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First Selectwoman's Corner

Hello Chester!

It is officially fall in New England - kids are back to school, apple picking, leaf raking, dark at 4:30 pm, municipal elections, Valley football, field hockey, soccer and other sports, Halloween, Veterans Day parades, and many other things to keep us busy. Of course it is 87 degrees as I write this - but by the time you read it the weather will potentially be more seasonal. We have been very busy in town lately and there are many new and exciting things to tell you about. First and foremost, however, I want to thank you, the citizens of Chester, for working with myself and all of the other employees and volunteers, elected or not, in continuing to make and keep Chester such a special community. You make Chester truly a unique and vibrant place, and I am honored to work on your behalf. Here's the latest:

STATE BUDGET AND TAXES

Unfortunately, we still do not have a state budget that will be signed by the Governor. No matter your politics or party, this is a maddening situation for all. Overall, Chester is in good financial shape, thanks to careful budgeting and smart planning from current and past Boards of Selectmen and Finance. We have been conservative in our spending and look for additional revenue sources and savings opportunities at every turn. Regardless of what we do on the local level, however, in the various budget proposals

over the past few months Chester stands to lose anywhere from \$0 to \$750,000 in state revenue, not including any contribution for teacher retirements or other local items that may affect our taxes. Needless to say, that is a pretty big span of unknown. We will continue to follow the situation closely and are prepared to deal with whatever the final result of the budget negotiation brings. I will continue to advocate for moderation in any cuts made by the state and will keep you informed as we know more.



Lauren Gister,
First Selectwoman

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The public participation and visioning portion of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is about to begin - a little later than we had envisioned, but imminent. There will be pop up events around town, a couple of public workshops, a simple survey, and other creative and fun events to gather public input regarding residents' vision of Chester for the future. We have contracted with Milone & MacBroom, a well-regarded consulting firm with vast experience in community planning, to lead us in this effort. The end result will be an updated and restructured POCD, our statutorily **continued on page 3**



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required guidance document for future planning, and a comprehensive Town Plan which links the goals of the POCD with the financial planning elements necessary to prioritize projects and bring them to fruition. Please participate - we need everyone's input!

STREETLIGHT CONVERSION PROJECT

LED Streetlights have been ordered and are on the way! We estimate that the new lights will be installed sometime in October and will provide better quality light, less light pollution, and a more direct lighting which will keep excess light from creeping into our dining rooms and bedrooms from the street. We purposely chose the warmest color and lowest wattage lighting to keep some subtlety and also provide for safety. We expect to see substantial savings on the utility bill, with a smaller amount for the first couple of years growing to more than \$25-30,000 per year by year 4. Thank you to the ETeam for all of your hard work.

MAIN STREET PROJECT

We are still working toward the next phase of the Main Street Project, which will re-do Main Street from the new bridge to the Laurel Hill Cemetery, with a short venture up the beginning of Maple Street past the flag pole. This project will also include coordination with Connecticut Water Company for replacement of a 100 year old water main. As you may be aware, we applied

for a substantial transportation grant to accomplish this section, and although recommended for funding by the local Council of Governments, we are still answering questions and discussing the details with CT DOT. There are several other towns in the queue, and even with all approvals in place, we will still be waiting for state bond money. There really is no way to accurately estimate what will happen with the timelines until there is an approved state budget, although I have been advised that these funds should remain available. So we move full speed ahead with design and planning (for which we have already budgeted and allocated funds) in anticipation that the funding will still be available when we need it. We will keep you updated as new information arrives. A bit of good news, however, is that we have arranged to temporarily connect the new decorative lights installed at the bridge to electrical service, which means that we will not be forced to wait for the next phase of Main Street in order to activate those lights.

LIBRARY/NORTH QUARTER PARK

The Board of Selectmen recently forwarded the Library/North Quarter Park project to the Board of Finance for financial analysis and recommendation to referendum. We felt strongly that the project needed official analysis of the finances and that this wonderful but expensive project requires the input of all residents. **continued on page 4**



Tamera "T.J." Jackson
Owner & Team Member



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First Selectwoman's Corner... continued from page 3

We are in a very different situation than we expected several years ago, particularly with the fiscal uncertainty coming from the State. By the time you read this, the Board of Finance will have held a special meeting to formally review the cost estimates and evaluate them against our grand list and tax situation. The Chairman of the Library Building Committee and myself recently attended the Annual Meeting of the State Library Board in Hartford, where we requested and were granted a one year extension of the one million dollar library building/reimbursement grant. We are trying to keep all options open while planning for the financial health and well-being of Chester. Stay tuned.

OTHER NEWS

- Check out the new playground equipment in North Quarter Park! This spinner was installed to replace several broken items and has been a hit with the kids. The new equipment is easily movable in the future depending on the future of the North Quarter Park/Library project.
- The Chester Meeting House has had a lot of upgrades and changes recently. Last year we worked on safety issues with electricity and the stage, bought new fire retardant curtains and painted the backstage. Over the summer we installed

insulation for energy savings. Currently, the old furnaces under the floor are being replaced with a new efficient boiler, air handlers, chimney and oil tank, while the old underground oil tank will be officially and safely abandoned next spring. Thanks to the Meeting House Committee and the ETeam!

- We are working on a contract for the installation of 385 new solar panels on the roof of Chester Elementary School, to be installed during summer 2018. This project should provide approximately 42% of the electricity for the elementary school, will have an active educational component for the students and will save Chester taxpayers hundreds of thousands in electricity bills over the next 20 years.

Whew - there really is a lot going on around here. Please be safe, have a great season, and continue to bring new ideas and great camaraderie to our great town. Come to Town Talks, visit me at Town Hall, or email or call with questions or to discuss items of concern. I am here for you.

