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Events

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First Selectman's Corner

Main Street Improvement Project – Phase I

The team of Kent and Frost, Landscape Architects and Stadia Engineering Associates are working on the construction design and draft bid documents for the 1,800 foot Phase I section of Main Street. The Board of Selectmen authorized contracting with the Connecticut Department of Transportation for a \$200,000 STEAP grant that will pay for these consultant services. This work includes property survey, roadway sub-base investigation, storm water drainage analysis, roadway and sidewalk reconstruction design. Also as part of Phase I the analysis of potential lighting improvements at the Laurel Hill Cemetery parking lot will be prepared. These project plans will be presented at information workshops in February and March hosted by the Main Street Project Committee. Residents are encouraged to contact the First Selectman's Office with your questions and suggestions for improving traffic control, pedestrian use and the appearance of the Phase I project area.

2014 STEAP Construction Grant Requested

The Board of Selectmen have authorized application for a \$450,000 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant to undertake the Main Street Phase I improvements. If awarded this grant, together with balances from prior STEAP

grants and Town capital improvement funds, it will be used for the award of the Phase I construction contract. The preliminary estimated cost of this work is approximately \$1.2 million.

As First Selectman I requested the State Office of Policy and Management to award the 2014 grant this winter so bidding and the award of the project could begin in early summer and be completed before the end of the fall construction season. Getting Phase I construction in place before the closure of the Main Street bridge for repairs in January 2016 is essential to maintain the economic vitality of the commercial center and minimize prolonged disruption to businesses and public events that make Chester's historic village vibrant and unique.

Town Revaluation Completed

Under the Assessor's supervision the town-wide revaluation for October 1, 2013 has been completed by a private



First Selectman Ed Meehan

continued on page 4

Chester Winter Carnivale

It's that time of the year and preparations are once again underway for the **24th Annual Chester Winter Carnivale & Ice Carving Competition** and the ever popular **11th Annual Tractor Parade** to be held Sunday, February 16, in Chester Village. Also featured is the **Chester Hose Company Chili Cookoff**.

Once again, the ice carving will take place from 10:30 - 1 pm on Main Street, with people's choice judging and awards soon thereafter. The tractor parade, which features machines of all shapes, sizes, colors and decor, will begin parading down Main Street at 2:15 pm. There will be food, face painting, vendors, balloons, beads and lots of strolling entertainment throughout the day. We even have shuttle buses running from the Route 9 commuter lot and from Greenwald Industries on Middlesex Avenue to the Water Street parking lot. All Carnivale events are free.

As you know, Chester Winter Carnivale is made possible by generous donations of time, talent and dollars. Your donation will help ensure the continuation of this wonderful event, and help promote and publicize other merchant activities throughout the year. Donor categories are:

Carnivale Sponsor: \$500 and up – This generous donation will provide you with logo representation on Carnivale literature, advertising and promotional material. Checks & logos must be in by Jan.15 for publicity.

Carnivale Friend: Donations less than \$500 will be greatly appreciated and listed in "day of" materials.

Please make checks payable to Chester Winter Carnivale, LLC, 16 Main Street, Chester, CT 06412. If you would like to be a Carnivale volunteer, please contact Leslie Strauss at (860) 526-1200 or email ChesterCarnivale@gmail.com.

*Stephanie Farrand, Fundraising Chair
Chester Winter Carnivale, LLC*

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Resident Mae Gaudio with her son Bud, and wife Marge.

This winter, we have peace of mind knowing Mom has the comfort and care she deserves.

Mom is enjoying her new home at The Saybrook at Haddam, the region's premier assisted living and retirement community. Mom's days are filled with social activities, cultural events, and great meals, which she enjoys with friends and family.

We know Mom is receiving the care she needs because we worked with the nurses and caregivers to prepare her individualized care plan. Her apartment is large and bright, she's getting lots of exercise, and she's baking again in the Country Kitchen.

And with so much included in the monthly fee, we know she's getting unmatched value with quality care. Also featuring *Safe Harbor*, a special care program for residents with Alzheimer's or dementia.



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

appraisal company, eQuality Valuation Services, LLC.

Revaluations are conducted to insure property owners of uniformity in property valuations. The revaluation process involves the reappraisal of all real estate in Chester to assure that all property owners are paying their fair share of the cost of community services.

Revaluation is not intended to raise revenues.

The new assessments are effective for October 1, 2013 Grand List and will be reflected in the tax bills for next fiscal year, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. These tax bills will be mailed to property owners in early June 2014 after Town Meeting approval of the budget and the Board of Finance's vote to set the 2014-2015 mil rate.

Until the final Grand List for October 1, 2013 is completed, all exemptions taken into account and the new proposed budget for next fiscal year is developed, the exact amount of a person's property taxes cannot be confirmed.

It is recommended that residents review their revaluation notices to verify the description of your property is correct. If you have questions and/or an error has been made, please contact the Assessor's office or take advantage of your right to appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals which will hold hearings in April 2014.

Chester Veterans' Service Contact Person

The Board of Selectmen is pleased to announce the appointment of Lauren Gister as Chester's Veterans' Service Contact Person. This appointment was made pursuant to Public Act 13-34 which required the designation of a person to assist veterans access the various benefits, education and employment programs available from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Board of Selectmen is delighted that Lauren volunteered to help her fellow veterans; her military service and training as an attorney are resources that will benefit Chester's veterans. Lauren's email contact is lgister@comcast.net.

Chester Hose Company Expansion Dedication

Congratulations to the Chester Hose Company and Chester Ambulance Association for their completion of the fire station expansion project. The new 3,380 square foot space adds to the original 6,739 square foot station needed apparatus area, administrative rooms for Company officers, storage space and a back up Emergency Operation Center to serve the community. Hundreds of volunteer hours from skilled Hose Company and Ambulance Association members, donations from area contractors, businesses and residents enabled these improvements to be constructed at about half the cost of comparable private sector building space.

Thank you to the Building Committee members and Co-Chairman, Bill Beni, Chester Ambulance Association, and Ed Grzybowski, Chester Hose Company, for your perseverance in bringing this successful project to fruition.

First Selectman Ed Meehan

For town updates & information:
www.chesterct.org

Stay Informed

Sign up for the Chester Townwide Email Blast! This list is used by the First Selectman's Office only and provides useful information and updates on town events. To have your contact information added please email info@chesterct.org with the subject "town email list."

