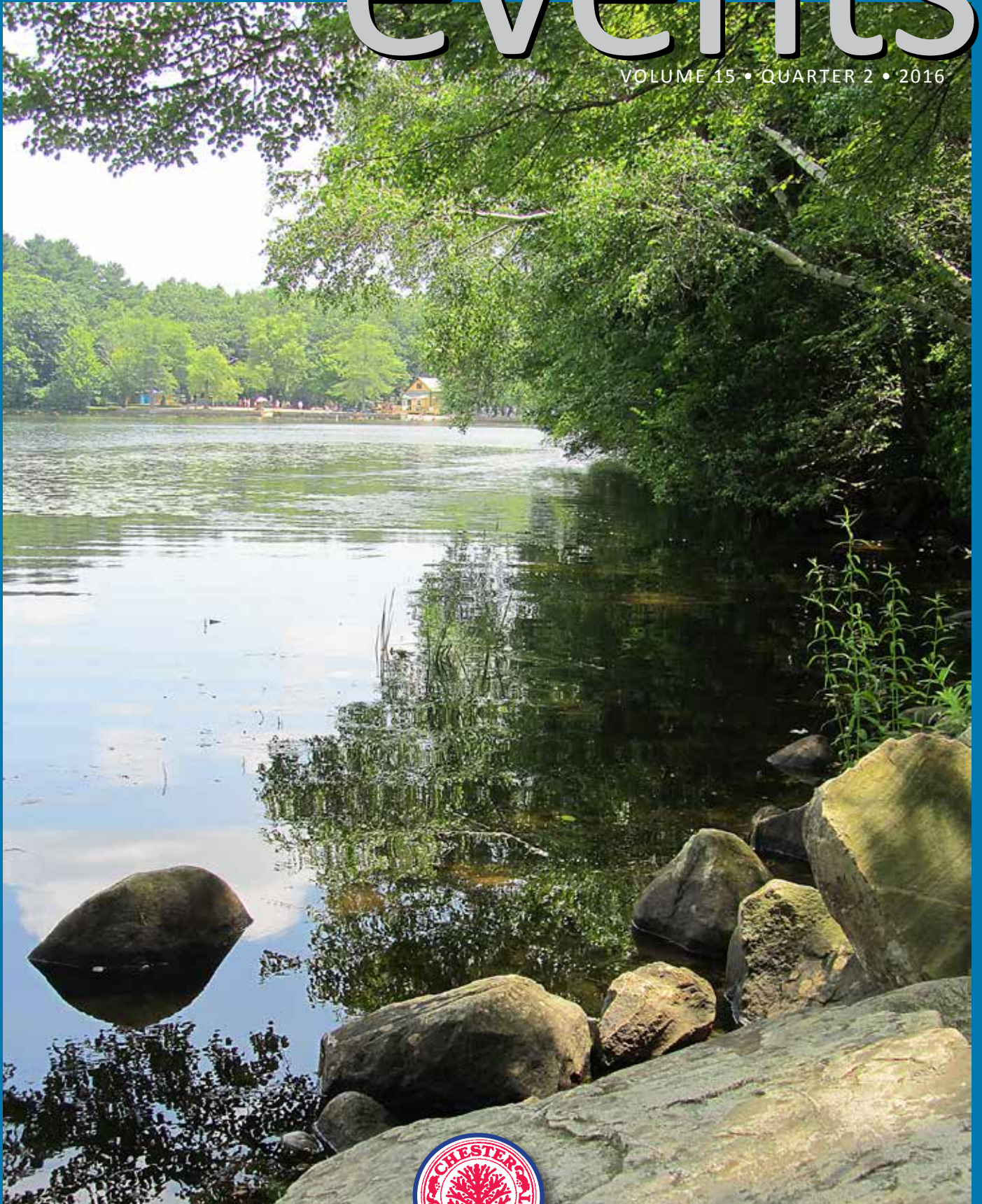


Chester events

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First Selectman's Corner

How Chester Works

As your First Selectman, I serve as the Chief Executive Officer of Chester, and as a non-voting member of all town boards, commissions and committees. My duties include those of chief of police, road superintendent, and the management of the day to day activities of the Board of Selectmen and the town government as a whole. Myself, Carolyn Linn and Charlene Janecek (your elected Board of Selectmen), meet at least twice a month to discuss details of day to day administration as well as to make policy decisions.