Best wishes,
Lauren

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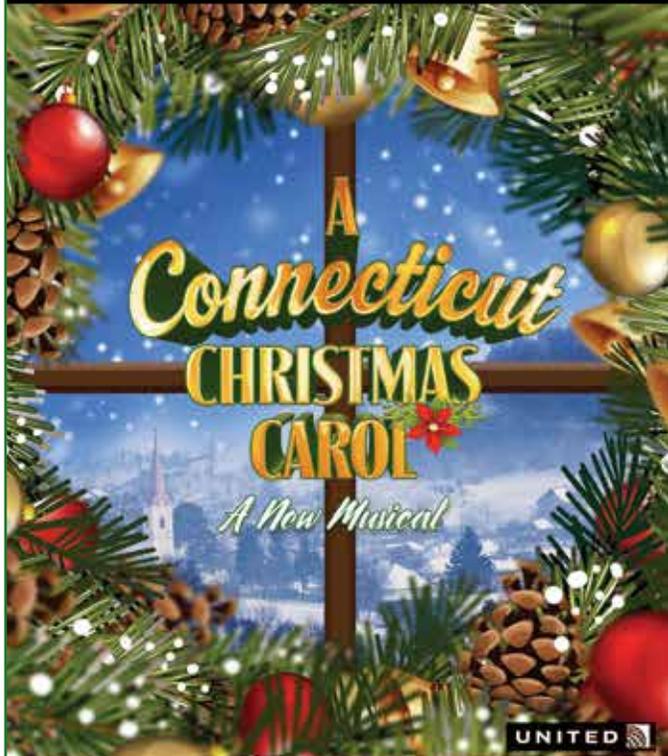
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What Happens in the Chester Tax Office in October, November & December

Believe it or not, we stay busy during what is considered the “slow” months of the year. We first receive the list of aircraft based at Chester Airport, and my Assistant, Kristie, stays very busy with the mailing of approximately 110 letters and applications for the aircraft registrations. After the applications are mailed, then they come back to our office for processing, which is a multi-step process. Each application must have a matching copy of FAA registration, which must match exactly to their CT info that the aircraft owner is providing. A decal is issued after all info matches and fee is paid. The money obviously must then be recorded and deposited. Reminders go out to anyone who did not remember to send in or deliver their CT application. All this info is recorded on a special form to be mailed to the CAA, Connecticut Airport Authority, in the beginning of January each year, with a follow up final form mailed the following October each year. We get to chat with aircraft owners and that is a fun, and informative time and can be with people from all over the country, adding more interest to the whole process.

We are also following up on delinquent statements to those who forgot or could not pay the July taxes at the proper time. Some formal letters are sent, warning tax payers who are delinquent that their property could go up for TAX SALE if payments are not paid in a timely fashion. And in between all of this, we are updating our database for our 80 accounts that might still have Benefit Assessment bills to pay, and/or Usage bills. These special bills are both due during October, but we attempt to mail them in mid-September. We must verify that none of the 80 accounts have changed hands, so that our data base is as up to date as possible, prior to us mailing out those bills. We are able to combine any Benefit Assessment and Usage when the address matches, thus saving on envelopes, and postage. These payments start trickling in shortly after the bills are mailed. Then the payments are posted on the same system as our tax bills, but with a different category for reports. The money for Benefit Assessment goes to the Town of Chester, and the money from the Usage bills goes directly to the WPCA to cover its yearly expenses.

Just about the time the aircraft billing and the Benefit Assessment and Usage bills are paid, we start looking to see what unusual accounts that are still outstanding for a number of years should go on our “suspense” list. This list is prepared in December and given to Finance Department shortly after that for their approval. These accounts then do officially go on the suspense list for that particular year. These bills still may and do in many cases get paid, but we no longer need to

actively pursue collecting them. Many of these bills are MV bills that do indeed get paid when the taxpayer needs to register a MV in the State of CT or one of the states that help us collect by not allowing a car to be registered in their state unless our CT taxes are first paid. There are about 15 states that work with CT to help all towns to collect back taxes.

During these same months, we are taking in payments for either early January installments or for some of the taxes that were still delinquent. So, in summary, we are never bored. We work hard to help with questions, and printouts and also with those who are thinking ahead and trying to get their tax information ready for the inevitable federal taxes that come due in a few short months. So,

even if we are busy, we try to stay available to help the taxpayers of Chester with whatever question or problem they might have with taxes. Enjoy our fall colors as they come and go and remember that second half taxes are due in January, and we do not mail out new bills for those RE taxes that must be paid. We can email a reminder to whoever asks, so just provide us with your email address and the physical address of the taxes of the property that you are paying and we will email reminders around the 15th of each January. Let's hope it will be a beautiful fall, weather wise and color wise and a gentle winter on all of us New Englanders. Take care!

Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector and Kristie Valentino, Tax Clerk

Municipal Elections - Absentee Ballots

If you're going to be away during the Municipal Elections on November 7, 2017, absentee ballots become available from the Town Clerk's Office beginning October 6th.

Elections will be held at Town Hall on the second floor. Town Hall offices will be closed for operations on November 7th except the Town Clerk's Office, which will be open for election purposes only. The polls will be open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. Voters must bring proper identification. Remember...every vote counts! The last day to register to vote in person is October 31st at 8:00 pm.



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DEPARTMENT	EXTENSION / NUMBER	CONTACT INFO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jenny Watrous	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	860-526-2220	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 Stephanie Romano, 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
TAX CLERK Kristie Valentino	513	
TOWN CLERK Debra Germini Calamari	511	TownClerk@chesterct.org
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK Sharon Echtman	511	
TREASURER Elizabeth Netsch	214	Treasurer@chesterct.org
WPCA		wpca@chesterct.org

www.chesterct.org

News from Chester Merchants

The Chester Merchants group is always busy attracting visitors to our picturesque Chester Center. We do this through our own businesses as well as organizing special events, such as these:

First Fridays: The First Friday of each month, the shops and galleries of Chester Center are open until late, with unique events.

Halloween Carnival, Friday, Oct. 27, with Chester PTO: In the Center (where Main Street will be closed to traffic), the PTO will host a kids' carnival with games and Halloween treats. The shops and galleries will hand out Halloween candy. We're anticipating dancing in the street and fun throughout the center.

Chester Holiday Market, Sundays, Nov. 26 - Dec. 17, with Chester Sunday Market organizer Sue Hotkowski: From 11 am to 2 pm, enjoy special holiday happenings throughout Chester Center shops, galleries and restaurants while you purchase from local farmers and food artisans.