2014 Homelessness Awareness Youth Sleep Out

What: Area churches will gather for a soup/bread dinner followed by a program around the issues of homelessness in our communities.

This is an opportunity for youth and their adult chaperones to sleep out in solidarity with our homeless neighbors.

We will also be opening the Church as a Shoreline Soup Kitchen meal site that evening.

Who: This program is open to all ages. The sleep-out age is grade 7 and older, unless a younger child's parent is willing to stay with them for the entire night.

When: Saturday, January 25.

Program: Begins at 6 pm.

Where: Program to be held at The United Church of Chester. Sleep-out will take place at United Church of Chester...outside!

Folks can also participate by volunteering to make soup for Saturday night and/or breakfast for Sunday morning.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the United Church of Chester Office, 29 West Main Street, P.O. Box 383, Chester, CT 06412, 860-526-2697. Email: unitedchester@sbcglobal.net. Website: uccchester.org. Like us on Facebook: United Church of Chester.

The Reverend Marilyn B. Kendrix, Associate Pastor of The Church of the Redeemer in New Haven, will preach on Sunday January 26th and will then hold a Second Hour program from 11:30 to 12:30 pm. Her topic is injustice of the mass incarceration of especially young black men. She uses as her resource *The New Jim Crow (Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness)* by Michelle Alexander. Please plan to attend this important and provocative service and second hour program.

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Chester Fife and Drum Corps 1868



Welcome, as we start our 146th year, we hope this finds you all well, and that you enjoyed a great Thanksgiving and very Merry Christmas and a happy start to the New Year.

As the 2013 season closed with the traditional Old Saybrook Torchlight parade, we say goodbye to yet another successful year of Fifeing and Drumming. While some Drum Corps may fall into a deep winters nap, the Chester Fife and Drum Corps will be busy honing our musical repertoire and preparing for the 2014 season.

There is lot's to do before our historical group steps off again in March at the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in New Haven. Currently the corps is sporting a healthy number of participants but could definitely use more members. We have uniforms to mend, drum heads to replace and schedules to fill as there is no doubt that the 2014 season will be fast upon us. We are also in the process of designing a new uniform based on the mid 1900 style that the Corps used to wear but with a modern twist and fit for summer wear.

We hope that our ranks will swell yet again as we strive to attract new members with a peaceful pledge of just belonging to one of the oldest continuously active Fife and Drum Corps in the United States of America.

Currently, the Chester Fife and Drum is honored to have in its ranks the 2013 CT Junior Women's Champion drummer. Megan Cordeau came home with the Junior Female Bass Drumming championship for the second year in a row. Congratulations to all who competed.

If you possess quality skills and have some spare time and would like to be a part of history, we would love to meet you. Please don't be shy and come to one of our practices. You will be welcomed with open arms and quickly offered a role to fill. We could start you in our Color Guard, so you would be marching with the unit right away. Perhaps you could pass an informal 10 piece musical test as a fifer or drummer? This could place you in the ranks fast as a musical member. This is a unique opportunity to get involved as a family and or individual and start interacting with our Fife and Drum Family.

We provide drum and fife lessons if you provide the willingness to learn while having fun. We would like to have a greater number of local members from Chester getting involved as most of our current members are from out of town.

The Chester Drum Corps is still seeking donations of any old articles, pictures (past and present) of the Corps. Some can be donated to the Company of Fifers and Drummers Museum, which houses memorabilia of all Fife and Drum Corps past and present, and/or some can be donated to the Chester Historical Society. You can contact Frenchy Cordeau to schedule a meeting and/or pick up if necessary.

So please come and see what we are about, do and play. We will also be spending some time, this coming summer, at Cedar Lake and North Quarter Park.

Our winter Schedule at the Chester Elementary School:

- Feb 6 – Café Only
- Feb 20 – Café Only
- Mar 6 – Café Only
- Mar 13 – Café Only

If you are interested in becoming part of history and are interested in joining our corps, please feel free to call Don at 203-915-7215, Frenchy at 860-691-1735 or call our corps President, Barbara at 203-710-1736.

Just as a reminder, we are neither a Junior nor Senior Corps. We are a family oriented organization and intend on remaining so.

Better yet, come on down and see what we are about. We practice from 6:30 till 8:00 pm at the Chester Elementary School in Chester. Hope you have a healthy and safe winter season. Hope to see you at a muster or at a parade.

Yours in the Ancient Spirit.

*Frenchy Cordeau
Business Manager and Major*

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Time Out! Community Help



The Chester Community once again comes to the rescue of a program, Time Out! for the caregivers of special needs children. One of our participants, who has 4 boys, needed a new hairstyle to give her a much needed boost. Donna Zanardi, of A Style Above Hair Design in Chester gave up her free time on a Friday night to give her a fabulous new hairstyle. Her daughter, Alix, from True Massage & Aesthetics gave all the participants a head and shoulders massage. The help of the community at large is much appreciated by all of the participants. If you would like more information on the program, or would like to volunteer your expertise, please contact Victoria Taylor, (860) 995-8238 or email vtaylor6@juno.com.

Assessor's Report

The town-wide revaluation for October 1, 2013 has been completed. Notices of the new assessments were sent out in December and taxpayers had an opportunity to meet with representatives of the revaluation company with any questions or concerns. For those who wish to appeal further, the Board of Assessment Appeals will hold hearings in April and the deadline to submit an application for a hearing will be March 20th.

Sheila and I would like to remind Chester residents that there are a number of state and local programs providing exemptions or tax relief for those who are seniors, veterans, active duty military, blind, totally disabled, and emergency ambulance and fire personnel. For information regarding eligibility, income requirements, and filing periods for the programs please call our office at 860-526-0013 ext. 512 or visit our office on the second level of the Town Hall. We are open Monday through Thursday 9:00 to 4:00 and close for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00. The office is closed on Fridays.

Loreta M. Zdanys, CCMail, Assessor
Sheila E. Ahearn, Assessor's Clerk

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Let's Talk about Chester Food – March 2

Faith Middleton, move over. We're having our own Chester "Food Schmooz Crackerbarrel" on Sunday, March 2, at 4:00 pm at the Meeting House, hosted by the Chester Historical Society.

With the conversation led by longtime Chester folks who love to eat, we'll hear stories of the food sales that seemed like a weekly event in Chester during the late 1940s and throughout the '50s, when the churches and their respective groups, the political parties, the baseball teams, the American Legion Post and its Auxiliary, the drum corps, the garden club, the senior class, the Cedar Lake Neighbor Association – everybody hosted a food sale.