You, as the residents and taxpayers of the Town of Chester, are the legislative body of the government. That means that you, the members of our community come together at Town Meeting to legislate policy and budgets for local government. Why am I telling you this? Because important things get decided at Town Meeting – how money is spent, what construction projects get pursued, how we set priorities as a town. The release of \$100,000 for a preliminary library design, the purchase of new computers or police radios, the signing of a construction agreement or purchase of a town vehicle – these are all decisions made at Town Meeting during the past few years. Sadly, historically there is not a great turnout at a Town

Meeting. The last one, in February, had about twelve local residents attend. Please remember you have a say in how your town is managed. We want to listen to you – come be part of the conversation. The next Town Meeting will be in April at the Town Hall. It will be posted on the website and in the newspaper, as well as reminders sent in the townwide email. I hope to see you there.



Lauren Gister
First Selectman

Personnel

As many of you are aware, long time selectmen's administrative assistant Lynne Jacques retired in mid-February. She will be missed by all, and we wish her the best of luck and much happiness in her new adventures! I am happy to introduce our new administrative assistant, Jenny Watrous; with her positive attitude and energy she is a great addition to the staff. Please stop by Town Hall and introduce yourself!

The tax office also has a new staff member. Chester resident Kristie Valentino has just been hired to replace outgoing tax clerk

Continued on page 3

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SmartER Appointments Now Available at Shoreline Medical Center

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

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

According to Michael Saxe, M.D., Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Middlesex Hospital, “With people’s often hectic schedules, making an appointment on the SmartER website can improve convenience, help reduce waiting time in the Emergency Department, and

allow patients quicker access to medical care for non-emergency injuries or illnesses, once they arrive.”

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

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

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

SELECTMAN'S CORNER...continued from page 1

Sandy Trabucchi, who is moving to Tennessee. Welcome Kristie.

Lastly, we are sorry to say that our Head Librarian, Linda Fox, has announced her retirement for the end of the spring season. We are beginning the search process for a new librarian – her shoes will be very hard to fill.

Town Budget

The budget process has begun. This will be a particularly challenging year; state funding is being cut on a consistent basis, and operating costs continue to rise. The budget will be posted on the town website, and will be updated as information becomes available. The public hearing for the draft budget is slated for Thursday, May 12th at 7:30 pm at Town Hall, with the annual town budget vote scheduled on Thursday, May 26th. We will make it as easy as possible to stay informed about budget issues and priorities, through the weekly email blast, informational meetings and on the town website. Chester needs your input and suggestions throughout the process. Please be involved.

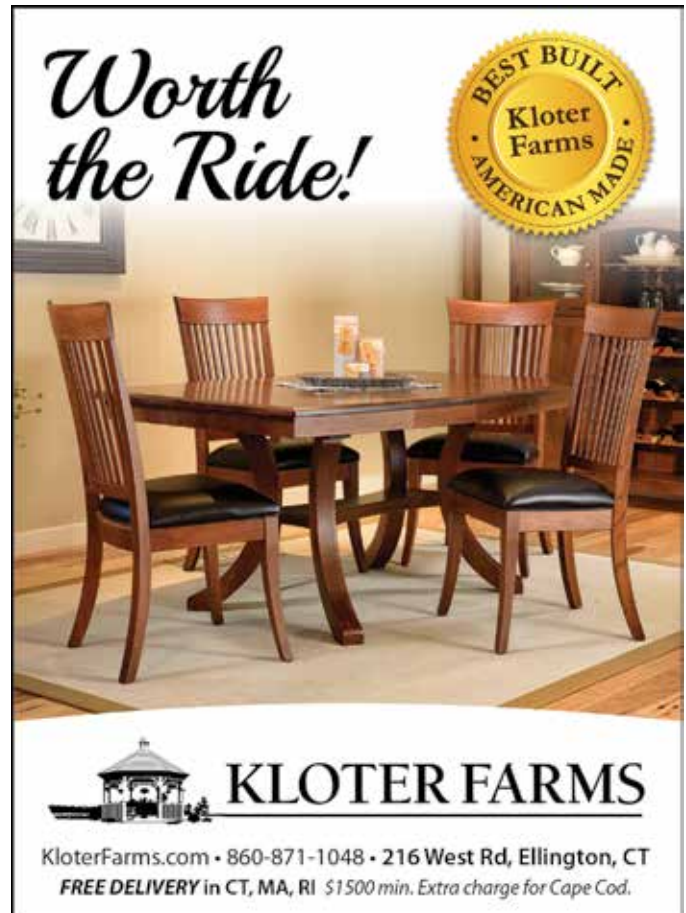
Bridge Replacement

The ConnDOT Bridge project is on schedule. Hopefully you have had a chance to stroll the new sidewalk on the northeast side of Main Street and have been enjoying watching the crew at work. Our uneventful winter has allowed construction efforts to proceed uninterrupted and all indications are that the street will be open and the majority of the work complete prior to the Memorial Day weekend. As always, businesses are open and it is more important than ever to congregate and frequent our local merchants. The merchant's association have a lot more fun in store for the Always on Sunday programming – watch for notices in the Townwide email blast. Thank you for maintaining a positive attitude throughout the construction.

