

Chester events

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First Selectwoman's Corner

Thank you to the Town of Chester for your confidence and votes. As we enter the New Year I am excited to be here and to learn more about how to serve you better. Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself, to make a suggestion, or discuss an issue important to you. Here is an update of town business:

Town Budget

A primary focus of the first quarter of the year will be the development of the budget. The Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Chester and Region 4 Boards of Education will be working intently to propose a budget that is fiscally responsible and reflects the goals and objectives of the residents. There are no easy answers; State funding is being cut on a consistent basis, while educational and routine municipal expenses continue to rise. We will make it as easy as possible to stay informed about budget issues and priorities, through the weekly email blast, informational meetings and on the town website. Chester needs your input and suggestions throughout the process. Please be involved!

Main Street Project Phase I

The first phase of the Main Street reconstruction and upgrade is almost complete. Storm drain problems have been corrected,

the road resurfaced, sidewalks widened and curbing replaced, among other items. Approximately 80% of the project was paid for through a State STEAP grant award, with the remainder paid from Town Capital Improvement Program funds. Most of the construction has been done and inspected, with only a small "punch list" remaining for the contractor to complete. The largest item remaining is the finalization and activation of the new lighting in the Laurel Hill Cemetery parking lot, which hopefully will be complete by the time of publication. Other items remaining include some minor landscaping and painting of crosswalks, which will be completed in the spring of 2016 due to weather concerns.



Lauren Gister
First Selectwoman

Bridge Replacement

Finally, the last of the three State D.O.T. bridge reconstruction projects is upon us. The Route 154 Bridge was done in 2010, the Water Street bridge in 2012, and now the Main Street bridge

Continued on page 3

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After an active day, Charlotte Walters relaxes and enjoys a good book by a cozy fireplace at The Saybrook at Haddam.

A Full and Comfortable Life

Charlotte Walters always enjoyed an active life with family, friends, many travels, and plenty of visits to art museums and cultural events. At The Saybrook at Haddam, her life continues to be filled with many activities, cultural events and friendly people—but now, it includes none of the worries. Her home here is maintained, snow is shoveled, delicious meals are prepared daily, and her time is her own!

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 860-767-9087 Fax 860-767-0259
 email: print@essexprinting.com
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PUBLISHER
 William E. McMinn

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING/OPERATIONS
 Suzanne Spires 860-391-5534
 suzanne@essexprinting.com

ARTICLE COORDINATOR/ART DIRECTOR
 Kathy Alsop 860-391-4372
 kathy@eventsmagazines.com

FINANCE MANAGER
 Donna Evarts

COVER EDITOR
 AC Proctor 860-767-9087

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

VERNON • TOLLAND
 Tom Fortin 860-299-4568
 tom@eventsmagazines.com

ESSEX • WESTBROOK • CLINTON • MADISON
 Ward Feirer 914-806-5500
 wfeirer@gmail.com

OLD SAYBROOK • OLD LYME • EAST LYME
 Betty Martelle 860-333-7117
 betty@eventsmagazines.com

MONTVILLE • NEW LONDON • STONINGTON
 Chris Angeli
 c 860-391-5725
 cangeli@eventsmagazines.com

BRANFORD • GUILFORD • WOODBRIDGE
 Nancy Lee Salk
 c 203-219-3282
 nancy@eventsmagazines.com

EAST HADDAM • HADDAM • CHESTER
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SELECTWOMAN'S CORNER...continued from page 1

just east of Route 148 will begin in January of 2016. The preparations for construction have begun, with additional crosswalks painted, protection of the existing water main with concrete sleeving, design of detour and traffic signs, and pedestrian and parking map design. Main Street will be closed to through traffic, although there will be pedestrian access on alternating sides of the street. Parking will be available at the Water Street, Laurel Hill Cemetery, rear of First Niagara Bank, Maple Street, and possibly one additional accessory lot. Depending on the weather, construction is estimated to be complete just prior to Memorial Day 2016. As always, businesses will be open and it is more important than ever to congregate and frequent our local merchants. Look for the new Chester stickers designed by Jan and Peter Good, I and most of the merchants have them. A positive attitude and a smile will keep us going through the cold and construction!

Communication

During the campaign you expressed a desire for more opportunities for two way communication with your local leaders. I am exploring creative ways to inform you about projects and town news, as well as soliciting your opinions and

input on a regular basis. One thing that you can do right now is sign up for the weekly Chester Townwide Email Blast from the First Selectwoman's Office. Updates on construction projects, information about merchant activities and specials, town events and more – to be added to the list please email info@chesterct.org with the subject "town email list".

First Selectwoman Lauren Gister

Stay Informed

Sign up for the Chester Townwide Email Blast! This list is used by the First Selectwoman'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."

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Methods for Paying Your Taxes

Since second half taxes are due during January, I thought I would mention the different ways the taxes could be paid. Obviously, you could come into the office and pay with cash, check, bank check or postal money order. Obviously, you could mail in your own personal check to:

Tax Collector, PO Box 314, Chester, CT 06412-0314

Please, verify your check amount and signature if you mail in a payment. The legal line is very important for our bank and the signature is important to every bank!