As one Chester native recalls, "Folks went to food sales no doubt filled with community spirit. They also went looking for specific items. Katie Carini's lemon meringue pie or Helen Zanardi's minestrone and Eulah Castelli's baked beans are cases in point. It was not unusual for people to go to the cook's house before the item got to the sale....Cheating? Perhaps, but all's fair in love, war and good food."

Chester was an interesting mix in the mid 20th century, a collection of old and ethnic families that, united, survived the Depression and a war. Food was a part of that and by the 1950s the good cooks were hardly a secret. It is fair to declare - the mention of a name was often followed by the image of some kind of foodstuff.



Serving up Chester foods 1950s-style.
Photo from the Chester Historical Society

Those foodstuffs, and others, have accompanying stories. In the interest of telling Chester's unique history, the March 2 Crackerbarrel program will give you some of the stories. And late in 2014, the Historical Society's cookbook will give you both the recipe and the stories.

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News from Chester Historical Society

Winter Happenings. It may be winter, but we never rest! On Sunday, Jan. 12 at 4:00 pm at the Meeting House we're hosting a program on Chester's early factories and tool making by Tom Elliott, a Westbrook architect who has researched local manufacturing, is a longtime tool collector and has been published.

During Winter Carnivale on Sunday, Feb. 16, we'll have the Chester Museum at The Mill open to welcome visitors and provide a warm spot to explore Chester history.

On Sunday afternoon, March 2, at the Meeting House, we're going to be talking about food! Specifically, Chester's kitchens and markets and food sales of the 20th century. This will be one of our well-loved "Crackerbarrel" programs, with the conversation led by the folks who remember Chester back when. This free program for all ages is also an introduction to the cookbook we're working on, so refreshments will likely feature some famous Chester recipes! (See separate article.)

Finally, on Saturday evening, March 22, we're hosting our fourth annual creative challenge linking Chester history and art. This year the challenge, "Unearthed in Chester," features rusted pieces found buried around a late 18th-century Chester Center property. The challenge, chaired by Sosse Baker, will culminate on March 22 with a Silent Auction and Champagne Reception at the Meeting House (see separate article).

Transportation Plus. It's back (and revised) by popular demand! Our "Over the River and Through the Woods" exhibit received such good reviews that we will be extending it for another year with some fresh material. One thought we are batting around is adding self-transportation in the form of bicycling, so if you have any stories, pictures or actual bikes from 100 years ago, we'd love to hear and see them too. Send us an email at chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Two Ways to Be in the Know. Information about historical society activities, as well as new gifts to our archives of Chester history, is in our monthly e-newsletter. If you're interested in receiving the newsletter (even if you're not a member of the historical society), please send your email address to chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com. All addresses are kept confidential. We are also on Facebook now and regularly post old photos of Chester. Check it out and "like" us at Facebook. com/chestercthistoricalsociety

Membership. Approximately 400 people support the Historical Society's ongoing mission to share Chester's rich history through exhibits and programs for all ages. If you are not already a member, isn't it time to become one? Annual dues for members are \$30 (family) and \$20 (individual). New membership forms can be mailed to you by leaving your name and address at info@chesterhistoricalsociety.org. For new members only, your membership will be extended to June 2015.



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Top Ten Hints for Paying Taxes in January

1. REMEMBER to PAY your taxes in January! We do not mail bills for the January installment, since you have a coupon for January with original bill!
2. REMEMBER to sign your check! It is amazing how many people forget and that could cause a delay in posting your payment, and cause your payment to be late, and result in interest being added!
3. REMEMBER to not use the amount from your July checkbook, since that could include MV that is not due now. That would cause an overpayment!
4. REMEMBER to double check your addition and double check how you write out your check. Your check should be written to Tax Collector or to Town of Chester. Bounced checks cause a \$15 fee from us and also a fee from your bank. We do NOT accept credit or debit cards!
5. REMEMBER to include a portion of your bill, so that we know how to post your payment. You might know what you are trying to pay, but we do not always know, especially if there is more than one person with the same name in town!
6. REMEMBER, if you are using "online payment" with your own bank, to do the process early enough in the month, so your payment arrives on time. It could take 7 days or more for the payment to reach us from the bank!
7. REMEMBER to put enough information on the computer for your payment that we know what you are trying to pay. Good example would be your home address or the unique id that is on your bill that stays with your property forever and in the case of a MV, full name of owner, and maybe even the plate number. There are more Smiths & Browns & Jones in town!
8. REMEMBER to NEVER drop off cash in the Tax Collector's mail slot! And if you are dropping off a check, please use an envelope to keep the check and the bill together. Again we need to know for sure how to post the check!
9. REMEMBER to NOT wait till the last day. We have experienced many bad weather days, & even if there is a blizzard/power outage, LATE is LATE!
10. REMEMBER to enjoy all the holidays and the winter months but at this busy time of year, also remember to pay your taxes and stay healthy!

Madaline A Meyer, Tax Collector



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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 lacrosse
- 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.

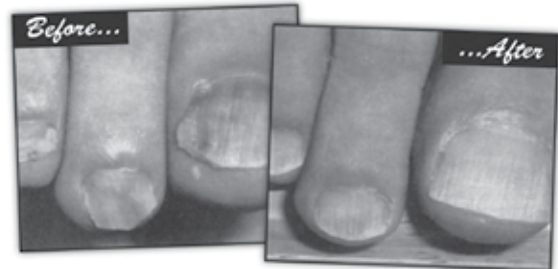
If you are interested in making a donation, please make your check payable to: R4EF, P.O. Box 187, Deep River, CT 06417.

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.

Chester Hose Company Auxiliary

The Chester Hose Co. Auxiliary and Chester Park and Recreation will have its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th at 12 noon at the Chester Fire House. It is for toddlers through age 10. Please have your children bring their own Easter basket for the collection of eggs and candy.

DO YOU HAVE
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discolored, brittle toenails



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CHI-10-13

Chester Public Library

Winter Book Sale. While away a winter's day (or two!) with a new (to you!) book from the Friends of Chester Library used book sale (woo hoo!). The sale begins on Friday, January 24 at 10AM 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 23 should call Diane Lindsay at 860-526-2443.

Donations of books in good condition will be accepted at the library through Wednesday, January 22. Please refrain from leaving donations outside when the library is closed; they are often damaged by weather and must be thrown out.

