

Chester events

VOLUME 14 • QUARTER 1 • 2015



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First Selectman's Corner

Town Hall Solar System Energized

On November 12, 2014 Aegis Solar Energy completed installation of a 6 Kw photovoltaic system on the south west roof of Town Hall. The system consists of 24 panels and is estimated to generate \$1200 to \$1500 per year in electrical savings. With rates expected to increase in 2015 additional savings are assured. 2Kw of this system were free to the Town based on Chester's earned clean energy points secured by meeting the goals of the CT Solar Challenge program. Go to the public site <http://monitoring.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/public?name=Chester Town Hall> to check out the environmental benefits of the Town Hall solar system.

Main Street East Reconstruction Project Scaled Back

In November the main street Committee received the preliminary cost estimate for the 70 percent design of the Main Street East reconstruction project. The cost for the entire 1,800 linear foot project, from Laurel Hill Cemetery to Middlesex Avenue was estimated at \$1,528,700, \$172,000 over STEAP Grant of \$983,088 and Town capital reserve funds of \$374,425. This cost information, coupled with opposition to extending a new sidewalk connected to North Quarter Park, result in the Board of Selectmen's decision to reduce the project scope and defer improvements east of School Lane.

The redesigned project has been reduced to 1,000 linear feet and will include essential new storm water drainage upgrades, reclamation of roadway pavement for sub base material, new pavement, new granite curbing, concrete driveways, sidewalk replacement, and new drainage, paving, parking expansion and lighting in Laurel Hill parking area. The existing brook culvert adjacent to the Post Office will be evaluated for possible replacement. The scaled back project's preliminary cost is estimated at \$1,051,500, \$477,200 less than the original design. If the culvert requires replacement the construction cost and time to complete roadway work will increase this estimate. The project schedule is to finalize construction documents in mid-February, bid in late March and begin work in May. The estimated length of time to complete the scaled back project is five months.




First Selectman Ed Meehan

Fiscal year 2015-2016 Budget Preparation

In February the Board of Selectmen and Finance begin preparation of the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget, July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

Continued on page 3

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Troop 13 – Chester/Deep River Boy Scouts

Troop 13 Boy Scouts serves the boys ages 11-18 of Chester and Deep River. The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to help young men develop their character and life skills all while having fun. There is much emphasis placed on assisting these young men to develop into strong healthy citizens who will lead our communities and country in the years ahead. The Boy Scout methods help to promote these ideals through the challenge of putting them into practice with the Troop Program. This is done in a way that is both challenging and fun.

Happenings

Autumn is a busy time for the Boy Scouts in Troop 13. The boys enjoyed a weekend at the Onadaga Site at Camp Hazen and hosting a District Camporee at Mark Greer Scout Reservation in Bozrah, CT. Troop 13 kept busy helping the Chester Rotary with parking cars for the Lobsterfest, moving books for the Deep River Library Sale, splitting and stacking wood for Camp Hazen to use in the upcoming camping season. In December, the troop took a day trip to the U.S.S. Nautilus Museum and the U.S. Coast Guard Museum wrapping up that day with bowling and pizza. Upcoming events for the Troop will include the Annual Klondike Derby, Merit Badge Madness, and spring hikes and campouts.



Chester/Deep River Boy Scouts Troop 13 at U. S. Coast Guard Museum. Photo by: Michael Ruddy.

Information

To learn more information about joining Troop 13 please contact our Scoutmaster, Steven Merola @ 860-526-9262

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Diane Daudt with her mom, resident Marie Daudt, looking at all the places they've flown to as flight attendants.

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SELECTMAN'S CORNER...continued from page 1

Town departments submit their requests for operating expenses and capital improvement projects to the First Selectman. Draft operating budget costs are usually grouped by departmental services such as Town Hall operations, Highway and Grounds, Public Safety, Employee benefits. Anticipated revenues are prepared by the Treasurer and Finance Office based on the grand list, anticipated State grants and local income from fees. The Boards of Selectmen and Finance hold budget meetings with department representatives to discuss their requests, review past year budget experience and evaluate expenditure increases.

All board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meetings and workshops are open to the public and participation is welcomed. Workshops are normally held on the second Tuesday and third Thursday during February, March and April. Check the Town of Chester website for a complete list of meeting dates and budget topics to be discussed.

The Board of Finance is responsible for completing the draft Town budget by the end of April and also coordinating a total budget with the Chester Elementary School Board of Education and Region 4 for a public hearing in early May. Chester normally holds its Annual Town Meeting for the Fiscal Year Budget in late May. At this town meeting residents vote on the budget presented by the Board of Finance. If approved the Board of Finance sets the mil rate for fiscal year 2015-2016 after the budget is adopted.



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
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Dear Valued Readers,

If you've ever seen an *Events Magazine*, you will appreciate that it provides the latest information from town mayors and selectmen, town departmental schedules and activities, senior news, menus and programs, library information, community listings, economic development and other important town information helping residents to "keep in touch" with what's happening close to home. And the content ensures true shelf life of the magazine.

As we enter our 19th year in 2015 we are introducing a redesign, from cover to cover.

2015 brings excitement as we continue to grow, adding our 15th town. Our latest addition provides local and regional advertisers greater coverage and awareness with the ability to reach over 250,000 readers at a very low cost per thousand.

Our dedication to our magazines will not change and our commitment to help bring our readers their local town news will continue.

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Many encouraging changes have transpired at Essex Printing. We were presented the "The Benny Award" from the Print Industry of America. Over 3000 entries from companies around the world competed in a variety of printing and graphic communications categories. We are very proud of our accomplishment being selected as one of only 84 companies around the world, and are able to say we are the "Best of the Best". Having won the Print Industry of New England's two Pinnacle Awards and Award of Excellence over the last two years highlights the quality and customer dedication at Essex Printing. In 2015 we will continue to look for new ways to enhance our products and assist our clients to meet their objectives.

I would like to thank you for making Essex Printing and Events Magazines part of your marketing and advertising plan. We are especially proud of the many wonderful and complimentary letters, cards, emails, and personal reviews we receive from our satisfied customers.

Our reputation of excellent customer service has helped us create and build lasting business relationships that are the hallmark of our continued success in helping your business and organization succeed! We look forward to working with you in 2015.

Sincerely,
William McMinn
President, Essex Printing and *Events Magazines*

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."

