

Chester



Events

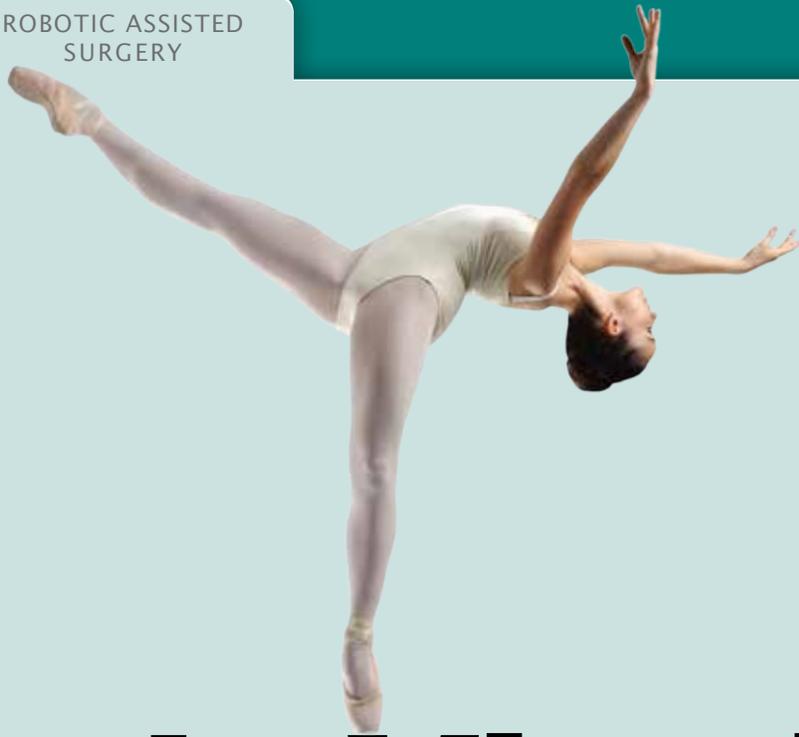
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Volume 11 • Quarter 2 • 2012

In this issue:
First Selectman's Corner
Chester Hose Company
Chester Public Library
Parks and Recreation
Fife and Drum Corps
and much more!



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TECHNOLOGY WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

First Selectman's Corner

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget Adopted

On May 15th residents unanimously voted at Town Meeting to adopt the \$12,748,081 fiscal year 2012-2013 budget recommended by the Board of Finance. The new mill rate will be 22.45. The budget increased by 1.5 percent, \$192,228 of additional expenditures. The small increase was achieved by applying \$132,000 of surplus from the 2011-2012 operating budget and using \$174,641 of the current general fund balance. This allocation complies with the Board of Finance's strategy to maintain a 10 percent revenue reserve in the fund balance. The new mill rate means that for a home with an assessed value of \$300,000, real estate taxes will increase by \$102 per year.

The 2012-2013 budget allocates 27 percent to Town operations such as public works, fire, police and library; 70 percent to education for operations at the Chester Elementary School and Region #4; and 3 percent funding for capital items such as road reconstruction, fire and public works vehicle replacement, Town and elementary school building maintenance. The five year capital budget continues to set aside funds for the Main Street improvement project and the preparation of design plans to enlarge public meeting space on the second floor of Town Hall. The Community Center insurance proceeds will be used for this renovation work. For fiscal year 2012-2013 the

capital improvement budget was increased by \$101,961 reversing a three year trend of reducing funds for large long term items. The Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, supported by tax payers, recommend incrementally paying for large expenditures over several years to avoid spikes in the mill rate.



First Selectman Ed Meehan

Middlesex Avenue-Denlar Drive-Water Main Project Begins

On April 17th the Board of Selectmen awarded the Middlesex Avenue-Denlar Drive Water Main Extension to B&W Paving and Landscaping, LLC of Mystic. B&W was determined to be the lowest qualified bidder by the Connecticut Water Company, the project engineer. The 8 inch main extension will be 1,800 linear feet, the majority of the construction, 1,150 linear feet will be on Denlar Drive. The contract price is set at \$149,894. Construction will start the first week in June and is expected to take four weeks to complete. This project is funded by a STEAP grant through the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The grant was

continued on page 3

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• *Selectman's Corner continued from page 2* •

awarded to Chester to facilitate the abatement of water quality problems on Denlar Drive. Property owners abutting the water main will benefit from the availability of safe public drinking water and three new fire hydrants that will be located on Denlar Drive.

The water line will be owned by the Town of Chester and supplied, operated and maintained by the Connecticut Water Company. Property owners are encouraged to connect to this public water service. Connection to the water main will be the responsibility of the property owner as the project funding did not allow for work on private property. The Connecticut Water Company will be available to assist property owners in making arrangements to obtain water service. A modest contribution toward the installation cost, based on your service requirements, will be available from Connecticut Water. The contractor you select to make the private connection should be qualified and approved by the Connecticut Water Company.

For further information please contact the First Selectman Ed Meehan, emeehan@chesterct.org or 860-526-0013.

Main Street Project Update

On May 17th the Main Street Committee interviewed four consultants who were invited to present their qualifications to prepare a master plan for Main Street improvements. The Committee selected the landscape architectural firm

of Kent & Frost of Mystic. This firm has designed and managed streetscape and similar municipal facility projects in southeastern Connecticut since 2003. The Committee was impressed with Kent & Frost's understanding of the project's requirement and their appreciation to maintain the uniqueness of Chester Center. The next step in the selection process is to finalize the scope of work, project schedule, and fee and contract documents.

— *First Selectman Ed Meehan*



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Come Home to Chester Days

The arrival of autumn will be celebrated by the Merchants of Chester on Friday, Sept. 21, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Chester Center. This will be the 22nd "Come Home to Chester" event, with art gallery openings and special receptions in stores and restaurants throughout the center of town. For further information, contact Sosse Baker at Chester Gallery, 76 Main St., or call her at 860-526-9822.

Registrars Looking for Moderators

It is that time of year in our office when we need to prepare for the November election. It is a requirement that elections be run by a certified moderator. We are trying to put a class together here in Chester and we are looking for anyone who would be interested in being trained. The class is an eight hour session with a test at the end. Once certified, you would need to be available to test the ballots prior to Election Day and then be at the polls from 5:30 am until we are finished after the polls close at 8:00 pm. If you are interested please contact either Charlene Janecek at 860-526-9356 or Tracey Ohaus at 860-526-4305.

BRAYCE yourself for The Kate!

Attention, fans of Samba Rio! Come join us for the BRAYCE dance party at its new location, The Kate Cultural Arts Center, in Old Saybrook, on Saturday, September 8th, 2012, 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$55 per person and \$100 per couple available through the Kate's Box Office, at 877-503-1286 or by visiting their website, www.katharinehepburntheater.org.

Kick up your heels with music by THE CARTELLS; enjoy a complimentary beverage, cash bar, delicious refreshments and a silent auction with unusual and imaginative items. For more information check out our website at www.brayce.org.

BRAYCE (Brazilian & American Youth Cultural Exchange) is an international, Chester, CT based non-profit, dedicated to providing life-changing educational opportunities for underprivileged Brazilian and American youth.

Support the BRAYCE effort to transform young lives.

For town updates & information:

www.chesterct.org

Social Services Help Day

CT Department of Social Services Mobile Office Bus, CT Food Bank Truck and Community Health Center Dental Clinic are coming to Old Saybrook!