Mug Your Library. Let us help you make a clean sweep in January by encouraging you to weed your kitchen mug shelf! During the month of January, the library is collecting coffee mugs. Mugs need to be 'like new' – no chips, cracks or worn images. Why on earth does the library want mugs? Stay tuned....

Take Your Child to the Library Day is Saturday, February 1. Come to the library at 11:00 am to meet Dr. Bernie, the veterinarian at Adorable Pets Veterinary Center, who will bring along some adorable critters. Hear about the veterinary profession, meet some furry friends, and learn about taking care

of pets. This is the purrrfect time for children to apply for their own library card and "check out" some of our critter books! This program is open to all ages.

Curl Up and READ! What can be better on a winter's evening than settling in with a good book? Add a warm drink and cozy fire and, aahhh, perfection! This February we encourage you to do just that with our first-time ever winter reading program. Sign up online, record what you've read and earn rewards along the way. Details will be forthcoming in January: ask at the library or visit the library website at http://chesterct.org/?page_id=286.

Tea and Talk with Eliane. Visit with Eliane Koeves and the authors of her memoir, Nikki Lindberg and Jane Rice, at 4 PM on Thursday, March 20 at the United Church of Chester. Eliane: the art of embracing life and nature, tells the story of the remarkable life of a fellow Chester resident who recently celebrated her 100th birthday and whose world travels and involvement in world affairs make for interesting reading, indeed. We'll share a cuppa and a crumpet over conversation. Snow date will be March 27. Please call the library to register (we need a crumpet count!).

Stay in touch when you don't want to venture out in the storm!

- **Friends' Monthly eLetter.** Now deliverable to your inbox, a monthly newsletter produced by the Friends of Chester Library. Stay up-to-date on library news and happenings, new programs and resources. To receive, simply send a message to chesterctlibrary@yahoo.com with Friends Newsletter in the subject line. We'll take care of the rest!
- **Chester Library is on Facebook!** Like us! You'll know about weather related closings, programs, and other interesting bits of information and photos shared by your library.
- **Library website (http://chesterct.org/?page_id=286).** Find information about library events and access to library resources. Updated regularly, it's the next best thing to talking to one of your librarians.
- **Library emailings.** Send a message to chesterctlibrary@yahoo.org letting us know which of the following topics you'd like to receive email notices about... and we promise we won't flood your inbox:
 - Adult programs
 - Book discussions for adults
 - Book Sales
 - Children's programs
 - Friends News and Updates
 - General Library News
 - Library Expansion
 - Teen News

Library Hours: Monday, 10-8; Tuesday, 2-4; Wednesday, 10-6; Thursday, 2-8; Friday 10-6; Saturday, 10-2; Sunday, CLOSED. Have you liked Chester Library on Facebook?

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Chester Food Pantry

Once again the caring and generosity of Chester businesses, organized groups and individuals was amazing! In August, the Chester Food Pantry supplies of both food and non-food items ran extremely low. A Call to Action to restock the shelves brought help.

Examples of notable initiatives include the following:

- Bruce Sjovald had a retirement party and all his guests brought items for the pantry instead of gifts. Boxes and boxes of items were received.
- Girl Scout Troop #60549, consisting of 5 girls put donation bags on their neighbors' doors. The generosity of the girls' neighbors was overwhelming! See photo of girls.
- At the Chester Elementary School, each grade collected a different item during the month of October. The Helping Hands Academy organized this effort and over 300 items were collected.

Thank you to our many contributors: Aaron Manor, Boy Scout Troop #13, Chester Elementary School Students and Staff, Chester Village West, Cummings and Good, Diamond heart Group, Stuart Einhorn, Girl Scout Troop #60549, Greenwald Industries, Paulson Training Programs, Chester Rotary, Mary Beth and Bruce Sjovald, Claudia and Gordon VanNess and the United Church of Chester. We apologize if we have omitted anyone from the list.

The Chester Food Pantry is located in the Chester Town Hall and services over 50 Chester families.



Girl Scout Troop 60549 Members: Rose Jones, Ella DiPierdomenico, Katie Reed, and Lauren Valentino. Missing from photo is Bella Sacks.

A big THANKYOU from Rosie Binger, Social Services for the Town of Chester, Felise Cressman, Food Pantry Director, and Betty Radicchi, Food Pantry Assistant.

Chester Hose Company Auxiliary Scholarship

The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary will again be offering a scholarship to a well deserving child of a Chester Hose Company firefighter or auxiliary member who has been active for at least four (4) years. The firefighter or auxiliary member must be active now, or have been active within the last four (4) years, or be an honorary member of the Chester Hose Company or Auxiliary. This scholarship is also open to any child or grandchild of a deceased firefighter or auxiliary member who had four (4) years of active service at the time of his or her death. For a complete list of requirements and a copy of the application, please stop by Chester Town Hall and see the Town Clerk or stop into the Guidance office at Valley Regional, Xavier, Mercy, or Vinal High schools. All applications and supporting documentation is due by April 30th. A decision of the recipient will be made by May 15th. If you have any questions please call (860) 526-0013 x203.

All applications are to be sent directly to:

**Chester Hose Company Auxiliary
Attention: Debra Germini Calamari
203 Middlesex Avenue
Chester, CT 06412**

visit www.morefitct.com and sign up **TODAY**

860.796.1071 or 860.873.1866



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PRIORITY**



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Celebrate winter in Chester with the Carnivale



Enjoy watching ice carvers at work at the 24th Annual Winter Carnivale on Sunday, February 16. Photo by Bill Bernhart.



The new Chester pewter ornament will be sold through the Chester Merchants at most the shops in town.

Who can object to winter when it's celebrated with awesome ice carvings, a chili-tasting contest, and a decorated tractor parade? Throw in some Mardi Gras-style beads, face painting, and street performers, and you'll never hate winter again!

Chester celebrates its 24th Annual Winter Carnivale on Sunday, Feb. 16. The event, which takes place in the center of town in snow, rain, or shine, is free, with the exception of the Chili Cook Off.

Starting in the late morning, the Ice Carving Competition, with professional and semi-professional carvers, is sponsored by the Chester Merchants, who also bring in street entertainers

and face painters. The Chili Cook Off is sponsored by the Chester Hose Company. Buy a ticket and enjoy tasting all the different chilis made by various chefs and restaurants. In the afternoon, enjoy watching all the tractors parade down Main Street in the highly anticipated Chester Tractor Parade.