Starry Starry Night Festival, Friday, Dec. 1: From the Scouts to the Rotary and the school students, the whole town gets involved in this annual tree-lighting and caroling in Chester Center, beginning at 5 pm.

You are welcome to attend our Chester Merchants monthly meetings on the first Wednesday morning of each month. You can sign up for our email list for notification of meetings and more by writing to chestermerchants@gmail.com. Other ways to be informed are through our visitchesterct.com website and [Facebook.com/visitchesterct](https://www.facebook.com/visitchesterct).

Chester Clean Energy Team

Do you ever wonder how much energy you lose through leaky doors, windows and ductwork? Do you suspect that your insulation isn't making the grade? What about your major appliances? Wouldn't it be great if you could have an expert give your home an energy checkup - and do some of the work right then and there? You can.

In one easy visit, utility-authorized technicians will evaluate your home's energy performance and install energy-saving measures such as sealing air leaks and installing energy-efficient lighting, faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads, and more. The Chester Clean Energy Team will pay, to the first 30 households that have an audit, \$75 (half of the usual \$149 fee) towards a Home Energy Solutions energy audit and weatherization service.

Second Annual Tri-Town Veterans Day Parade

All Veterans Welcome

Freedom Isn't Free



Thank You, Veterans

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAMILIES AND JOIN US

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Chester - Community Listings

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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

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

News from Friends of Chester Library

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

The Friends of Chester Library once again will host its Holiday Book Sale. It's a great way to purchase gift-quality, new, and like-new books in a wide variety of genres at reasonable prices for your holiday gifts. The sale will open Friday morning, Dec. 1, at the library and will end at the Holiday Market in Chester Center on Sunday, Dec. 3.

Please help us by donating new or like-new books, audiobooks, movies and even games (they need to be gift quality). You can leave them at the library during open hours any time this fall. All proceeds support Chester Library's programs and services.

MORE HOLIDAY SHOPPING IDEAS

How about gift-wrapping your books in a gift book bag? The attractive black bags designed by the Friends of the Library are water-resistant, zippered, and hold at least 4 books (or whatever else you want to carry in them). The cost is \$10 and they're available at the library. The bags were created in memory of Helen LaFlair, longtime Chester resident who was an avid reader and active Chester Library volunteer. Helen's comment, "I'm never alone if I have a book,"

reflected the companionship provided by her reading materials.

Do you buy online? Amazon will donate .05% of your purchase total to the Friends of Chester Public Library, IF you make your purchases through AmazonSmile. All you need to do is sign up and remember to make your purchases through AmazonSmile (we've found it works best to just bookmark AmazonSmile and use it as the way we regularly get to Amazon). Your account remains just as it has been (no new account number or password to remember), purchasing is the same as always, but a bit of philanthropy is added to the mix. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com>.

HOLIDAY GIVING

Please consider adding the Friends of Chester Public Library to your gift list this year. All donations to the Friends are tax-deductible and are used solely for library needs not paid for by the town budget, such as DVDs, museum passes and programs. This year, for instance, the Friends paid for a computer for the library director, which she needed but it wasn't in the town budget. The Friends are very grateful for any gift in any amount at any time. Thank you!

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Chester Public Library

Adult Programs

Oct. 23, "One of Windsor: The Untold Story of America's First Witch Hanging." Beth Caruso will discuss her latest book which is based on the life of Alice "Else" Young and the possible events that led to the first witch hanging in the American Colonies. Beth will also incorporate a lecture on the Connecticut Witch Trials. This program will take place at the Town Hall, 7:00 pm.

Oct. 30, "The Truth Behind Investigating the Unknown." Eastern CT Paranormal Group will share their experiences investigating paranormal activity, as well as time to share your paranormal stories. This program will take place at the Town Hall, 7:30 pm.

Nov. 2, "A Connecticut Christmas: Celebrating the Holiday in Classic New England Style." Photographer and Chester resident Caryn Davis will be selling and signing copies of her new book. This event will be at the Town Hall, 6:30 pm.

Nov. 2, International Game Day. The library will be hosting a day of board games. Come by anytime with friends and enjoy playing some new games.

Nov. 30, Holiday Wreath Making. Make a holiday wreath to hang on your door, 7 - 8 p.m.

Dec. 4, Ugly Sweater Creation. Bring in a sweater or sweatshirt and we will supply the "ugly" decorations. A prize will be given for most creative, 6 - 8 pm.

Dec. 7, Jewelry Night. Amber Forrest will provide materials for you to create a holiday gift for yourself or someone special, 7 - 8 pm.

Children's Programs

Oct. 31, Trick-or-Treat. Stop by the library for some Halloween treats.

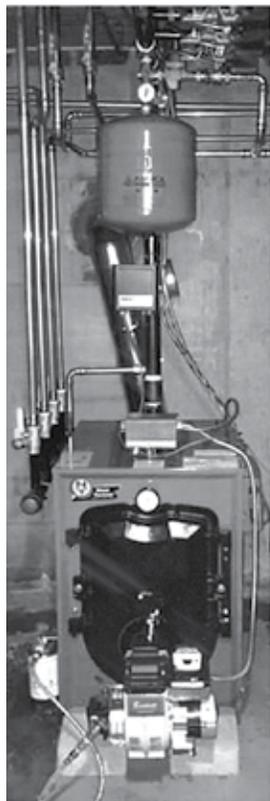
Nov. 29 & 30, Children's Holiday Crafts. Children will be able to create a holiday gift for someone special, 4 - 6 pm.

Children's story hour every Monday 10:30 - 11:30 am.
All ages welcome.

***As of January 1, 2018, the library will introduce new hours.**

Please note the following:

Monday	10 am - 8 pm,
Tuesday - Friday	10 am - 6 pm,
Saturday	9 am - 3 pm.