Or the not so obvious way is to set the Tax Collector up as an account on your own online banking and have your bank mail us the check. It has become a very popular method with alot of taxpayers. It is very important when you set the account up with your bank to put some very specific permanent information on the account as to what you are paying or update that account info each time. One great method especially with house taxes, use the unique id that comes with the bill and it usually appears directly below the bill number. The unique id stays with the account forever, whereas the bill number changes every year. If you are paying MV taxes, the

plate number or at least your address helps to make sure a "Smith" payment is applied to the correct "Smith." And because we now have online tax information, if you don't have your bill handy, you can find the correct amount per month on the Chester website on the Tax Collector's section under services and the link is there. The link is sometimes on the front page of Chester site at the bottom of that page. Remember in order not to be late, use this method approximately 7 to 10 days prior to the bill being due, so that you are not late, since it takes that long sometimes for that check to reach us.

Taxes are due anytime in January or before!

The last important bit of info is that anyone who is late paying their MV taxes will have to wait to be cleared "LIVE." Paper clearances are no longer allowed per order of DMV and their new computer system. But clearing "live" takes time and can't do it instantly if there is a line of people waiting to pay.

Hope all the holidays were enjoyable and everyone has a safe and happy healthy New Year!

Sincerely,
Madaline 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
- Wills and Estates
- Memorial Gifts
- Matching Gifts

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 nonprofit corporation. Donations to tax-exempt organizations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. If you have any questions, please consult your tax advisor.

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Chester Parks and Recreation

Celebrating Community through People, Parks and Programs!
Contact us for information or to save a space in one of our programs: 860-526-0013 extension 223, parkrec@chesterct.org. Visit our website for program information and registration forms: http://chesterct.org/?page_id=7810.

Summer Camp. The 2016 Chester Parks and Recreation Summer Camp will be offered for 8 weeks from June 27th through August 18th. The program is held at Cedar Lake and Chester Elementary School for children entering grades 1 through 7. The weeks of June 27th, July 11th, 18th, 25th, August 1st, and 8th camp meets Monday through Friday and includes a field trip, each week, for \$115. The weeks of July 5th and August 15th Camp will be held for 4 days, without a field trip, for \$80 per week. Children entering Kindergarten may attend the weeks of July 5th and August 15th with a registered, older sibling. Registration is open ONLY to Chester residents and those from other towns who have attended our program for the past two years, through February 12th. On February 13th registration will be open to children in all communities.

Early School Dismissal Sports Clinics & Camp Activities for grades K through 6 on are available on January 15 and February 12 following the 1:00 pm early dismissal until 4:30 pm at Chester Elementary School. The registration fee is \$10 per child, per day or \$5 for those registered for Chester Youth Basketball.

March Madness. Celebrate the culmination of the Youth Basketball season with an afternoon of games on Sunday, March 6th. Players in grades K through 6 take on their parents! The game schedule and details will be posted on the Parks and Recreation web page and e-mailed to Youth Basketball participants.

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training. The next Babysitter's Training class will be held on March 23rd and 24th

from 1:15 until 4:30 pm in the Community Meeting Room at the Chester Town Hall. The fee is \$40. Availability is limited.

American Red Cross First Aid And Cpr/Aed Certification. The next class will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm for CPR/AED and 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm for First Aid. The fee is \$35 for one class or \$45 for both. Classes are held in the Town Hall Community Meeting Room.

Adult Basketball. Adult recreational basketball is offered at Chester Elementary School on Tuesdays, 7:30 until 9:30 pm and Thursdays, 7:45 until 9:30 pm through March 31st. The fee is \$10 for Chester residents and \$15 for nonresidents for the season. A registration form, available on the Parks and Recreation web page, and fee payment are required before participating.

Yoga And Mindful Meditation. Check the web page for Yoga on Tuesdays in the Community Room at the Chester Town Hall with Annette Babek. An optional meditation session begins at 5:30 pm and the Yoga class is held from 5:45 until 6:45 pm. There is a \$10 drop-in fee per evening and students are welcome to participate on any date.

Seasonal Positions Available

Lifeguard and Camp Counselor. Chester Parks and Recreation is accepting letters of interest BY MARCH 11TH, 2016 for the position of Lifeguard and Camp Counselor at Cedar Lake Beach for the summer of 2016. Applicants must hold current Lifeguard Training certification or be completing the training by June, 2016. Successful applicants will perform duties as a Lifeguard and a Camp Counselor, based on the needs of the Department. Full-time employees work between 30 and 40 hours per week and must be available for at least 9 weeks during the 10 week season. Those interested in part-time employment may be considered. The rate of pay starts at \$9.75 per hour and increases with experience.

Weekend Waterfront Supervisor. Candidates must be available on at least 8 Saturdays and Sundays during the 10 week season and be certified in First Aid and CPR/AED for the Professional



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Rescuer. Chester Parks and Recreation sponsored certification classes are available. This position is 5 hours per weekend for \$15 per hour, or \$16.50 per hour for an individual certified in Lifeguard Training who also assumes the duties of a Lifeguard for 8 to 16 hours each Saturday and/or Sunday. For those employed in additional positions with the Department, this rate of pay only applies to Saturdays and Sundays. Individuals with multiple positions within the Department may not exceed 40 hours per week in all positions, combined.