Prescription Drug Discount Cards

Introducing the Town of Chester Prescription Drug Discount Cards for uninsured and underinsured residents

The Town of Chester, through its association with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), the statewide association of towns and cities, is now providing a new prescription discount card that will provide uninsured and underinsured residents steep savings on prescription medicines.

Chester is a member of CCM and this program is only available to CCM member-communities. One hundred and nineteen municipalities have joined this program and saved CT residents over \$4.8 million dollars in prescription costs.

In Connecticut, over 800,000 residents lack prescription plans, have very high deductibles or have restrictions on Medicare reimbursements.

The “Town of Chester Prescription Drug Discount Card” helps residents save money on their prescription medications any time their prescription is not covered by insurance. This new prescription discount card will provide immediate fiscal relief at the pharmacy counter and offers the following features and benefits:

- Anyone can participate regardless of age or income – there are no forms to fill out – cards are automatically activated upon receipt;
- There is no cost to the municipality or to participating residents;
- All prescription medications are covered including pet prescriptions that are human-based and can be filled at a pharmacy;
- Cost savings are on brand name and generic medications. Generic prescriptions do offer the highest savings;
- There are over 63,000 participating pharmacies nationwide, including CVS, Rite-Aid, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Stop and Shop, and Big Y, and many local pharmacies;
- Discounts are also offered on other medical services including vision, hearing and Lasik services.

“Ensuring that our underinsured residents have easy, no cost, access to better prescription coverage is a win-win situation for the town government, and our residents,” said Ed Meehan, First Selectman of Chester.

“CCM is pleased to offer this valuable community service to the town of Chester,” said CCM Director of Member Services and Marketing, Gina Calabro. “This program will help residents save money on their medications if they don’t have prescription insurance or any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.”

Each residence in Chester will receive a “Town of Chester Prescription Discount Card” by direct mail in the next few weeks which they may use at any participating retail pharmacy. Cards may be used by all town residents regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. There are no enrollment forms, membership fees, restrictions or limits on frequency of use for residents.

Once the cards have mailed, they can also be printed by visiting www.CTRxDiscountCard.com by selecting Town of Chester from the drop-down menu. The website also contains a “Learn the Perks of the Card” where a resident can locate a participating pharmacy, comparison shop their medication, and find the information on the discounts that are also available on vision, hearing and LASIK services.

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News from the Chester Public Library Friends

On Friday, Jan. 23, we'll have our annual Winter Book Sale. Gently read books, DVDs and recorded books for all ages will be sold at very low prices. We're always looking for volunteers willing to help sort and set up for our sales. Contact Diane Lindsay at 860-526-2443 or leave your name at the library desk. All proceeds from book sales benefit library programs and collections.

The Friends have a very busy schedule of programs this winter. These include:

In Stitches, the library's adult knitting group, welcomes needle workers of all skill levels to join them on Monday evenings from 6 to 8 pm. Drop in once for help solving a problem, or become a regular, whatever works for you.

Kids Knit, a group of upper elementary school-aged knitters, gathers on the rug on Saturdays from 12:30 to 2 pm with Anne Winslow.

Board Game Nights for players ages 12 and up (of all experience levels) meet on the first Monday and the third Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 pm to play new games of skill, strategy, and fun.

Zentangle with Sue Zirlen meets for the third time on Thursday, January 15th from 6 to 8 pm. Any adult who wants to explore this "meditative doodling" technique is invited. All materials are supplied.

Take Your Child to the Library Day, Saturday, February 7, at 11 am. Meet Fairbanks, a retired Seeing Eye dog owned by Karen and Steve Bradley.

We're also planning a **maple syrup making** program this winter. Stay tuned for more details!

The Human Library continues to grow. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., the January "Book of the Month" is Marta Daniels, a peace activist. Stop in the library to learn more.

The Friends are actively involved in the discussions and fundraising for the future Chester Library (see additional article in this magazine). We can use your help as we work to make the library accessible to all. Please call Cary Hull, President of the Friends, at 860-558-4701, or talk to any of the librarians.

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Chester Library at North Quarter Park: An Update

The Town of Chester's application for a \$1 million CT State Library Construction Grant, to assist with building a new library in North Quarter Park, was approved by the State Library Board in November.

With this significant piece of funding secured, the town is beginning in-depth planning. This winter, the Library Board of Trustees will request funds from the current town budget to complete the evaluation of the building site and to develop schematic designs for the library building itself. The Trustees will also begin developing plans for a private fundraising campaign. Through the spring, working with LLB Architects, the building committee will continue to refine the concept for the library with a critical eye to functionality and a sharp pencil on the bottom line. Give and take with the broader community will be crucial to creating a successful final goal: a new, fully accessible library facility that will serve as a true community center.

Accessibility, in all of its aspects, is the bedrock of public libraries. The time has come for Chester Library to open its doors to all, as the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 will be 25 years old next July. But beyond that imperative, "we need a new library: a place of space and light, a place filled with more books and ample

up-to-date technological resources" says Eileen Sypher, who grew up visiting the Chester Library.

As the planning process moves forward, there will be many opportunities for community input. Right now there are two ways to keep informed and to impact the project's outcome:

- Email the library at Library@chesterct.org to be put on the list for building project updates via email.
- Attend Library Building Committee meetings, which will be held at Town Hall at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month throughout 2015. The committee encourages public attendance and input. Minutes from the meetings can be found on the library website.

Kris and Mel Seifert have commented that "placing the library at NQP is the most visionary move this town has made in a very long time." Bringing a vision to life is a complicated affair, no doubt. But, as Jennifer Carpenter says, just imagine "how remarkable the outcome will be once the creative and talented residents of Chester come together to make this idea a reality."

For information about upcoming library programs, see the Friends of Chester Library article elsewhere in this publication.

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Chester Fife and Drum Corps

Frenchy Cordeau, Business Manager and Drum Major



Out with 2014 and in with 2015

A little update on where your Corps stands now. Chester Fife and Drum Corps is steadily growing in numbers and looking forward to a most exciting year. We currently sport six Bass drummers, six Snare drummers, five Fifers and five in Color Guard. We expect to be welcoming two new members in the early part of the year, one to be a member of the Color Guard and one new Fifer. We have a great bunch of people in the corps. We have fun, family get togethers, tailgating picnics, and oh yes, marching and music, of course. As someone once said "we have the corporate side and then we have the fun and music side" these two converge to form a great ancient Fife and Drum Corps, which is Your Hometown Corps.

