- Please do not place your garbage receptacles into the street as the road crews will need to plow your street-keep receptacles at the inside end of your driveway otherwise the plow will have to go around and not be able to plow the snow completely from in front of your driveway. The trucks have long arms and can reach into your driveway.
- Sand and salt will be available at the Town Garage on Grote Road. Please, only one pail per household.

*For town updates & information:*

**www.chesterct.org**

## Sign Up Now for a Home Energy Solutions Audit

As those first really cold days of winter have you worrying about high heating bills and cold, drafty rooms, ACT NOW and sign up for a Home Energy Solutions audit through CL&P. You can't go wrong. The last time we checked, the audits were being offered for \$75, with special rates for some situations. There is no doubt that you will save those \$75 in a matter of months, and after that, the savings just go on and on....

Those of us in town who have had these audits are immensely pleased. The audit not only detects where you are wasting energy, but best of all, the workmen fix them on the spot. During a typical audit, they check for leaks using a fan temporarily installed at one of the outside doors, then caulk cracks you never knew you had, install door sweeps where needed, provide compact fluorescent lamps and install them where you want. They install low-flow faucet aerators and a low-flow shower-head if needed. They may insulate hot water pipes, and may wrap your hot water heater with an extra blanket of insulation. They have rebate certificates in case you want to buy more efficient appliances. What a bargain!! And if you are in a low-income bracket, you may even qualify to receive a new high-efficiency refrigerator for free.

To arrange the audit, just call CL&P 1-877- WISE USE (1-877-947-3873) or go on-line to [www.CTEnergyInfo.com](http://www.CTEnergyInfo.com). and look for "home Energy Solutions."

Act now; start saving now.

## Animal Control Winter News

As everybody knows, Mother Nature has been playing games with us. First, a very hot summer, a destructive hurricane, and then a mysterious fall with snow in October. What will she bring this winter?

Well, let's get a jump on her by checking on our dog houses. Are they cozy, such as hay on the floor, and a flap to cover the doorway? Also, beware of "extra" friends that may try to move in – such as raccoons and squirrels. They may be cute, but they can cause problems.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

– Bob Jenkins

## CHESTER TOWN HALL

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Lynne Jacques	202	AdminAsst@chesterct.org
<b>ANIMAL CONTROL</b>		
Robert Jenkins	860-767-3219	
<b>ASSESSOR</b>		
Loreta Zdanys	512	Assessor@chesterct.org
<b>ASSISTANT ASSESSOR</b>		
Sheila Ahern	512	
<b>BUILDING</b>		
Ron Rose	207	BldgOfficial@chesterct.org
<b>FINANCE</b>		
Peter Evankow	215	Finance@chesterct.org
<b>ACCOUNTS CLERK</b>		
Sharon Echtman	216	
<b>FIRE MARSHAL</b>		
Richard Leighton	212	FireMarshal@chesterct.org
<b>FIRST SELECTMAN</b>		
Ed Meehan	202	FirstSelectman@chesterct.org
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>		
Rosie Bininger	213	HumanServices@chesterct.org
<b>INFORMATION</b>	202	Info@chesterct.org
<b>INLAND WETLANDS</b>		
Anna Sweeney	212	InlandWetlands@chesterct.org
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b>		
Elizabeth Netsch	223	ParkRec@chesterct.org
<b>PLANNING AND ZONING</b>		
Judy Brown	208	ZoningOfficial@chesterct.org
<b>POLICE SERVICES</b>		
Trooper Matt Ewing	860-526-3605	PoliceServices@chesterct.org
<b>PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>		
Linda Fox, Library Director	860-526-0018	
<b>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT</b>		
John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	
<b>REGISTRARS OF VOTERS</b>		
Charlene Janecek / Tracey Ohaus	211	chesterregistrar@chesterct.org
<b>SANITATION</b>		
Lee Vito	206	Sanitarian@chesterct.org
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Madaline Meyer	513	TaxCollector@chesterct.org
<b>TAX CLERK</b>	513	
<b>TOWN CLERK</b>		
Tracey Ohaus	511	TownClerk@chesterct.org
<b>ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK</b>		
Sharon Echtman	511	
<b>TREASURER</b>		
Elizabeth Netsch	214	Treasurer@chesterct.org
<b>WPCA</b>	230	wpca@chesterct.org

[www.chesterct.org](http://www.chesterct.org)

## Class of 1961 gives back to Valley Regional

Over thirty members of the Valley Regional Class of 1961 toured their alma mater as part of their 50th high school reunion activities in September. "We were delighted to see the fine condition, the expansion and the many improvements made to Valley's interior and grounds. Many of us wanted to come back and take advantage of the new programs and classes offered," said Patti Anne Vassia, a member of the class. "We took up a collection at our Reunion Celebration and several others sent checks to help support our idea of giving back to the school. We are happy to support the good works of the Region 4 Education Foundation with this \$719.61 unrestricted gift."