Please Be Aware: The Ice in Chester is NOT Monitored for Safety!

Always on Sunday in Chester

During the winter and spring, Chester Center is going to be hopping – especially on Sundays. In fact, you can count on Chester entertaining you "Always on Sunday"!

Sundays are a day of rest for the Main Street construction crew so the merchants are taking advantage of their absence. Gallery openings to store specials to workshops and historical walking tours – they'll be Always on Sunday!

Each month will have a special theme: January - "Baby it's Cold Outside;" February - "Spread the Love;" March - "Marching Through Chester;" April - "Enchanting Chester;" and May - "Swing through Chester."

And, there will be some major happenings, such as Valentine's Day festivities, Soup Sunday, Princess Sunday, Treasure Hunt Sunday and maybe even a flash mob.

All groups and organizations are encouraged to get involved in keeping Chester Center fun! Email chestermerchants@gmail.com or stop in to see Suzie Woodward at Lark or Claudia Van Nes at Maple & Main Gallery.

There's a variety of ways to learn what's happening: Facebook.com/VisitChesterCT; Facebook.com/AlwaysonSunday; FindItInChesterCT.wordpress.com; town hall's townwide weekly email; and all the Chester Center businesses.

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
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DEPARTMENT	EXTENSION / NUMBER	CONTACT INFO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Lynne Jacques	202	AdminAsst@chesterct.org
ANIMAL CONTROL Jae Wolf	860-388-7082	jwolf@essexct.gov
ASSESSOR Loreta Zdanys	512	Assessor@chesterct.org
ASSISTANT ASSESSOR Darlene Pollock	512	
BUILDING Ron Rose	207	BldgOfficial@chesterct.org
FINANCE Peter Evankow	215	Finance@chesterct.org
ACCOUNTS CLERK Sharon Echtman	216	
FIRE MARSHAL Richard Leighton	212	FireMarshal@chesterct.org
FIRST SELECTWOMAN Lauren Gister	202	FirstSelectman@chesterct.org
HUMAN SERVICES Rosie Bininger	213	HumanServices@chesterct.org
INFORMATION	202	Info@chesterct.org
INLAND WETLANDS Anna Sweeney	212	InlandWetlands@chesterct.org
PARKS AND RECREATION Elizabeth Netsch	223	ParkRec@chesterct.org
PLANNING AND ZONING Judy Brown	208	ZoningOfficial@chesterct.org
POLICE SERVICES Trooper Matt Ewing	860-526-3605	PoliceServices@chesterct.org
PUBLIC LIBRARY Linda Fox, Library Director	860-526-0018	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS Tracey Ohaus & Leslie Holbrook	211	ChesterRegistrar@chesterct.org
SANITATION Lee Vito	206	Sanitarian@chesterct.org
TAX COLLECTOR Madaline Meyer	513	TaxCollector@chesterct.org
TOWN CLERK Debra Germini Calamari	511	TownClerk@chesterct.org
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK Sharon Echtman	511	
TREASURER Elizabeth Netsch	214	Treasurer@chesterct.org
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www.chesterct.org

Conservation Commission

Seventy five percent of the fruits and vegetables we eat require pollination. In recent years the domestic honey bee which does a great deal of this pollination, has been having difficulty for a number of reasons including parasites, and the wide use of certain pesticides.

In Connecticut, though, domestic honey bees are not the only pollinators. There are more than 300 species of wild bees not to mention flies, beetles, butterflies and moths which also pollinate fruits and vegetables. These insects are all having some difficulty in today's world. For example as the climate warms, some of these insects find their traditional habitats not as friendly. The southern range of the bumble bee, for example, has moved north about 185 miles since 1901. Habitat loss due to increased development has also caused the decline of many pollinators.

How can we help? We can begin by planting native plants: flowers, flowering trees and shrubs. Native plants are necessary because they have evolved with native insects so they provide the best and most easily eaten food. Plant various flowers so there is something blooming throughout the growing season.

We can provide nesting sites: some bare ground and old logs. Brush piles provide safe places for overwintering insects. These are also helped by doing any plant management and soil disturbance in late summer or early fall before they settle down for the winter. Finally, if it is impossible to be pesticide free (though this is the best option), apply them sparingly when pollinators are not active: late evening, night, or very early in the morning. Avoid spraying the flowers themselves.

Pollinators are so important to our food supply; it behooves us to do as much as we can to help them survive and thrive in Connecticut.

Septic Tank Pump Out

Chester residents are reminded that the Town ordinance requires septic tanks to be pumped out and inspected every five 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.

Want to Advertise?

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The Meeting House Players Announce Open Auditions

The Meeting House Players are pleased to announce open auditions for Tracy Letts' 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play "August: Osage County." Auditions will be held on January 13 & 14 at 7 pm in the Meeting House located at 4 Liberty Street in Chester, CT.