Thursday, July 19 and Thursday, August 16
10:00 am to 2:30 pm
Grace Church, 336 Main St., Old Saybrook

Appointments need to be scheduled for DSS and the dental clinic and additional information will be given on what documents you will need to bring to get SNAP, HUSKY, Medicaid and other state help that day.

Please contact Susan Consoli, MA, LPC, Social Services Coordinator, atsconsoli@town.old-saybrook.ct.us 860.395.3188.

Animal Control Officer Offers Summertime Advice

After a mild winter and crazy spring, you may notice a lot of wildlife moving around. Use caution as these animals could be looking to feed their young or may be sick. Wildlife is a D.E.E.P. problem; however, if your pet has contact with a wild animal, contact me. This could mean veterinary visits which could cost a great deal of money. Check your dog's rabies status and make sure it is up to date. This is mandatory in order to obtain your dog's updated license. A second concern to keep in mind is lawn fertilizer and other chemicals that may harm your pet. Read the labels carefully and be sure to store the chemicals in a safe place.

Taking your dog out for a ride can be a great treat for your dog, but once again use caution. Do not leave them in the car when you are shopping – the heat can build up in a car and turn deadly. Also, if the dog is in the car with a window open enough to place its head through can be an accident waiting to happen. The dog may appear friendly but that may be when it decides to bite a passerby. Once again use caution.

Enjoy your summer!

— Bob Jenkins, Animal Control Officer

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ASSISTANT ASSESSOR		
Sheila Ahearn	512	
BUILDING		
Ron Rose	207	BldgOfficial@chesterct.org
FINANCE		
Peter Evankow	215	Finance@chesterct.org
ACCOUNTS CLERK		
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT		
John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	
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TREASURER		
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WPCA	230	wpc@chesterct.org

www.chesterct.org

Discounts for Seniors

Charter Oak Pass. The Charter Oak Pass provides senior citizens access to the Connecticut State Parks and Forests and is available free to Connecticut residents, 65 of age or older.

The pass is accepted at all day use areas where a parking fee applies. Presenting it allows free access for the entering vehicle and passengers. The pass holder does not have to be the vehicle driver.

Free admittance is also provided for the Charter Oak pass holder when visiting Gillette Castle, Dinosaur or Fort Trumbull State Parks or fishing at the Quinebaug Valley Hatchery. All other visitors, however, will be required to pay the appropriate fee.

Please note that each pass is issued to a specific person and can only be used when presented by that individual. The passes are non-transferable. They are not valid for camping or special events having separate admission charges and may not be used for commercial purposes.

To obtain a Charter Oak Pass by mail: Send a LEGIBLE photocopy of your current CT drivers license or other legal proof of age and residency to: DEP Charter Oak Pass, State Parks Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127. (Phone 860-424-3200).

Amtrak Reduced Fare Program. Amtrak rail service provides a 15 percent fare discount on the best fare price of a regular ticket for elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Some holiday restrictions apply, but there are no restrictions on the length of stay. The reduced fare program is not valid on

the Auto Train. Reduced fares are only available on the Acela Train Express Service on Saturday and Sunday. To be eligible, a person must be 62 years of age or older. Verification of age must be shown by a driver's license, birth certificate or other document. Contact Information: Amtrak Toll: 800-872-7245.

Metro North Discount Program. Elderly persons and persons with disabilities may travel on the Metro-North rail service for a reduced fare anytime, except on peak morning hours. Such persons receive a 50 percent discount on a regular one-way fare when proper identification is shown. To be eligible, a person must be 65 years of age or have a disability and show proper forms of identification such as a Medicare card or driver's license. Call Metro North for fare and schedule information: 800-638-7646.

Senior Citizen Driver Insurance Discount. Drivers age 62 and older who complete an approved accident prevention course may receive a discount of at least five percent on their automobile liability or physical damage insurance. This discount may apply to an automobile's premium charges for at least 24 months. For more information on the length of time and the amount of the applied discount persons must contact their insurance company.

For information on accident prevention courses: AAA-Driver Services, 815 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06119, 860-570-4235, www.aaa.com. AARP, 21 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106, 866-295-7279 or 888-687-2277, www.aarp.org/drive/online.

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It's Tax Time and Here are Some Helpful Hints

1. If you have any questions about your taxes, DO NOT WAIT until the last week. It is much harder to try to help you when there are long lines. Contact the Tax office or the Assessor as soon as you realize you have a question. Phone numbers are on the bills.

2. Be sure to sign your check before mailing your payment and also be sure to double check your bank balance to make sure your check will NOT bounce.

3. If you use your bank's online service to pay your taxes, be sure to put your name and property location, so the payment can be processed accurately.

4. Our hours during July are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9-12 and 1-4 and on Wednesday's we are in the office just 9-12 noon. We will try to be open on Friday July 6th and Friday July 27th the same hours as Town Hall on Fridays and that is 9-12 noon.

5. Don't wait until the last day to pay, since there could be bad weather or sickness. If you are late the interest penalty is 3% which is 1½% for July and 1½% for August and on a large bill that interest really does add up.

6. If you want a receipt, be sure to include a self addressed stamped envelope and all your copies of your bills and we will mail back your copies with the payment validated.

7. Do not be surprised if we send emails or make phone calls toward the end of July to try to remind as many as possible to pay and not to be late, since the interest is high!

8. Read your bills carefully, and do not double the MV bills. Pay what is labeled: Total due. MV's are paid in one installment and nothing due on them in January, unless you buy a new vehicle. Read the bill carefully!

9. Information about MV's that are sold and plates turned in should be given to the Assessor early in the month to help the whole process go smoothly if a reduction is due!

10. If you are coming in to pay, try to have ALL the copies of your bills with you to help yourself and our office process everything efficiently.

Enjoy the summer and the warmer temps, but DO NOT forget to pay your taxes! Many thanks and stay well.

— Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector

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1912 – 2012 Chester Hose Company Celebrates 100 years of Service

On June 9, 2012 The Chester Hose Company celebrated 100 years of volunteer service to the Town of Chester with a parade down Main Street. Thank you to all that attended and joined in our celebration.

The Chester Hose Company is fortunate to have some of the oldest and longest term members as part of our current membership. The average years of service of the 74 present members is 15 years. We have 20 members who have logged in over 25 years of active dedicated volunteer service to our department. The department is honored to have 2 members with over 55 years of service. Their infinite wisdom and knowledge of the department and emergency service is invaluable.



As Chester evolves into the next century, The Chester Hose Company's proud tradition of serving its neighbors in need shall continue. We are all proud to serve side by side to protect our community and its residents as well as those who pass through our Town.

— Charles F. Greeney, Jr., Chief,
Chester Hose Company

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Chester Parks and Recreation

Please call 526-0013, extension 223 for information or to register for a program. Forms are available outside the Parks and Recreation office and at <http://www.chesterct.org/parks.php>.

Children's Summer Program Day Camp. Our traditional camp program is better than ever! It is open to children entering grades 1 through 7 and the hours are from 8:30am until 3:30pm, the weeks of July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6, and 13, at Chester Elementary School on Mondays and Thursdays and Cedar Lake on Tuesdays and Fridays. The children take field trips on Wednesdays. The fee is \$95 per child, per week, and payable at the time of registration.

Introduction to Day Camp for children ages 4 through 7 (or entering grade 3) meets from 8:45am until 12:15pm, Mondays and Thursday at Chester Elementary School and Tuesdays and Fridays at Cedar Lake, the weeks of July 9, 16, 30, and August 6, with staff and programming designed specifically to meet the needs of younger children. The cost is \$55 for the 4-day week.