*The VRHS Class of 1961 donated \$719.61 to the Region 4 Education Foundation as a result of touring their alma mater as part of their 50th reunion activities.*

## Tri-Town Youth Services

Tri-Town Youth Services has many programs and events planned for Winter. Please join us whenever you can!

**American Red Cross Babysitter Training** will be offered at Tri-Town, 6-8:15 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, January 24, 31, and February 7. The \$70 fee includes book, course, and certificate. Call Tri-Town at 860-526-3600 to register.

**When I'm in Charge** will be held on Wednesday, March 7 from 6-8 p.m. Parents join their kids in class for the last 15 minutes. The \$25 fee includes the class and certificate. Call 860-526-3600 to register.

**Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Council** membership is open to all who live or work in the tri-town area who are concerned about substance abuse and interested in its prevention. In addition to ongoing prevention programming in our schools and communities, the tri-town area is currently involved in Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth and the Drug Free Communities federal grant.

Please do join the Council to share your thoughts, to learn more about prevention, and to get involved! For further information, call 860-526-3600. Meeting dates for the remainder of the school year are: March 21, 2012 and May 30, 2012. The Council meets at Tri-Town Youth Services at 9:00 a.m.

**"Outstanding Ones"** (children 12-24 months\*). Meet: Wednesdays, January 11-March 21, 2012. No class February 22nd. Time: 11:00-11:30 (30 minute session). Place: Tri-Town, 56 High Street, Deep River. Tuition: \$45 tri-town residents, \$55 non-residents.

**"Terrific Twos"** (children 24-36 months\*). Meet: Wednesdays, January 11-March 21, 2012. No class February 22nd. Time: 9:30-10:30 (60 minute session). Place: Tri-Town, 56 High Street, Deep River. Tuition: \$60 tri-town residents, \$70 non-residents. Registration is limited. Please call 860-526-3600 to register. \*Please call with any questions regarding appropriate placement.

**Winter Family Fun: Mad Science!** Mad Science of Southeastern Connecticut ([www.madscience.org](http://www.madscience.org)) will be presenting a hands-on workshop titled "Sun and Stars". This fun hour will be limited to 15 children ages 4-12 and their parents. Please call Tri-Town at 860-526-3600 to register by January 10th. Meet: Tri-Town. Date Saturday, January 21. Time: 3:00 p.m.



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## Chester Public Library

Chester Library presents its annual survival guide for the dark days of winter.

**Shop the Friends' Used Book Sale.** While away a winter's day with a new (to you) book from the Friends of Chester Library used book sale. A "Members Only" presale will take place on Thursday, January 19 from 6-8 p.m. If you are not already a member of the Friends, this is a great opportunity to join. The regular sale begins on Friday, January 20 at 10 a.m. and runs for two weeks during regular library hours. As usual, there will be a wide selection of hardcover and paperback books for both children and adults, offered at great prices. Volunteers interested in helping sort for the sale on January 19 should call Diane Lindsay at 860-526-2443.

**Try downloading an audio book or ebook.** Kindle users can now join other ebook readers in borrowing books from Overdrive. Ebooks can be downloaded to a home computer as well as to ebook readers. Visit the library website ([www.chesterct.org/library.php](http://www.chesterct.org/library.php)) for more complete information on accessing both audio books and ebooks.

**Borrow a museum pass.** The library has free or discounted admission passes to the Connecticut River Museum, Florence Griswold Museum, Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport, New Britain Museum of American Art, Old Connecticut State House, Peabody Museum of Natural History, and Wadsworth Atheneum. For more detailed

information and links to each museum's website, visit the library's website at [www.chesterct.org/library.php](http://www.chesterct.org/library.php). Reserve early for the February vacation week!

**Drop in for a story.** Preschoolers age three and up are invited to bring a grown-up and join the Monday morning fun at Chester Library. Story time takes place at 10:30 a.m. and includes a creative experience in addition to the read-aloud story. The first Monday of the each month features music and movement as Judy Potter presents *It's Theatretime!* No need to pre-register—just join us. Story time is held each Monday that school is in session.

**Wind up "In Stitches".** On Monday nights, from 6-8 p.m., these needle workers have way too much fun! Their welcome mat is always out to knitters of all skill levels; no need to register, just drop in with your project or problem.

