

Chester events

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First Selectwoman's Corner

Hello 2019! Welcome to the New Year. Did you know that Chester is run by volunteers, willing to give of their time, energy and expertise to keep our town running smoothly from day to day? From our Boards and Commissions, elected or appointed, special committees for specific projects, the Historical Society, Land Trust, volunteer fire department and ambulance service, to school volunteers and parent coaches, we are incredibly fortunate to have them! Please remember to thank them for their service to Chester through the years. Even with all of our current volunteers, we are always looking for residents to do this work and to provide new ideas to keep Chester vital. Thank you again to all our current and past volunteers – and welcome to new faces. Please let the Democratic or Republican Town Committees or the First Selectwoman's office know when YOU are ready to get involved.

Flood 2018 – Repairs and recovery are still in process from the flash flooding of September 25th. We tend to think only of hurricanes doing this kind of major damage to our infrastructure, but that evening of 6-8 inches of rain in a four-hour period did an incredible amount of damage. It has been estimated that the measurements from rainfall in this storm approached if not exceeded the 500-year flood stage. We are all aware of the damage to the Liberty Street bridge, but we also had many road and driveway washouts, damage to stream beds and embankments and great amounts of debris blocking waterways. Several residents lost backyards and patios, belongings and furniture in basements, have been forced

to move gas tanks and other utilities, and, at the time of my writing this article, there are at least three residents who are still unable to return to their homes. We are working diligently to assist where possible, and have reviewed the damage with teams from FEMA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Federal Highway Administration. Claims are being prepared and it is still uncertain what monetary assistance may be available to the Town and our residents. We will keep you posted on any new developments.



Lauren Gister,
First Selectwoman

Winter is here! Are you ready to keep yourself and your family safe in the face of severe cold and stormy weather? Are you ready for the power to go out? Now is the time to make a plan and gather several days of emergency supplies, including flashlight batteries and portable chargers to be prepared. We will contact you in every way we can in case of a bad storm or other emergency, including Townwide emails, SAFER Chester, Facebook, the town website, radio and television where appropriate.

Always report any power outage directly to Eversource at 800-286-2000 or at Eversource.com, even if you know they have already been contacted by a neighbor.

continued on page 2

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Sign up for the SAFER CHESTER Emergency Alert Program. You can do this directly at www.ctalert.gov, use the link on the Town website at www.chesterct.org, or call Jenny in the Selectman's office at 860-526-0013 x202 if you need further assistance. This notification program is powered by Everbridge and enables us to keep you informed and provide you with critical, local, and time-sensitive emergency information. To register, simply specify how you'd like to receive the information: home, mobile, business phones, email or text messages. Also, please remember to sign up for the Townwide email by sending your email address to Jenny at adminassistant@chesterct.org.

Preparation for the 2018-2019 annual budget will be underway in early January. Town Schools, Departments, the Chester Hose Company and Boards and Commissions will be compiling and submitting their budget requests, which will be reviewed and discussed at a series of joint Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance budget workshops. Our goal is to continue to provide the highest levels of service, to keep our buildings, parks and roads in good condition and repair, and to keep expenditures low. The schedule of budget meetings will be posted on the Town website and are open to the public. I hope you will be able to attend. The Board of Finance will submit a final budget for the approval of residents at a Town Meeting scheduled for May 29, 2019.

A very big congratulations to the Chester Land Trust and Chester resident Marta Daniels for their work in getting Constance Baker Motley's home and the Preserve across the street on Cedar Lake Road named as sites on the Connecticut Freedom Trail. The Freedom Trail designates sites that represent the struggle for freedom and **continued on page 4**

Vascular Health Presentation & Free Screening.

How Healthy Are Your Veins?

Masonicare at Chester Village invites you to hear Bart Muhs, MD, board-certified vascular surgeon with The Vascular Experts in Old Saybrook and Middletown.

Tuesday, January 29, 2019 - Masonicare at Chester Village
317 West Main Street, Chester

2:00 p.m. - Presentation

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. - Free ultrasound screenings for vascular disease

Please call 860-526-6800 by January 25 to reserve a time slot.



Prior to joining the practice in 2014, Dr. Muhs was the Clinical Director of Vascular Surgery at Yale University School of Medicine and Co-director of Endovascular Surgery there. A graduate of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and a Fulbright recipient, Dr. Muhs is Associate Editor of *The Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Therapy* and the journal *Aorta*. Dr. Muhs was the first physician in Connecticut to perform advanced aortic fenestrated repairs without incisions.

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human dignity and that celebrate the accomplishments of the state's African American community. Remembered fondly by many in town, Judge Motley spent 20 years as an NAACP Legal Defense Fund attorney working beside Thurgood Marshall and Martin Luther King. Not only did she write the first legal brief in the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Board of Education, she litigated and won most of the southern civil rights challenges from the 1957 Arkansas "Little Rock Nine" to James Meredith's famous admission to the University of Mississippi in September 1962. Though she was always in physical danger, she fought injustice in the South for two decades. She later argued successfully in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, became a New York State Senator and Manhattan Borough President, and was appointed by President Johnson in 1966 to the Federal District Court in New York, eventually becoming its Chief Judge. Judge Motley and her family loved their weekend home in Chester, and we are proud to count her as a Chesterite! Please watch for the ceremony this spring to dedicate these sites on the Freedom Trail!

I hope your winter holidays were wonderful – filled with family, warmth and fun! Whatever your personal resolutions for the New Year, let's resolve together to be kind to ourselves and each other, to be creative in our endeavors, and to do the best work for our beautiful town. Happy New Year and thank you for allowing me to serve Chester in 2019.

Best, Lauren



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FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS:
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Registrars of Voters

Starting in January and continuing through April we will be conducting the state mandated annual canvass of voters to determine changes of residence. If you receive a letter from our office asking to confirm your address, please follow the instructions and return the letter to our office by the deadline indicated in the letter. If you do not return the letter you will be placed on the inactive voter registration list. Voters on the inactive list may be restored to the active list by completing a new registration card.

If you would like to register to vote there are a variety of ways to register. If you have a Connecticut driver's license you can register online at <https://voterregistration.ct.gov> or you can register by filling out a registration card and returning it to our office either in person or by mail. Cards can be found in the Chester Town Hall - in either the Town Clerk's office or the Registrar of Voter's office. You can also register to vote or change your voter registration to a new town through the DMV.