Lauren Gister, First Selectman

Stay Informed

Sign up for the Chester Townwide Email Blast! This list is used by the First Selectwoman's Office only and provides useful information and updates on town events. To have your contact information added please email info@chesterct.org with the subject "town email list."

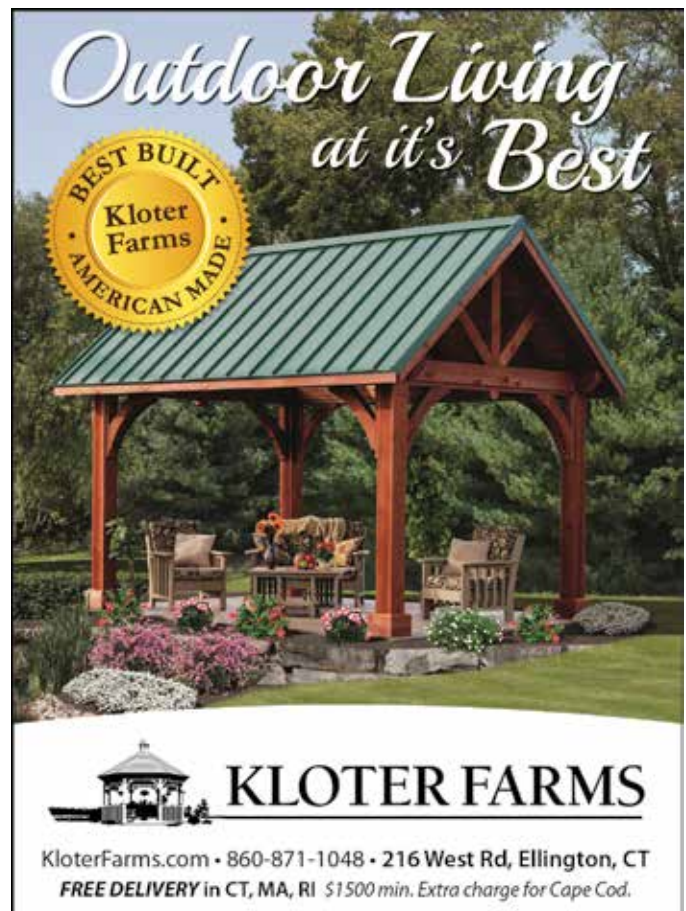


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New Buses Arrive for 9 Town Transit



Photo by Estuary Transit District: 9 Town Transit board members Leslie Strauss and John Forbis show off the agencies newest buses.

9 Town Transit welcomed four new buses into its fleet this December. The new buses feature the bright blue and green design and offer the latest in passenger comforts. These buses will expand the district's fleet to accommodate its tremendous growth in ridership over the past several years. The total cost of \$337,708 was paid for by the Federal Transit Administration and Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Additional information, route maps and schedules are available online at www.9towntransit.com or by calling 9 Town Transit at 860-510-0429.

Chester Rotary Continues Fundraising for Food – The Longest Dinner Table Event

This year The Longest Dinner Table event will be held on Saturday April 23 at St. Joseph's Parish Center from 7-11 pm. It is an adults only event consisting of music, food, silent auction and fun.

Guests are asked to gather together a table of 8 people to form a themed table. Create your own dinner menu and cocktails centered on your theme. After dinner, dance to Four Barrel Billy – a local upbeat band.

Remember...Buy your single tickets for \$25 or a table of 8 for \$200, bring your own food, set ups, liquor and support Chester Rotary. Tickets are available online at ChesterRotary.org or at the door, the night of the event.

Chester Rotary cares about our community.

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Spring into Something Fun at Your Library

For Children

Monday morning story & craft hour, 10:30-11:30. In April & May we'll explore rainbows and rainy days, windy days, dinosaurs and things that grow in the spring. No need to register, just drop in!

Saturday, April 9: Family Craft. Dads, Dinosaurs and Clay-o-saurs April showers bring May flowers but what do April Clay-o-sau-ers bring? We hope Dads and kids! We need Dads to read our stories, and kids to sculpt their own clay dinos. Sign up with Mrs. Applesauce so she knows how many little dinosaurs, oops, children will be attending.

Saturday, April 23: Family Craft. Make a portable herb garden just the right size for little ones to tend.