We are also in the midst of getting new 'Old' uniforms based on a uniform which we wore in the past. It is in the "military" style. We are hoping to unveil it in the early spring. Hope you like it as much as we do.

Last quarter I gave you a short history on the Color Guard. Now I would like to give you a brief history on the fife that we use. Fifes are an ancient instrument, referred to in Europe as the "Schweizerpfeife," or Swiss flute. Fifes have been in use by armies (in its modern form) since the 16th century. Fifes originally accompanied companies of men providing music on the march, usually songs from home. Drums have always had a military role going far back into history.

Fifes have always been an infantry musical instrument. Assigned at the company level with 1-2 fifes and 1-2 drums per company (or formed as a band at the regimental level), fifes and drums were used to regulate the daily activities of the troops. They signaled when the troops should rise in the morning and retire at night, when to eat, when to assemble, and to sound an alarm. The infantry used the side drums (snare/field, long drum/tenor

drum and the bass drum). When detached to the companies, the drummers used only side drums. A fife is a woodwind instrument in the transverse flute family which sounds an octave above the written music and has 6 tone holes (some have 10 or 11 tone holes for added chromatics). Most fifes are wood - those made from grenadilla, rosewood, mopane, pink-ivory and other dense woods are superior; maple and persimmon are less desirable, but often used. Some corps use metal fifes.

So please come and see what we are about, what we do and how we play. We will be practicing every Thursday at the Chester Elementary School, except where noted below. Our first practice of the season will be on Feb 5, 2015.

Next Events

- Mar 15 – New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade
- June 13 – Gaspee Days Parade 50th Anniversary

Practice Schedule - Chester Elementary School

- March 19th - Conferences – No practice
- March 26th - Cafe only
- April 9th - Spring Recess - School Closed
- May 28th - Cafe only

If you are interested in becoming part of history and are interested in joining our corps, please feel free to call me at 860-691-1735. Just as a reminder, we are neither a Junior nor Senior Corps. We are a family oriented organization and intend to remain so.

Better yet, come on down to meet the Corps. We practice from 6:30 till 8:00 pm. Stay warm and come on down. Hope to see you at a muster or at a parade.



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A Note from Public Works

For WINTER:

- 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.
- Sand and salt will be available at the Town Garage on Grote Road. Please, only one pail per household.
- Please remove any basketball hoops from the roadside and town right of way – they could potentially be caught and destroyed by the plow going by.

Septic Tank Pump Out

Chester residents are reminded that the Town ordinance requires septic tanks to be pumped out and inspected every 5 years by a licensed sewage disposal company.

Pumping out and inspection of the septic tank is really preventative maintenance and can save on costly repairs later on. It is much cheaper to pump out the septic tank than to have to replace the septic system later on.

If you have questions, please call Lee Vito, Town Sanitarian, 860-526-0013 ext. 206.

Save The Date for “The Longest Dinner Table”

Chester Rotary Fundraiser...The Longest Dinner Table – April 18.

Join old friends and new for a night of music, food and fun on Saturday April 18, starting at 6 pm at St. Joseph’s Parish Center.

Help form the Longest Dinner table in Chester by gathering together eight people for your themed dinner table. Create your own dinner menu and cocktails, table settings and costumes centered on this theme. Prizes awarded for Most Creative, Most Unusual, and Best Dancers.

Tickets go on sale in late February-early March. Cost is \$25 per person. See the Chester Rotary website for details www.chesterrotary.org

Submitted by Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian

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Elizabeth Netsch	214	Treasurer@chesterct.org
WPCA		wpcac@chesterct.org

www.chesterct.org

Tri-Town Youth Services

Tri-Town Youth Services invites you to join us for any of the programs and services lined up for the winter months. To register, call the office at 860-526-3600.

Babysitter Training. Learn how to become a safe and responsible babysitter! Tri-Town is offering the American Heart Association's Pediatric First Aid and CPR course along with a babysitter training certificate program. This course provides an excellent opportunity to help youth, 12-17, to build self-confidence as well as job leadership and decision-making skills. Completion of this course is a plus on your Job Bank application. The \$70 fee includes instruction, books, and certificate.

The winter session will be held on Tuesday evenings, January 27, February 3 and 10, 6-8 pm at Tri-Town Youth Services, 56 High Street in Deep River. Classes fill quickly, so register soon – online (www.tritownys.org) or by calling 860-526-3600.

Parent/Child Play & Support Groups. What do you and your child get out of playing with us? Parallel play and interactive play! Movement activities! Music! Art development! Social time for parents! Resource library! Groups meet weekly and are led by Meredith Adler, Parent Resource Coordinator.

“Outstanding Ones” (children 12-24 months). Meets Wednesdays from January 14 through March 18, 11:00-11:30 a.m. (30-min.

session). Tri-Town, 56 High St., Deep River. Tuition: \$45 tri-town residents, \$55 non-residents.

“Terrific Twos” (children 24-36 months*). Meets Wednesdays January 14 through March 18, 9:30-10:30 am (60-min. session). Tri-Town, 56 High St., Deep River. Tuition: \$60 tri-town residents, \$70 non-residents.

*Please call with any questions regarding appropriate placement

FREE Individual Parent Consultations. Families all hit bumps in the road – sometimes it helps to talk it through. Perhaps your toddler is biting her sibling, or your son won't eat more than four foods. Tri-Town's Parent Resource Coordinator, Meredith Adler, is ready to help with individual parent consultations, which are free and confidential. Please call 860-526-3600 to make an appointment.

Ages & Stages Developmental Screening. The parent-completed Ages & Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition (ASQ-3) is the most accurate, family-friendly way to screen children for developmental delays between one month and 5½ years. If you are concerned about your child's development, please call 860-526-3600 to make an appointment with Meredith Adler for a screening.

Anxious About Anxiety? Tri-Town is offering a two-part program for caregivers who are newly aware of their child's anxiety and are interested in gaining information to help navigate through this sometimes challenging time. The first part of the program will be providing participants with coping skills, exercises, and many resources to help you and your child navigate through anxiety. The second part of the program is a platform for discussion and support for caregivers. This is to also give you the opportunity to share your thoughts, struggles, and/or wisdom with other caregivers. Neither part is mandatory but you are welcome to participate in both parts. Attending only one is okay too!
Meet: Tri-Town Youth Services, 56 High Street, Deep River
Time: 7:00-8:30 pm **Dates:** January 27 and February 3
Tuition: Free

Counseling. Tri-Town continues to offer confidential, short-term counseling to youth and families residing in Chester, Deep River, and Essex, with daytime and evening appointments available. If you would like to come in to discuss issues of concern to you, please contact our office at 860-526-3600 to schedule an appointment with licensed professional counselor, Gail M. Onofrio, M.S. or our intern, Melanie Meyer.