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September 28, October 5, 12, 26, November 2/3:15-4:15 pm/
grades K-6/\$45 (session 2 = 11/9, 16, 30, 12/7, 14)

KARATE FOR TEENS,

September 25, October 2, 6, 23, 30/5:00-6:00 pm/ages 11-
15/\$45 (session 2 - 11/13, 20, 27, 12/4, 11)

AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER'S TRAINING,

Session 2: March 9/8:45 am-3:45 pm/ages 11-15/\$45

VOLLEYBALL,

November 17, December 1, 8/3:15-4:15 pm/grades 3-6/\$10

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November 7/8:30 am-3:30 pm/grades 1-8/\$48

LACROSSE,

March 8/1:15-4:15 pm/grades 2-8/\$10

Adult Programs

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November 6, 13, 20, 27/6:00-7:00 pm/\$40

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September 19 through May 22/5:45-6:45 pm/\$10 per class

AMERICAN RED CROSS CPR/AED/FIRST AID,

October 19 & 20/5:30-8:00 pm/\$45 (session 2 = 3/22 & 23)

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Rookie Basketball Clinic 2018, Grades K and 1
January 5, 19, 26,
February 2, 9, 23/3:15-4:15 pm/grades K & 1/\$25
Due November 28th

Hotshot Contest,
January 12/1:15-4:15 pm/grade 3-age 15/\$15

Child & Family Agency's Holiday House Tour



SAVE THE DATE! DECEMBER 9, 2017

The Essex River Valley Auxiliary of Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT announces its 14th biennial Essex Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 9, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The tour will feature several beautiful village homes, all decorated for the holidays and within walking distance from the Town Hall for easy access to village shops and restaurants as well.

Essex Historical Society's Pratt House and the Connecticut River Museum will also be open free to ticket holders. The John Pratt II Homestead is a fully furnished historic home that was started in 1701 and finished in 1732. The Connecticut River Museum will feature, for the 24th year in a row, its remarkable model railroad exhibit created by noted artist and railroad buff, Steve Cryan, who usually makes annual changes to his delightful work. Enticing boutique wares for everyone's shopping list and a small café at Essex Town Hall will also merit exploring.

For more information about the tour or the Agency, and to purchase tickets online, please visit: www.childandfamilyagency.org or call 860-443-2896 x1403.

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Tri-Town Youth Services



Tri-Town Youth Services and the Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition are excited to announce six new coalition work groups forming this fall. If you are interested in the quality

of life in our community, please consider getting involved! We are seeking fresh perspectives, new ideas and short-term projects are available. Please call Allison Abramson for more information at 860-526-3600.

PARENT ADVISORY GROUP

The Parent Advisory Group will listen to parent concerns and plan local talks and events to address our needs. Topics we may address include social media, healthy boundaries; anxiety and depression; and substance use prevention. Parents will also take a deep dive into the 40 Developmental Assets: what they are, how to build them, and which are most commonly lacking among youth in our community.

YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

We cannot prevent teen substance use, bullying or youth suicide without input from the young people in our community! We invite John Winthrop and Valley students to join our coalition. Share your stories of teen life: what you love about our community and what you wish were better. Receive leadership training, learn about the 40 Developmental Assets and work side-by-side with community leaders to solve some of our area's biggest

challenges. Find your voice, share your ideas and help make our schools and our neighborhoods even better.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS GROUP

Can we address the concept of "wellness" as a community? That is the challenge for the Community Wellness Group! This team will look at the community through a holistic lens, with concern for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our neighbors. The Community Wellness Group will develop new programs that promote and support stress management, self-care and overall good health.

School Partnership Team

Tri-Town's great work with Region 4 continues! Support our schools as they develop an incredible calendar of classroom lessons, special assemblies, and family events centered on positive climate, self-confidence, coping skills, and drug and alcohol awareness. Help us expand our mentoring programs to support more young people.

POLICY TASK FORCE

The Policy Task Force thinks creatively about how state and local laws or ordinances, or school policies can be used to reduce the risk of substance use among residents of Chester, Deep River and Essex. Developing laws or ordinances to limit availability of drugs or alcohol to youth is one part of this work. Connecting teens to early intervention and treatment is another.

Pack 13 - Chester/Deep River Cub Scouts



Cub Scout Pack 13 in Chester/Deep River is, dedicated to the growth and development of boys in grades K-5. Through close interaction with our local schools, towns people and the Chester/Deep River Boy Scout Troop 13, Cub Scouts in Pack 13 are exposed to wonderful opportunities for physical, mental and intellectual development.

Most of all - Everything is focused on FUN! You'll be amazed at what one hour a week can do for the boys and the parent/child relationship. Boys involved with Cub Scouts are all given the opportunity to learn to be a leader.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT PACK 13 & CUB SCOUTS

- This year, Pack 13 has been a part of the Chester & Deep River community for 49 years, and our brother Boy Scout Troop 13 has been in Chester & Deep River for over 100 years!
- Pack 13 serves all boys grades K-5 & Everyone is Welcome.
- The Pack meets once a month as a group, usually on the 2nd Thursday of the month. We meet from 7-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Chester (provides a space to meet)
- Dens are made up of boys of the same grade and rank. Dens usually meet 1-3 times each month to work

on requirements, take trips or do service projects.

- This year Pack 13 is planning community service projects, to attend a Robotics Day at the CT Science Center, Hartford Wolfpack game, springtime rocket launch day and minor league baseball game hopefully with a campout on the outfield.
- Training is required for all adult volunteer leaders, and is provided by both the Pack and the Boy Scouts of America Council office.

INFORMATION

For more information please see our Pack Website: <http://cspack.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unithome.aspx?UID=7708>

Troop 13 - Chester/Deep River Boy Scouts



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

SUMMER CAMP 2017

Troop 13 attended June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford, CT for Summer Camp on June 25-30. The boys enjoyed swimming, boating, archery, sports, and camping. 21 scouts earned 62 merit badges during the week. Here is a sample of what they earned: Welding, archery, canoeing, swimming, archeology, small boat sailing, sustainability, robotics, leatherwork, fishing, camping, rifle & shotgun shooting.

2017 NATIONAL BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE

Nine Boy Scouts from Troop 13 and Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Rutty joined with other boys from Connecticut to form one of three troops from the Connecticut Rivers Council to attend the National Boy Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Mount Hope, West Virginia. While at the Jamboree the scouts had the opportunity to meet and camp with Boy Scouts from around the country and several visiting countries. They enjoyed canopy tours, a hike to the Garden Grounds, took part in highland games, mountain biking, rock climbing, zip-lining, and earned merit badges. They also performed a Day of Service to the town of Lewisburg, WV where they spent a day constructing a Community Park Trail. All who attended the Jamboree had a very good time and experienced a lot the Summit had to offer.