If you have any questions regarding the canvass or voter registration please call our office at 860 526 0013, ext. 211. Our office hours are most Thursdays from 2-4 pm and we are located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall.

Leslie Holbrook
Tracey Ohaus
Registrars of Voters

Tax Office

Tax Office Hours & Ways To Pay Your Taxes

The Tax Office hours have varied over the years, depending on the available staff and the frequency of resident use. We try to be open as many hours as possible during the January and July payment periods, and are open approximately 15 hours per week the rest of the year.

Currently, our hours are:

January and July: Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 9-12 noon and 1-4 pm.
Weds. 9-12 noon only. Last Friday of January and July 9-12 noon.
All Other Months: Tues. & Thurs. 9-12 noon and 1-4 pm. Weds. 9-12 noon only.

I have always made it the policy that if someone needs a special time, I will try to accommodate them & either stay a bit later on

a specific day or come in special on a Friday morning. And remember, taxes can be paid by check and mailed. Checks can be mailed directly through a bill pay service at your bank, or you can always put your check in an envelope and drop it off in the second floor mail slot labeled TAX COLLECTOR across from the elevator. If you need extra time or a different accommodation, please contact the Tax Collector by email at TaxCollector@chesterct.org. We will do our best to accommodate you wherever possible. Please remember to pay your taxes prior to the end of January so that you avoid accumulating interest. Be sure to sign your check!

A Happy and Healthy New Year to one and all!
Sincerely,
Madaline Meyer, TC



The Chester Land Trust

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

On November 14, 2018, the CT Freedom Trail Committee, under the state of Connecticut's Department of Economic & Community Development, approved the application submitted by The Chester Land Trust for the Constance Baker Motley Preserve and her private home, located across the street from the Preserve, to be listed on the Connecticut Freedom Trail.

FUNDRAISER

Thursday: February 21, 2019
Location: The Meeting House
Time: 6:30
Initiative: Fundraiser for Motley Trail & Garden & CT Freedom Trail Presentation
Cost: \$25.00
RSVP: francurto@aol.com

The Chester Land Trust will host a chili supper with cornbread, salad, desserts and beverage tasting as a fundraiser for the creation of a new walking trail and the reclamation of gardens on the Constance

Baker Motley Preserve. Marta Daniels and Jenny Kitsen will offer a short presentation on Judge Motley and the Freedom Trail Award. Q&A will follow. Donation is \$25.00. Please RSVP by February 15 to: [Francine Curto francurto@aol.com](mailto:Francine.Curto@francurto.aol.com) or call 860.526.2775. A formal dedication will be held spring 2019. The Motley Family purchased their seasonal Chester home in 1965 and quietly participated in local events and organizations until her death in 2005. For more details about her accomplishments see the Chester Land trust website. www.chesterlandtrust.org

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The Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD)

The Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) is offering FREE Radon test kits to homeowners. Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water formed from the breakdown of uranium. Levels in outdoor air pose a low threat to human health. However, radon can enter homes through surrounding soil, foundation cracks, private water supply wells, and thus become a health hazard inside buildings. Radon does not cause symptoms and you cannot see or smell radon gas. An elevated radon level in your home may affect the health of you and your family. Breathing in radon gas over prolonged periods may damage lung tissue. In the US, exposure to radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the country each year. If you smoke and your home has radon, the risk of developing lung cancer is much higher. Radon has been found in elevated levels in homes in every state. High radon concentrations can occur sporadically in all parts of CT. Two homes right next to each other can have different radon levels. The only way to know if you have an elevated radon level above the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L is to test your home's indoor air. Radon levels vary seasonally and tend to be higher in the winter months; therefore its best to test from November to March when your house is closed up. The EPA recommends that homes with radon levels at 4 pCi/L or higher be reduced. However, any amount of radon exposure can pose some health risk.

For more information on obtaining a FREE test kit, call CRAHD at 860-661-3300. Additional information is available at the CT DPH Radon website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/Radon/Radon-Program>.

Friends of Chester Library's Winter Book Sale

The holidays are over and winter, with its long nights, stretches out ahead of us. It must be time to lay in a supply of great books and movies! Happily, the Friends of the Library's annual winter book sale begins on Friday, Jan. 18. This year, however, the sale is being held in the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Chester for just one long weekend. The reason for the move is that our library's basement is too cramped for handling our book sale along with the active and growing program schedule of the library. Additionally, the library can't be accessed by anyone who can't walk stairs.

So at the United Church, the Fellowship Hall will be filled with tables of books. Non-fiction books will be sorted by subject for easy shopping. Anticipate a large collection of adult and children's books available at very reasonable prices (from 50 cents to \$2). Book sale hours will be Friday, Jan. 18, from 4 to 8 pm; Saturday, Jan. 19, from 9 am to 4 pm; Sunday, 1 to 4 pm; and Monday, MLK Birthday, from 9 am to noon. Expect all books to be free on Monday.

All proceeds from our library book sales go directly to funding library needs and programs not covered by tax dollars.

Our new book sale chairman is Roseann Ventimiglia, a new resident of Chester. Diane Lindsay has stepped down from her

longtime chairman position. We thank Diane for all the years she has devoted to helping the Chester Library raise much

needed funds, and we thank Roseann for readily volunteering for this position.

Middlesex to Rebrand

Middlesex is more than just a Hospital.

Middlesex has grown to include many services located outside the walls of the hospital. Middlesex has a network of primary care offices, three urgent care centers, five physical medicine and rehabilitation offices and two Cancer Center locations. It offers homecare and assisted living, and the list goes on.

It is often difficult to explain these many different parts and how they all fit under the Middlesex Hospital umbrella, but one thing has become clear. Middlesex's current brand name no longer accurately reflects what Middlesex does and what it can provide.

In an effort to help the community better understand, Middlesex's branding will soon change to include the name Middlesex Health and a new logo that better represents the organization's incredible growth.

Middlesex is one of the few independent nonprofit health systems remaining in Connecticut, and it has evolved and expanded for the good of its patients, becoming a more comprehensive health

partner. It's become Middlesex Health.