NEW THIS SUMMER! Children registered for camp the week of July 30 may invite a friend on Friday, August 3, for our "Twin Day" and "Unbirthday Party" at Cedar Lake. Friends must submit a registration form with a \$10 fee for the day. **SPACE IS LIMITED.**

We will be at the Chester Sunday Market on June 24, providing complimentary Arts & Crafts and Science Projects

with our Camp Staff. Program registration materials will be available.

Babysitter's Training (Plus!) will be offered to students ages 11 through 15 on Monday, July 30 and Thursday, August 2 at Chester Elementary School, from 11:15am until 3:45pm. The program will include American Red Cross Babysitter's Training, Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED certification, and the hands-on opportunity to assist our teachers in the preschool camp. The fee is \$60, or \$35 for those registered for camp that week. Students who have previously completed Babysitter's Training are welcome to attend this enhanced program for the extra First Aid and CPR certification, the hands-on experience, as well as for review.

Swimming Lessons at Cedar Lake. Swimming lessons offered by the Park and Recreation Commission are open to Chester residents or current nonresident park pass holders. Children must be at least three years of age and able to attend the classes independent of their parents. Small group classes meet for 6 lessons during session 1, on July 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, and 17 with July 19 and 20 as severe weather make-up days. Session 2 classes are held on July 30, 31, August 2, 3, 6, and 7 with severe weather make-up days on August 9 and 10. The fee is \$40 per session.

continued on page 11

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• *Park & Rec continued from page 10* •

The classes are scheduled for sessions 1 and 2 as follows:
 Nonswimmer 1:00-1:25
 Swimmer 1:35-2:10
 Nonswimmer 2:20-2:45
 Nonswimmer 2:55-3:20
 Swimmer 3:30-4:05

Advanced students are scheduled by appointment.

I SPY CHESTER...more than meets the eye! The Chester Public Library and Chester Parks and Recreation present a SUMMER FAMILY activity for all ages! It's a scavenger hunt.

No! Wait! There are puzzles and word games. Oh, it's a walking tour of Chester!

There's a prize at the Sunday market on August 19 for those who complete the challenge (and you may just learn something, too!). Maps and clues will be available at the Chester Library, the June 24th Sunday Market, Cedar Lake, and the Parks and Recreation Camp Program this summer.

Chester Parks and Recreation Scholarships is looking for donations. Please consider sending a Chester child to camp this summer. You can give a child in our Town the opportunity to spend part of their summer at the Chester Parks and Recreation Children's Summer Program. Any amount you are able to donate will help children enjoy experiences in which they would not otherwise be able to participate. The Chester Elementary School Social Worker assists families with these

scholarships. Donations may be made payable to "Chester Parks and Recreation Scholarships" and sent to: Town of Chester, Parks and Recreation, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412.

Beach Schedule and Access. The Town Beaches on Cedar Lake are scheduled to be open for the 2012 season from June 16 through August 19, 10:30 am until 6:00 pm. Hours may vary according to staff availability, training, weather, or special programs. Access to the Town parks, including the beaches on Cedar Lake, is by permit only. Non-resident passes are available at Pelletier Park during operating hours. Chester residents may enter staffed facilities by showing a driver's license, or other proof of residency or taxpayer status with identification. Taxpayers, Chester nonprofit organizations and Chester businesses may purchase a non-resident pass that is transferable to their guests. Non-resident pass holders may purchase a second pass that is transferable to their guests.

Non-resident Park Passes for the year May 1, 2012 through June 18, 2013 are available for \$65 at Pelletier Park, during regular staffed hours. The pass, or proof of residency or taxpayer status, permits 6 people to enter, per household, per day. Additional guests for pass holders or taxpayers are \$3 per person.

Groups of 10 up to a maximum of 60 are required to make reservations in advance, submit a group use application to the

continued on page 13

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The Cedar Lake Shack Opened June 16th

The Cedar Lake Shack, LLC is open for the season. The Cedar Lake Shack, LLC has gone through an exterior makeover this past winter, which has enhanced its beauty. The restaurant will be open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The goal of the new management is to bring it back to basics and maintain

a simple menu. The menu will offer egg sandwiches, salads, hamburgers, and hot dogs. In addition, some local favorites will be offered such as Ashlawn Farm coffee, Wildowsky Dairy ice cream, Beach donuts from Clinton, and Foxon Park soda. Stop by and check out our new offerings.

Chester Hose Company Cautions

As you turn the corner in the Cedar Lake area of Town you will notice the flashing lights are on. Please use extra caution as the flashing lights warn you of increased pedestrian traffic for both Camp Hazen and Cedar Lake. Please stop at the crosswalks.

Warm weather brings the possibility of heat stroke. Be mindful when working outside. Seek periods of shade and stay hydrated. Check in on your elderly neighbors. There are a lot of bicycles on the road. Share the road with them. Bicyclists: please make an effort to ride single file and not two or three abreast, thus creating a very dangerous situation as cars try to pass. Motorcycles are everywhere. Please look twice before you pull out of an intersection to be certain no one is coming.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended our 100th anniversary parade celebration.

Please join us at these upcoming fundraisers:

- Four on the Fourth Road Race (July 4)
- Chester Fair (August 24, 25, 26)
- Fall Frenzy – Classic Car Show, Tractor Pull, Family Fun Day (September 15)

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— The members and officers of Chester Hose Company



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• Park & Rec continued from page 11 •

Selectman's Office or the Parks and Recreation Department, and provide a certificate of insurance to the Town of Chester. A fee schedule and group use applications are available at <http://www.chesterct.org/parks.php>.

American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Providers. American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer recertification class will be offered to the general public for \$35 (please add \$12 if you need a CPR mask) and free of charge to Chester Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers. The class will meet on September 26, from 10:00am until 3:00pm, at the Chester Town Hall.

Dog Owners! Please abide by the statutes of our State and ordinances of our Town. Dogs are not permitted on playgrounds or beach parks, except guide dogs. Dogs in other areas of the parks must be controlled by a leash. Dogs may not roam on the property. Any waste material deposited by your dog must be removed before leaving the immediate area.

Baseball Fields at Chester Elementary School. Three baseball fields are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department at Chester Elementary School, on Ridge Road. This property was originally donated to the Town in 1928 by Jessie C. Bates, Hilton C. Brooks, and William P. Holden for athletic fields. The fields may be available for group usage by submitting the Group Use Application for Chester Park Facilities.

We hope you enjoy the Town properties maintained by the Chester Park and Recreation Commission. They include

Pelletier Park, the Cedar Lake Road Park, L'Hommedieu Park, Chester Creek Overlook, Chester Elementary School Baseball Fields, North Quarter Park and Parker's Point Boat Launch.

Contact us if you have a comment or concern regarding any one of our parks, would like information, or want to register for a program! Call 526-0013 extension 223 or e-mail us at parkrec@chesterct.org.

You will also find updated information about lake closings or camp location changes due to weather as well as scheduled lifeguard drills during operating hours at Pelletier Parks at the number above or at <http://www.chesterct.org/parks.php>.



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Diabetes Care Program Available on the Shoreline

Local shoreline residents can take advantage of diabetes care services offered by Middlesex Hospital, at a new location at the Middlesex Hospital Shoreline Medical Center, 260 Westbrook Road, Route 153, in Essex.