INFORMATION

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

To download previous issues of Chester Events visit www.eventsmagazines.com and download the issue you desire!



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Valley Seniors Teach Robotics to Kids in Haiti



Valley Regional High School seniors: (left to right) Patrick, Rocket and Sam teaching a robotics workshop, this past summer, to children at the Deschapelles Community Library, Haiti.

Photo by Michelle Parr Paulson.

How is it that three local boys come to know that no matter your background or culture, kids everywhere share the same emotions and creative spirit? By venturing to Haiti to teach their passion for robotics to children.

Valley Regional High School Seniors Sam Paulson, Nick (Rocket) Otte, and Patrick Myslik from Chester, traveled to

Deschapelles, Haiti this past summer to teach a workshop in robotics to thirty kids, ages 8 to 14.

The one week workshop was held at the new Deschapelles Community Library in cooperation with the Sister Cities Essex Haiti (SCEH) Lego project - one of several ongoing SCEH projects in Deschapelles, Haiti.

On the first workshop day, Sam, Rocket and Patrick, with help from an interpreter, demonstrated the components of the robot and the operating software. By week's end, the kids advanced to a fully operating robot with grabber mechanisms, so the robot could pick things up.

"Patrick, Rocket and I all thought it was awesome to share something we are passionate about. We felt immense gratification knowing when we leave, these kids will have skills to further their own robotics abilities and teach themselves," Sam wrote in their blog about their experience, Deschapelles Robotics Initiative - for full account: www.robo-deschapelles.com.

Sister Cities Essex Haiti is a nonprofit organization based in Essex. Essex has a Sister City relationship with Deschapelles which formed in 2010 and collaborates with the people of Deschapelles on projects that expand educational and cultural opportunities. For more information about SCEH: www.sistercitiesessexhaiti.org.
By Brenda Floyd

Chester Rotary Announces 2017 Citizenship Award Winners



The Rotary Club of Chester is proud to announce the recipients of its 2017 Citizenship Award. Each year this award is given in the form of a scholarship to two graduating high school seniors who are residents of the Town of Chester. This year's award

recipients are Monique Johnson, the daughter of Christian and Allison Johnson, and Michael Leffingwell, the son of Peter and Kimberly Leffingwell. Each recipient was presented with a \$2,500 scholarship at Valley Regional High School's Senior Awards Night held on June 7, 2017. The recipients and their families were also honored by the Chester Rotary at a dinner held on July 26, 2017.

Both Monique and Michael have displayed the principles and values of Rotary in their daily activities. These include community involvement, scholastic achievement and athletic achievement that exemplifies Rotary's "Service Above Self" maxim. The Rotary Club of Chester is pleased to recognize these two outstanding students. Submitted by Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian

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

VISIT CHESTER MUSEUM AT THE MILL

So much is new in our Museum exhibits this year, we hope you've been able to visit at least once if not several times!

Until the end of October, the Museum will be open on Saturdays from 1 to 4 pm and Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. We then open the doors for the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving Day to allow families and friends to both re-live and learn the Chester history that we share. Admission is free (though donations are welcome!). Come reminisce about "old Chester" with your family. Thanksgiving hours are 10 am to 4 pm on Friday, Nov. 24 and Saturday, Nov. 25. This is also a great time to purchase Chester publications and DVDs for holiday gift-giving.

MEMBERSHIP OPENS OUR DOORS

Now Chester Historical Society members can consider a visit to Chester Museum at The Mill at times other than normal museum hours (Sat 1-4, Sun 10-4). In season, off-season, we'll work with you to schedule a visit tailored to your needs and times. Call Diane Lindsay at: 860-526-2443 to start the process.

WATERHOUSE GRIST MILL PROGRAM

We are very excited to present a program by Nathan Jacobson

on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 4 pm at the Meeting House. Nate is the builder of the incredible model of the Waterhouse Grist Mill, now on view at the Museum, and he has also written a book, "The Waterhouse Grist Mill Saga," which we have just published. Through a Powerpoint program, Nate will explain how he believes the grist mill was constructed and how it operated. Anyone who is fascinated by how things worked in the days before power machinery (remember, this Chester grist mill was built in the early 1700s!) should absolutely plan to attend.

HELP US SUPPORT CHESTER HISTORY

For 47 years, our all-volunteer organization, despite a modest operating budget, has preserved, protected and interpreted Chester's rich history. We depend on your support through memberships, tax-deductible donations, and participation in our fundraisers. Our annual dues are just \$30 per family, \$20 per individual. Membership forms are on our website: chesterhistoricalsociety.org.

Tax-deductible donations in any amount can be mailed at any time to: Chester Historical Society, PO Box 205, Chester 06412.



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Smoking & Eye Disease

Smoking tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, or pipes) can cause lung disease, heart disease, cancer, and many other serious health problems. But did you know that smoking can also harm your eyes?

- **Cataracts** - Smoking increases your risk for getting cataracts. Cataracts is the clouding of your eye's naturally clear lens that causes blurry vision and makes colors look dull, faded, or yellowish. Cataracts are removed in surgery.
- **Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)** - This disease happens when a part of the retina called the macula is damaged. You lose your central vision and cannot see fine details. Sometimes medicine or surgery can help certain people with AMD from getting worse, but there is no cure. Studies show that smokers and ex-smokers are more

likely to get AMD than people who never smoked.

- **Diabetic retinopathy** - Smokers who also have diabetes risk getting diabetic retinopathy. Diabetic retinopathy is when blood vessels in the eye are damaged causing blurry or distorted vision and possibly blindness. Treatment includes medication or surgery.
- **Optic nerve problems** - People who smoke risk having optic nerve problems. The optic nerve connects the eye to the brain. Damage to this nerve can lead to blindness.
- **Dry eye** - This is when your eyes don't produce enough tears. Smoking with dry eye will make your eyes more likely to feel scratchy, sting, burn, or be red.