Saturday, May 7: Family Craft. Help children celebrate Mother's Day. Sorry Moms, you'll need to sit this one out (we wouldn't want to ruin the surprise).

For Adults

Spring Book Discussion: Beowulf. In the hands of our discussion leader, Edward Wheeler, Seamus Heaney's translation offering both the Old English and contemporary English texts will come alive. Three Tuesday evenings, April 12, 19 & 26, 7:30- 9:00 pm, at the library. Registration is required. Books available at the library on a first come- first served basis.

Plant swap and Sale, May 14. The Chester Land Trust and Chester Library are teaming up to organize a plant swap and native plant sale. Divide your perennials or start a few extra pepper plants for swapping! Master Gardeners will be on hand. Check the library website for additional information.

For the whole family

April Library Passport Program: Back by popular demand. First, pick up a library passport at your library, then visit as many participating libraries as possible, collecting their passport stamps on your passport. At month's end, turn in your passport to be eligible for one of four prizes, two each for adults and for children.

Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 21: Mrs. Applesauce invites everyone to come make cards, draw a picture, or write a letter to send to someone serving in our armed forces. A small effort can go a long way towards making someone's day special. Let's do it!

Continued on page 7

Looking Ahead to Summer

Saturday, June 18: It's the start of the Summer Reading Program, On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!

Monday mornings, June 20- August 8, 10:30-11:30: stories and crafts for preschool through second graders.

Wednesday afternoons, June 22- August 10, 5:00-6:00 stories and crafts for third through sixth grade graders.

Teen Book Discussions: The dates are set, the books are not. JWMS takes place on July 21 and VRHS on August 11. Both programs, led by Sally Murray, will run from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Especially for Parents: On Special Summer Saturdays (June 25, July 30, and August 27), 11:00-12:00, Mrs. Applesauce will set out toys and board books for the tots so parents can meet and greet one another in a relaxed play time. No registration required!

Summer Reading Program for Adults. This year's theme is Exercise your Mind: READ! Get ready!

Remember, summer programs, for all ages, require registration as space is limited! Details on each of these programs will be available at the library and on the library website (http://chesterct.org/?page_id=286)

The United Church of Chester

Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 to 1:00 pm the United Church of Chester will host its Spring Rummage and Bake Sale. Donations will be accepted from April 18th - 22nd. We do not accept or sell any large appliances, furniture, computers or exercise equipment. Come early to find fabulous goodies from some of the best bakers in Chester!

United Church of Chester 29 West Main Street.
860-526-2697.

Library Building Project

Keep up with the latest developments in the effort to create a new community library for Chester by attending a Building Committee meeting (1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7p.m. at Town Hall), checking the library website (look for *Library Building Project* in the drop down menu under Library on the town website) or stopping by Town Hall or the Library to take a look at the project notebook.

PASSION

We are fortunate and grateful for the great work being done by our neighbors, those who are giving of their time, talent and resources to support a passion or area of interest that is special to them and benefits our communities. At the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, we connect these valued donors with worthy causes to address the important work of helping others.

We provide donors with a way of targeting their gifts, so they have the maximum benefit in the community, and we provide support services, programs, and grants to local nonprofit organizations. The result is improving the quality of life for all through the arts, education, the environment, heritage enhancement, human services, animal welfare, and much more. Learn how we can help you support your passion and your community. Learn how we can help you support your passion and your community. **Visit us at middlesexcountycf.org or call us at 860-347-0025.**



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A Suggestion From The Tax Collector

Because there is a new huge program at DMV, I believe everyone should be checking their MV registrations now and making sure that you are not showing up on the delinquent list with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Even though, you have probably paid all your MV taxes (I do hope), it is wise to check ahead of time, before your next registration is due, to make sure that there are no compliance issues. It is an easy process to do, if you do things online. Just jot down your license number and write down your plate number and go to the DMV website: www.ct.gov/dmv. Click on the spot that says Motor Vehicles and then click on "INDIVIDUAL" and then go down a few lines to: Check on tax and insurance issues. This spot will probably help with any parking tickets anywhere in the state, also.

A square box will pop up and you input first your license number, and second input the plate number and third input what type registration that vehicle has. It could be "passenger", "combination", "historic" formerly called "antique" or "trailer" or if it is a small trailer, might be under "camp trailer". There are other selections, too, and you have to know what type your MV is listed under to have this be an accurate search. This type registration is listed on your registration form, which is probably

in the glove compartment of your vehicle. You then click search and in seconds the computer will let you know if you owe any taxes and to which town. It might not show up as owing in Chester, and so then you have your work cut out for you to follow up with that Tax Collector in a different town, to see what is owed or if that info in DMV records is correct or not.