And this year, be sure to purchase the new Chester pewter ornament with the tractor logo, designed by Peter Good and sold through the Chester Merchants at most the shops in town.

Watch for information to come from the different organizations or check with visitchesterct.com.

See us on Facebook! [facebook.com/chesterctwintercarnivale](https://www.facebook.com/chesterctwintercarnivale).

Save The Date For Rotary's Fundraiser

On Saturday, April 5, the Chester Rotary will host **THE LONGEST DINNER TABLE** from 7 pm to 11 pm at Saint Joseph's Parish Hall. Join your closest friends and neighbors for a picnic style dinner in support of raising funds for food. Dance the night away to the sounds of the ever popular Shiny Lapels Trio.

Attendees of this fundraiser provide their own food and drink and dinnerware. Themed table decorating and costumes are strongly encouraged but not required. Prizes will be awarded for the Best Overall, the Most Elegant, the Most Community Spirit and the Most Creative tables. There will also be a silent auction.

Individual seats at The Longest Dinner Table are available for \$25 per person. Group tables of 8 may be purchased for

\$200. Group tables will be assigned on a first come first serve as paid reservations for the group tables are received. Multiple tables may be purchased together for larger parties. Tickets for the event are limited and will go on sale February 5, 2014. Please visit www.ChesterRotary.org for additional information regarding this event that promises to be an evening full of fun, food and frivolity shared with friends and family.

The proceeds for this "Adults Only" event will benefit local organizations whose focus is on providing food to members of our local communities who need a helping hand. These organizations include the Chester Food Pantry, the Back Pack Program and the Shoreline Soup Kitchen.

Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian

Unearthed, Rusty and Ready to Take On A New Life

Dipping back into Chester's roots as a manufacturing town, the Chester Historical Society has created its fourth annual challenge for area artisans and all those with a creative mind. This year's creative challenge, titled "Unearthed in Chester," uses flat, rusted iron pieces found buried in an early Chester Center property – one of the oldest houses in Chester.

These rusty pieces measure 1.25 by 2 inches and look like the capital letter E. We do not know their origin, but they're a great example of what one might find by digging in their own backyard!

If you're curious about them, they're at Chester Gallery at 76 Main Street. If you want to accept the creative challenge, we encourage you to express your interest to Sosse Baker at Chester Gallery (860-526-9822) as soon as possible, because the pieces are limited in number. Those who participate in the challenge will be asked to pay an entrance fee of \$30, which includes two tickets to the March 22 Silent Auction and Reception at the Chester Meeting House from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Tickets to the March 22 fundraising event, for those who want to view and bid on the finished creations – which might include art, jewelry, or sculpture – will be sold for \$30 and will be limited. They will be available starting in February at Chester Gallery and Ceramica, both in the center of Chester, or by calling Sosse Baker.

All the proceeds from the event will benefit the Chester Historical Society and its programs, including Chester Museum at The Mill. Information is available on the Society website, www.chesterhistoricalsociety.org.

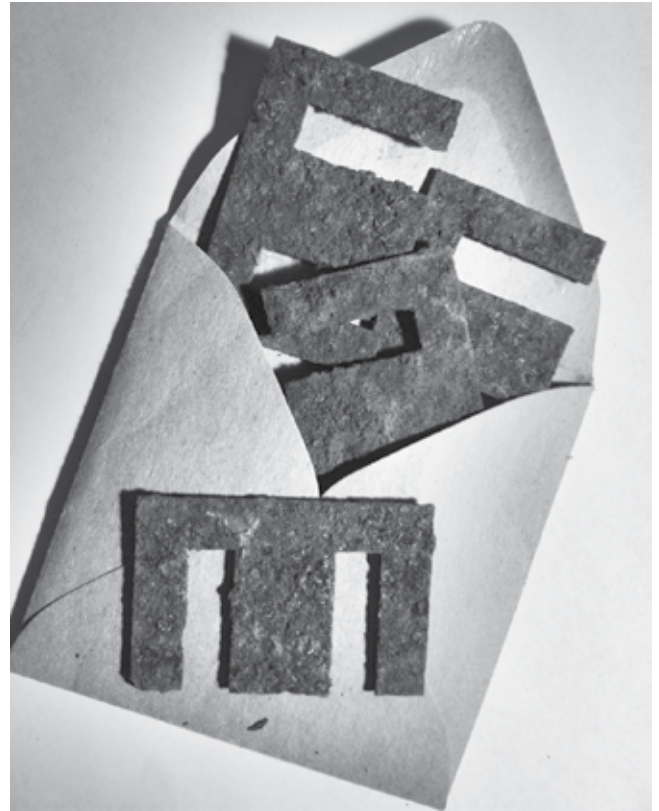


Photo by Skip Hubbard. Rusty and unearthed – will you accept our challenge and create something with these or will you wait to bid on one of the finished creations at the Historical Society's "Unearthed in Chester" Silent Auction and Champagne Reception on March 22nd.

Emergency Management Volunteers Wanted

The Chester Office of Emergency Management is looking for a few good men/women to become involved in large scale emergencies that occur in Chester and surrounding communities. Involvement involves taking preparatory courses in emergency management, participating in Local Emergency Operations Planning Committee meetings (LEOPC), assisting in keeping the Emergency Operations Plan up to date and attending State and regional planning workshops (mostly during the day). During major incidents, such as hurricanes, floods, major winter storms you will be asked to assist in manning the Emergency Operations Center, and/or the Unified Command Post. The Title: Deputy Emergency Operations Manager, the Pay: personal satisfaction by assisting the local responders.

Chester Harbor Management Plan

The Chester Harbor Management Commission has published, and made available on the Town website, the updated Harbor Management Plan. The Plan has been approved by the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Our original Harbor Management Plan was approved by the Town in 1994, was amended in 2010 and now revised in 2013.

We have a diversity of waterfront areas in Chester; ranging from commercial, yacht clubs, residential and undeveloped. We have four marinas and three yacht clubs, and have approximately 877 boats here.

In the new Plan, our shoreline areas have been divided into twelve Harbor Management Areas. This enables the commission member's different perspectives in evaluating development in the diverse areas.

A new factor influencing our evaluations of our waterfront areas is visual impact. Under new State guidelines, visual impact plays a key role in our, and the State DEEP, evaluation of waterfront development applications.



Chester Creek flows to the Connecticut River at Chester (Middlesex Avenue in foreground).