- **Uveitis** - Smoking can lead to a disease that affects part of the eye called the uvea. This is the middle layer of the eye wall. Uveitis is when this layer becomes inflamed (red and swollen). This disease causes a red eye, pain and vision problems.

- **Graves' disease** - This is a disease of the body's thyroid gland. One of the symptoms of Graves' disease is bulging eyes. Smokers who have Graves' disease risk having their eye condition get worse. They can also lose vision.

The good news is that after people quit smoking, their risks for these eye diseases lowers.

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5 THINGS (MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRICE) TO CONSIDER WHEN BUYING INSURANCE:

1. Be careful of auto insurance that protects only up to your state's minimum. Roughly, one in eight drivers on Connecticut's roads lack insurance. Is your coverage enough if you suffer a loss by one of them?
2. If you own a home, do you have extended dwelling coverage or guaranteed replacement cost in the event of a loss? What about for water or sewer back up, personal injury, or liable / slander claims from social media?

3. Consider optional coverage. You can add optional insurance to protect valuable, appraised items such as jewelry or fine antiques, expensive sporting gear, musical instruments, or to help cover loss or fees from identity theft.

4. Good service is key. Seek an independent, local agent who can be your advocate when a claim arises and help get you up and running again ASAP.

5. Just because an ad says you can save money doesn't mean you'll get the insurance you truly need. Work with an agent who will ask the right questions and get you the best coverage for your specific needs. It just may be more affordable than you think. Isn't your family's security worth a phone call to find out?

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The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary Apple Pie Night

APPLE PIE NIGHT

Join us for a fun evening on Tuesday, October 17, 2017
6 - 8 pm at the Chester Fire House.

Apple Pie, Cider, Coffee, Ice Cream and Raffles!

Adults \$5.00 Children 10 and under \$3.00

Hosted by the Chester Hose Company Auxiliary

"Fall Back, Spring Ahead" Arts & Craft Fair

The Chester Hose Company Incorporated invites you to join us at our "Fall Back, Spring Ahead" Arts & Craft Fair, held on Saturday October 21st, 2017 from 10 am to 3 pm, located at 6 High Street, Chester, CT. "The Fall Back, Spring Ahead" Arts & Craft Fair has become a much-anticipated event as it allows people to get a head start on their holiday shopping by purchasing one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and family as well as shop for all those fall birthdays... or pick up a little something special for themselves! We look forward to seeing you there!

If you would like to show off and sell your craft item or know someone that does, feel free to contact us at: fallbackspringahead7@gmail.com or you can contact Kim Brainard at: 860-790-0178.

To follow us on Facebook go to:

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The Chester Land Trust Annual Meeting

The Chester Land Trust will hold its ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 9th

TIME: 6:30 pm

WHERE: The Chester Meeting House
(between Goose Hill and Liberty Street)

Brief Business Meeting followed by two wonderful programs. The Chester Land Trust invites all Chester Land Trust members and friends to join in and participate on November 9th. Our programs are designed for all ages:

Chester Village West to Chester Elementary School!

“Oh, the Places You Know” is Sandy Sanstrom’s trivial pursuit challenge, showing photos of places and things that each of us might pass by each day in Chester... and not see! Test your “Chester awareness” skills on this one! Sandy is also an ardent ally of the Patticonk Creek Osprey. We have been following them since they took up residence in 2015 (finally!!!). The audience will be asked to participate in Sandy’s stories and games!



Chester Town Trees

As I drive around our little town of Chester I’m always amazed as to how many trees there are in our town right of ways and town properties. They bring such beauty to our town roads and properties all year long from the onset of spring buds, their shade on a hot summer day, the vibrant and vivid colors of their fall leaves, to the bare dark beauty of their skeletal shape on a cold and winter’s day as the sun sets in behind them. Not only are they beautiful but they also help with storm water reduction, erosion, and a safe place for wildlife to live.

Over the past few years our trees have been faced with life threatening conditions that have killed many of our town trees or has put them in severe decline. Last year’s drought combined with the outbreak of the Gypsy Moth stressed many of our trees to the point that some could not recover. The ones that had recovered from last year’s infestation were infested again this year by the Gypsy Moth. Most of these trees may have leafed out again after the infestation, but the stress may be too much for the trees to come back next year. This year the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has made it past our town borders and with many of our ash trees already in decline from drought, anthracnose, and ash yellows the (EAB) will find numerous stressed ash trees, which attract the insect to the tree. Climate change has also contributed to the decline of our sugar maples by the

tree not getting a consistent number of days with below freezing temps to keep the tree from coming out of dormancy.

This year the town will be removing 40 to 50 trees from our right of ways and town properties to protect our citizens from falling branches and property damage. We will be doing this in three waves. The first wave of tree removal is already under way and consists of 15 trees. The second wave of tree work will be in November to December and it too will consist of 15 trees. Over the winter the remaining trees will be removed as weather allows. Most of the tree removals will be done by an outside contractor and the remainder will be removed by the Public Works Department. A small red ribbon has been placed on the first round of trees and the next 15 trees will be tagged over the next few weeks. Any trees that do not get removed this year will be placed on a list for July next fiscal year’s budget. The order of removal will depend on the current state of the tree and the potential for safety issues involving our residents and visitors.

If you have a street tree that is dead or in decline and have not yet seen a red tag placed on it or to see if it is on a list, please call Scot Mills Chester Tree Warden at: 860-395- 9891 or email wscotmills@gmail.com.

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1st Sunday of month is Holy Communion, a Family Sunday with 'Food on the First,' an opportunity to donate to the food pantry.

We also have special events including a free "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" concert performed by Music with Margie for children of all ages (Sunday, October 29th, 6:30 pm), a Children's Pageant and Carol Sing, a highlight of the season for all ages (Sunday, December 10th, 10 am), and more.

The church office at 29 West Main Street can be reached at 860-526-2697 Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8-1, or leave a message; email unitedchester@sbcglobal.net.