**Catch up on the classics.** The Mark Johnston Book Discussion Series presents a three-part exploration of the Greek Tragedies. Educator and former Chester resident, Charlotte Rea, will lead discussions of *Oedipus, the King, Antigone* and *Trojan Women* from 7:30 - 9 p.m. on April 11, 18 and 25, respectively.

**Curl up with a good movie.** Chester Library offers a collection of more than 1100 movies, ranging from classics and foreign films to children's favorites and current releases. Films that are not in the library's collection may be requested from Netflix. The library's Netflix membership is generously provided by the Friends of the Chester Public Library.

**Ramp up your job search.** Polish that resumé, practice interview skills, even look for positions using JobNow! Find help learning how to better use Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point, or practice for the GED or U.S. Citizenship tests. It's all there at JobNow!

**Prepare for next summer's travel.** Learn a new language, or brush up on a familiar one with Mango Languages, an interactive, online language learning program. It's fun! It's free! Visit the library website and click on the Mango button. Pimsleur language courses for Chinese (Mandarin), French, Italian, Russian and Spanish are available at the library. Or, check out one (or more!) of the library's 500+ travel books. Hey, one can always dream!

**Check out the library's website.** Up-to-date information about library programs and services is always at your fingertips when you visit the library website at [www.chesterct.org/library.php](http://www.chesterct.org/library.php). Search for and request books, renew previously checked out items and so much more...all without the risk of frostbite. It's a good thing!

**Library Hours.** Your librarians are available to assist you on Mondays, 10 a.m. -8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays, 2-8 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The library will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 16, 2012, of President's Day on Monday, February 20, 2012 and of Good Friday on April 6, 2012. Weather related closings and delays will be announced on the library answering machine (call 860-526-0018).

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## Winter Reminders from the Tax Collector

First, I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season. But with the holiday season comes the January tax payment for real estate, personal property and any new MV's purchased during the year! Be sure to remember to verify your tax payment before writing your check. Do NOT include the MV amount that was due in July. If you are not sure of the amount due, please call our office at 860 526-0013 x 513, and we will try to check the amount for you. And of course, when you do write the check, be sure to sign your check before mailing it to us, to prevent any delay in getting your account paid!

Second, we do NOT mail out another bill for January, so it is the taxpayer's responsibility to remember that their taxes are due during the month of January. After reading this, place a reminder on your calendar so you will not be late. Also, try not to wait until the last week or day, so if bad weather arrives, you won't have to panic or worry about paying on time.

Third, for those who use the online payment system with your own bank, where you set the Tax Collector as a company that must be paid, be sure to put all pertinent information on the account, so that when the check arrives from the bank, it tells us accurately and easily which account is being paid. An old MV bill number does NOT help us post the account quickly or efficiently. What would help would be the full name of the person who is paying the bill and the plate number of the vehicle, which usually stays the same for a long time. In

the case of a real estate bill or personal property bill, the full address is a great item for the check to contain. Since the bank does NOT include any portion of the bill that normally comes to us, we really need something definite to know where to apply the money, especially if there is more than one person with your last name living in town. If you are paying for someone with a different last name, be sure to include that name on the account. You might know who you are paying for, but we don't have any idea, unless their name or pertinent information appears somewhere on the check.

Keep in mind that online payments thru your bank could take several days to get to us. Give yourself plenty of time so that the payment does not arrive late and cause another mailing with interest to be added. Do not wait...process or mail early! Thanks!

Lastly, be sure to remember to pay your taxes in January, or before, and have a very healthy and happy New Year.

— Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector.

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## Parks and Recreation

**Adult Recreational Basketball.** This program meets from October 27 through April 5 at the Chester Elementary School multipurpose room on Thursdays, from 6:45-8:30 p.m. There is no basketball on school vacation days, when the school closes due to severe weather, or when there are special school events in the evening. Registration is required BEFORE playing. The registration fee is \$10 for Chester residents and \$15 for nonresidents.

**Youth Basketball** The basketball program is scheduled for December 5, 2011 through March 17, 2012 for grades 1 through 6, Monday through Friday in the Chester Elementary School multi-purpose room. Games for grades 3 through 6 are held on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. The registration fee for grades 3 through 6 is \$40 and \$20 for grades 1 and 2. Shirts will be available for sale for \$15 for children in grades 3 through 6 who do not own one. Basketball shirt purchases are optional for grades 1 and 2. Registration is due November 29!

**CHESTER YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINIC SCHEDULE** - December 5, 2011 through March 17, 2012. There is no Basketball December 23 through January 2, January 16, and February 20 through 26.