National Radon Action Month

January is designated as National Radon Action Month by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Chester Health Department recommend that all homeowners test their homes for radon. It is estimated that radon causes approximately 21,000 deaths from lung cancer each year. If a person smokes and his or her home has high levels of radon, the person is at increased risk for lung cancer.

Radon is a radioactive gas that is the result of the decay of uranium that naturally occurs in soil and rock formations, such as granite. It is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas. It enters homes usually through cracks or openings in building foundations. It tends to accumulate in basements as this area is usually poorly ventilated compared to other areas of the

home. All homes should be tested for the presence of radon and mitigation should be done when the airborne radon level is equal or greater than 4 pCi/L.

Radon can also enter the home via well water. Radon can accumulate in well water but since it does not dissolve in the water, it out-gases into the home during water use, such as showering or washing. If a water test shows a radon concentration of 5000 pCi/L or greater, the homeowner should consider treating the water to remove it. However, the greatest health risk comes from inhaling the radon gas rather than the drinking water containing radon.

Radon test kits and additional information about radon are available free of charge at the Health Department in the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester.

Support our Local Youth Tri-Town Youth Services has a Job Bank!

Youth looking for part-time work are encouraged to apply to the Job Bank. Raking, babysitting and yard work are examples of the type of work possible through the Job Bank. Adults from the tri-town area can utilize this program by requesting an employer application form from the Tri-Town office or by downloading from the website – www.tritownys.org. Upon receiving the completed application, we will contact you with the names of local youth interested in working for you. The Job Bank gives you the chance to get jobs done around the house while giving youth valuable work experience.

Estuary Council

220 Main Street, Old Saybrook (860) 388-1611

ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC. has been serving seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 38 years. Call us to receive our *Gazette Newsletter* or go to www.ecsenior.org for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more.

MEALS ON WHEELS – hot meals for homebound seniors, delivered to your home. Call Peg at (860) 388-1611. A donation of \$3.00 is requested for those aged 60+. Meals are supported by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

CAFÉ MEAL SITES - Clinton, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Westbrook (Thursdays). Reservations required by calling 860-388-1611 by 11 am, 24 hours in advance.

STAN GREIMANN ESTUARY MEDICAL OUTPATIENT TRANSPORTATION. For medical appointments to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Call Judy at 860-388-1611. Suggested donation of \$35 for a roundtrip Doctor appointment up to 5 hours. Suggested donation of \$70 for appointments over 5 hours.

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES: Board Games, Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Exercise Classes, Mah Jongg, Wii, Cribbage, Writer's Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Needlecrafters, Hand and Foot, and more! Check the Gazette for all of our programs.

ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP: Open 10 am - 3:45 pm, Monday - Friday; and from 9 am - 12:45 pm on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, crafts, and more available. Donations are accepted and volunteers always needed.

THE MARSHVIEW GALLERY AT THE ESTUARY: Open daily 8 am - 4 pm, and Saturdays from 9 am - 1 pm The art on exhibit changes monthly and highlights the talents of local artists from along the shoreline. The artists donate a portion of their art sales to the Estuary Council of Seniors.

Join us on the second Friday of each month for the Artist Reception from 5 - 7 p.m. Refreshments are served, and a door prize is drawn. All ages are welcome. Call 860-388-1611 for information.

GRAND OPENING OF THE GYM AT THE ESTUARY - You are cordially invited to join us on Tuesday, January 7th from 11 am - 1:00 pm for the Grand Opening of the new gym. There are seven different pieces of weight equipment and four cardio machines, including a NuStep.

Skylar Miers, our Certified Athletic Trainer, and the Estuary Staff will be on hand to answer questions and explain the program. Don't Miss it.

The gym is available for use only after payment of membership fees and completion of the required fitness assessment and training sessions. Gym Hours are posted at the Estuary. For additional information call 860-388-1611.

DONATE YOUR CAR OR BOAT TO THE ESTUARY COUNCIL - Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling: 1-800-716-5868. Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide for seniors in the nine-town Estuary Region.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Call Judy at 860-388-1611.

Chester Town Hall

203 Middlesex Ave., Chester, CT 06412

Ph: 860-526-0013 • Fx: 860-526-0004

Town Hall Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

www.chesterct.org



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Chester Parks and Recreation

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 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412
 860-526-0013 extension 223, parkrec@chesterct.org
 Visit our website for registration forms and information at:
http://chesterct.org/?page_id=476



CHESTER YOUTH BASKETBALL. Mark your calendar for our annual Youth Basketball “MARCH MADNESS” celebration on Sunday afternoon, March 2nd. Parents have the opportunity to play against their child’s team and a pizza dinner is served in the cafeteria.

Adult Recreational Basketball begins December 3rd. Visit the web page above for registration forms.

Coming This Winter - School Vacation Camps at Chester Elementary School. There is no school on Tuesday, February 18th and school is dismissed at 1:00 pm on Friday, February 14th, Thursday, March 20, and Friday, March 21. Join the Parks and Recreation Staff for Vacation Camp. In February we will offer basketball and floor hockey clinics at Chester Elementary School, for grades K through 6. Traditional camp crafts and games will also be offered in February, as well as in March.

Karate for Children. There will be two more sessions of the Kempo style of Karate classes held in the multi-purpose room at Chester Elementary School by Valley Shore Martial Arts from 3:00-4:15 pm. Children who are in grades K through 6 will meet for four Mondays, March 17, 24, 31, and April 7. Another session will be offered Mondays, April 28, May 5, 12 and 19. Sign up for the number of sessions you prefer. The cost of the program is \$32 for each four class session. PLEASE REGISTER AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE.

There will be 8 weeks of Summer Camp in 2014! Join us between June 23rd and August 15th for a Day Camp filled with choices, weekly field trips, and an experienced staff with impressive waterfront training.

Check-in time will be between 8:15 and 8:45 am and dismissal from 3:30 until 3:45 pm for students entering grades 1 through 7. The week of June 30th we will offer a four-day camp week with no field trip due to the 4th of July holiday. This INTRODUCTION TO CAMP will have the same check – in time, but dismiss between 12:30 and 12:45 pm, for children AGE 4 THROUGH ENTERING GRADE 7. Children will be divided by age and participate in activities with their assigned counselor. Campers will have the option of staying at Camp until 3:30 pm. Choose as many or as few weeks as you like.