The Middlesex Hospital Diabetes Care Program is designed to help all people with diabetes better manage their disease. Services include individual counseling by a registered dietitian/certified diabetes educator about healthy eating for weight management and blood sugar control; insulin administration; taking medications; being active and managing risks

and problem-solving related to diabetes. The program is based on the national standards for diabetes self-management education programs and is recognized by the American Diabetes Association and is accredited by the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA). There is a fee for the services, but Medicare and most insurances cover services for diabetes education with the customary copay. For more information about the Middlesex Hospital Diabetes Care Program in Essex, call (860) 358-3003.

The Chester Land Trust

The Chester Land Trust invites you to attend the 2nd Annual Harvest Dinner on Saturday, October 6th, 2012 at The Chester Meeting House, 4 Liberty Street. Serving begins at 5 p.m. Baked Ham dinner with seasonal vegetarian side dishes, homemade breads, applesauce, luscious pies and other desserts. Dining under a heated tent or within the Meeting House. BYOB. Music begins at 7. \$30 per person, \$25 for current Chester Land Trust members. \$25 if you sign on to be a 2013 Chester Land Trust member. Tickets are limited. Please contact: probinson02@snet.net or phone (860) 526-2775.

This is a wonderful event to socialize with your Chester neighbors or make new friends from different towns or states. The Chester Land Trust is a non-profit organization which exists to conserve and preserve our town's fragile and unique environment. Being within the Connecticut River Valley, our charge is not only conserving land, but also our impact on the Connecticut River. Please come enjoy a bountiful evening with us in our beautiful town. Visit us at www.chesterlandtrust.org.

Exciting Whites for Summer

Summer is just around the corner and it is time to start planning on enjoying great times with friends and family. Whether it be picnics, the beach, barbeques or just relaxing on the deck at home there are always exciting summer wines to enjoy with your festivities. Although Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio are very popular, there are other very interesting and tasty whites worth experimenting with.

One of the lightest whites is from Portugal and is called Vinho Verde, meaning "Green Wine," and is meant to be drunk young. It is a very light and refreshing wine with a small amount of effervescence. This type of wine is low in alcohol and fairly inexpensive.

Austria produces a popular white called Gruner Veltliner which is grown in over one third of their vineyards. This wine is medium-bodied with a dry finish and can also take on some spicy qualities. Over time it will develop into a fuller wine, much like a White Burgundy from France.

Up and coming is the varietal Chenin Blanc, a grape that has been around for a long time. Chenin Blanc has been growing in popularity in California and is known as Vouvray in France, which is the appellation where it is grown and produced. Chenin Blanc from these regions are soft and fruity. If you try a Chenin Blanc from South Africa however, you will be presented with a crisper, dryer finish with a small complexity of fruit. This grape is typically used for blending but is becoming more common on its own.

All of these wines are perfect to pair with seafood dishes, salads, cheeses and lighter meals, or just as a refreshing treat

on a hot summer day. The next time you are looking for a white wine try something new, you just may be surprised at what you find!

— Art LiPuma, manager, SeaSide Wine & Spirits

2012 Citizenship Award Winners

The Rotary Club of Chester is proud to announce the recipients of its 2012 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 awards were won by Zachary Merola, the son of Steven and Kathryn Merola, and Emily Hayward, the daughter of Robert and Shirley Hayward. Each recipient was presented with a \$2,000 scholarship at Valley Regional High School's Senior Awards Night held on June 6.

Both Zachary and Emily 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 pleased to recognize these two outstanding students.

— Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian

Calendar of Events

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

July 2	Inland Wetlands Commission	Meeting House	7:00 pm
July 3	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
July 4	Chester Rotary's 33rd Annual Road Race Town Offices Closed		
July 6	Planning and Zoning	Meeting House	7:30 pm
July 9	Energy Task Force E-Team	Town Hall	9:00 am
	Economic Development	Town Hall	7:15 pm
July 10	Harbor Management	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Chester Land Trust	Town Hall	7:00 pm
July 11	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
July 16	Zoning Board of Appeals	Meeting House	7:30 pm
July 17	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
July 18	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Fire Commissioners	Hose Company	7:30 pm
July 19	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
August 1	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
August 2	Planning and Zoning	Meeting House	7:30 pm
August 6	Inland Wetlands Commission	Meeting House	7:00 pm
August 7	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Harbor Management	Town Hall	7:30 pm
August 13	Energy Task Force E-Team	Town Hall	9:00 am
	Economic Development	Town Hall	7:15 pm
August 14	Chester Land Trust	Town Hall	7:00 pm
August 15	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Fire Commissioners	Hose Company	7:30 pm
August 16	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
August 20	Zoning Board of Appeals	Meeting House	7:30 pm
	Retirement Committee	Town Hall	7:30 pm
August 21	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
September 3	Town Offices Closed		
September 4	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Harbor Management	Town Hall	7:30 pm
September 5	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
September 6	Planning and Zoning	Meeting House	7:30 pm
September 10	Energy Task Force E-Team	Town Hall	9:00 am
	Economic Development	Town Hall	7:15 pm
	Inland Wetlands Commission	Meeting House	7:00 pm
	Board of Assessment Appeals	Town Hall	6:30 pm
September 11	Chester Land Trust	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Parks and Recreation Commission	Town Hall	7:15 pm
September 17	Zoning Board of Appeals	Meeting House	7:30 pm
	Library Board of Directors	Chester Library	7:30 pm
September 18	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
September 19	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Fire Commissioners	Hose Company	7:30 pm
September 20	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm

Chester Fife and Drum Corps 1868



Welcome to the summer of 2012! Here is hoping that this summer is really a summer and not a winter that wasn't. I would like to start off

by giving you a little bit of history about our Corps and Corps in general. As many of you know by now, Chester Drum Corps was established in 1867 but was put on the road in 1868. This Corps has continuously been playing our music since the beginning with no time taken off for good behavior. We have gone through many uniform changes and are now in our fourth or fifth uniform in 144 years. We now sport a more easily manageable colonial white shirt, colonial vest and Tricorn with medallion on it. We play on wooden colonial drums and 6-hole fife in the key of B flat.

A little background on fifes and drums: A fifer and a drummer were officially and necessarily attached to each company in both European and American military forces in colonial times. While in camp, they sounded all the duty calls, such as dinner time, reveille, and taps. In the field, on maneuvers or in battle, they signaled movements and actions ordered by the officers, such as forward, retreat, fire.

The earliest American reference to the massing of fifers and drummers under the leadership of a fife major or drum major occurs in George Washington's general orders for August 23,



The Chester Fife and Drum Corps.

1777, wherein he not only orders the massing, but specifies how they will look or act. So much for ANCIENT history, now back to the future.