The play's thirteen-member ensemble includes a range of ages and ethnicities including six women playing characters aging in range between mid-20's & late 60's and six men playing characters aging in range between mid-30's & mid 70's as well as one young woman able to play a 14-year-old. Please note that this play contains mature themes and may not be appropriate for all audiences.

Those auditioning will be asked to read from the script. Directed by Lenore Grunko, the production opens at the Meeting House in Chester on Friday, April 29 and continues on April 30 & May 6 & 7. Weeknight and evening rehearsals will begin the week of March 7. For additional information please contact Lenore Grunko at TheMeetingHousePlayers@gmail.com. The Meeting House Players is a not-for-profit, all volunteer community theatre organization pursuing the theatre arts with the talents and interests of individuals throughout Connecticut.

Sales Representative Wanted

Due to expanded growth we are seeking a full time sales representative to sell advertising in our publication. We seek someone experienced that understands the consultative sales process. Responsibilities include maintaining ongoing relationships with existing clients including daily contact over the phone and in person, meeting and exceeding sales goals, identifying and capturing new business through cold calling. Apply if you are an overachiever. Send resume to print@essexprinting.com.

Save These 2016 Dates!



Mihae Lee, Artistic Director

January 10, 2016

Valley Regional High School, Deep River
The Juilliard Quartet with pianist **Mihae Lee**
String Quartets by Mozart and Beethoven and the
monumental F minor Piano Quintet of Brahms.

February 21, 2016

Valley Regional High School, Deep River
Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert
Jeff Barnhart and his Hot Rhythm
Pianist Jeff Barnhart and his top-notch band of all-
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March 6, 2016

John Winthrop Middle School, Deep River
Patricia Schuman, soprano
A sparkling and varied program with harpist
Megan Sesma, pianist **Douglas Dickson**, and a
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April 3, 2016

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Estuary Council Regional Senior Center

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI) is a community resource for the nine-town Estuary region's residents (including Chester) 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. Visit our website at www.ecsenior.org for additional information or call us at (860) 388-1611.

New Year Fitness Resolution? Keep Moving! Join the Marshview Fitness Center at the Estuary Council. State of the art equipment designed for older adults, open Monday – Saturday, access to a Certified Fitness Trainer. Contact us for more information.

The Estuary Council offers social & educational programs, health screenings, exercise classes for many levels, a variety of

trips, and much more. View our newsletter on our website or sign up to receive it monthly.

Newly retired or looking to help your community? The Estuary Council has volunteer opportunities to fit your busy schedule. The time and talents of our many volunteers are an integral part of our organization. Find out how you can make a difference!

Have any shopping needs? Our Thrift Shop offers the best bargains on the shoreline. Clothing, housewares, decorations, and jewelry are just a few of the things you will find. Every day is different. All ages are welcome to come in and shop.

The Estuary Council relies on donations and fundraisers throughout the year to raise the funds needed to provide the vital services such as Meals on Wheels and medical transportation. Thank you to everyone who continue to support us with a donation or attend a fundraiser.

Middlesex Hospital Joins Mayo Clinic Care Network

Middlesex Hospital is the first health care organization from Connecticut to join the Mayo Clinic Care Network. Through the network, Mayo and Middlesex physicians will collaborate so more patients can get answers to complex medical questions and gain additional peace of mind, all while staying close to home. Network members remain independent, but share a common philosophy, commitment and mission to improve the quality and delivery of health care.

As a member of Mayo Clinic Care Network, Middlesex will have access to the latest Mayo knowledge. Network tools and services include:

- eConsults that enable Middlesex physicians to connect electronically with Mayo specialists when they want additional input on a patient's care.
- AskMayoExpert that provides Middlesex physicians with point-of-care, Mayo-vetted information on disease management, care guidelines, treatment recommendations and reference materials for medical conditions.

- eTumor Board Conferences that enable Middlesex physicians to present and discuss management of complex cancer cases with a multidisciplinary panel of Mayo Clinic specialists and other network members.

Through network resources, Middlesex providers also will be able to consult with Mayo Clinic on operational and business processes such as patient engagement; quality, safety and accreditation; nursing leadership; and physician engagement. Providers also will have access to Mayo's extensive library of educational materials for use with their patients and grand rounds presentations that feature Mayo physicians and scientists.

Since its inception in 1904, Middlesex Hospital has continuously maintained the highest standards in medical care while focusing on delivering the very best patient experience possible. It does this through state-of-the-art medical technology and innovative approaches to care, along with a highly experienced staff that embraces the mission and culture of the organization.

Attention: Tri-Town Veterans and Servicemen and Servicewomen

A Tri-Town 1st Annual Veterans Day Parade is being planned and will be held in Deep River with a tentative date of Sunday, November 6, 2016. All veterans and service men and women from Chester, Deep River and Essex who are interested in marching or participating in this parade should call Jerry LaMark at 860.304.0364.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry; clearly state your name and phone number and he will return your call.

This parade will be our time to thank these brave men and women who served or are serving in our armed forces, ever vigilant and ready to defend our freedom.