**ZUMBA.** It's fun! It's different! It's easy! It's effective! Zumba is offered by Chester Parks and Recreation at the Chester Town Hall, with Instructor Rana Bananno-Bailey, on Mondays, from

5:30 to 6:30pm and Wednesdays, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. The fee is \$20 for 3 classes, \$25 for 4 classes, \$30 for 5, per day, per month and \$10 for a single class.

**Karate for Children.** Karate classes will be held in the multi-purpose room at Chester Elementary School by Valley Shore Martial Arts. Children who are in grades 1 through 6 will meet on Wednesdays, January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, with snow make-ups of February 8 and 15, to learn the Kempo style of Karate. The cost of the program is \$20 per session.

**Roller Rink!** The Chester Elementary School multi-purpose room will become a roller rink after school on Tuesdays, January 24, February 28, April 3, and May 8. Skate to your favorite music! Bring your roller skates or rollerblades and a helmet. The activity is staffed by the Parks and Recreation Camp Counselors and open to students in grades 1 through 6. The price is \$5 per day. Select as many or as few days as you wish!

**Youth Lacrosse Preseason Indoor Clinics.** Warm up for this spring sport with Lacrosse Clinics for boys and girls in grades 1 through 6. The program will be held in the Chester Elementary School gym on Tuesdays, January 31, February 7, and 14, from 3:00 until 4:15. Try a new sport, learn basic skills or experienced players can get ready for the season. All levels are welcome. Sticks, balls, mouth guards and goggles will be provided, but students may bring their own equipment. The fee is \$15.

**Early Dismissal Day - Bowling Activity.** Students in grades one through eight may join the Chester Parks and Recreation staff on Friday, February 10, when there is an early dismissal from school. The Bowling field trip leaves from Chester Elementary School, by school bus, directly following the early dismissal. The children will return to Chester Elementary School at 4:30. The fee is \$22. A snack will be provided.

**Children's Creative Dance.** Dance for children is offered on Tuesdays at Chester Elementary School for grades K through 4. The program will meet in the gym on March 6, 13, 20, and 27. Help choreograph moves to your favorite music! Dance, learn basic technique, develop strength and teamwork skills, become familiar with basic choreographic phrases, explore a new style of movement and perform your dances with returning instructor Christine Perry, BFA in Dance Performance. The fee is \$25.

**Theatre Workshops for Children.** Children in grades 1 through 6 may attend theatre workshops on Tuesdays, conducted by Elise MurphyMulligan of Tigertale Theatre. The program will meet at Chester Elementary School on March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3. Create a character! Dream up a play! Perform it for your family and friends! The fee is \$40 per session.

**Chester Youth Basketball March Madness!** March Madness, for those students in grades 1 through 6 registered in Chester Youth Basketball, will be held on Sunday, March 4, between 3:00 and 6:30 p.m. Parents will have an opportunity to challenge their child's team on the court and a pizza dinner will be served.

*continued on page 11*



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# Free Online Matching System for Volunteer Opportunities

Middlesex United Way is inviting local nonprofit organizations to post volunteer opportunities through its free online matching system; Volunteer Solutions. Volunteer Solutions can help local nonprofit organizations meet the increased demand for services by matching more than 500 registered users to opportunities that align with their interests, skills, and time availability. Visitors to the site will find the perfect organization and cause to donate their time to and truly make a difference.

"Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is proud to be a partner with Middlesex United Way Volunteer Solutions," said Jack Doyle, Volunteer Coordinator, Middlesex County Habitat for Humanity. "We get many referrals which turn into great volunteers for both ReStore and at construction sites. The system is easy to work with and provides great results."

Nonprofit organizations looking for volunteers can use Volunteer Solutions to create one-time or ongoing opportunities, manage referrals, and record volunteer hours. Volunteers can also register and search the site by keyword, agency, or length of volunteer commitment.

Some examples of the opportunities that are currently available include:

- American Red Cross, seeking Blood Drive volunteers.
- Estuary Council of Seniors in Old Saybrook, seeking volunteers to sit on their board of directors.
- Middlesex Habitat for Humanity, searching for individual & group volunteers for build projects.
- St. Luke's Eldercare Services in Middletown, looking for volunteers to assist their clients with weekly grocery shopping.

To register, visit [www.middlesexunitedway.org](http://www.middlesexunitedway.org) and click the "VOLUNTEER" link. For information, call Matt at 860.346.8695 or email [matt.plourde@middlesexunitedway.org](mailto:matt.plourde@middlesexunitedway.org).

Middlesex United Way is advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on education, income, health and housing – the building blocks for a good quality of life. United Way recruits people and organizations that bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. You are invited to be part of the change by giving, advocating and volunteering. That's what it means to Live United.