Our drum line is surging, however our fife line needs more players, but if you do not want to play, we also need members in the Color Guard to carry our colors. We offer drum lessons, fife lessons and how to march in unison. We are still practicing at the Company of Fifers and Drummers in Ivoryton, CT for the time being until we can get a home back in Chester.

continued on page 17

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• *Fife & Drum continued from page 16* •

This summer we will be busy participating in the following parades:

- June 7** – Concert at Chesterfield Health Care Center
- June 9** – Chester Hose Company 100th Anniversary Parade
- June 14** – Flag Day Ceremony at Elks in Middletown
- June 21** – Practice Cedar Lake
- June 23** – Milford Muster
- June 28** – Practice/concert at Gazebo Chester
- July 4** – Columbia Parade
- July 12** – Practice Cedar Lake
- July 17-21** – Junior Fife and Drum Camp
- July 20-21** – Deep River Muster
- July 26** – Practice/concert at Gazebo Chester
- Aug 7** – Company Tuesday Concert and Cook
- Aug 9** – Practice Cedar Lake
- Aug 12** – VJ Day Parade in Moosup
- Aug 16** – Practice/concert at Gazebo Chester
- Aug 25** – Westbrook Muster
- Aug 30** – Practice Cedar Lake
- Sep 16** – North Haven 2012 Convention Parade.
- Pending Events**
- Sep 15/16** – Guilford Citizens Day Parade
- Oct 13 or 20** – Moodus Muster

Please come and see what we are about, do and play. We will also be spending some time at Cedar Lake and North Quarter Park. If you are interested in becoming part of history and are

interested in joining our corps, please feel free to call me at 860-691-1735 or call our corps President at 860-526-2178. 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 - 8:00 p.m. Hope you have a most enjoyable summer. Hope to see you at a muster or at a parade.

– *Frenchy Cordeau, Business Manager and Drum Major*

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Chester Public Library

Dream Big: Summer programs at Chester Public Library, Let your dreams soar.

Horizon Wings, a wildlife rehabilitation center, will visit the library, Monday, July 2 at 5:30 pm. Meet an owl, other raptors, and even a tortoise. All are welcome to come hear their story, learn their habits and ways to protect them. During this opening program, children will have the opportunity to sign up for the Dream Big summer reading incentive. Theme related refreshments will be served.

Dream Big summer reading. On Monday, July 2, our reading incentive program will begin and is open to children preschool age and up. Each week, as kids visit the library for books, stickers will be awarded for progress charts and "food" given to feed the baby owls. The more each child reads, the more they feed. At the end of the summer a full nest will help supply real food for the owls at Horizon Wings. As an added incentive, sweet treats will be in supply for the children too.

Big stories, Big crafts and Big fun for 3-6 Year Olds. Starting Monday, July 9 at 10:30 am, summer storytime for children ages 3-6 will include stories from BIG books, with crafts and games. These sessions will be held each Monday throughout the summer. Be sure to register!

Hey there 7 to 10ers: Hold onto your Dreams. Children ages 7-10 are invited to create Big Dream cards, "hopes and dreams" collection boxes and more. These creative craft sessions will take place on Wednesday, July 11, Aug. 1 and Aug. 8 at 3:30 pm. Register to reserve a spot.

Artist and Writer Dreams. On Wednesday, July 18, at 3:30, Cheryl Kling, CT author and illustrator, will visit to read her book, *Nature's Royal Tea Party*. Younger children may attend the story reading. Children ages 7-10 are invited to stay and learn to create their own book with Ms. Kling. The author will have copies of her book available for sale.

Discussions with Sally...and Pizza! If you are a JW or VRHS student, fulfill your non-fiction summer reading requirement by attending our book discussions with leader Sally Murray. *Arsenic Under the Elms* by Virginia McConnell is the selection for JW. Join us as we explore two cases of murder most foul, in towns you know on Wednesday, July 25 at 3:30 pm.

Chosen from the VRHS non-fiction list is *The Psychopath Test: A Journey Through the Madness Industry* by Jon Ronson. Explore the madness around us on Wednesday, August 15 at 3:30 as we discuss this "madcap journey" that includes visits with potential psychopaths as seemingly different as a former Haitian militia leader, or a power-hungry CEO.

Gather with your friends, talk and eat pizza...and take care of that summer reading project!

Dreams of Music. Margie Warner will entertain us Monday, August 13 at 10:30 am with her program "Dancing Dreams." Although this event is geared to 3-8 year olds this joyful, interactive music is wonderful fun for all ages. Refreshments will be served.

Registration is required for all programs. Space is limited so please sign up early. You may register through our website, by calling 860-526-0018 or in the library. All programs are funded by the Friends of the Library.

Summer Reading Requirements. Chester Library makes every effort to support area schools' summer reading programs. For best success, students are encouraged to get an early start. The library always runs short of the titles that are in demand, but will request these books from other libraries as readers ask for them. These requests should be made before August 6 to allow time for the items to arrive in Chester and give the student sufficient time to read the selection. Requests may be made in person, over the phone, or through VERSO, the library's automated circulation system.

Swap Food for Fines at Chester Public Library. During the month of July, Chester Public Library will be swapping food for fines. That's right; patrons who owe late fees to the library may bring in non-perishable food items and receive \$1.00 in credit toward fines for each food item donated. Baby supplies, cleaning supplies and paper goods may also be swapped. All items will be given to the Chester Food Pantry where the cupboard can become somewhat bare during the summer months. Please be sure to check all food expiration dates, as the pantry cannot give out any past-date items.

Begun in 2007 by a group of local organizations, the pantry is located at Town Hall and is open to any Chester resident

continued on page 19



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• *Chester Public Library continued from page 18* •

in need. Pantry hours vary, but it is always open during office hours of the Town's Human Services Manager.

Summer Activities - You've Got a Pass! Chester Library offers you a number of free or reduced-price admission passes to area museums and attractions. These may be reserved by Chester residents, so make your plans now for a summer filled with (cheap) thrills. Check each museum's website for hours and current exhibits. Passes are provided by the Friends of Chester Library, except as noted.

Connecticut River Museum, Essex, CT

www.ctrivermuseum.org

Pass provides half price admission for two adults and their children or grandchildren.

Connecticut State Parks and Forests

www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2716&q=325086&depNav_GID=1650&depNav=|

Pass provides free admission to Connecticut State Parks and Forests, including Hammonasset, Gillette Castle, Dinosaur State Park and Rocky Neck. Provided each year by the DEP.

Connecticut's Old State House, Hartford, CT

www.ctosh.org

This pass provides free admission for up to 2 adults and 2 children.

Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT

www.flogris.org

Valid for all museum exhibits, this pass provides free admission for 2 adults and 2 children (under 18).

The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Norwalk, CT

www.maritimeaquarium.org

Passes provide a \$2.00 per person discount on combined Aquarium and IMAX® tickets. Passes provided by the Aquarium.

Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, CT

www.mysticaquarium.org

Each of two Mystic Aquarium passes allows admission for two adults and two children ages 3-12, at a reduced fee. This pass is given to the Library by the Aquarium.

Mystic Seaport, Mystic, CT

www.mysticseaport.org

Pass allows free admission for 2 adults and up to 3 children or grandchildren under 18. Membership sponsored by the Chester Library Board of Trustees.

New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT

www.nbmaa.org

Pass provides free admission to NBMAA, America's first museum of American Art, as well as free admission to The Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London and 9 other New England museums.

The Peabody Museum, New Haven, CT

www.peabody.yale.edu

Pass provides \$5.00 discount on each of up to 4 admissions (no age restrictions). An adult must accompany children under 16.

Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT

www.wadsworthatheneum.org

continued on page 21



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Sun, Skin Cancer, and Aging

Snookie's tan, skin cancer, and wrinkles, OH MY! Does a suntan still sound desirable? The dangers of the sun and artificial lamps have been known and preached for years, yet some people still consider a tan an indispensable element of beauty. There is no such thing as a safe or healthy tan. In fact, a tan is the skin's response to damage of the skin's structure and the cell's DNA. The skin darkens in response to ultraviolet radiation because it is trying to prevent further DNA damage. The result from years of sun exposure and tanning bed use is premature aging and skin cancer.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, "up to 90% of visible changes commonly attributed to aging are caused by the sun." Sun damage is cumulative. Every day that our skin is exposed to the sun's harmful rays, we accumulate damage (yes, the winter months are included) unless we do our part to protect our skin. What are the signs of sun damage?