Middlesex remains committed to the communities it serves, and it will continue to provide the same high quality, compassionate care and personalized service that you've come to expect.

Over the next few months, you will begin to see the new brand name and logo on Middlesex signs and other materials, including staff uniforms and informational brochures. There will also be a new TV commercial, and Middlesex will soon launch a new, more user-friendly website.

A change like this does not happen overnight. The transition will take time to complete. Please be patient.

Moving forward, Middlesex remains a strong, independent health system – one that strives to always be your first choice for health care. Your health is of the utmost importance, and these improvements are being made to better serve you.



We're Wishing you the Best in 2019!

Happy New Year!

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The Chester Hose Company

It was June 1992, and the Chester Ambulance Association bought a 1986 Ford Ambulance. Ambulance service was being provided by Hunters Ambulance from Middletown at that time. Prior to this, the Chester Ambulance Association would establish fundraisers to provide equipment to the responders of the Chester Hose Co. In a joint venture with the Hose Company's Personnel and the Ambulance Association's Ambulance, a new service was provided to the Town on July 1, 1993 until February 1995 when the Chester Ambulance Corps was started.

In 1995 the Ambulance Association bought a new Horton ambulance. This Corps operated as a single entity until July 1, 2000. On July 1, 2000 the Chester Ambulance Corps dissolved and the Ambulance Association sold its ambulance to the Chester Hose Company, which is now providing ambulance service to the Town of Chester. The Chester Ambulance Association continued to raise money to help the Chester Hose Company provide emergency medical services to the town of Chester.

In January 2001, The Chester Ambulance Association lost one of its directors, Diana Grzybowski, who was also a member of the Chester Hose Company and was influential in securing Chester's own ambulance service. In her memory, the Chester Ambulance Association set up the Diana Grzybowski Scholarship fund to award scholarships to residents and students of Chester who were interested in a health field.

In 2006 the Chester Hose Company looked into expanding the firehouse and the Chester Ambulance Association graciously made a large donation to help get the expansion off the ground. The Chester Ambulance Association would continually support the Chester Hose Company in any way it could.

In 2018 the Chester Ambulance Association made the decision to disband the association. They began to liquidate its remaining assets. They approached the Chester Hose Company and asked if they would be willing to continue the Diana Grzybowski Scholarship to which they unanimously agreed. The Association set up and turned over an endowment of \$37,000.00 so that the scholarship can accept donations and grow and continue for years to come.

The Chester Ambulance Association still had some remaining funds and wanted to donate towards a piece of medical equipment that the Chester Hose Company felt it needed. The Chester Hose Company immediately had one in mind. A Lucas Device, an automated chest compression system that can deliver the correct amount of compressions during a CPR. Because of the procedures of the professional medical provider, a large amount

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of manpower is needed to perform CPR for an extended period of time. This device would eliminate that. However, the cost for this is \$15,000.00. The Chester Ambulance Association donated its remaining funds (\$8,000.00) toward the purchase of this device. The Chester Hose Company is continuing to solicit donations towards the purchase of this device and asks its residents to contribute by sending donations to:

The Chester Hose Company Incorporated
P.O. Box 214
Chester, CT 06412

As of Dec 31st, 2018 The Chester Ambulance Association ceased to exist. The Officers and Members wish to thank The Chester Ambulance Association for their tireless effort and support for so many years not only to the Chester Hose Company but also to the residents of the Town Of Chester. The Chester Hose Company Incorporated continues to stand by ready to serve you in your time of need, whether fire or medical.

Chester Historical Society

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

It may be winter and our museum may be officially closed for the season, but that doesn't mean we're hibernating. For one thing, Diane Lindsay, our curator, and her small team of volunteers work in our archives twice a week year-round. (Want to know how you could help with archiving? Please call Diane at 526-2443.) We're taking and transcribing oral histories and planning this summer's special exhibit. We're working on our next Creative Challenge, which will happen this spring. We're also starting to celebrate our 50th anniversary during this year. Want to get involved in any way? We'd love to hear from you! Email us at chesterchistoricalociety@gmail.com.

New Chester Book

We are very excited to announce the publication of a new book of Chester history – titled "Chester - Lost, Found, Remembered" – by brothers Rob and Tom Miceli. The book is filled with photos of old Chester (many not seen before) and memories shared by Rob and Tom. It's a delight! We hope to introduce the book at a program in late January, so stay tuned!

Membership Opens Our Doors

Chester Historical Society members can schedule a visit to Chester Museum at The Mill off-season. We'll work with you to schedule a visit tailored to your needs and times. Call Diane Lindsay (526-2443) to start the process.

Help Us Preserve Chester History

For 49 years, our all-volunteer organization, despite a modest operating budget, has preserved, protected and interpreted
continued on page 10

CHESTER TOWN HALL

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DEPARTMENT	EXTENSION / NUMBER	CONTACT INFO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jenny Watrous	202	AdminAsst@chesterct.org
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ASSISTANT ASSESSOR Darlene Pollock	512	
BUILDING Ron Rose	207	BldgOfficial@chesterct.org
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	
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SANITATION Ryan Grenon	206	Sanitarian@chesterct.org
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TAX CLERK	513	
TOWN CLERK Debra Germini Calamari	510	TownClerk@chesterct.org
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Historical Society... continued from page 9

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Tax-deductible donations in any amount can be mailed at any time to: Chester Historical Society, PO Box 204, Chester 06412.

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek (CBSRZ)

55 E. Kings Highway, Chester, CT

For information on all events at CBSRZ, visit cbsrz.org/engage/events or call the CBSRZ office at 860-526-8920.

Friday, January 18th, 2019 – 7:30 pm

Erev Shabbat Service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
On Friday evening January 18, the start of the weekend honoring Martin Luther King Jr., Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek will explore the historic relationship between the Jewish and African American communities, particularly through the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, D.C. (RAC), including the topic of race in civic engagement, and where we go from here. This service is open to the public, no reservations are necessary. For more information, call 860-526-8920.

Sunday, February 3rd, Art Opening – Gil Boro

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Nationally known sculptor and Old Lyme resident, Gil Boro, will be exhibiting at CBSRZ Art Gallery from February 3rd through the end of April, 2019. An opening reception will be held at CBSRZ on Sunday, February 3rd from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and will include light refreshments. Open to the public, no advance registration needed and no charge.