Message from the Chester Hose Company

Thank you to all who attended our Open House and dedication ceremony for our 3,300 square foot building addition. We did this with a \$100,000 contribution from the Ambulance Association, \$67,000 from the Town, and approximately \$45,000 in monetary donations from the community along with the time, talent, and efforts of our volunteer members and generous local contractors. We were able to build this much needed addition for \$250,000 with a face value of \$1.7 million. In the words of our First Selectman, Ed Meehan, this is an example of what a small town working together can do for one another.

“Kids Only Night Out” in December was cancelled due to weather. Watch our facebook page and website for make up date and time as well as all upcoming events.

A special thank you goes out to Alan and Karin Blaschik of Alan’s Small Engine Service in Haddam for their generous donation of a Stihl chainsaw for use on “The Dengler” our all-terrain rescue unit.

Winter has arrived...Please be extra mindful of neighbors, especially the elderly.

From our officers and members to all of you ~ a wish for a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2014!

Charles F. Greeney, Jr., Chief

Ice Skaters!

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

A Note from the Public Works Foreman

It is not too early 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.
- Please remove basketball hoops from the street and be sure it's far enough off the road to avoid being hit by the snow plow.
- Sand and salt will be available at the Town Garage on Grote Road. Please, only one pail per household.

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 500 American flags on veterans' gravesites in five local cemeteries twice a year and maintenance of the memorial. 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.

Winter Safety Tip

Make sure your chimney is clean before you start to burn wood. Also, the wood you burn must be dry (Do not use green wood).



Q: How do I know if orthotics in my shoes will work for me??

If your heel swings too far to one side, your foot may be overpronating or flattening too much. This abnormal movement strains your foot causing the bones and soft tissue of the foot to support too much of your body weight. Over time this type of strain on the soft tissue may cause heel pain or spurs, tendinitis and pain when walking or exercising.

Many times just a look at the bottom of your shoes tells a story. If you have wear on the outside of your shoe, this might be an indication that orthoses would be an appropriate recommendation for you. Orthoses control movement, like a cradle and reduce strain on the joints eliminating many types of foot pain.

Custom made orthotics are very different from over the counter devices as they are molded to your foot by the making of a plaster impression. This allows us as your podiatrist to add modifications needed to correct your particular foot condition. We as podiatrists are educated in biomechanics and trained to determine how your specific foot functions.

Runners love us. We see many patients that have actually avoided having surgery due to a pair of our well constructed orthotics. We guarantee all of our orthotic devices allowing patients to revisit us for adjustments as needed. It helps having labs in most of our locations.

Ask us questions at www.centerpodiatry.com
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Goodspeed Musicals

DAMN YANKEES - The Redsox Version. Batter up! Just in time for baseball season comes the muscular musical comedy about a Red Sox super-fan who is transformed into a star slugger after he makes a deal with the devil – and his sexy associate, Lola. Goodspeed re-imagines a Broadway classic that swings for the fences, no matter which team you root for. In the game of love and baseball, you gotta have “Heart” – but watch out for “Whatever Lola Wants.” **April 11 - June 21.**

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF - 50th Anniversary Production. The international smash about Russian villagers and their universal longings – love, wealth, freedom, God and home – makes its Goodspeed Musicals debut, boasting the beloved songs “If I Were a Rich Man,” “Sunrise, Sunset,” “Matchmaker” and more. **June 27 - Sept 7.**

Goodspeed Opera House
PO Box A, 6 Main Street, East Haddam, CT 06423
See more at: <http://www.goodspeed.org>

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.

How to Lower Your Electric Bills

A major portion of your electric bill is the charge for “Supplier Services” which represents the amount charged for the generation and supply of electricity delivered to your home. To review current offers, go to the following website CtEnergyInfo.com and click on “Choose an Electric Supplier”. The website provides information about the offers and how to contact the suppliers.

Another way to reduce your costs for electricity and heating is to make your home or business more energy efficient. This same website provides information on CL&P programs for energy checkups by trained personnel, available financing and support for energy efficient appliances. The Home Energy Solutions program provides the services of a qualified energy expert who will inspect your residence, make improvements and provide a report on additional opportunities. The Small Business Advantage program provides similar services for commercial buildings.

Chester Energy Task Force
info@chesterct.org, 860-526-0013 x 202

*As the year draws to a close
 I'd like to thank all my loyal clients*

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Calendar of Events

Reminder: Dates and times of events and meetings may change. Please be sure to check the town hall bulletin board or website www.chesterct.org before attending.

January 6	Citation Review Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Inland Wetlands Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
January 7	Harbor Management Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
January 8	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
January 9	Planning and Zoning Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
January 13	Energy Task Force	Town Hall	9:30 am
	Library Board of Trustees	Chester Library	7:30 pm
January 14	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
January 15	Board of Fire Commissioners	Hose Company	7:30 pm
January 16	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
January 21	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
January 27	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Hall	7:30 pm
January 28	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 3	Citation Review Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Inland Wetlands Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 4	Harbor Management Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 5	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 10	Energy Task Force	Town Hall	9:30 am
	Library Board of Trustees	Chester Library	7:30 pm
February 11	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 13	Planning and Zoning Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
February 18	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 19	Board of Fire Commissioners	Hose Company	7:30 pm
February 20	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
February 24	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Retirement Committee	Town Hall	7:30 pm
February 25	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 3	Citation Review Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Inland Wetlands Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 4	Harbor Management Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 5	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 10	Energy Task Force	Town Hall	9:30 am
March 11	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Workplace Health and Safety	Town Hall	9:30 am
March 13	Planning and Zoning Committee	Town Hall	7:30 pm
March 17	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Library Board of Trustees	Chester Library	7:30 pm
March 18	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 19	Board of Fire Commissioners	Hose Company	7:30 pm
March 20	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
March 25	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm

Library Expansion Update

Planning for an expanded and accessible building is an ongoing priority for the Chester Library. In response to community interest in preserving the façade of the historic 1907 library building, the Library Trustees requested that architect Ken Best investigate the possibilities of a below grade expansion. He responded with an idea that would preserve both the façade of the building and its historic main floor, while creating a fully accessible facility with a state of the art lower level. The new space would extend to the west of the current building (toward the church) where the sloping topography would allow for windows on the back of the addition and skylights

would provide natural light in other areas. Of course, the concept is just the beginning: permissions must be obtained, borings and soil testing must be done, designs need to be perfected and funds need to be raised, but the big question right now is, what do you think about this idea?

The Trustees encourage all Chester residents to take part in a community conversation about the expansion that is scheduled for Saturday, January 11 from 10 am - noon at the Chester Meeting House. Snow date is January 25. Meanwhile, visit the library website for a link to the conceptual floor plans and elevations.