- Skin tone becomes uneven.
- Skin sagging/laxity.
- Fine lines and wrinkles.
- Dull, lackluster, sallow skin.
- Rough or bumpy texture.
- Enlarged pores.
- Abnormal skin growths.
- Dehydrated skin.
- Broken blood vessels.

We all fear losing our youthful appearance; but if you ask me, skin cancer is even more frightening. Skin cancer has become the most prevalent type of cancer in the United

States. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, "One in five Americans will develop skin cancer in the course of a lifetime." Skin cancer may be the most common form of cancer, but it is also the most preventable.

Prevention is much easier than correction! A sunscreen that contains either zinc oxide or titanium dioxide should be a part of everyone's daily routine. Be sure to reapply sunscreen every 2 hours when you are outdoors or more frequently if you are sweating or doing water activities. Other ways to protect the skin from ultraviolet radiation include:

- Avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Seek shade whenever possible.
- Avoid tanning beds at all costs.
- Wear a hat, sunglasses, and UV protective clothing.
- Apply a topical antioxidant such as Vitamin C, Resveratrol, or Aloe Vera.

A suntan is anything but healthy. Let's all embrace our natural skin color and start a new trend...a healthy skin trend!

— *Stephanie Johnson, Owner and Aesthetician of Karma Skincare Studio, Chester*

Stephanie has over 10 years clinical and professional experience in the aesthetics industry. She is passionate about the science of skincare and helping people feel beautiful in their own skin. For more information on corrective and preventative skincare services call 860-510-9323 or visit www.karmaskincarestudio.com.



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Septic Tank Pump Out

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

Pumping out and inspection of the septic tank is really preventative maintenance and can save on costly repairs later on.

It is much cheaper to pump out the septic tank than to have to replace the septic system!

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

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• *Chester Public Library continued from page 19* •

The Wadsworth Atheneum ARTpass allows free general museum admission for two adults and two children. Additional fees may apply for special exhibitions. This pass is provided by the Museum.

Paperback Book Sale Returns to the Chester Fair, August 24-26. Book-lovin' fairgoers rejoice! The Friends will be back with prices and selections so tempting that readers will want to fill entire bags with the paperbacks offered by the Friends of Chester Library during the fair. Most books are priced from \$.25 to \$1.00 and all proceeds benefit library programs and collections. Donations of paperbacks (no hardcovers, please) will be gratefully accepted at Chester Library from August 15-23. Volunteers willing to help set up or work at the sale are encouraged to call Diane Lindsay at 526-2443.

Take the Road Less Traveled this fall. Taking a turn toward non-fiction, the Mark Johnston Book Discussion Series will explore four memoirs under the guidance of discussion leader, Marsha Bansavage, this fall. The dates and titles are as follows: September 5, *The Tender Bar* by J.R. Moehringer, September 19, *Just Kids* by Patti Smith, October 3, *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg and October 17, *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. Feel free to join us for as many of the books as interest you. All programs will be held at the library from 7:30 -9:00 pm. Books will be available for loan at the library beginning in August. Register by calling the library, or online at www.chesterct.org/library.php.

A big Thank You! Cicero is reported to have said, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Thanks to the nurturing green thumbs of the Chester Garden Club for bringing gardens to life at Chester Library!

Summer Library Hours. Monday 10-8; Tuesday. Closed July 4 through Labor Day; Wednesday 10-6; Thursday 2-8; Friday 10-6; Saturday 10-2.



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Community Picnic to Honor Fifth Class of Chester Pillars

Five more Pillars of Chester – residents who have helped improve the quality of life in our town – will be honored at a community picnic on Sunday, August 19, at 5 p.m., on the Meeting House green. So bring dinner (and dancing shoes) and prepare to toast:

Sylvia Miksa, a Chester native, has been a member of the Chester Hose Company for 40 years, and president of its auxiliary for 20 of those. She was a member of the Chester Garden Club and a Girl Scout leader. She is proud of her family ties to the town, and her two children, Nicole and Ryan.

Harvey Redak has been on the boards of the Chester Historical Society, Camp Hazen, the Robbie Collomore Music Series and Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek. He has been on the town's Board of Finance, and the Cedar Lake Management Advisory committee. He is the leader of Max's Birthday Band, which has played at many community functions.

Susan Wright has been a Girl Scout and Boy Scout leader, a longtime member (and president for two years) of Chester Rotary, co-chair of Chester Economic Development, and helps co-ordinate the annual tree lighting and caroling by Chester Elementary School singers. She has been chairman of the Womanless Beauty Pageant, and works on behalf of BRAYCE, a Chester charity devoted to helping American and Brazilian children.

Denise Learned has been executive director of Camp



From Left to Right: Gloria Eustis, Denise Learned, Sylvia Miksa, Harvey Redak, and Susan Wright. Photo credit: Caryn B. Davis Photography.

Hazen since 1999, and in that time has overseen the growth of the camp and has forged close connections with the town of Chester, and more opportunities for its children and the community at large. Under her leadership the camp has become international – making our town's facility a model of diversity. She was previously director of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen.

Gloria Eustis worked for 18 years at the Chester Library, most of that time as chief librarian. Under her leadership our library

continued on page 23

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• *Chester Pillars continued from page 22* •

became part of the statewide library network, making loans from other libraries much easier. She helped establish a book discussion program that has run for 16 years, and still volunteers at the library and offers her lovely gardens for fund raisers.

The picnic, which always has music, features Max's Birthday Band, led by Harvey Redak, and featuring Dan Bernier on guitar and vocals, Jon Joslow on drums, Randy Allinson on bass, and Lary Bloom on keyboard. The band plays American standards as well as blues.

I am often asked about the motivation for starting the Chester Pillars program, and was reminded during some of the crazy monsoon weather we had this spring of the first Pillars event five years ago this August. I had only lived in Chester a few years but had been embraced from the start and wanted very much to give something back to the town and people who had welcomed me.

The question of how to bring the long time residents of Chester together with the newer residents such as myself fit naturally into my idea of a town-wide picnic at the Meeting House. That idea then became a platform to recognize people whose impact on the quality of life in Chester deserved recognition by paying tribute and giving thanks to them.

We have taken nominations from all of the town's institutions, including the Selectman's Office, Chester Library, Hose Company, Merchants, Historical Society, Land Trust and three religious institutions, Chester Rotary and others.

There are so many to thank, but I'd like to single out for special praise, Jeff Nelson, Sandy Dauer, Lynne Jacques, Linda Fox, Susan Wright and Charles Greeney, (a former Pillar) Chief of the Chester Hose Company, for always supporting the event by providing a grill for the picnic.

(In case of rain, the event will be held inside the Meeting House.)

— Suzanne Levine

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— Gerard Feeney

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The Joys and Benefits of Staying Active

We humans are social creatures. This means we have the natural desire to interact and be with other people during every stage of our lives – including our senior years. However, some seniors, through a variety of reasons, find themselves living alone with limited interaction or engagement with friends or family.