Saturday, February 9th, 2019 – 7:00 pm

CBSRZ Wine Tasting Fundraiser

We invite you to a CBSRZ Fundraiser! Come taste the wine, stay for the raffle, the silent auction, dancing, and delectable eats. Adults, 21 years and over, will sample a selection of wines from some of our favorite local wine merchants. This event is open to the public. For ticket information, visit cbsrz.org or call 860-526-8920.

Sunday, February 24th, 3:00 pm

The Great Latkes vs. Hamentaschen Debate

Participants will debate on the merits of each ethnic Jewish treat latkes or hamentaschen. This event is free of charge and open to the public.

CBSRZ celebrates Shabbat Across America

Friday, March 3rd, 6:00 pm

Whether you celebrate Shabbat regularly, or want to learn how to enrich your home Shabbat celebration, experience the joy of Shabbat Across America at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek. All are invited to attend, as CBSRZ welcomes the shoreline community as part of a nationwide, once-a-year Shabbat Across America celebration hosted by 700+ synagogues throughout the country. This special shabbat is open to the public. There is no cost to attend, but we do ask everyone attending to please RSVP to the CBSRZ office (860-526-8920) so we be sure to have adequate seating.

Sunday, March 24th, Ukulele Workshop and Concert,
workshop at 2:00 pm followed by the concert at
3:45 pm - "Uke Can't Play Ukles Without U"



World renowned Ukulele master Jim Beloff, and author/publisher of the popular Jumpin' Jim's series of ukulele songbooks sold world-wide, along with his wife Liz deliver an afternoon of ukulele fun and a workshop for non-players and beginners. The workshop will be

followed by a concert featuring Jim, his wife Liz, and a bass accompanist. Attendees with ukuleles will be encouraged to participate in the concert on a couple of songs. Tickets can be purchased through the CBSRZ website at www.cbsrz/engage/events/music-more and more information will be on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/music.more.cbsrz/>.

Chester Library

Spring 2019

ADULT PROGRAMS

Jan. 5 - "Esseential Oils with Elena Bigio." Learn how to relax from the holiday frazzle with the use of essential oils! This program is free and will take place at the library, 11 am. Snow date Jan 26. Registration encouraged.

Feb. 2 - "Shoreline Pallet Design." Join us Saturday morning and create a one of kind reclaimed wood sign with Abigail Roccapiore. There is a \$10 material fee and space is limited so please register. This program will take place at the library, 11 am. Snow date Feb. 9.

Mar. 2 - "Oreo Cookie Tasting." Ever wondered what some of those new crazy flavors tasted like but didn't want to buy the whole package? Now's your chance to sample a variety of flavors and tell us what you think. In honor of National Oreo Day March 6, this is a family event, 11:00 am at the library.

Mar. 27 - "Spring Bookchat with Marsha Bansavage." Facilitator and discussion leader Marsha Bansavage is back
continued on page 12

MARK REEVES - BUILDER - time for indoor winter projects!



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Chester Library... continued from page 11

for our spring book discussion (book to be determined). This program will take place at the library from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and is free, but registration is encouraged. Books will be available at the library on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mar. 30 – “Celebrate the Irish.” Kim Larkin of Klassic Kreations will talk about the history of famous Celtic foods, lore, Irish poetry, chocolate and the Irish pioneers who helped along the way. Samplings of Dublin tea, Irish bread, Blarney cheese, and beautiful Celtic art chocolates. This program is free and is open to the public and will take place at the Town Hall, 11:00 am. Registration required for this program.

Apr. 4 – “Bringing Turtles Out of Their Shells.” Pamela Meier, state-permitted wildlife rehabilitator and local resident, will talk about CT’s native turtles - many which live in our area - and bring along some chelonian friends, too. Learn how to identify difference species and genders, what to do (and not do) if you find a turtle, what rehabbing these ancient reptiles are all about, and how you can help. Suitable for ages 8+, registration encouraged. This program is free and is open to the public and will take place at the Town Hall, 6:30 pm.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Jan. 12 – “A Place Called Hope: Birds of Prey.” Two live birds of prey will be visiting the Chester Public Library: an owl and a hawk! This non-profit agency is a bird rehabilitation center that rescues feathered friends and releases them back into the wild when and if they are able. One of their goals is to also teach the public how to protect and respect wildlife. All ages. Registration required; program begins at 10:30 am.

Feb. 9 – “Dog Man and Bad Guys Celebration!” Karen Schumann will be joining us from RJ Julia bookstore to teach us how to draw our favorite characters from these beloved graphic novel series. You could even create a new Bad Guy character to join the crew, complete with a Suspect Rap Sheet! Ages 6-10. Registration required; program begins at 10:30 am.

Mar. 6 – “Kidscapades: The Fun Starts Here.” Elena Bigio will be here to host a super sensory and science playdate. Children will have the opportunity to rotate between different sensory stations and participate in a science experiment with an eruption component! The science portion of this program is not recommended for children under the age of 2. Registration required; program begins at 10:30 am.

Apr. 20 – “Rechenka’s Eggs.” Drop-in for this Easter Egg craft inspired by Patricia Polacco’s, Rechenka’s Eggs. Families can swing by the library during open hours to create one of these beautiful craft paper and doily eggs. Learn a fun art technique with water, markers and paintbrushes in lieu of watercolors! 10:30 – 2:30 pm.

***Story Hour with Miss Trish, Mondays at 10:30 am

Every Monday a themed story hour is held which includes read-alouds, finger-plays, movement, and a different sensory bin and craft each week. January through April we will be sure to create memorable artwork with your kiddos celebrating everything from snowflakes to spring flowers. There’s always time at the end to check out books and play with our new toys. All children and caregivers welcome. Registration is not required at this time.

Judge Motley Chester Preserve and Home Chosen for CT Freedom Trail

Judge Motley Chester Preserve and Home Chosen for CT Freedom Trail

The former property of Judge Constance Baker Motley (1921-2005), located at 99 Cedar Lake Rd in Chester, was recently selected as an historic site for the CT Freedom Trail, a state designation that places it among a select few sites that celebrate extraordinary individuals whose lives expanded the circle of freedom and opportunity for all Americans.