Family Fun: Family Scrapbooking. Spend a cold afternoon warming up with some family memories. Bring 5-7 photos, mementos, etc. to the Papercraft Clubhouse and work on a two-page layout which you can add to an existing scrapbook, use to start a new scrapbook, or simply frame.

Continued on page 11

2015 Season



Mihae Lee, Artistic Director

February 8, 2015
Valley Regional High School, Deep River
Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert
Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks
Grammy Award-winners, the renowned band returns to play early 20th-century jazz favorites.

March 1, 2015
Old Saybrook High School
Chanticleer – An Orchestra of Voices
“The world's reigning male chorus”
— *The New Yorker*. Also Grammy winners, the twelve-voice ensemble will perform a rich and varied program entitled “The Gypsy in My Soul.”

March 29, 2015
Valley Regional High School, Deep River
Mihae Lee and Friends
Artistic Director and pianist **Mihae Lee**, violinist **Chee Yun**, and cellist **Julie Albers** in a thrilling program of piano trios by Haydn, Mendelssohn, and Ravel.

All concerts are held on Sundays at 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$35
Students: \$5

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TRI-TOWN YOUTH SERVICES...continued from page 10

Picking a theme or event is helpful, such as a holiday, a baseball season, or a birthday. All materials will be provided. Make sure to register by Thursday, January 22 to hold your family's spot.

Meet: Sunday, February 1. **Time:** 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Place: Papercraft Clubhouse, 20 Westbrook Place, Westbrook

Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. The Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition will hold its next meeting at Tri-Town Youth Services, 56 High Street in Deep River at 9 am on Wednesday, January 21.

Membership in this Coalition 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 Coalition 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: January 21, March 11, and May 20, same time, same place.

The Meeting House Players Present

The Meeting House Players are excited to announce their plans to present Alan Ball's comedy "Five Woman Wearing The Same Dress". The performance dates will be April 4, 5, 11 & 12th at the Meeting House located at 4 Liberty Street in Chester, CT. The curtain will rise each evening at 8 pm with a matinee performance at 2 pm on Saturday, April 12.

Open auditions for this production are currently scheduled to take place at the Meeting House on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 and Friday, February 13 at 7 pm. The acting ensemble includes five woman, aged early 20's to 40, and one man, aged late 20's to early 30's. 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 always looking for an individual or individuals who would be interested in volunteering for our organization. Please e-mail us at TheMeetingHousePlayers@gmail.com 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.

Submitted by Debbie Alldredge

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Public Transit Options Abound in Chester

Though small towns generally are not known for having good public transportation, Chester certainly is an exception. The town, a founding member of the Estuary Transit District which operates under the 9 Town Transit name, offers transit service throughout the entire town.

Town residents have access to both fixed bus routes and door-to-door transportation. Both services are open to the general public and provide access throughout the valley-shore region and beyond. Service is now provided to anywhere within the towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Durham, Essex, East

Haddam, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. In addition, service is available from the Chester Park & Ride lot and the Chester municipal lot on Water Street to Middletown, Middlesex Community College and the Saybrook Road medical complexes. Free connections can be made to Hartford.

Fares are \$1.50 on any fixed route and \$3.00 for door-to-door service. Trips can be made for any trip purpose. Additional information, route maps and schedules are available online at www.9towntransit.com or by calling 9 Town Transit at 860-510-0429.

Estuary Council

ECSI is a community resource for the nine-town Estuary region's residents over 50 years old providing nutrition, transportation, health support services, education opportunities and socialization. We have been serving Seniors and promoting healthy and active lifestyles for adults 50 and better through quality programs and services in the nine-town Estuary region for over 40 years!

January 2015 marks the first anniversary of the opening of The Marshview Fitness Center at The Estuary Council of Seniors. The Fitness Center is flourishing with active memberships. If fitness is one of your New Year resolutions, stop in for more information! There are seven different pieces of weight equipment and four cardio machines, including a NuStep. Hours are posted at the Estuary.

Membership Options: Three months -\$50.00, Six months-\$90, Full year-\$150

Membership Includes: Mandatory fitness assessment. Three training sessions on each piece of equipment (required) and a one-hour individualized program consultation.

To schedule an appointment with Fitness Trainer, Skylar Miers, ATC, call 860-388-1611.

March is National Nutrition month and the annual Buy-A-Wheel campaign in support of Meals on Wheels. Local businesses will sell paper "wheels" for \$1. All proceeds support our local Meals on Wheels program. The Estuary Council provides nutritious meals to seniors at home along the shoreline as well as at Café sites. Meals on Wheels is not just about a meal - our volunteers provide a wellness check with each daily delivery that is invaluable, especially during the winter months. Please Buy-A-Wheel and support Meals On Wheels!

Interested in volunteering? Contact Judy at 860-388-1611.

For more information, visit us at <http://www.ecsenior.org>.



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Parks and Recreation

The draft calendar for summer camp 2015 is available here! Please go to our web page for the 2015 camp registration and camp gift certificates are available.

Until February 3: POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS. Please send a letter of interest, including previous experience and three references to: Town of Chester, Parks and Recreation, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412.

Until March 12: Youth Basketball continues for all those currently registered. See the website for 2015 Youth Basketball Practice Schedule including adults and cancellations.

Until March 31: Applications accepted for Volunteer Camp Counselor Positions for those ages 14 and older.

Until April 2: Adult Basketball meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 pm,

at Chester Elementary School. See 2015 Youth Basketball Practice Schedule on our webpage for cancellations.

Let us know if you would like Yoga Classes added or an encore scrap booking class this winter.

January 16: Early School Dismissal Basketball Clinics and Camp Crafts and Games at Chester Elementary 1:00-4:30 pm, \$10 per day featuring HOTSHOTS. Students registered for Chester Youth Basketball are half price!

February 7: Valentine's Day Dance at the Chester Firehouse. A ballroom/swing dance class is included. Proceeds benefit the Chester Hose Company.

February 13: Early School Dismissal Basketball Clinics and Camp Crafts and Games at Chester Elementary 1:00-4:30 pm. Students registered for Chester Youth Basketball are half price!