Friends of the Library Winter Happenings

Winter Book Sale

The holidays are over and winter, with those long nights, stretches out ahead of us. It must be time to lay in a supply of great books and movies! Happily, the Friends annual winter book sale begins on Friday, January 22. Anticipate a large collection of adult and children's books available at prices that seem frozen in time (most are \$.25 - \$1). Non-fiction books are sorted by subject for easier shopping. Donations of books and movies in great condition will be happily accepted until Jan. 20. When thinking about making a donation, remember that books that have spent time in basements and garages are often unfit for sale due to mustiness, water damage, etc. Volunteers interested in helping with the sale are encouraged to call Diane Lindsay at 860-526-2443.

Human Library Forum

On Sunday, March 6, the library is planning a Human Library Forum as part of the "Books and Bagels" program at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek.

The Chester Public Library has had a Human Library collection available for borrowing since 2014. It is modeled after the program established by the Human Library Organization in Denmark, which was developed "to challenge

societal prejudices wherever and for whatever reason they occur, and to help people form a better understanding of those whom they share their communities."

The Chester Human Library collection mirrors the creative and innovative heart of our community. There is a ukulele player, beekeeper and civil rights activist among other titles. In preparation for the Human Library Forum, the Chester Library is reaching out to more people to become new titles on our Human Library shelf. In keeping with the original mission of the Human Library Organization to "help build social cohesion and a greater understanding for diversity in the community locally and on a global level," we are looking for those who have experienced prejudice due to race, religion, sex, age, sexual preference, gender identity or lifestyle choices and are willing to challenge prejudice through respectful conversation. We would also invite people who have a passion or interest they would like to share.

The human book could choose to become part of the Chester Library permanent collection or be available only for the Human Library Forum on March 6, with the option to increase participation.

For more information please contact Linda Fox at the Chester Library (860-526-0018).

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The Chester Hose Company

Chief James Schaefer, Chester Hose Company

Happy New Year! As the temperatures are expected to drop, we always remind you to check on your friends and neighbors. Be aware that there is a large increase in fire hazards during colder months and preventive maintenance including cleaning out fireplaces, not storing anything too close to heaters, and checking everyday appliances can be a big help to save your home! Here are some reminders to keep your house in safe working order:

- Check the gutters on your house to make sure there are no dry leaves or pine needles in there as those can easily catch fire if outdoor lights get hot or embers land on them
- Check light bulbs for cracks or breaks
- Clean out your dryer vents after each use
- Check cords around aquariums or appliances near water
- Do not plug too many things into one outlet...a sign something could be

wrong is if any breakers in your house keep turning off

- Check the batteries in smoke detectors when you hear chirping...this is a sign that the battery is low and not that the alarm is going off

We cannot talk about fire safety without stressing the importance of smoke alarms. Tragically, the crucial significance of installing and maintaining smoke alarms has not yet been fully realized. Working smoke alarms alert people to a fire and give them time to escape in a situation where minutes are the difference between life and death. NFPA recommends testing their operation once a month whether hard-wired or battery operated, changing batteries as recommended by the manufacturer (usually in fall and spring when you change your clocks), and clearing cobwebs and other dust away from them when you clean.

As always we standby ready to serve and protect our neighbors and the Town of Chester!

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 OFFICE

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
 Community Foundation of Middlesex County (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

Tri-Town Youth Services

Tri-Town Youth Services has many programs and events planned for this winter. Please join us when you can! For questions, or to register call Tri-Town at 860-526-3600.

Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition will convene at 9:00 am on January 20 and again at the same time on March 9. The Coalition is a grassroots organization whose membership is open to all who live or work in the tri-town area who are concerned about substance abuse and committed to its prevention. Deep River Resident Trooper Dawn Taylor will present at the January meeting on current drug trends. Both meetings will be held at Tri-Town, 56 High Street in Deep River.

A **Babysitter Training Course** will be held at Tri-Town, 56 High Street in Deep River on Wednesday evenings, 6-8 pm on January 20, 27 and February 3. This course is the American Heart Association Pediatric First Aid and CPR along with a babysitter training certificate program. Fee: \$75. The spring session of this course, same tuition, same time, will be held on April 11, 18, and 25. If interested, call soon as classes fill quickly.

The Outstanding Ones and Terrific Twos groups will have sessions that meet on Wednesday mornings from Jan. 6-March 9. Ones meet 11-11:30 am, and the fee for tri-town residents

is \$45. Twos meet 9:30-10:30 am, with a fee of \$60 for tri-town residents. Call to sign up.

Mental Health First Aid Training. Tri-Town Youth Services in collaboration with Rushford Center, will offer the 8-hour training certification course, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) in two parts from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, at Deep River Public Library, Community Room, on May 10 and 17. Teaching a five-step action plan to assess a situation, select and implement interventions and secure appropriate care for the individual, MHFA introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common treatments. This CPR-like program is effective in improving trainees' knowledge of mental disorders, reducing stigma, and increasing the amount of help provided to individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis or developing a mental health concern.

Anyone can take the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid course – including first responders, faith community leaders, human resource professionals, teachers, individuals who typically work with the general public, parents, other concerned citizens, etc. to help them identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness.

A fee of \$10 includes materials and certification. To register, call Tri-Town.