The 6.7 acre Judge Constance Baker Motley Preserve and house were identified as an important site that embodies the heroic life of Judge Motley. In the state's acknowledgement, it highlighted her path-breaking accomplishments, first as a civil rights attorney in the '50s and in the '60s for the NAACP legal Defense Fund with her courtroom work litigating over 200 desegregation cases in 11 southern states, and then her later service for

38 years as a New York Federal District Judge, the first African American woman to hold such a position.

In 2016, the Chester Land Trust purchased Motley's land across from her home, located at 99 Cedar Lake Rd. from the Motley Family Trust. Land Trust volunteers cleared the land space near the street to create a parking area with a picnic table for the public to enjoy, along with a kiosk that highlights and provides photos of Judge Motley's career and her time living in Chester (1965-2005). It is now known as the Constance Baker Motley Preserve. The house, also placed on the Freedom trail, is owned privately.

On November 14, 2018, the CT Freedom Trail Committee, under the state's Department of Economic & Community Development, approved the application submitted by the Chester Land trust for the preserve and her private home to be



listed on the CT Freedom Trail. A formal dedication will be held in the spring, 2019. The Motley Family purchased their seasonal Chester home in 1965 and quietly participated in local events and organizations until her death in 2005. For more details about her accomplishments see the Chester Land trust website. www.chesterlandtrust.org.


Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce Chili Fest

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 2, 2019 for the 23rd Annual Old Saybrook Chili Fest, when Main Street will be lined with chili competitors vying for the highly coveted title of "Best Chili."

The money raised from Chili Fest supports multiple charitable causes. The first is the C. Wilfred Hunter Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce to area students pursuing college or post high school education. Additionally, the top three winners earn a donation to their designated

charity. Over the years, this event has generated more than \$50,000 for the community. Applications and instructions for entering Chili Fest may be found on the Chamber web site, www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/chili-fest. Tickets are \$10 and serve as a voting ballot. They may be purchased at ballot stations along Main Street and at the Chamber office at 1 Main Street the week preceding the event.

Chili Fest is presented by Guilford Savings Bank and is held rain, snow, or shine along Main Street, Old Saybrook.



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Vista Life Innovations



Vista Life Innovations, a community based program dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities in achieving personal success is partnering with Project: Music Heals Us to present the third event in a series of three, *Portraits of Beethoven: Celebration Concert*. This event is generously sponsored by the Danielle Rose Paikin Foundation.

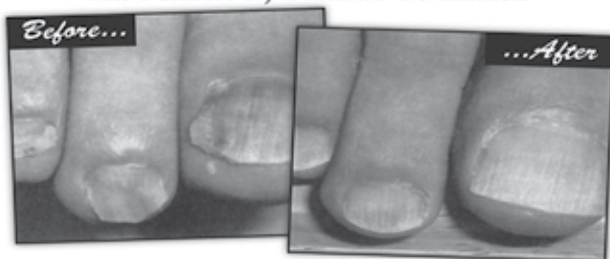
Taking place at The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook, this event will explore the music and life story of Ludwig van Beethoven through storytelling and music as performed and spoken about by the Solara Quartet. As an individual who overcame many obstacles - including significant disability - during his life, the lifeworks of Beethoven show what is possible to achieve with perseverance and determination - concepts that mate perfectly with the core philosophy of Vista Life Innovations.

The event is scheduled for 7 pm on Feb. 20 at The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center. To purchase tickets, please visit The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center's website at katharinehepburntheater.org.

For more information about this event, the three part series or Vista Life Innovations, contact Jessica Lillge at 860-399-8080 ext. 269.

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Earth Day Walk

Earth Day Walk and Carini/Scudder Preserves' clean-up

Saturday, April 20, 2019 (Earth Day is officially Monday April 22). Meet at Carini Preserve at 8:30 am. Use Water Street Public Parking. Bring good walking shoes and bags to collect litter. If you choose not to walk you may help with Carini and Scudder maintenance. Bring rake & clippers and label ALL. Walk will be 3 or 5 miles. www.chesterlandtrust.org

3rd Annual Huckleberry Finn Recyclable Raft Race



Bring: Children from four to four hundred.

The Chester Land Trust will supply recycled materials. There will be more information on this event which might include a parade... so come dressed as your favorite Mark Twain character and win a prize! Race and awards will end no later than noon, and awards will be given to winners in varied categories.

See Rules for the Race and any changes (including rain date) at www.chesterlandtrust.org email: probinson02@snet.net or call 860.526.2775

When: Saturday, May 18

Location: Carini Preserve (use Water Street Public Parking)

Time: 9:30 am

ALL contestants need to arrive and participate in raft building at 9:30. The race will begin at 10 a.m.

Initiative: Build and race a raft composed of recyclable materials.

Chester Rotary Takes Part in Liberty Bank's 2018 Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Rotary Club of Chester teamed with Liberty Bank to raise funds for the bank's 2018 Thanksgiving Food Drive. Chester Rotary's Food Drive Committee Co-Chairs, Fran Curto and Deb Vilcheck, successfully organized club activities that reached out to the individuals and Chester businesses who generously participated in Chester Rotary's fund-raising efforts. The money raised by Chester Rotary and the additional 25% donated by Liberty Bank totaled \$2,944.99. A check was presented to Rosie Biningger on November 20, 2018 for the Chester Community Fund. The resources offered by the fund provided members of our community with the opportunity to enjoy the many bounties that the holiday season offers.

Chester Rotarians are dedicated to providing funding and service to local, national and international charitable organizations. Please visit us at www.chesterrotary.org for more information regarding our activities, upcoming events and club membership.

Submitted by Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian



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The 8th Annual Run For Chris 5k with The Y

Saturday, June 22, in Essex, CT, starting at Essex Town Hall. We continue our official partnership with the YMCA in Westbrook, and The Run for Chris will once again be the Y's featured 5K, kicking off their Run Club's race season.

The race is held in memory of Christopher Belfoure, a 2005 graduate of Valley Regional High School, to raise money for The Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. While a student at VRHS, Chris went on several school trips abroad. These experiences served as catalysts for a strong desire to learn more about what lay beyond the scope of his horizon. Chris went on to major in History and Chinese Studies at West Virginia University, where he spent a considerable amount of time studying abroad in China and became fluent in Mandarin.