Solar Challenge Success

Thanks to all the Chester residents that participated in the CT Solar Challenge! We now have over 100,000 watts of new solar generating capacity to add to the previously installed 90,000 watts. This means that over 30 homes, the United Congregation Church, Camp Hazen and now the Chester Elementary School are producing clean energy for their consumption and for other residents.

Chester needs to be proud of the spirit and concern our residents have for the need to generate clean energy.

For all those still considering solar, as of this writing, there still are State rebates available and the Federal tax incentives extend to the end of 2016. The closing of the Solar Challenge only means that the pricing and warranties are no longer in effect and there is no agreement for the Energy Team to market the Challenge (Aegis) exclusively in the Town. As was the case during the Challenge, anyone can explore solar with Aegis or any other State approved supplier by contacting them directly.

Go Solar! Thank you Chester, from your Energy Team.

Chester - Community Listings

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Chester Land Trust (860) 526-2619
- Chester Fair (860) 526-5947
- Chester Democratic Town
Committee www.chesterctdems.com
- Chester Garden Club (860) 526-2998
- Chester Historical Society (860) 526-5781
- Chester Merchants Association
. www.visit-chester.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

LIBRARY

- Chester Public Library (860) 526-0018

POST OFFICES

- Chester Post Office (860) 526-2780

SCHOOLS

- Superintendent of Schools
District 4 (860) 526-2417
- Chester Elementary School (860) 526-5797
- John Winthrop Middle School (860) 526-9546
- Valley Regional High School (860) 526-5328

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

- St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (860) 526-5495
- Congregation Beth Shalom - Temple (860) 526-8920
- United Church of Chester (860) 526-2697

SPOTLIGHT!

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from all of us at *Events Magazines*
and *Essex Printing*

Vaccines for Adults

Quick - do you know if you're up to date on your vaccines? Or, do you think of vaccines as just kids' stuff? Apparently lots of folks do, given that way too few adults receive the recommended vaccines. That puts them, and those who come into contact with them, at greater risk for vaccine-preventable diseases.

Consider this:

- In 2012, there were 42,000 cases of whooping cough (pertussis)—the highest number in a single year since 1955. Nearly a quarter of these cases were in adults. Most of the babies who died from the disease, in fact, picked it up from an adult in the home.
- In 2011, most of the 4,000 people who died from pneumococcal pneumonia were older than 50. The highest rate of death was in those older than 65, yet only two-thirds of this age group receive the vaccine.
- Only about one-third of U.S. adults at high risk for hepatitis B have received the vaccine. Fewer still have received a vaccine for hepatitis A.

If you're someone who's afraid of vaccines, you need to know this: You can't get a disease from the vaccine. They won't cause you harm. Instead, the more people who receive vaccinations, the fewer germs are around you. Vaccines virtually wiped smallpox and polio off the face of the map.

How does this all work? Vaccines ally with your body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity. But first a reminder about immunity: When germs invade your body, they attack and multiply, causing an infection. Your immune system works

bravely to fight it off. This leaves your body with a supply of cells that now recognize this invader, providing immunity.

Vaccines imitate, but don't cause, an infection. They help the body learn how to respond if a real infection attacks your body. As your body builds immunity, however, it is normal to have mild symptoms such as fever.

So which vaccines do adults need? Recommendations vary depending upon your age, overall health, and medical history. It's really important to stay up to date with vaccines if you have special health conditions such as diabetes or cardiovascular, liver, or renal disease. That's because some vaccine-preventable diseases may put you at increased risk for serious complications.

Your doctor may also need to make adaptations with vaccines if you are pregnant or have a medical condition. For example, in certain cases, you may need to avoid the nasal live attenuated influenza vaccine and use an injectable form instead.

Remember: all adults—no matter how healthy you are—should have a seasonal influenza vaccine every year. You can with your doctor about your schedule for these vaccines:

- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Td/Tdap)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Zoster (shingles)
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- Pneumococcal
- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B3

Submitted by the Killingworth Family Pharmacy

9 Town Transit to Offer Service in East Haddam

East Haddam residents will soon have greater mobility with new access to a regional transit system. Beginning January 15th, the town of East Haddam will begin a contract with 9 Town Transit to provide general public Dial-A-Ride service throughout the town.

9 Town Transit, operated by the Estuary Transit District, currently provides Dial-A-Ride service throughout Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. Any location within East Haddam and Moodus will now also be included in the new expanded service area.

To reserve a trip, customers will call 9 Town Transit at up to two weeks but no less than one day in advance. The fare will be \$3.00 each way, with seniors age 60 and over eligible to ride at a suggested donation of \$1.50. The hours of service are 6:00 AM until 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. The service is open to the general public with no age restrictions. All vehicles are fully accessible with wheelchair lifts and service is available for any trip purpose.

Additional information, route maps and schedules are available online at www.9towntransit.com or by calling 9 Town Transit at 860-554-0551.

Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a network library of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. We lend books and magazines in recorded formats along with the necessary playback equipment, and materials in braille, for FREE, to any Connecticut adult or child who is unable to read regular print due to a visual or physical disability.

Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 am - 3 pm

Rocky Hill: 860-721-2020

In-state: 1-800-842-4516

www.ct.gov

Essex Printing & Events Magazines Supports goPink Project & Middlesex Hospital



Left to Right: Suzanne Spires, Director of Advertising & Operations, Events Magazines; Kathleen Russo, Community Relations Middlesex Hospital; Sarah Moore, Director of Development Middlesex Hospital; Fred Holloran, Vice President Marketing & Business Development, Essex Printing; Georgi Marion EG Salon, Middletown; Ellie Gagnon EG Salon, Middletown.

During the month of October you saw a lot of pink. Pink shirts, pink hair, pink flowers, pink ribbons; all promoting breast cancer awareness and treatment. Essex Printing and Events Magazines teamed up with the Middlesex Hospital Comprehensive Breast Center and goPINK Project, a local collaboration among area beauty salons and other local businesses to increase awareness about breast cancer and to support patients in our community.

For every advertisement sold in Events Magazines during the month of October a donation was made to the Middlesex Hospital Comprehensive Breast Center. Essex Printing and Events Magazines are proud to have made a \$900 donation to fight breast cancer. Over \$26,600 was raised by the thirty-three participating companies this year and \$63,393 since the goPINK project's inception in 2010.



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