• *Parks and Recreation continued from page 10* •

Please call 526-0013, extension 223 for information or to register for a program! Forms are available outside the Parks and Recreation office and at <http://www.chesterct.org/parks.php> where you can keep up with the latest Chester Parks and Recreation programs like these.

### Ice Skaters!

Please remember: the ice in Chester is not monitored for safety!



*United Way volunteers take action to create lasting change in their communities.*

Middlesex United Way is a locally-based organization serving the towns of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wills &amp; Trusts</b></li> <li>• <b>Powers of Attorney, Living Wills</b></li> <li>• <b>Probate</b> Estates, Trusts, Conservatorships, Guardianships</li> <li>• <b>Estate Planning</b> and Related Tax Advice</li> <li>• <b>Title XIX Plan (Medicaid)</b> and other Elder Law areas</li> <li>• <b>Related Tax Matters</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Real Estate</b><br/>Closings; Land Use; Subdivide<br/>Landlord Representation</li> <li>• <b>Business Entities</b><br/>Formation, Buy/Sell, Counsel</li> <li>• <b>Tax-exempts &amp; Non-profits</b> Formation, Counsel</li> <li>• <b>Collections</b></li> <li>• <b>Foreclosures</b></li> <li>• <b>Town/State Gov't</b></li> </ul> |
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### Office Locations

**14-A Elm Street, Deep River 860-526-8777**

**96 Cedar Lake Road, Chester 860-526-1433**

## Chester Fife and Drum Corps

And so ends 2011 and starts 2012. Hope that you all had a great Holiday Season and the start of a Happy New Year. We have finished our 143 year of continuous fifeing and drumming and now we start our 144. As you are aware, this Corps has been around since 1867 when it was founded and established in 1868, and it has never not been on the street since its beginning. The Corps has been large and small and now we are medium, which is a good size to maintain.

Over the year we have received new members and lost older members to other corps. In some respect, that is a good thing. Most fifers and drummers that move on, are moving onto more advanced drum corps and are for the most part bettering themselves. The best part is when older members from the last century return to play with the old corps.

As you all know, the Community Center is no longer, and we transferred to the Elementary School for a while and played throughout the town during the summer months. However, due to the size and time constraints of the school, we found ourselves looking for a larger home to practice and have our meetings. There was and is no available space that the town of Chester could offer us for our practices. Fortunately, we were offered space at the Company of Fifers and Drummers in Ivoryton, CT. This is unfortunate for the town but good for us. Now we have plenty of space to practice and get ready for the upcoming marching season.



We had a great year last year. We took first place in two parades, one in Provincetown and at the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade. We also placed fourth out of 19 corps for the State Fireman's Convention held in Clinton. We have had quite a busy year, even playing a concert at the prestigious Sound School in New Haven. We marched in usual places, and did the usual musters and had lots of fun doing it.

We had three of our drummers compete at the State Competition in Wethersfield on August 6th. Abbey Bradley (16) took first in Bass drum followed by Megan Cordeau (16) in second place. Megan Cordeau (16) on Bass and Haley Armstead (17) on snare took first place in duo competition. Also, Haley Armstead (17) took first place in female individual snare competition. We encourage our younger people to expand their horizon and go out and see what they can do against other corps and people.

2012 looks to be just as exciting and busy. We have the opportunity to march and play in new arenas and repeats of our favorites.

If you would like to participate and learn a new instrument, consider joining the Chester Fife and Drum Corps and keep the tradition alive. We offer instruction for all ages (8 - 108), in fifeing and drumming on both snare and bass, as well as marching instruction. We offer uniforms, and practice fifes for the beginners and drummers need to have their own sticks and pads. When new members join, we expect them to march in the Color Guard until they pass their music test and step into their respective lines.

We invite all past members of the Chester Fife and Drum Corps to come and play with us on Thursday evenings at the Company of Fifers and Drummers in Ivoryton.

If you find that you are not able to provide time to the Chester Fife and Drum Corps, there are always other ways to contribute to the cause. I know that times are tough economically and the same applies to us. We are a nonprofit organization that always needs financial help. In order to maintain uniforms, drums and other equipment, funds are

*continued on page 13*



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## Region 4 Education Foundation, Inc.

The Region 4 Education Foundation is a non-profit corporation organized in 1998 to broaden and enhance the educational experience of our students at Valley Regional High School and John Winthrop Middle School. The Foundation provides independent, financial assistance for the development of enrichment programs, worthy educational projects and other learning initiatives that are not ordinarily included in the school budgets.