Sadly Chris lost his life at the age of 24, so to keep his inspiration and passion alive, the Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund was established in 2011. The fund is intended to perpetuate Chris's vision

by helping local area high school students travel abroad. Over 200 local high school students have benefited from the Fund over the past 7 years, with grants supporting their travels to such places as Costa Rica, France and Spain. In April, 2019, students from VRHS will go to France, supported by a \$3,000 grant. This year Westbrook High School students will also benefit from the Fund, as they host students from France and travel with them to Boston with the aid of a \$1000 grant. Both grants are made possible by proceeds from the run and from our sponsors. Save the date and join us for a fun family event, which also includes a Kids' Fun Run and other special activities for children. This is a terrific, scenic 5K course through historic Essex, CT. Walkers can also join in for a 2 mile walk. Awards and food for the runners, as well as a great raffle, round out the morning's festivities.

To register for the Run, go to www.aratrace.com. For more information, contact George Chapin, Race Director, at george_c@snet.net. Visit the website @ www.chrisbel4mf.com and www.facebook.com/runforchris/.

Chester Parks and Recreation

Celebrating Community through People, Parks and Programs!

Chester Parks and Recreation - 860-526-0013 extension 223, parkrec@chesterct.org for information or to save a space! Link to the forms below or visit our website for additional program information and registration forms: <http://chesterct.org/town-government/parks-recreation-commission/>

NORTH QUARTER PARK IS UNDER RENOVATION. PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH THE CONSTRUCTION SITES.

SUBSTITUTE LIFEGUARD AND CAMP COUNSELOR

POSITION: Chester Parks and Recreation is accepting letters of interest for the combined position of Substitute Lifeguard and Camp Counselor for the summer of 2019. Applicants must hold current Lifeguard Training certification or be completing the training by June, 2019. Successful applicants will perform duties as a Lifeguard and a Camp Counselor, based on the needs of the Department. Substitute employees will be considered first if a full-time seasonal position becomes available. The rate of pay starts at \$11.00 per hour and increases with experience.

Call 526-0013, extension 223 or e-mail parkrec@chesterct.org for a specific job description, pay rate, or with any questions. Please send a letter of interest regarding the positions above, including previous experience and availability from June 15 through August 26, by March 8, 2019 to:

Town of Chester, Parks and Recreation, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412 or e-mail to parkrec@chesterct.org. Participants do not need to be Chester residents to register for our programs!

ADULTS

BALLROOM DANCING ON MONDAYS AT THE CHESTER MEETING HOUSE! 6:30-7:30 pm on Mondays, March 11, 18, April 1, 8, 15 at the Chester Meeting House. Registration required in advance. \$50 fee is payable to the instructor Karen Pfrommer.

YOGA: All levels welcome, 6:00-7:00 pm on Tuesdays, through May 21 at the Chester Town Hall Community Room. Attend any class for \$10 per class payable to the instructor Annette Babek.

ADULT RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL: Preregistration required. Ages 16 through adults, 7:00-9:30 pm on Thursdays, through March 14 excluding school vacation days and school weather cancellations, at Chester Elementary School. \$10 Chester residents, \$15 non-residents.

AMERICAN RED CROSS CPR/AED/FIRST AID: Ages 11 through adults, Friday, January 18, 12:45-6:00 pm at the Chester Town Hall Community Room. \$45 for both classes. Programs that specify "pay the instructor directly" require the registration form returned to Chester Parks and Recreation, but payment may be made to the instructor at the program.

AGES 5 THROUGH 15

MARCH MADNESS FOR GRADES K THROUGH 6 BASKETBALL PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR PARENTS will be held on Friday, March 1, beginning at 5:15 pm! No registration required.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER'S TRAINING: Earn your certificate in one day! Grade 5 through age 15, 8:45 am-3:45 pm on Friday, March 8 at the Chester Town Hall Community Room. \$45.

March 7 is an early dismissal school day.

Join Chester Parks and Recreation for a 1:15 pm bus from Chester Elementary School, directly following the region 4 early dismissal, for a field trip to SpareTime in Bristol. This field trip is open to ALL students in grades 2 through 8 and Kindergarten and First Graders who have attended our Summer Camp. The excitement includes tenpin bowling (bumpers and inclines available for younger participants), a very active laser tag course, arcade games, and a pizza dinner! Participants may also bring their own food. We will return to the school at 5:45 pm.

Our experienced Camp Staff will supervise. The price is \$25 with a \$10 discount for all registered for Youth Basketball, the CIT program, or Babysitter's Training this winter!

On Wednesday, April 17, during school spring vacation week we will be taking a morning field trip to a 10:35 am YARD GOATS game! This program is for students in grades 4 through 8 and leaves at 8:30 am from the Chester Town Hall. The expected return time is 3:00 pm. The \$25

fee includes a hot dog lunch. Participants may also bring their own food and beverages. Supervision will be by our Summer Camp Staff. Let us know if you are interested NOW as we must purchase tickets soon!

KARATE: Ages 5 through 15, 5:00-6:00 pm on Mondays, session 4 = January 28, February 4, 11, 25, March 4; session 5 = March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8; session 6 = April 29, May 6, 13, 20, June 3 at the Chester Town Hall Community Room. \$45 per session payable to the instructor Tammy Marino.

MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER! Summer camp is open to residents of all area towns!

Tentative 2019 weekly schedule :

- June 24: grades 4 through 7
- July 8: grades 1 through 6
- July 15: grades 1 through 7
- July 22: grades k through 6
- July 29: grades 1 through 6
- August 5: grades k through 6
- August 12: grades 1 through 6

REGISTRATION: Call 860-526-0013, x223 or reply to this message at parkrec@chesterct.org for information or to reserve a space.

FOR A REGISTRATION FORM: visit <http://chesterct.org/town-government/parks-recreation-commission/> **OR** request a registration form from Chester Elementary School **OR** visit the Parks and Recreation Office on the second floor of the Town Hall.

RETURN REGISTRATION: By mail to Chester Parks and Recreation, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412 **OR** scan and e-mail to parkrec@chesterct.org **OR** send in with a student to the Chester Elementary School office **OR** bring to the office or locked mailbox on the second floor of the Chester Town Hall.