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Rotary Club of Chester Looks Forward to 2016 and Beyond

The Chester Rotary Club looks forward to sponsoring our always popular series of fundraising events throughout 2016. The 2016 calendar of events will include our **3rd Annual Longest Dinner Table**, our **39th Annual Four on the Fourth Road Race** and our **46th Annual Lobster Festival**. The Chester Rotary also looks forward to participating for the first time with the Pattaconk 1850 Bar and Grille in this year's Pattaconk Duck Race.

Additional details for all of Chester Rotary's 2016 events will soon be available on the Chester Rotary website, www.ChesterRotary.org. This will include information on the 2017 return of our "**Womanless Beauty Pageant**" when we will once again crown Chester's "Miss Chesthairs".

The Rotary Club of Chester is a 501c(3) not for profit organization. Chester Rotarians are dedicated to providing

funding and service to local, national and international charitable organizations including The Chester Community Fund, Camp Hazen, Tri-Town Youth Services, Shoreline Soup Kitchen, Bikes for Kids, Chester Parks & Recreation, Chester Boy Scouts, Chester Winter Carnivale, Chester Early Childhood Program, Annual Chester Elementary School Dictionary Presentation and The Citizenship Scholarship Program as well as taking part in providing resources for a variety of international philanthropic ventures including water projects in Niger, Africa and programs to eradicate polio worldwide. Our proceeds from these events support these causes. Chester Rotary is always looking for new members. We encourage you to visit our website at www.chesterrotary.org for more information regarding our club and it's fund raising efforts, updates for our upcoming events and links to Rotary International.

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

Winter Happenings

It may be winter, but we never rest! But, we don't have specific event dates to announce at the time of this publication, so we encourage you to check in with us regularly at [Facebook.com/ChesterCTHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ChesterCTHistoricalSociety). Expect us to be involved with the Always on Sunday events, organized by the Chester Merchants, and to have at least one public Crackerbarrel program at the Meeting House during the winter.

In the meantime, we're starting to plan our sixth annual Creative Challenge linking Chester history and art. The fundraising event will be held Saturday, April 9 with a Silent Auction and Reception at the Meeting House. Save the date to see impressive and enticing creations!

Besides Facebook, you can also stay informed through our 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).

A Note from Public Works

It is not too early to think about 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

Museum Exhibit

This summer's exhibit will be an offshoot of last summer's "Pastimes in Past Times" exhibit. We're excited about focusing this exhibit on the history of Chester's organizations and clubs, such as the Fife & Drum Corps, the Hose Company, and the Garden Club, as well as organizations that no longer exist, such as the Italian-American Society. We are always eager to hear your stories and see your memorabilia – so please call Keith Dauer and Sandy Senior-Dauer at 860-526-2331 or email them at kssdauerchst@aol.com or 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). 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 2017.

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.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Chester

Happy New Year to all of our Chester neighbors...take advantage of the new year and attend mass, participate in a bible study, join us for a Sunday social, or gather at the one of our upcoming events.

Upcoming Events

Sunday Social: Chat and share a hot drink and a sweet treat on January 10th, February 14th, March 13th, and April 10th. Sunday socials take place following the 10:00 am mass.

Bible Study: Develop skills in observing, interpreting and applying biblical text to your everyday life. Bible study will take place on January 12th and March 8th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Sorrows in Essex.

Misgivings, Dinner and Comedy Show: January 23rd. Dinner followed by the hilarious one man show of Mr. Dave Kane who portrays Father Patrick Aloysius. This is a divine presentation of stories and one liners about growing up Catholic. From miracles and marriage counseling to bazaars and raffles, nothing escapes the father's razor sharp Irish wit. You will even get to play an actual bingo game. This will be an exciting, adult only, evening out. Cost per person is \$20.

Chester Hose Company Auxiliary Scholarship

The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary will again be offering a scholarship to a well deserving student. For a complete list of requirements and a copy of the application, visit the Chester Hose Company website (www.chesterhoseco.org), stop by Chester Town Hall and see the Town Clerk or stop into the Guidance office at Valley Regional, Xavier, Mercy, and Vinal High schools or The Williams School. All applications and supporting documentation is due by 4pm on April 30th to the address below. 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

For town updates & information:
www.chesterct.org

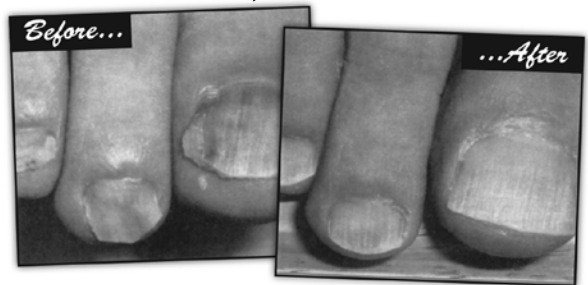
Valentine's Day Dinner Dance will take place in February at the Parish Center. Evening outing includes a complete Italian dinner and musical entertainment. Please join us for an evening of fantastic food and good company.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner will take place in March and consist of a traditional Irish feast. Please look for final date announcement, for both the Valentine's Day Dinner Dance and St. Patrick's Day Dinner in our church bulletin, on the Parish Marquee, and in the local papers. You can also contact Bill Burdick at 860-322-7600 with questions or to make reservations.