R4EF accepts applications for funding from both John Winthrop and Valley Regional on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. Some of the programs R4EF has supported include:

- Solar Track Lighting
- Wellness Day at John Winthrop
- Arts Alive Programs
- Start-up costs for boys and girls lacross
- Buzzers for Valley's Bowl team
- Start-up costs for the French/Spanish Honor Society
- Photo enlargers at Valley Regional
- Anti-Defamation Program

Most recently the Hubbard, Willets, Pratt endowment has provided start-up costs for funding the Valley Media Studio. The R4EF has provided the funding of cameras, laptops and a Mac workstation for the students to use in creating videos and shows which can be seen on our cable network TV. A safe driving video was created by the students as well.

The Foundation accepts gifts from individuals, families, estates, corporations and other sources. Any gift amount will be appreciated and managed by the Board of Directors for the betterment of our schools. All gifts are tax-deductible and can be made in any of the following ways:

- Cash and Checks
- Gifts of Stocks and Bonds
- Charitable Trusts

- Wills and Estates
- Memorial Gifts
- Matching Gifts

Our annual spelling bee has been a fun way to bring our community together and raise funds for our Foundation. Many local businesses, service clubs, students, faculty and other members of the community participate. Each team is comprised of three members competing in organized rounds to become the best spellers of the evening. It is held every spring at Valley Regional High School and has proven to be a fun and successful evening for all.

Todd Ellison, Essex native, Broadway Musical Director and pianist has performed two concerts to support the Region 4 Education Foundation. He has brought friends and alumni Peter Lockyer, Lee Turgeson and Ryan Driscoll along with several singers from many Broadway shows to perform these outstanding concerts.

If you are interested in making a donation, please make your check payable to: R4EF, P.O. Box 187, Deep River, CT 06417. Region 4 Education Foundation, Inc. is a Connecticut non-profit corporation. Donations to tax-exempt organizations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. If you have any questions, please consult your tax advisor.

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### • *Fife and Drum continued from page 12* •

needed. If you can, please donate to the Corps, or maybe you can volunteer your time as a seamstress in order to help make parts of the uniform. It is all up to you. Our address is: Chester Fife and Drum Corps, P.O. Box 545, Chester CT 06412. If you would like to contact us, call the following numbers, 860-691-1735 or 860-526-2178.

We intend on practicing at the Museum of the Company of Fifers and Drummers until we return to Chester, our home town. Our practice times are 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. every Thursday with a break in Dec. and Jan. returning in February.

Yours in the Ancient Spirit,

— *Frenchy Cordeau, Business Manager and Major*



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# The Rotary Club of Chester Celebrating 55 Years of Service

The Rotary Club of Chester is excited to be celebrating 55 years of providing community service throughout 2012. Since its establishment in 1957, the club has striven to exemplify Rotary International's "Service Above Self" maxim. As a result of our community supported fund raising efforts, we have been able to provide financial and volunteer assistance to numerous local organizations including The Chester Community Fund, Camp Hazen, Tri-Town Youth Services, Shoreline Soup Kitchen, Bikes for Kids, Chester Park & Recreation, Chester Boy Scouts, Chester Winter Carnivale, Chester Early Childhood

Program, Annual Chester Elementary School Dictionary Presentation and The Citizenship Scholarship Program. The Chester Rotary is also proud to have taken part in providing resources for a variety of international philanthropic ventures including relief efforts Haiti, water projects in Niger, Africa and programs to eradicate polio worldwide.

Our initial 2012 fund raising event will be the sequined sequel of last years' outrageously successful womanless beauty pageant, A Few Good Men. The details for this end of March affair are now being finalized. In 2012 the Rotary Club of Chester also invites you to join us for our 35th Annual Four on the Fourth Road Race on July 4th and to the 42nd Annual Lobster Festival on September 8th. We again look forward to participating in the 2nd Annual Chester Land and Air Festival in October.

The Rotary Club of Chester is a 501c(3) not for profit organization. We encourage you to visit our website at [www.chesterrotary.org](http://www.chesterrotary.org) for more information regarding our club and it's fund raising efforts, updates for our upcoming events and links to Rotary International.

— Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian

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the pertinence of a rose  
we are introduced to by day.

to the universe,  
all the silences and spaces,  
the grand givenness  
a proud terribly actual sun,  
the primordial rhythms.  
Breathless we, with the happiness of living.

— Gerard Feeney



## American Legion and Chester War Memorial

*"The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest veterans service organization, committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans."* (From the American Legion in Connecticut website homepage.)

The American Legion Post 97 serves our veterans as they have served to protect our freedom. With these thoughts in mind, the American Legion is asking for donations to help offset the costs of placing American 500 flags on veterans' gravesites in five local cemeteries twice a year. Gravesite markers have also been stolen and need to be replaced.