March 1: March Madness for parents and children registered for grades K through 6 Chester Youth Basketball at Chester Elementary School, 3-6:30 pm. Free of Charge.

March 19: American Red Cross CPR/AED Class at Chester Elementary School from 1:00-4:45 pm following the early school dismissal, for 5th & 6th graders and ADULTS! These classes are great for Babysitters, Scout Leaders, Coaches, and anyone who would like to learn more about safety and health. \$35 or \$45 to add First Aid on March 20.

March 20: American Red Cross First Aid Class – contact the Park and Recreation for more information.

“Good People Doing Great Things.”



High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc. is just one of the many programs supported by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Learn more online or by phone.

At the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, we know that it's the little things that count, that can change a community and improve the quality of life for all. TOGETHER we feed the hungry, shelter families, teach young and old to read, preserve local history and land, help people of all ages explore the arts, teach children to swim, support anti-bullying programs in our schools, help those with disabilities experience independence, and so much more. We do this by developing endowments, making grants that have impact, and assisting donors in meeting their philanthropic goals... all made possible by so many good people doing great things throughout Middlesex County. We invite you to learn more.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

860.347.0025 or www.middlesexcf.org



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of Middlesex County

Chester Rotary Participates In the Liberty Bank "Thanksgiving Dinner Drive"

On November 24, 2014 Gary Torello, the chairman of Chester Rotary's Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Dinner Drive, presented a check in the amount of \$2,407.51 to Rosie Bininger, Director of Human Services for the town of Chester, CT. Torello along with other Chester Rotarians raised funds throughout the month prior to Thanksgiving, 2014 in order to feed a growing number of Chester families on Thanksgiving Day. Funds not used to directly provide Thanksgiving dinners to area residents will be used to help stock the Chester Food Pantry in the coming months.

The Chester Rotary was one of 33 Rotary Clubs participating in the annual Liberty Bank/Rotary Club Thanksgiving Dinner Drive. While Liberty Bank had promised matching funds in the amount of 20% of funds collected by Connecticut Rotary Clubs, a last minute surprise by Liberty Bank President and CEO, Chandler Howard, increased it to 25 cents per dollar at the conclusion of the drive. All total, Connecticut Rotary clubs collected \$167,476.11 which together with The Liberty Bank Foundation's \$41,869.03 in matching funds makes for a grand total of \$209,489.82.

Submitted by Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian



Gary Torello, the chairman of Chester Rotary's Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Dinner Drive, presented a check in the amount of \$2,407.51 to Rosie Bininger, Director of Human Services for the town of Chester, CT.

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Coming Soon - Updated website

Mistakes To Avoid During Tax Time

Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector and Tracey Ohaus, Tax Clerk

Hi and Happy New Year from the Tax Office. Because we could have really bad weather as the days go on, please do not wait till the last day to pay your taxes. The rule is that taxes need to be paid on time, even if there is a bad storm or blizzard or power outage. I certainly do not wish that situation on any one of us, but it has happened. "Late is Late" no matter what the various circumstances might be! If you have not done so already, grab your check book or your online account & pay that bill today, please! Don't make the mistake of being late!

Another mistake taxpayers make is that they do not sign their check. In the hurry up world we live in, the taxpayer hurries to get the bill to our office in time and they hurry so much that they forget the signature part. It has also happened, many a time, that

when writing the legal line, the person forgets an important part of the legal line. For example, if the amount was "One thousand five hundred forty dollars", they forget the word "hundred" or worse yet, they leave off the "forty". Even though that seems a minor detail, the bank has to go by the legal line and might reject your check after we have posted the information. This can cause all kinds of problems for us in closing out that particular batch.

One other error that might seem minor but does make posting a payment harder is if the taxpayer uses their own bank for online payments, they might use the bill number one year, and then not remember to update that bill number on the account information for future payment. We have someone who started this online process back in 2006 and still uses the 2005 grand list number. So for us to process that check, we must go into "archive" and find what the address is or who the exact person is and then come back to regular inquiry screen to see what bill number they are planning on paying. This is extremely time consuming and slows down the whole process! Try using your address or unique id for real estate bills!

Very important to remember for this January installment is to not just look at your July checkbook for what amount to pay, since that amount might have included the MV bills, which are not due in January. If need be, the taxpayer should call the tax office, preferably in the afternoon, and find out the right amount. So now that we know that the Chester Taxpayers won't be making any mistakes this year, here's hoping the New Year is good to you and your whole family.

Chester Town Hall

203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412
Ph: 860-526-0013 • Fax: 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

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

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK® to Perform in Chester on MLK Weekend

Luring the Grammy Award nominated and internationally adored African American singers, SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK, to perform during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend was a dream of Miriam Gardner-Frum, longtime director of the Chester concert series, Music & More. The concert will be held on Sunday, January 18th at 3:00 pm at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek (CBSRZ).

Over the years, Miriam has brought many remarkable musicians to CBSRZ, and she saw her opportunity with Sweet Honey when she read that the group had received an award from Common Ground, an organization that recognizes exceptional efforts in humanitarian work.

As a supporter of Common Ground's work, Miriam saw the stars aligned – potentially. "I thought how amazing it would be to have them here in our beautiful synagogue."

Carol Maillard, one of the founding members of the group and still singing with it, says that Sweet Honey has celebrated Dr. King's birthday in concert many times but never in a synagogue. She says, "We're very excited about coming and we hope that folks will come with an open mind and heart. We hope they'll feel uplifted and won't be afraid to show they're having a good time."

The name of the performance group was indeed derived from a song, based on Psalm 81:16, which tells of a land so rich that when rocks were cracked open, honey flowed from them.

SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK is rooted in African American history and culture. The ensemble educates, entertains and empowers its audience and community through the dynamic



vehicles of a cappella singing and American Sign Language interpretation for the Deaf and hearing impaired. Sweet Honey's audience and community comes from diverse backgrounds and cultures throughout the United States and around the world, and includes people of all ages.

Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg, spiritual leader of CBSRZ, says this concert is a perfect way to celebrate Dr. King's legacy. "We honor him every year because of the Jewish People's historical commitment to the struggle for human rights. But more importantly, we recommit ourselves to the ongoing work of demanding justice and equal treatment for all people living in this country."

Advance ticket purchases are highly recommended. For more information, please call CBSRZ at 860.526.8920.