Annual Lenten Fish Fry Dinners: Join us at the Parish Center for the highly acclaimed Fish Fry Lenten Dinners. The menu will include fish and chips, baked fish, clam chowder, macaroni and cheese, among other treats. Come hungry and invite a few friends! Dinners available from 4:00 to 7:00 pm on each Friday in Lent: February 12th, 19th, 26th and March 4th, 11th, and 18th.

Have a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year from the St. Joseph's family.

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SmartER Appointments Now Available at Shoreline Medical Center

Why spend your time in the ER waiting room when you could be waiting in the comfort of your own home instead?

The new, innovative SmartER appointment system provides easier access to the Shoreline Medical Center Emergency Department — letting you schedule your ER visit for non-life threatening emergencies up to eight hours in advance.

According to Michael Saxe, M.D., Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Middlesex Hospital, “With people’s often hectic schedules, making an appointment on the SmartER website can improve convenience, help reduce waiting time in the Emergency Department, and allow patients quicker access to medical care for non-emergency injuries or illnesses, once they arrive.”

Some examples of non-life threatening emergencies include sore throat, earaches, minor cuts, minor strains or sprains, mild diarrhea, or sports injuries. For any medical problem that is life threatening, dial 911 immediately.

To schedule a SmartER appointment, go to www.middlesexhospital.org/smartER.

The Middlesex Hospital Shoreline Medical Center Emergency Department is located at 250 Flat Rock Place in Westbrook and provides care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Connecticut’s Aging & Disability Resource Centers are known as “Community Choices”

Who we are.

Community Choices is a powerful information hub linking older adults, persons living with disabilities, and caregivers in Connecticut to the services and supports they seek. Our dedicated staff can connect you to everything from a name and phone number to more detailed information regarding community services through activities such as benefit screening, options counseling, and care transitions.

Who we can support.

- Older adults
- Persons aged 18 & over living with disabilities
- Caregivers
- Persons who want help communicating their needs
- Persons planning for future long term care needs
- Persons who want help navigating a complex system of federal, state, and local programs.

How we can support.

Our dedicated staff and information specialists have experience in a number of different areas. Community Choices offers:

- Options Counseling
- Short Term Care Management
- Care Transitions
- Application Assistance
- Decision Support
- Follow-up
- Long Term Care Planning
- Benefits Screening
- Information & Assistance

We can also connect you with services such as:

- Adult Day Care
- Disability Services
- Elder Abuse Prevention
- Employment, Financial, Housing and Equipment assistance
- In-home Services
- Legal Services
- Mental Health / Substance Abuse Services
- Transportation
- Nutrition

Ask us about these services to learn more! Contact Community Choices by calling 1-800-994-9422.

State Department on Aging / www.ct.gov

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STAND TOGETHER FOR CHANGE. TAKE THE PLEDGE.

*“I will be an agent of change.
We are all different but we all deserve
respect..... ”*



Chester Rotary Participates in Liberty Bank's Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Rotary Club of Chester as well as thirty additional Connecticut Rotary Clubs teamed up with Liberty Bank to raise funds for the bank's 2015 Thanksgiving Food Drive. Liberty Bank added 25% to the monies raised by each participating Rotary club. With the bank's encouragement, Francine Curto, Chester Rotary's Food Drive Chairperson, reached out to local non-profits, organizations and businesses to participate in Chester Rotary's fund raising efforts. With the assistance of Chester Village West who raised \$1175, The Rotary Club of Chester collected and deposited a total of \$2813 into Liberty Bank's Thanksgiving Food Drive account. The money raised along with the additional 25% donated by Liberty bank provided members of our community with the opportunity to enjoy the bounties that the holiday season has to offer.



Pictured are: Liberty Bank Deep River Branch Manager, Stephen Rednak; Chester Rotary Thanksgiving Food Drive Chairperson, Francine Curto; Chester Rotary President, Ian Mclachlan; Chester Rotary President Elect, Cheryl Archer; Chester Village West Chairman, Joan Galliher; Chester Village West HOA President, Whity Wilson.

Influenza

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.

Signs and symptoms of flu: Fever* or feeling feverish/chills; cough; sore throat; runny or stuffy nose; muscle or body aches; headaches; fatigue (very tired); some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.*It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.

How flu spreads. Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or possibly their nose.

Period of contagiousness. You may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5 to 7 days after becoming sick. Some people, especially young

children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

How serious is the flu? Flu is unpredictable and how severe it is can vary widely from one season to the next depending on many things, including: what flu viruses are spreading; how much flu vaccine is available; when vaccine is available; how many people get vaccinated, and; how well the flu vaccine is matched to flu viruses that are causing illness.

Certain people are at greater risk for serious complications if they get the flu. This includes older people, young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions(http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/high_risk.htm) (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease).

Flu seasons are unpredictable and can be severe. Over a period of 30 years, between 1976 and 2006, estimates of flu-associated deaths in the United States range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people.