PAYMENT: May be cash **OR** check payable to "Chester Parks and Recreation" **OR** scroll down to the Summer Camp section of our web page at <http://chesterct.org/town-government/parks-recreation-commission/> and select the "DONATE" button to use a credit card.



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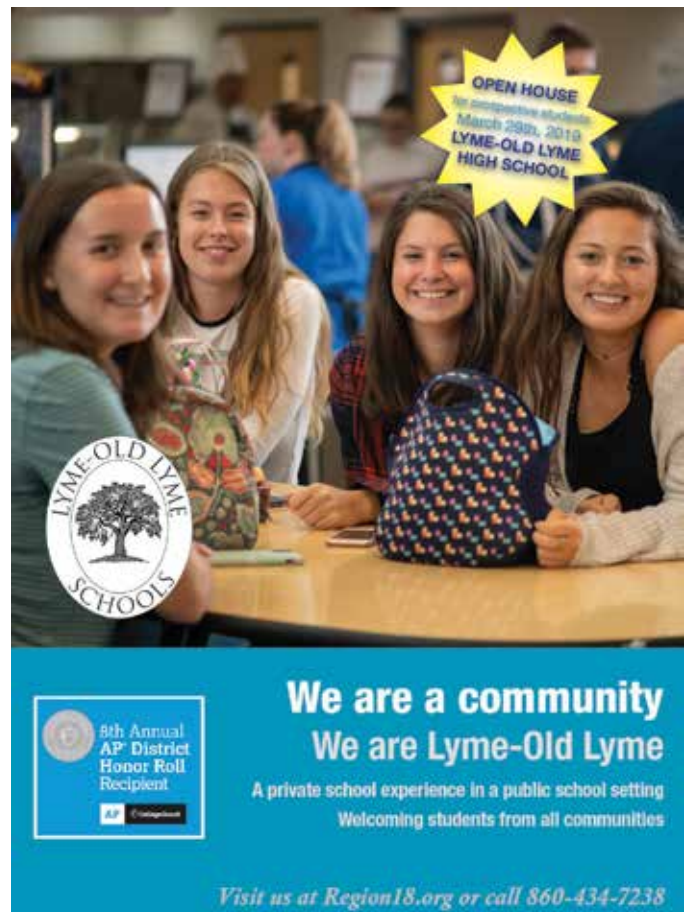
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Low Cost Taxi Vouchers Offer Greater Mobility

Estuary Transit District's (ETD) new taxi voucher program offers a new travel option which will improve the mobility of seniors and people with disabilities.

The program pays half of the cost of a taxi trip for those who qualify. ETD's partner, Curtin Transportation, offers wheelchair accessible vehicles to accommodate most mobility devices. Curtin offers service anywhere in Connecticut and is available seven days a week, twenty-four hours per day. "The intent is to provide a mobility option for the times, days and places

that 9 Town Transit does not operate", says Joseph Comerford, Executive Director of ETD. "While it is a higher cost than a Dial-A-Ride trip, it's ideal for those occasional trips to a medical specialist in Hartford, commuting home from work late in the evening or attending a family event on a Sunday".

While the intent is to supplement 9 Town Transit Dial-A-Ride service, there are no limits to the times or locations of the trips, as long as they are within Connecticut.

Users send their payment to ETD of either

\$25 or \$50, and ETD places double on an electronic voucher with Curtin Transportation. The user may then call Curtin Transportation to arrange travel.

Seniors age 60 or over automatically qualify for the program. People with a disability must be ADA paratransit certified, which can be done through an application process at www.9towntransit.com. Details on the taxi voucher program may also be found online or call (860) 510-0429 option 2 for more details.

UPDATE From BRAYCE

BRAYCE is a small but dynamic Cultural Exchange organization. Founded in 2005, we have dedicated our efforts to providing enriching educational opportunities for "at-risk" teenagers from favela communities in Brazil. Inspired by their Camp Hazen experience and with good English skills, BRAYCE kids secure good jobs, attend college to become teachers, entrepreneurs, lawyers and businessmen. Pauline Batista is currently completing a PhD at UConn, Thuane Sendreti is completing her course to become a Judge, in Rio.



Claudio and Luis have fun at the BRAYCE fundraiser in July

The slate for 2019 exchanges is already in place. We are thrilled to report that three BRAYCE kids from the 2018 Program have been invited back to camp for this summer. Claudio Cardoso returns as an Associate Counselor (AC) which is an official staff position! Joining the Leadership (LEA) Program are Thais Marques (project EduMais), Luis Andrade (project Uere) and Marcos da Silva (project Onda Solidária). First timer Lucas Santos (project EduMais) will attend Camp as a camper. By the end of the year BRAYCE will have facilitated 59 cultural exchanges.

It is important to note that the Camp Hazen Leadership Program is highly competitive with only 20 slots for a large domestic and international applicant pool. BRAYCE kids won these positions based purely on ability and merit.

Interested in volunteering for BRAYCE? You might consider helping at events, joining a committee or perhaps becoming a host family for a Brazilian student. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-526-9474 or at mcalder@brayce.org.

Margot Calder
BRAYCE 2018

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Chester Community Listings

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

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Dr. Robert Ballard - The Race to Save the Human Race by Sigrid Kun



Above center, increasing our oceans' productivity can provide the way to human survival.



Above right, each Nautilus expedition includes scientists, student interns, and educators.

Just back from the last leg of a 7 month-long expedition by his Corps of Exploration, Dr. Robert Ballard was at his Lyme, CT home - busy summarizing the 2018 series of expeditions by his 64-meter exploration vessel, the E/V Nautilus. Yes, he discovered the Titanic in 1985 (old news, he says, of what was actually a cover for a top secret naval operation). Yes, his work caused a wholesale change in how science was taught by uncovering the secrets of plate tectonics and hydro thermal vents (a revolutionary revelation evidencing that sunlight wasn't needed to support life). And the 30-year naval veteran and /geologist/undersea robotics developer/explorer has for so many years revealed to the world human history lost beneath the sea - with over 35 National Geographic television specials and countless books. After 150+ expeditions, starting at age 17, retirement isn't in the works for the 76-year old.