Saint Joseph's Catholic Church

St Joseph's Catholic Church is a thriving, active, and growing community. We invite you all to visit our beautiful church.

Our annual Christmas Fair was well attended and quite a success. The Christmas Giving Tree Program provided over 150 gifts to residential nursing homes. Both annual December activities made for a jollier and festive season! A special thanks to all who participated, volunteered, donated, and attended.

The New Year at St. Joseph's Church starts off with **A Gathering of Friends: Old & New on January 17th**. This Beer and Wine Tasting Fundraiser will take place at the Parish Hall beginning at 6:30 pm at the cost of \$25/person or \$40/couple. Spirits will be provided by Shore Discount Liquors, music by Jekyll and Hyde, and food by Village Provisions. There will be a silent auction; proceeds generated will be allocated toward the replacement of the Parish Center floor.

Come share the love on **February 14th** at the annual **Valentine's Day Dance** hosted by the Knights of Columbus. This event promises to be a wonderful fun-filled evening with good food and lots of opportunities for dancing and fellowship.

Lenten Season Begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. The weekly **Lenten Friday Fish Fry/Bake** will begin **February 20th**, 4pm – 7pm at St. Joseph's Parish Center. The menu will include but is not limited to: fish & chips, baked fish, clam chowder, and macaroni & cheese. Come hungry and bring your friends. **Upcoming Fish Fry dates: February 20th and 27th, March 6, 13, 20, and 27th.**

We welcome you to join us in the Celebration of the Eucharist: Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 8:30 am. For information on any of our upcoming events, please call 860-526-5495 or visit www.stjosephs-chester.org.

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

Winter Wonderland Wellness

Winter is upon us bringing beautiful snow, thoughts of building snowmen and drinking hot cocoa. It also brings cold temperatures, icy roads and the risk of cold related emergencies, hypothermia and frostbite. Infants, young children and the elderly are at high risk for serious health issues when exposed to extreme cold according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

It is important to think ahead and prepare your home and your vehicle for cold related emergencies. Check your emergency kit. Replace canned foods and water to be sure you have several days' supply on hand. Include items to stay warm like extra blankets, clothing, firewood or a generator. Have your chimney cleaned and inspected if you will be heating with firewood this season. When using space heaters, keep them at least 3 feet away from drapes, bedding or furniture. In case of a power outage, check on infants, and elderly friends and family members. They have more difficulty maintaining body temperature. Be sure they have appropriate warm clothing, food and heat. If you cannot keep warm at home then make arrangements to get to a shelter or stay with friends.

Extreme cold is a strain on your heart. If you have heart disease or high blood pressure check with your doctor and pace yourself if you must shovel snow or work in the cold. Hypothermia and frostbite are also caused by extreme cold. Hypothermia is an abnormally low body temperature. A person with hypothermia

may not be able to think clearly or move well. This can happen even at temperatures above 40 degrees when a person gets wet and chilled. Shivering and clumsy fingers are the first symptoms. Infants show bright red, cold skin and seem lethargic. If these symptoms occur, get medical attention, seek shelter, remove wet clothing, use warm blankets to warm the center of the body first and drink warm liquids (non-alcoholic). Frostbite symptoms include a loss of feeling and color in the nose, cheeks, ears, fingers, and toes most commonly. If you notice numbness, and a white or greyish-yellow area of skin, warm the area with warm water or body heat, do not rub with snow or massage the area. Get medical attention.

Hypothermia and frostbite can be prevented by preparing your home and car for cold weather. Don't get caught in the cold, be safe, stay warm. More information is available at: www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/ or by calling Deborah Ringen MSN, RN-BC Faith Community Nurse at Visiting nurses of the Lower Valley 860-767-0186

About Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Inc. is a not-for-profit, Medicare and Medicaid home health care organization serving Deep River, Essex, Chester and the Lower Valley region. Please check their website (www.visitingnurses.org) or call (860) 767-0186 for service information.

News from the Chester Energy Team

Who are we? We are a volunteer group of Chester residents who assist town government, residents and businesses by offering information on available energy-saving innovations and programs.

Since the team was formed by the Chester Conservation Commission and endorsed by the Selectmen in 2009, we have:

- written the Chester Energy Plan ("Clean Energy Roadmap" on the Town website).
- consolidated our position as a Connecticut Clean Energy Community, providing access to state and federal grants. This enabled the recent installation of a photovoltaic system at the Chester Elementary School, providing educational opportunities to the students and energy savings to the Town.
- conducted energy audits of municipal buildings and recommended and installed energy-saving programs.
- completed a townwide streetlight survey to identify ways to save electricity costs to the Town. We continue to make

recommendations for future options to even further reduce energy costs.

- operated a CT Solar Challenge, resulting in 20 new photovoltaic and thermal installations. Participation in this program won the Town the reward of a photovoltaic solar installation at Town Hall this past October.

The Chester Energy Team continues to provide recommendations on cost-effective conservation and energy efficiency for municipal buildings, residences and businesses. We are in the process of revising our page on the Town website and creating a Facebook page with energy-saving tips and news.

On Thursday, Jan. 29, starting at 9 am, all residents are invited to a brief ribbon cutting ceremony at the Town Hall for the 6kW solar array on the building's roof. Light refreshments will be served. Representatives from the CT Solar Challenge and Aegis Solar Energy will be on hand to answer questions about residential solar.

Simply Sharing Passes It Forward

When Simply Sharing President and Founder Alison Brinkmann decided to dedicate her time to a good cause and create an organization that would have a meaningful and lasting impact, she had no idea where that decision would take her. She did know that she wanted to create a collaborative effort, one with a simple, single mission. Through her involvement with the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Brinkmann saw the potential to help homeless individuals and families in local communities by building a network of shared services and resources. After numerous discussions with leaders from area organizations and agencies, it was evident that there was a great need to secure furnishings and household items for those transitioning from shelters to sustainable and supportive housing. So with a leg up from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, who provided fiscal oversight and funding, the Essex resident launched Simply Sharing in April 2012 and has been on the move ever since.

“When someone first moves out of a shelter, the money they’re earning usually doesn’t go very far, and many can’t afford furnishings,” explained Brinkmann, “A kitchen table and chairs, beds and sheets, pots, pans and dishes – these are basic household goods many of us take for granted. Yet for individuals and families who have been homeless, these basic necessities are, indeed, luxuries.”