This is unfortunate since social involvement is a major component of the overall well-being and good health of any senior. Consider the 2008 study by the Harvard School of Public Health, which found evidence that elderly people in the U.S. who have an active social life may have a slower rate of memory decline. Or “The Nun Study,” which detailed how positive emotions and thoughts in life (often a result of being active and involved) are linked to less disease and lower mortality rates, and can help develop a natural immunization against Alzheimer’s disease.

These and other research illustrates that when seniors maintain an active social life, and each day is filled with purpose and friendship, seniors have a greater opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life during their retirement years. Social activity also greatly reduces or even eliminates loneliness or depression, something that affects more secluded people.

Being social is achievable through purposeful planning. Individuals can create opportunities to be with other people and be involved in groups by:

- Contacting local senior centers, church groups or other organizations that offer a schedule of daily activities
- Signing up for art, music, or physical fitness classes through the local community college or parks and recreation department
- Volunteering or mentoring at a local school, library, or museum
- Joining a local club (such as gardening, writing, reading, chess, knitting)
- Taking part in travel programs designed specifically for senior citizens
- Attending lectures at a local university or other organization

One time of day when socialization is most important is meal time – which most people share with others at least once a day. Senior citizens are encouraged to attend community meals at a senior center, church, or other organization, or to invite friends and family to dinner at a favorite restaurant, or at their home or retirement community. Additionally, seniors should try to accept invitations to join others at mealtime as often as possible.

Competitive sports are becoming more conducive to active seniors, with the growing popularity of organizations such as the Olympic-style “Connecticut Senior Games” for those over age 50. These events include badminton, table tennis, racquetball, golf, basketball, track and field, tennis, volleyball, bowling, cycling, shooting, softball, and swimming – and athletes up to age 89 take part. Additionally, seniors can be on the



Research illustrates that when seniors maintain an active social life, and each day is filled with purpose and friendship, seniors have a greater opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life during their retirement years.

lookout for competitions in art, music, gardening and more at local fairs and other regional events.

As seniors age, they may consider moving into a retirement community, assisted living residence or a continuous care retirement community (CCRC), all of which typically have suitable social and cultural programs available daily, under one roof. These communities often include some type of van or transportation service – which helps those who no longer drive maintain a level of independence. These communities also have scheduled mealtimes, so gathering with friends and family for lunch or dinner is easily accommodated (and strongly encouraged).

If there is a senior in your life – or if you are planning for your own retirement – be sure to include as much social, physical and cultural activity as you can manage. You will be impressed by the benefits, and will enjoy a higher quality of senior living!

— Kathy Ryan, Executive Director,
The Saybrook at Haddam

Kathy Ryan is executive director of The Saybrook at Haddam (www.thesaybrookathaddam.com), a 74-apartment assisted living retirement community located at 1556 Saybrook Road in Haddam (860-345-3779). The community provides independent retirement living services as well as assisted living services provided by its state-licensed Agency, and a special memory care unit.

Events Magazines

**Wishes everyone a safe
and happy summer season!**

CHESTER NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

Welcome to Chester!

On behalf of *Events Magazines*, welcome to Chester. Whether you are new to Connecticut or just new to Chester you will find wonderful people and places to visit in town. From the Winter Carnival to the Chester Fair, Chester has something for everyone. Below are important phone numbers. Please tear out this page and keep it for future reference. We at *Events Magazines* and Essex Printing support local businesses.

Please use this guide and "Buy Local" – we do!

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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 CHESTER FAIR (860) 526-5947
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 COMMITTEE WWW.CHESTERCTDEMS.COM
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 DEEP RIVER AND CHESTER VFW (860) 526-3521
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 CHESTER MEETING HOUSE (860) 526-0013

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CHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY (860) 526-0018

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 CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (860) 526-5797
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Want to be listed on the Newcomers' page?

Call Betty Martelle at 860-333-7117

Mark Your Calendars for Chester Rotary's Upcoming Events

The Rotary Club of Chester invites you to join us the 42nd Annual Lobster Festival to be held at the Chester Fair Grounds on September 8, 2012. The event is highlighted by classic double entree dinners featuring Twin Lobster, Twin Steak, or Surf and Turf. The bands Bittersweet Harmony, Flying Blind & Second Chance return to entertain with classic tunes throughout the evening. Access to the Lobster Festival will be restricted to dinner ticket holders and the seating is limited. Additional information for this event will soon be available on the Chester Rotary website, www.ChesterRotary.org. This event has been a sell-out in past years so be sure to get your tickets early!

The Rotary Club of Chester is looking forward to participating in this year's 2nd Annual Chester Land and Air Festival. The Chester Air and Land Festival is a celebration of Airplanes, Antique/Classic Cars and Tractors. The festival will be held on the grounds of the Chester, CT airport (KSNC) and will feature airplanes, helicopters, antique cars & classic cars as well as antique tractors. Save the date for this event that will be held on September 15, 2012. Additional details for the festival will soon be available on the Chester Rotary website, www.ChesterRotary.org.

The Rotary Club of Chester is a 501c(3) not for profit organization. Chester Rotarians are dedicated to providing funding and service to local, national and international charitable organizations including The Chester Community Fund, Camp Hazen, Tri-Town Youth Services, Shoreline Soup Kitchen, Bikes for Kids, Chester Park & Recreation, Chester Boy Scouts, Chester Winter Carnivale, Chester Early Childhood Program, Annual Chester Elementary School Dictionary Presentation and The Citizenship Scholarship Program, as well as taking part in providing resources for a variety of international philanthropic ventures including water projects in Niger, Africa and programs to eradicate polio worldwide. Our proceeds from these events support these causes. Chester Rotary is always looking for new members. We encourage you to visit our website at www.chesterrotary.org for more information regarding our club and it's fundraising efforts, updates for our upcoming events and links to Rotary International.

— Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian

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ESSEX BROKERAGE / 13 MAIN STREET

Tri-Town Youth Services

Tri-Town Youth Services has many programs and events planned for the summer. All are held at Tri-Town, 56 High Street in Deep River, unless otherwise indicated. Please join us whenever you can!

Babysitter Training. Learn how to become a safe and responsible babysitter! This American Red Cross program includes basic child care, first aid for breathing and bleeding emergencies, and injury prevention, as well as topics to prepare young adults for babysitting. This class is an excellent opportunity to help students build self-confidence as well as job leadership and decision-making skills. Completion of this course is a plus on your Job Bank application. The \$70 fee includes book, course and certificate.

The summer class will be offered on July 16, 17, and 19 from 6:00-8:15 p.m. This course fills up quickly, so please be sure to call 860-526-3600 to register soon.

Summer Co-op 2012: This program is open to all incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th graders in the tri-town area. The program will operate four days each week from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., unless otherwise noted, and features three one-week sessions of events, which are focused on a particular theme.

Session I, "Surf 'n' Turf," will run July 2, 3, 5, and 6 and will include trips to Rocky Neck and CT Sportsplex Laser Tag

and Arcade, bowling, indoor rock climbing, Hammonasset, and Lake Compounce. Session II, "Water Week," will include Brownstown Exploration and Discover Park, Huck Finn Adventures, Ocean Beach, and Six Flags during July 9-12. Session III is "In the Spotlight" and runs July 16-19. This week includes a trip to a recording studio, a tv studio, Lyman Allen Art Museum, "Carousel" at Goodspeed, and a trip to Boston to see Blue Man Group. (July 18 will be 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. and July 19 will run 3 p.m. to midnight. Group sizes are limited, so be sure to register early. Fee: \$185 per session.

Taste of the Valley. Friday, September 7, 2012. See the blog for updates! <http://www.tasteofthevalley.blogspot.com>.