Support our veterans. Send a donation to the: American Legion Post 97, c/o Bruce Watrous, P.O. Box 54, Chester, CT 06412.

The Chester War Memorial Committee would also like to thank all those who have made donations to support the finishing touches of the memorial and its maintenance. The committee members would also like to salute James and Martha Beaudoin, local residents, who have made monthly donations without fail since the War Memorial project started. Thank you.

## Do You Have Septic Tank Pump Out Questions?

The Sanitation Office is updating its septic pump out database program. Therefore, in an effort to reach all households, property owners are reminded to have their septic tanks pumped out and inspected a maximum of every 5 years and sooner if there is heavy usage. If you do not know when your pump out was last done, stop in the Development office or call the Sanitarian or the First Selectman's office to help you.

The Town of Chester does have an ordinance that requires all septic tanks to be pumped out every 5 years as a safeguard for the entire septic system and to also benefit the property owner from potential costs with repairing a replacing the septic system. It is much more economical to pay a small expense for preventative maintenance than to have to pay substantial costs for a repair!

In addition to septic tank pump outs residents are encouraged to conserve water, repair any leaking fixtures, spread out laundry times and days, etc.

Please contact Lee Vito, Sanitarian, at 860-526-0013 extension 206 if you have any septic system questions or concerns.

# Thank You!!

As we approach the end of 2011 and look forward to what will come in 2012, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our clients over the past 12 years who have let us help them buy, sell, rent and starting this year -- build their homes. We appreciate the confidence and trust you put in us when we all work together. We really feel that TeamJermainne isn't just Brian and Leslie, but each client becomes a member of the team that is needed to get the job done.



The market certainly has changed over the past few years, and we're pretty sure it will continue to change in the future. We'll keep on top of it, so we understand what is going on out there, and how it will affect all our clients. Our motto for the future is "Keep It Simple". We want to make sure that we understand the needs of each client and that each client understands their options and their transaction fully and simply. We're sure it will be another interesting year, and we hope to see you!

**Brian Jermainne**, ABR, ASR, CRS, ePRO, GRI, SRES, SRS  
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 Brian@TeamJermainne.com

**Leslie Jermainne**, ePRO  
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## Estuary Council

**Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.** has been Serving Seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 35 years. Call us to receive our *Gazette Newsletter* or go to [www.ecsenior.org](http://www.ecsenior.org) for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more.

**Donate Your Car or Boat to the Estuary Council.** Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling 1-800-716-5868. Vehicle does not have to run. Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide in the nine town Estuary Region.

**YOU'VE GOT MAIL!** - Be the first to know what is happening by getting our newsletter emailed to you. No more postal delays, winter address changes, or trying to find the newsletter to confirm a date for the great free class or seminar. Go to [www.ecsenior.org](http://www.ecsenior.org) and click on the newsletter icon to follow the link and sign up. Then email us to remove you from the mailing list.

**HOLIDAY LUNCH:** Thursday, December 22 at Noon. Join us for our annual Holiday luncheon, featuring Holiday Classics by "JohnnyP". Remember to make your lunch reservation no later than 11 a.m. on December 15 by calling 860-388-1611. Happy Holidays!

**WOODCARVING CLASS:** Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 9 a.m. Beginners to advanced levels welcome. This group of men and women met and did their first project. Call Ed Gorman at 860-388-5737 for more information.

**STAN GREIMANN ESTUARY MEDICAL OUTPATIENT TRANSPORTATION** For medical appointments, to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Call Judy at 388-1611. Suggested donation of \$35.

**CAFÉ MEAL SITES** - Chester, Clinton, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, & Westbrook. Reservations required by calling 860-388-1611 by 11 a.m., 24 hours in advance.

**CHOLESTEROL SCREENING – Chester.** Third Wednesdays at 11 am at the United Church of Chester.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** – hot meals delivered to your home. Call Diane at 388-1611. A \$3.00 donation request for those aged 60+ ; otherwise cost is \$6.25. Meals are supported by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

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# CHESTER NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

## Welcome to Chester!

On behalf of *Events Magazines*, welcome to Chester. Whether you are new to Connecticut or just new to Chester you will find wonderful people and places to visit in town. From the Winter Carnival to the Chester Fair, Chester has something for everyone. Below are important phone numbers. Please tear out this page and keep it for future reference. We at *Events Magazines* and Essex Printing support local businesses.

Please use this guide and “Buy Local” – we do!