Prevent seasonal flu: Get vaccinated. The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine each season. The quadrivalent flu vaccine protects against two influenza A viruses and two influenza B viruses.

Happy New Year to Chester

As we start a new year, 2016, it is with great pleasure that I report that the Chester Fife and Drum Corps had a great year. We enjoyed the comradery of each other as we marched pretty much all over New England. It looks like 2016 will be just as busy for our corps.

We had our annual meeting and elected new officers and members. We start out the year with 5 Fifers, 7 Snare, and 5 Bases, plus 4 in our Color Guard. Of course we are always looking for new members. Remember that we teach all of our instruments and provide uniforms, free of charge.

Speaking of uniforms be on the lookout for Chester's new old look, early in the year. We are currently about 80% outfitted and hoping to debut the new uniform in the St. Patrick's Day parade in New Haven in March.

We have one very important update to provide. Kaila Moonan, who is a Chester Fifer, joined the Army in June. She has gone thru Bootcamp and Advanced Training, and is now assigned to the Army Band as a flutist in Missouri.

As this article is coming out, we are currently on winter shutdown until Feb of 2016. We will return to the Chester Elementary School to get ready for the upcoming year.



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

Frenchy Cordeau, Business Manager and Drum Major

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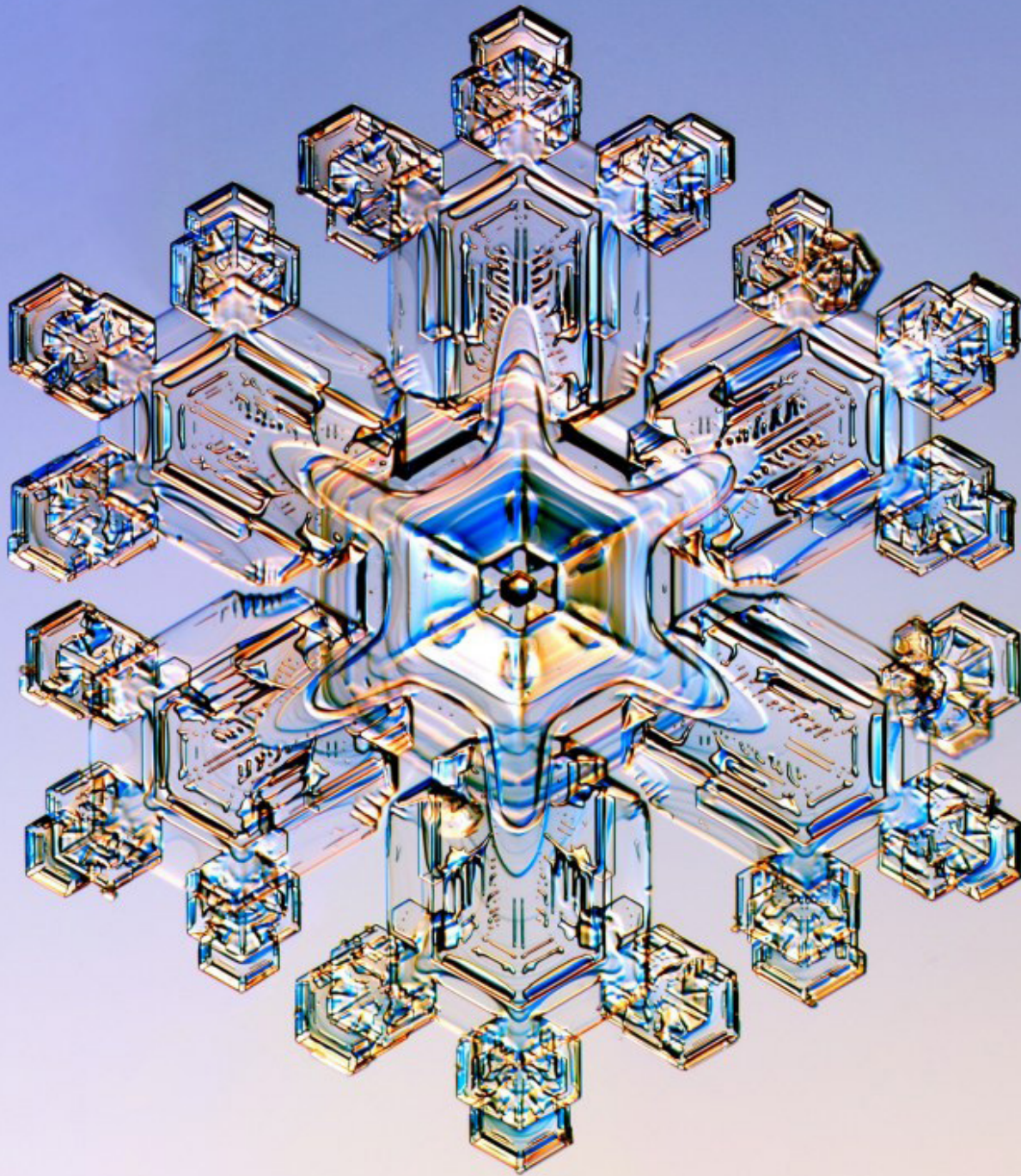
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