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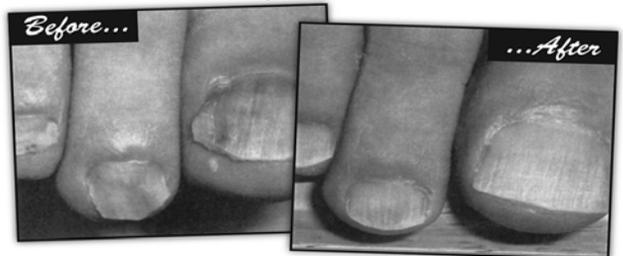


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The United Church of Chester Events

THANKSGIVING BASKETS - NOVEMBER 18, 2017

- The United Church of Chester needs your help in providing turkeys, turkey breasts and gift cards (for perishable items) for Thanksgiving baskets which will be delivered to local families this holiday season.
- Gift cards in the amount of \$10.00 and above from Adams in Deep River are requested. The gift cards can be dropped off at the UCC office Mondays through Fridays 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- Perishable items of turkeys and turkey breasts can be donated on Saturday, November 18th from 9:00 am to noon at the United Church of Chester 29 West Main Street, 860-526-2697. Thank you.

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

At the United Church of Chester in early December, there will be gift tags available for selection as part of our Community Holiday Gift Program. These are gifts for local Chester children who will benefit from your generosity. This is a Chester-wide project...please share (on Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, etc.) with local friends and family that anyone is welcome to come and take a tag to provide a gift (this is not just a United Church event; it is in conjunction with the town social worker). New, unwrapped gifts (with tag attached) must be returned to Fellowship Hall by Saturday, December 16th. Gift cards to Wal-Mart and Marshall's are also greatly appreciated! Cash donations are helpful (we will do the shopping for you!).

CHRISTMAS FAIR - DECEMBER 2, 2017

The United Church of Chester, 29 West Main Street, Chester, CT holds its annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Come enjoy shopping for hand-crafted items and delicacies, decorations, greens, knitted goods and mouth-watering morsels for holiday giving. There will also be a silent auction, tea-cup auction and Grandma's attic to prowl through for Christmas treasures and charitable gift-giving possibilities. Lunch will be served between 11:00 and 1:00 pm.

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St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Chester

Upcoming Events

Take advantage of the autumn season to attend mass, participate in a bible study, join us for a social, or gather at the Christmas Fair.

We have upcoming events such as Sunday Socials (takes place following the 10:00 am mass), Special Masses (October 22nd Married Couple Blessing and October 29th Invite a Friend) and Bible Study (November 14th and January 9th from 6:30 to 7:30 at Our Lady of Sorrows in Essex).

OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE:

Christmas Fair:

The St. Joseph's Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, December 2nd from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Get a jump start on holiday shopping and decorating. Numerous vendors will be offering goods ranging from jams and jellies to clothing and home decorating items. Enjoy a delicious lunch of soups, sandwiches, and chili but make sure to leave some space for the homemade baked treats. Fair will include a White Elegance Sale where new and gently used home décor items, small appliances, and quality consignment clothing will be offered at minimal cost. Don't forget to try your luck in our

popular Dixie basket raffle. We hope you come out and share in the Christmas spirit!

Winter Clothing Collection:

Knights of Columbus are collecting serviceable, clean clothing for adults and children. Collection bins are located near the exit doors at the rear of the church.

Early "St Patty's" Winter Dinner Dance:

St Patty's Dinner Dance at the St Joseph's Parish Center, 48 Middlesex Ave, Chester on Saturday, Jan 27. The dinner, hosted by the Knight's of Columbus, will begin at 5 pm. We will offer our world famous corn beef and cabbage, potatoes, deserts, and beverages. Onsite child sitting services will be available. Please contact Bill Burdick at: 860-322-7600 for more information on ticket prices and reservations.

Mission Trip 2018:

Students interested in attending the St. Joseph's/Our Lady of Sorrows 2018 Mission Trip to Camillus, NY from June 23rd through June 30th contact Mike Joia at: mikejoia@yahoo.com.

think outside the box



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Collomore Concerts at the Meeting House

Two more concerts remain in the Robbie Collomore Music Series 44th season at the Chester Meeting House.

Sunday, Nov. 5: Latin Jazz comes to Chester, with the Curtis Brothers Quartet featuring Ray Vega, percussionist. Their unique rhythmic concept is what separates them from most other jazz quartets. All of their music, original or not, is based on the percussive concepts that they have accumulated through their various musical experiences.

Sunday, Nov. 26: The soulful songs of the Gullah culture will be brought to life by Ranky Tanky, a five-piece band of

native South Carolinians who mix the low country traditions with large doses of jazz, gospel, funk, and R&B. They've been called "infectious, intoxicating and exotic" with "frisky and hypnotic rhythms with a bone-deep mix of spirituals and gutbucket blues."

Both concerts are at 5 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at www.collomoreconcerts.org using PayPal. All ticket-holders are invited to stay for a reception after the concert to meet the performers and enjoy wine and savories from local restaurants. For more information, check the website or call 860-526-5162.

The Meeting House Players Present...

The Meeting House Players are pleased to present Rick Abbot's madcap comedy "Play On!" The production will open Friday, October 27 and continue October 28 and November 3 & 4, 2017 with both a matinee and an evening performance on Saturday, November 4th. All evening performances begin at 7:30 pm. The matinee will begin at 2 pm.

The performances will be held at the historic Chester Meeting House located at 4 Liberty Street in Chester, CT. Reservation requests for both Preferred and Open seating are available by calling 860-526-3684 or by e-mail at: TheMeetingHousePlayers@gmail.com. For additional information please contact Debbie Alldredge at TheMeetingHousePlayers@gmail.com.

EVENTS PRESENTS ~ FOX LEDGE FARM



If you want quality horse care and top notch riding instruction, then you've got to meet Ann Guptill and her Fox Ledge Farm.

Fox Ledge (located in East Haddam, CT) offers board, lessons and training for riders of all levels with an interest in dressage and combined training. The indoor and outdoor arenas boast groomed footing with sand and recycled rubber. There are fields available to ride in. The spacious indoor arena is heated in the winter providing year round comfortable training. There are also a few lesson horses and ponies if you don't have your own horse.