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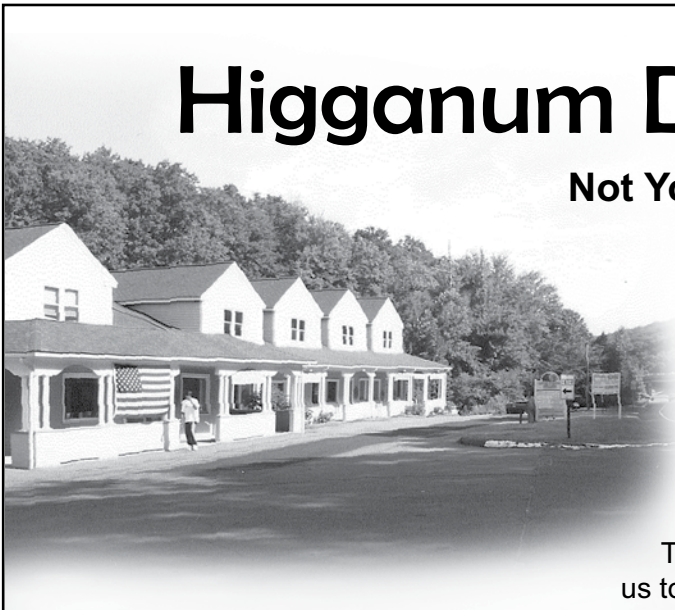
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# The Meeting House Players Present...

The Meeting House Players are excited to announce their plans to present an evening of one act comedies. The performance dates will be April 27 & 28 and May 4, 5, 11 & 12 at the Meeting House located at 4 Liberty Street in Chester, CT. The curtain will rise each evening at 8 pm.

Open auditions for this production are currently scheduled to take place at the Meeting House on Wednesday, February 15th and Friday, February 17th at 7 pm. Please look for future announcements that will provide updates and additional details.

The Meeting House Players is a local, not-for-profit community theatre organization that has been presenting comedies and dramas on the Chester Meeting House stage since the 1970's. We pursue the theatre arts with the talents and the interests of people throughout Connecticut. 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 contact Debbie Alldredge at 860-526-3684 for more information. We invite area residents with an interest in theatre to join us and we encourage those who want to act to audition for us.

— Debbie Alldredge



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# Seniors Getting Fit at the Saybrook at Haddam

Walking, lifting weights, stretching, rowing, biking...the list of fun things seniors do today to stay physically fit keeps growing. In fact, "working out" is becoming a bigger part of daily life for today's senior citizen, and the benefits are piling up. Seniors who work some level of physical fitness into their routines are taking positive, proactive steps to maintain (or even improve) their quality of life. Regular exercise builds muscle -which can be accomplished at every stage of life. Stronger muscles allow seniors to be more self-sufficient and manage daily tasks on their own.

Regular exercise helps keep seniors "in balance" and flexible, which, in turn, helps them avoid falls and injuries that can lead to greater complications. It also increases endorphins, improves cardiovascular health, and helps lower blood pressure - which all contribute to improved overall wellbeing. Senior often find themselves socializing more by taking group exercise or workout classes, or by simply going on walks with friends.

Daily exercise does not have to be a formal process. Many seniors find themselves getting a lot of exercise simply by their circumstance. For instance, if they live in a community such as The Saybrook at Haddam, they walk back and forth to their dining room three

times a day, and they walk to activities, to the in-house hair dresser, to meet up with friends, and for many other purposes throughout each day. They always have the option to take stairs instead of the elevator, giving them even more of a workout. In nice weather, many residents and their guests enjoy walking outdoors.

The Saybrook at Haddam recently added a new gym so residents can really build muscle and tone their bodies. Those who would like to use the gym receive individualized training on each of the different pieces of equipment - which include weight machines, rowing machines, and self-propelled treadmills. The walls of our gym are lined with mirrors so residents can watch their posture and be sure they are using the machines correctly. We placed treadmills facing our large windows that overlook the courtyard so everyone can take in the roses in the summer, the foliage in the fall, and the picturesque snow in the winter (while staying warm inside!). The gym is open all day long, so residents are able to create their own exercise regime into any time of day - in addition to enjoying our daily morning stretch and exercise classes.

Our residents are surprised to find themselves in better shape than they were before moving into our community. They don't realize the level of physical activity they take on each day, but they certainly notice how great they feel. That is why we encourage as much movement and engagement as possible. Their families, too, are happy to see their loved ones getting exercise and staying active.

Most important to us, we want residents to enjoy their hobbies and interests, do more with their children and grandchildren, and have the best quality of life possible. We know physically fit seniors have a more positive outlook on life, as they are able to be more independent longer. To put it simply, they are having more fun with their lives. And that is our hope for every senior!

— Kathy Ryan, Executive Director, The Saybrook at Haddam

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