While the concept of collecting donated items for redistribution is not a new one, Simply Sharing takes a more collaborative, personal partner approach on both ends of the process. The all-volunteer, non-profit organization welcomes material and financial donations from individuals and businesses and then works solely through other qualified non-profit agencies and organizations to identify clients that are in the most need of those donations. In addition to the furnishings and funds given by residents throughout Middlesex County, ongoing relationships with Bob’s Discount Furniture, Essex Meadows, Gather, and Realty 3 CT have built a solid foundation of additional resources. Working with Columbus House, Gilead Community Services, The Connection, Inc, Middlesex Hospital and Central Connecticut State University, Simply Sharing has helped well over 50 families get a fresh start in a new home.

That help comes in the well-orchestrated form of Brinkmann and other Simply Sharing volunteers making house calls to pick up donations or receiving them at their warehouse space in Essex, cleaning, selecting and organizing goods for the specific needs of identified families, and then delivering and “setting up” the items in the new living space. “It’s the most gratifying part of our work,” added Brinkmann, “To be able to meet the people you are helping and see their reaction and appreciation for all the good that’s being given to them – it’s hard to keep a dry eye.”

For more information on Simply Sharing, go to simplysharing.org, email info@simplysharing.org or call 860-388-7390.



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Today is Tomorrow's History – What's New with Chester Historical Society

Winter Happenings

It may be winter, but we never rest! On Sunday afternoon, January 18, at the Meeting House we're hosting a program on Chester's Fife & Drum Corps. Did you know that this group, which was established in 1868, is one of the oldest continuously operating drum corps in the country? The snowdate for the program is January 25.

During Winter Carnivale on Sunday, February 15, we'll have the Chester Museum at The Mill open to welcome visitors and provide a warm spot to explore Chester history.

We hope to have a Crackerbarrel program on Chester Baseball on a Sunday afternoon in late March. Don't miss this opportunity to hear stories about favorite games, old rivalries between towns, and more from our ball players.

We're planning our fifth annual Creative Challenge linking Chester history and art. The fundraising event will be held April 11 with a Silent Auction and Reception at the Meeting House.

Stay informed about all these through [Facebook.com/ChesterCTHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ChesterCTHistoricalSociety) or through our monthly e-newsletter (if you don't receive it now, send us an email at ChesterCTHistoricalSociety@gmail.com and we'll put you on the list).

Chester at Play

This summer's exhibit (opening after Memorial Day) will be "Pastimes in Past Times: Chester at Play." The exhibit will explore team sports in Chester's history, seasonal recreation (did you know they used to ice skate on the CT River?), and games and toys at home. We're already having fun as we look at how our



Chester's Fife & Drum Corps in 1946. Come hear their stories at our program on Jan. 18.

ancestors played in Chester. If you have any stories, pictures, toys or games from Chester past, we'd love to know. Email chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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 2016.

MILE

Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education

More than 320 members of MILE completed another varied program of classes with everything from Bluegrass to Opera, from Women in History to Gardening for hummingbird attraction.

The spring semester will start with orientation on February 12th. Classes are held at the Middlesex Community College and are open to everyone 50 and older.

The spring session will include everything from a visit with Ben Franklin, Did the Exodus from Egypt really happen?, baseball, opera and space exploration.

The total cost is only \$60. More information can be found at www.mileonline.org or mileatchapman@gmail.com.

HK Relay For Life 2015

The Relay For Life of Haddam Killingworth will be held June 20-21, 2015 at the HK track. Relay For Life is a non-competitive community event and we are looking forward to walking with survivors, caregivers, and many teams of all ages to join in the fight against cancer. We are looking for Relay for Life walkers from all Middlesex County- Chester, Deep River, Essex, Old Saybrook, Clinton, Durham, Westbrook to join the Haddam and Killingworth Community to conquer cancer for future generations.

Sign up for Relay For Life for free today at RelayForLife.org/HKCT. That's right, for the first time, Relay For Life has no registration fee. So call your friends and family, form a team online, and take the next step to help finish the fight against cancer.

Our Captain's meetings will be January 29, 2015 at 6:30pm in Rm C112, HKHS. Come join us to help fight back against cancer. The 2015 Captain/Participant meeting dates are: 2/26, 3/26, 4/30, 5/28. **Please look for updates on speakers for these meetings.**

Register by January 15, 2015 and get your team captain shirt at the next Relay For Life meeting on January 29th! The meeting will take place at HKHS in room C-112. Registering is easy! Visit RelayForLife.org/HKCT and click "sign up" to register your team for free!

The RFL Committee is looking for awesome volunteers to be coordinators on the following committee: Logistics.

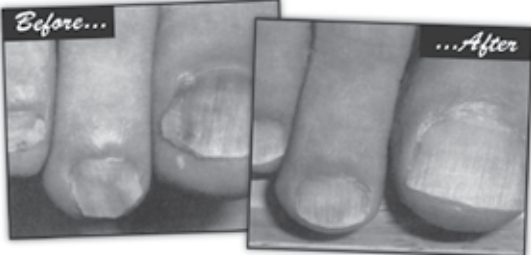
We are also seeking high school students interested in earning community service hours to help out in any way they can. "*Many hands make light work*".

The Silent Auction Coordinators are looking for donations of silent auction items: Gift baskets, goods & services donations. Please contact Lisa Wiese at 860-345-2529 or lwiese713@aol.com and Denise Zanardi at dzanardi@comcast.net or 860-663-3204 home or 860-391-3540 cell for donations.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ed Yantosh, rflofhk@gmail.com. Register for Relay today at RelayForLife.org/HKCT.

Happy New Year
from all of us at
Events Magazines

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Calendar of Events for Boards and Commissions

All meetings take place at Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, unless otherwise specified. Dates and times may change. Please be sure to check the town hall bulletin board or website www.chesterct.org before attending.

January 20	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Inland Wetlands Commission	Town Hall	6:30 pm
January 21	Board of Fire Commissioners	Hose Company	7:30 pm
January 22	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
January 26	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Hall	7:30 pm
January 27	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 2	Inland Wetlands Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 3	Harbor Management Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 4	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Park and Recreation Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Library Building Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 9	Economic Development	Town Hall	7:15 pm
	Library Board of Trustees	Chester Library	7:30 pm
February 10	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 12	Planning and Zoning Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
February 16	President's Day	Town Offices Closed	
February 17	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 18	Board of Fire Commissioners	Hose Company	7:30 pm
February 19	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Citation Review Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
February 23	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Retirement Committee	Town Hall	5:30 pm
February 24	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 2	Inland Wetlands Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 3	Harbor Management Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 4	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Library Building Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 9	Economic Development	Town Hall	7:15 pm
March 10	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 12	Planning and Zoning Committee	Town Hall	7:30 pm
March 16	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Library Board of Trustees	Chester Library	7:30 pm
March 17	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 18	Board of Fire Commissioners	Hose Company	7:30 pm
March 19	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Citation Review Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
March 24	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm

February brings 25th Winter Carnivale

Mardi Gras beads, street performers, ice carvers, tractors, painted faces, chili...oh my! Does any town have as much wintertime fun as Chester?