Fox Ledge opened in January of 1990 as a family project. That was after Ann rode on the United States Equestrian Team (USET) 1987 Pan American Dressage Team. She finished 5th individually, helping the team earn an individual silver medal. She was on the USET developing rider and long lists from 1986 through 1992. While growing up in East Haddam, she was a member of the CT Valley Pony Club and graduated in 1983 with the "A" certification rating. She is now one of the leaders of the CT Valley Pony Club.

Ann knows that "riders of all ages need eyes on the ground." A United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Certified Instructor and Examiner, she has helped many adult amateur and professional riders earn USDF rider medals and many youth earn certification in the United States Pony Club (USPC). She has prepared riders for the USDF and USPC National Championships and Young Riders in the USEF FEI Jr/Young Rider Championships.

"One of the most rewarding things about teaching riders is sharing their progress," says Ann. "I have been fortunate to be able to teach riders for many years and mentor young riders through their junior years and into adulthood."

860.873.8108

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eqarts@snet.net
www.foxledgefarm.net

The 8th annual
goPINK project
 because giving back is in!

Support Breast Cancer Patients: goPINK

Throughout the month of October, goPINK raises money to help provide breast cancer patients at the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center with free integrative medicine services. These treatments can help alleviate fatigue, pain, neuropathy and nausea.

To participate, buy a goPINK T-shirt or get a pink hair extension at a participating salon. You can also visit a restaurant or attend an event that supports goPINK.

For more details, visit middlesexhospital.org/gopink or call 860-358-6200.

The goPINK initiative is sponsored by AAA and Radiologic Associates of Middletown.

Chester Fife and Drum Corps



CELEBRATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY

In the words of Kate Silliman from the Chester Scrapbook, I quote *"In 1867, the hills and ravines of Chester began to resound to a steady rhythmic roll of drums and shrill fifes as the newly organized Fife and Drum Corps started practicing under the leadership of Daniel Silliman. Twenty-five men of the town enrolled in that forerunner of the present corps, and before long had perfected their drumming."*

So, it was 150 years ago that the Chester Fife and Drum Corps began.

As we begin to celebrate our 150th Anniversary and look forward to many, many more years, let's pause to remember all the past members that took up the drum, fife, and Color Guard, and kept this great Corps going. Only a handful of Corps can boast this milestone. Thanks to the Town of Chester and the surrounding communities for helping keep this tradition alive and well.

We will be hosting The Chester Fife and Drum Corps' 150th Celebration in 2018 with a muster, a gathering of over 25 other corps, to help us celebrate. It will be held at the Chester Fairgrounds on September 22, 2018.

Our Corps is still growing. We currently can field 7 snares, 5 basses and 8 fifes, plus full Color Guard. The best part is that we have more new members looking to join to help us celebrate. We are still working on updating our current uniforms and will hopefully have them completed by early next year.



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If you are interested in joining us, but do not wish to play an instrument, we also need members for the Color Guard to march at the front of our Corps and carry our Colors. We provide drum and fife lessons free of charge and teach our members the ins and outs of marching in unison. We practice at the Chester Elementary School in the fall, winter, and early spring. Summer practices are at North Quarter Park and Cedar Lake. So please come and see what we are about, do and play. The remainder of our 2017 schedule is noted below:

Oct 21	Moodus Muster
Oct 29	Fall Foliage Jam
Oct 30	Halloween Parade Chester
Nov 11	Tri-Town Veterans Day Parade
Nov 16	150th Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
Dec 9	Old Saybrook Torchlight Parade

If you are interested in becoming part of history and joining our corps, please feel free to call me at 860-691-1735. We are on Facebook, the Town of Chester website and our email address is chester1868@gmail.com. Just as a reminder, we are neither a Junior nor Senior Corps. We are a family-oriented organization and intend on remaining so. Better yet, come on down and see what we are about. We practice from 6:30 till 8:00 pm.

Hope you had a most enjoyable summer and have a cheerful holiday season. Hope to see you at a muster or at a parade.

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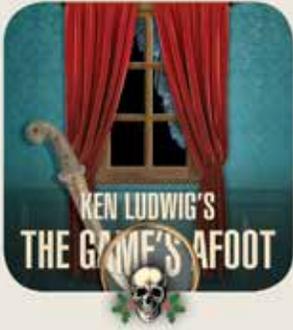
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ART GALLERY OPENING

November, 2017 through January, 2018

Two shoreline artists are featured in our Main Street Gallery's upcoming exhibit, Ashby Carlisle from Old Lyme and Rick Silberberg from Ivoryton. This show will run from early November, 2017, through January, 2018, with an opening reception on Sunday, November 12, from 3 pm to 5 pm. Both artists will be on hand to discuss their work and answer questions and will make a generous donation for all work sold. The exhibit is open to viewers Monday-Friday, 10 am - 3 pm, and the reception is free and open to the shoreline community.

10th SEASON OF MUSIC & MORE (open to the public)

January 27, 2018, 8:00 pm. Comedy Tonight featuring

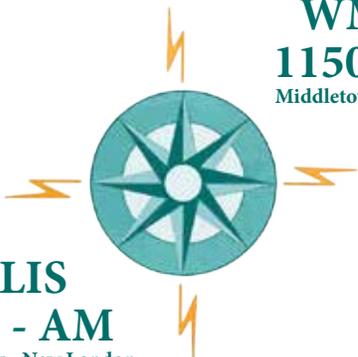
Alexandra McHale and Johnny Lampert, both veterans of Comedy Central, network TV, and the NYC comedy club circuit.

March 11, 2018, 4:00 pm. The Maccabets, a premier a capella group from Brooklyn and social media sensation return to deliver their inspirational and infectious brand of entertainment.

April 15, 2018, 4:00 pm. Lonely Heartstring Band and imaginative and dynamic new force in the national bluegrass scene.

June 14, 2018, 5:00 pm. Community picnic and band of local artists.

December 10, 2017, 10:00 am. Fun Chanukah celebration for children and youth, including singing, crafts, games and food! All are welcome.



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Keeping Our Golden Years Golden - Today into Tomorrow
Wednesday, October 18th - 5:00 pm

Joining the Journey with Bob Elmer - Care for the Caregiver
Wednesday, November 1st - 5:00 pm

Navigating the Senior Years with Casey McGannon of Sage Solutions
Wednesday, November 15th - 5:00 pm

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