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries provides food and fellowship to those in need. Serving the towns of Essex, Chester, Clinton, Madison, Old Saybrook, East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme, Killingworth, Westbrook and Deep River.

Learn how you can help at:

www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org

Hurricane Preparedness Tips

Families and Businesses reminded to be prepared

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) is reminding Connecticut residents and businesses to be prepared. "Tropical Storm Irene reminded us all that hurricanes and tropical storms do impact Connecticut and individuals and businesses need to be prepared," said Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioner Reuben F. Bradford. "Every home and business should have a basic emergency plan that can be used for any emergency".

"I urge residents to know what potential risks your community and neighborhood may face, such as storm surge, flooding, road or bridge closures", added Commissioner Bradford. "Carefully monitor the media and promptly follow instructions from Public Safety officials as a storm approaches."

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30; the principal threat period for Connecticut is from mid-August to mid-October.

"I recommend that all Connecticut residents take three simple preparedness steps: Get a kit, make a plan, and stay informed," said State Emergency Management Director William J. Hackett. "With last year's storms still fresh in our minds, personal preparedness is essential."

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection offer the following preparedness tips:

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
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Estuary Council

ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC. has been serving seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 35 years. Call us to receive our *Gazette Newsletter* or go to www.ecsenior.org for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more.

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

CHOLESTEROL SCREENING – Chester. Third Wednesdays at 11:30 am at the United Church of Chester– just stop in.

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

STAN GREIMANN ESTUARY MEDICAL OUTPATIENT TRANSPORTATION For medical appointments, to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Call Judy at 860-388-1611. Suggested donation of \$35.

SATURDAY FAMILY BREAKFAST at the Old Saybrook Café, 8 am - Noon. Join us on Saturdays for made to order breakfast - just \$5 per person! Menu choices include the Estuary Omelet, Pancakes, Oatmeal, or Eggs-any style. All served with home fries and bacon or sausage, juice or fruit, coffee and milk.

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

ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP: Hours are from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mon. – Fri. and 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, crafts, and more available. Donations are accepted and volunteers always needed.

WINE ON THE WATER – August 9th. Proceeds benefit the Stan Greimann Estuary Medical Outpatient Transportation Service (EMOTS). Call 860-388-1611 for more information.

Donate Your Car or Boat to the Estuary Council. Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling 1-800-716-5868. Vehicle does not have to run. Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide in the nine town Estuary Region.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL! - Be the first to know what is happening by getting our newsletter emailed to you. Visit our website at www.ecsenior.org and click on the Newsletter icon to follow the link and sign up! Please let us know to remove you from the mailing list once you've decided to go paperless.

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

SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Autumn on the Dock Auction - September 16th.



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An Urgent Message from the Chester Hose Company

The Chester Hose Company/Chester Ambulance responds to over five hundred calls to render emergency aid on a yearly basis. Many of the calls for assistance occur during nighttime hours and during periods of bad weather. When a call for help is received by our Emergency Dispatch Center, the caller is asked to provide as much information as he or she can regarding the nature of the call and location of the call. In days past emergency responders may have been provided the name of the person asking for help and because "everyone knew everyone" the location could be determined.

Today that recognition system does not always work. With new people moving to our town and building on the upsurge, visual identification of the problem location becomes critical. A simple solution to aid responders, display your street number on your house, mailbox, driveway signpost etc. The Town of Chester adopted this identification system years ago as a Town Ordinance. When response time is critical, wasted time trying to ID a location does not have to occur if the number is readily visible. During nighttime hours, reflective numbers are a tremendous asset. It is a simple procedure but one that could save a life. Help us find you when the call for assistance is made. **NUMBER YOUR LOCATION.**

Town Ordinance Requiring the Numbering of Buildings Enacted March 3, 1998

- Numbers should be no less than (3) three inches in height.
- Numbers shall be visible from the street.
- Numbers shall be located on the top or side of the main entrance.
- Reflective numbers will produce the best results.
- Applying residence numbers to a mailbox and driveway signpost would also be helpful.

— John Divis, Bill Beni, and Vito Nanni,
Residence Identification Committee
The Chester Hose Company, Inc.

Chester Town Hall

203 Middlesex Ave., Chester, CT 06412

Ph: 860-526-0013 • Fx: 860-526-0004

Town Hall Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:

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

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

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So the next logical question is how do you get an acceptable contract in the shortest amount of time so you can get the most money in the end? It's a quick and easy answer...**price your home correctly.** If you

choose the right price for your home, you can sell it for more money in a shorter time with less carrying costs.



So now you want to know how do you determine the correct price, right? Contact us and we'll help you figure it all out. We'll show you the recently sold homes similar to yours, the properties that are currently under contract, and which homes might be your competition for buyer's attention. We're here to help you get the most money when selling your home.

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Essex-based First Niagara Bank Honored at Middlesex United Way Campaign Awards Event

Volunteers and community leaders gathered at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell to honor more than ninety companies, organizations, and individuals that contributed \$1,925,000 to the 2011-12 Middlesex United Way Campaign.

After announcing the final amount raised, Gary Simonsen of PrimePay, President of the Middlesex United Way Board of Directors, noted, "The economic environment continues to be a struggle for the average person. And we want to be sure the programs we fund are able to help the people who need it most."

The top honor of the day, the Corporate Spirit Award, was presented to GKN Aerospace Services Structures, a manufacturing company located in Cromwell. The Corporate Spirit Award is the highest honor a company can receive for running a United Way campaign. Other top honors included:



Peter Thomas from First Niagara Bank accepts the company's Campaign Achievement Award.

- Leadership Award to Matt DeRienzo of *The Journal Register*, which includes the *Middletown Press*;

- Coordinators of the Year to Jewell Jones and Brian Hedge of Liberty Bank;

- Funding Partner of the Year to Middlesex Habitat for Humanity.

Special Achievement Awards for outstanding United Way campaigns were presented to: Community Health Center; Cooper-Atkins Corp.; Henkels & McCoy; Standard-Knapp; and Webster Bank.

First Niagara Bank was presented with a Campaign Achievement Award for topping \$10,000 in total giving.

Other local awards included:

- Campaign Achievement Awards to Essex Financial Services and Tower Labs;

- Honor Roll Award to Tower Labs recognizing five or more consecutive years of campaign growth;

continued on page 31

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• *Middlesex United Way continued from page 30* •

- First Step Award to Essex Financial Services recognizing companies that supported the campaign for the first time;
- Employee Participation Awards to Child & Family Agency of Southeast CT and Essex Savings Bank.

Simonsen recognized the 2011-12 Campaign Co-chairs, Harry Burr and Buddy McDowell, for the leadership during the campaign. He then introduced the incoming Honorary Campaign Chair, Gary Gomola of Mahoney Sabol & Company.

"The theme of the day is 'you make the difference,'" Gomola said. "And when I think about United Way, there is no better expression of how someone can make a difference. It's where you can meet people from all walks of life who share your passion for giving back and serving others."

Middlesex United Way is advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on education, income, health and housing – the building blocks for a good quality of life. United Way recruits people and organizations that bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. You are invited to be part of the change by giving, advocating and volunteering. That's what it means to Live United.

Middlesex United Way is a locally-based organization serving the towns of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook.



rganon
a market at Chester

56 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412
(next to St Joseph's Church)
860-526-6860

or·ga·non

noun - Greek: **ὄργανον** meaning tool or hand-made

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