Chester celebrates its 25th Annual Winter Carnivale on Sunday, Feb. 15. Chester Center will be filled with people enjoying the annual ice carving demonstration, with professional and semiprofessional carvers; street performers and face painters; food vendors; store events – all culminating with the Chester Tractor Parade.

The event is free, made possible by the Chester Merchants and in-kind and monetary donations. Anyone who wants to help can send a check, payable to Chester Winter Carnivale, to 16 Main St., Chester, CT 06412.

The day also includes the very popular Chili Cook Off, sponsored by the Chester Hose Company, where you can buy a ticket and enjoy tasting all the different chilis made by various chefs and restaurants.

Winter Carnivale runs from 10 am to around 3 pm in snow, rain or shine. Main Street and part of Rte. 148 is closed to traffic for the day. The Carnivale committee is obtaining four shuttle buses so visitors can park at Greenwald and Town Hall and Roto Frank and the commuter lot.

Information about Winter Carnivale is available through [Facebook.com/ChesterCTWinterCarnivale](https://www.facebook.com/ChesterCTWinterCarnivale).

Chester Hose Company

The Officers and Members of Chester Hose Company
James E. Grzybowski, Chief
Proudly serving Chester for over 100 years

Thanksgiving offered us a time to celebrate family, friends and all that is special to us. For the first time in a long while, we were able to enjoy an uninterrupted dinner as we had no calls to respond to on Thanksgiving Day. We sincerely hope you also enjoyed yours as well.

December found us surrounded by the sights and sounds of the holiday season! Our elves were busy tying bows on wreaths for our annual wreath sale, while the sounds of children laughing and whispering their wishes to Jolly Old Saint Nick filled the center of Chester as Santa came to town by fire truck.

At present, our letter drive is underway. We have not held an appeal for funds in the form of a letter drive for several years. By now you should have received your letter and we hope you are considering making a donation. If you have already donated, we genuinely appreciate your support. As part of this appeal, we also invite anyone interested in joining our volunteer department in



Street performers, balloons, hot cocoa, face painting and lots more make Chester's Winter Carnivale a fun family event for all.



Remember how much snow we had last winter? Check out this photo from the 24th Winter Carnivale by John Stack. Save the date of 2/15/15 for this year's Carnivale!



Regional Burn Trailer at Chester Hose Company.

any capacity to stop by any Monday night from 7 to 9 p.m. Visit our website or Facebook page for more details.

On February 16, 2015 we are pleased to be hosting the Annual Chili Cook-Off in conjunction with the Winter Carnivale. Join Chester for a family fun day! We would like to close our article with a special wish from our house to yours...May you all enjoy a Happy and Healthy New Year!

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

For 26 years The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP) has been feeding the hungry along the shoreline in 11 towns, including Chester. Food is provided through 8 meal sites and 5 pantries, all located and hosted by communities of faith. Last year with a small staff and over 900 dedicated volunteers, we distributed food to over 7,700 shoreline neighbors in need.

Chester Sunday Dinner: SSKP serves a family-style hot dinner prepared fresh by volunteers every Sunday from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the United Church of Chester, 29 Main Street in Chester. All are welcome for food and fellowship.

Food Pantry Every Week For Chester Residents: Any resident of Chester may attend 1 of SSKP's 5 food pantries each week, located in Westbrook, Clinton, Old Saybrook, Old Lyme and East Lyme. The pantries provide fresh and non-perishable food for those in need. Chester residents will receive enough food from the pantry for three meals a day for three days for all those in their household. Guests are reminded to bring bags. Visit www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org for a full listing of SSKP's pantry and meal locations or call (860) 388-1988.

Chester Food Drives Needed: Please help your neighbors by organizing a food drive. Call (860) 388-1988 or visit www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org for suggestions on how to make your drive a success.



Chester's Robida Family waiting to serve dinner at the Shoreline Soup Kitchen.

Support Those In Need In Chester: With your support, we can continue providing food to all needing help in Chester and on the shoreline. Donations (payable to Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries) can be mailed to P.O. Box 804, Essex CT 06426 or visit our website to donate online.

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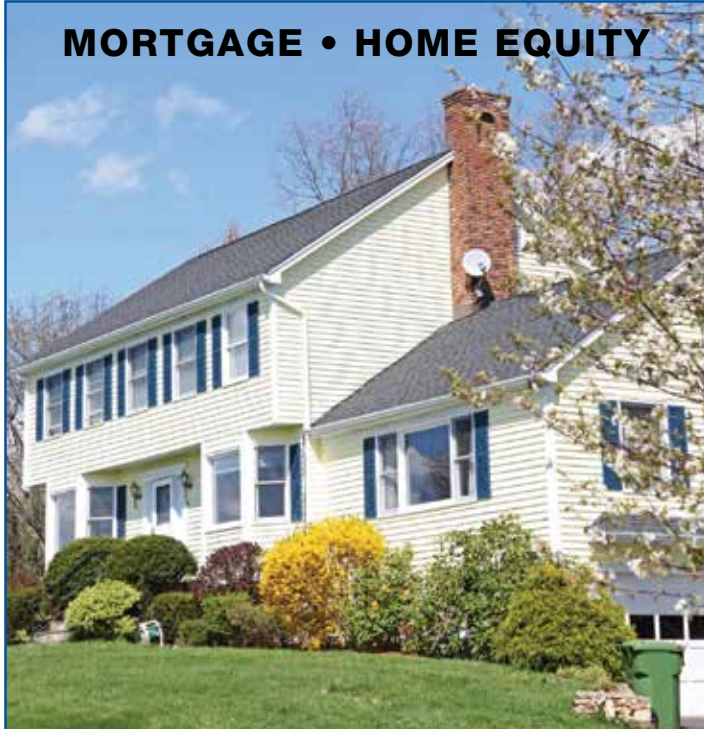


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