Our Oceans - The Last Frontier

Dr. Ballard's unrelenting pursuit of ocean education and exploration through his non-profit organization, the Ocean Exploration Trust ("OET"), is urgent. There are sobering facts: 95% of the Earth's population lives on less than 5% of the Earth's surface; farmland is being replaced with housing tracts; while 95% of all living space is located in largely unexplored international waters. But 90% of all large, predatory fish have been hunted down and killed. The carrying capacity of our planet is already at the brink. By 2050 we will not have enough food to feed everyone.

The Wichita, Kansas-born explorer explains that the Earth's waters, largely unexplored, are the human race's final hope. "I'm worried about the human race," he says. "The big question is, will the human race survive? The Earth will be fine. The planet is a creature. It was born. It evolves. It will die. It just has a long life expectancy. But there's no Plan B for the human race." The key, he says, is to move from hunting/gathering in the ocean to creating productive waters via deep sea farming - just as society thousands of years ago moved away from hunting and gathering on the Earth's lands and into organized food production. Every Ballard/OET/Nautilus expedition provides vital information as to how our Earth's waters can provide for the survival of humanity. The programs run on

multiple tracks; internships, community STEM and STEAM (to include the Arts) programs, and fellowships. Each ocean expedition includes scientists, student interns and educators as part of the Nautilus corps. The OET website is maintained on a 24/7 basis while the Nautilus is at sea to provide for live communication and interaction. During the last expedition, over 24,000 questions were answered live. Each expedition cultivates a new set of students and mentors (both on and off-board). "The key is to do it wave after wave after wave," he says. To make a difference you needed to reach millions of students.

No Boundaries

Dr. Ballard's message, however, is about more than just the ocean. Life's lessons include understanding one's self. Dr. Ballard is dyslexic. For quite a while, he didn't even know it. It took the book "*The Dyslexic Advantage*" to explain me to me. It was a strange but enlightening experience. Those affected (which is 10% of the population) are often loathe to admit it. To him, it is a gift - an interesting advantage. "I created a dyslexic world that I excel in," he explains. Dyslexia has caused him to rely on visualization and memorization. "It's perfect," he says. "In the sea, it's all dark...it's pitch black. But the water goes away and I see everything." He recalls a dive in 1986 to explore the Titanic. Everything went wrong. No sonar. No tracking. Landing 12,000 feet below surface in the mud, there were no signs of the Titanic to the other crew members. "It's over there," pointed Ballard. And, indeed, the Titanic was.

Dr. Ballard is also a keen proponent for empowering women. As he puts it "males as top leaders is by their design." Empowering women, he maintains, is a key to saving the human race. Accordingly, he mandates that 50% of his team be comprised of women.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Dr. Ballard is a problem solver - from 15 years spent restoring an earlier home to jigsaw puzzles (even when the 1,000 pieces are the same shade of blue, with no border pieces, holes in the puzzle, and extra pieces just for kicks.) But he doesn't have the ultimate answer. Will the human race survive? "I am a realist. The Earth is becoming aware of us and deeming us as a threat," he observes. "We still have time but indications are we are going in the wrong direction." What can we do? "Look at the first 12 feet around you. Look at what you are doing," urges the avid recycler. "Leave things better than you found them. That's what my grandmother taught me."

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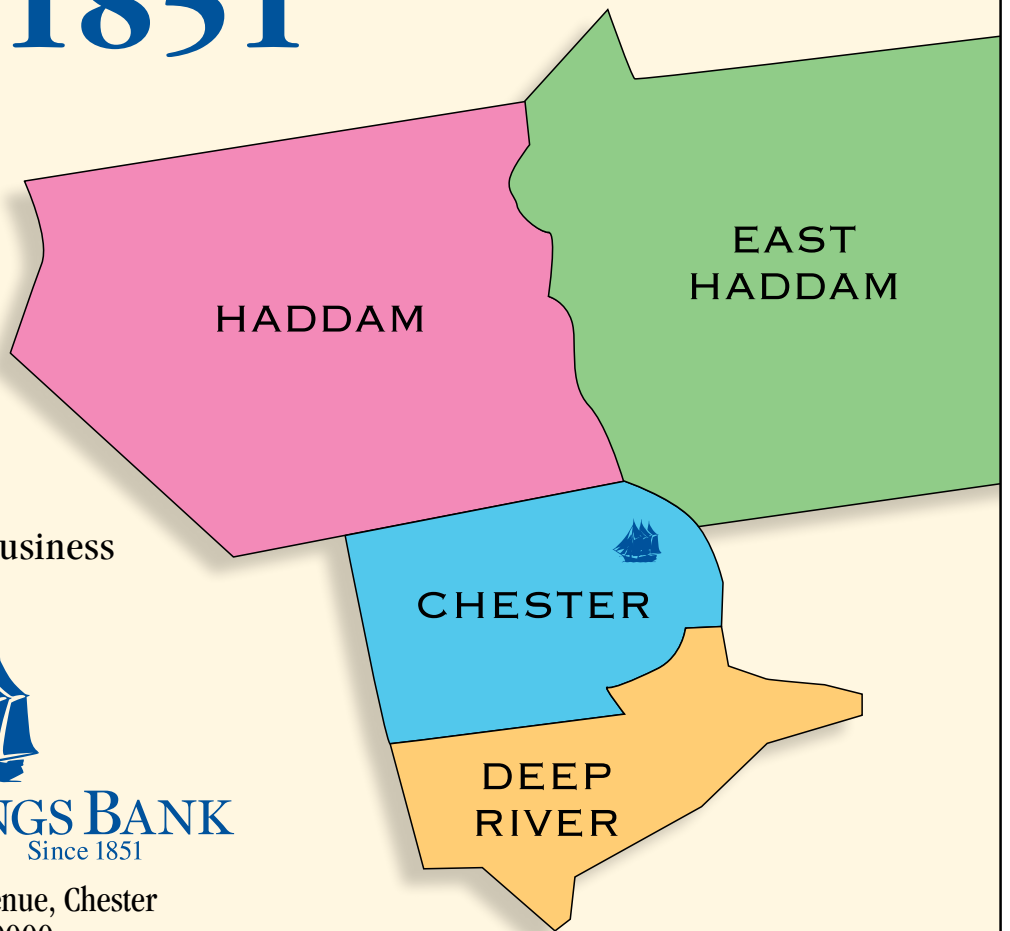


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