It is so much smarter to be proactive in this and have it done before your registration is up for renewal. It will save you from frantic running around to get this cleared up with a deadline. Instead, do it now, and verify that you are all set with all the towns in the State of CT. You would be wise to do it with each and every motor vehicle that you own, but do it for at least one motor vehicle. And also do it for each family member who has a registration in their name. A few minutes now will save aggravation in the future. I am recommending this since we have had a family member show up as delinquent in a different town, and it was a town he had never lived in before, or ever registered a MV there. And so, he had to work with that other town and that other Tax Collector to find out how to get his name cleared before his registration was due shortly.

In 99% of the cases, you will find you are all set, but it is possible, that a wrong initial or a slightly different birthdate became linked to your name and your MV. This could be very easy to occur, since all the technical companies have been trying to help Tax Collectors get tax bills paid, and could have linked a name with a slightly different name. In the case of my family, his initial letter "C" was linked with "E" and the birthdate was just a few days different. It is all luckily straightened out now, but it took several phone call messages and several emails to finally get someone who had never been late before with taxes or registrations to be totally clear to be able to register his MV. Check now and avoid the rush later! And if you have a name like Smith or even Meyer, I would definitely do this process sooner and not later!

Madaline A Meyer, Tax Collector

Chester Town Hall

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Ph: 860-526-0013 • Fax: 860-526-0004

Town Hall Hours

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Registrars of Voters Office

April 26 will be the Presidential Primary Election. Only voters enrolled with the Democratic or Republican Parties may vote in this election. The deadline to register and, if you are unaffiliated, to enroll with a party and vote in the primary, is April 21 if done by mail or online and April 25 by noon if done in person at Town Hall. You can check your registration online at <http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3172&q=512796> or by calling our office at 860-526-0013 ext 211.

The polls will be open on April 26 from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm at Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue.

November 8 is Election Day. To avoid long lines please register to vote before the election. Registration can be done in person at Town Hall during regular hours, by mail, or online with the Secretary of the State's website <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>.

The Registrars of Voters will be conducting the 2016 canvass in May. If you receive a letter from our office and do not respond, your name will be put on the inactive list. If you wish to vote in the November 8 election, you will have to fill out a reinstatement card which is available in our office on Thursdays between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm or at the polls prior to voting.

Hours: Thursdays 2:00-4:00

Phone: 860-526-0013 ext 211

Email: chesterregistrar@chesterct.org

38th Annual Four-on-the-Fourth Road Race

July 4th – Save the Date!

The 38th annual Chester Four-on-the-Fourth road race sponsored by the Chester Rotary will start at 9:00 am on Monday, July 4. Early registration will take place on July 3rd from 4:30 to 6 pm and race day registration will be from 7:00 to 8:30 am. Registration will be held at St. Joseph's Parish Center, 48 Middlesex Avenue, Chester. The race loops through the village of Chester and is USATF sanctioned. Timing for the race will be provided by Super Race Systems. Team and individual awards will be presented. For more information visit www.chesterrotary.org as the date draws near. Chester Rotarians are dedicated to providing funding and service to local, national and international charitable organizations. All proceeds from this event support these causes.



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

Our mission is to preserve and tell Chester's story. Did you join us at the Meeting House in January when we shared memories of "It Happened to Jane"? Were you at our Chester Museum when we hosted the Chester Fife & Drum Corps in March? Do you watch our Facebook page for our old Chester photos?

We invite you to participate this spring when:

Saturday, April 9, we host our **Sixth Annual Creative Challenge**. Reception at the Meeting House (5:30 – 7:30 pm). This fundraising event is based on manicure sticks made at Bishop & Watrous Novelty Works on Maple Street in the '40s and '50s. Come see how they've been transformed into enticing works of art by local artists. Tickets for the reception are \$30 and can be bought at the door.

Sunday, April 24, we've invited the **three Yenowich sisters** – Lillian Bella, Thelma Culver and Matilda Dumbrill – to share their story of growing up with their large family on Wig Hill. Matilda is the author of *Makhorka – The Green Cigarette*, a recent fictionalized memoir about her family. (The book is at

Chester Library and is also for sale at CT River Artisans.) Their free program will be in the Community Room at the Chester Town Hall at 4 pm.

At the end of May, we'll open our new first-floor museum exhibit, an offshoot of last summer's "**Pastimes in Past Times**" exhibit. We're excited about focusing this exhibit on the history of Chester's organizations and clubs, such as the Fife & Drum Corps, as well as those that no longer exist, such as the Italian-American Society. If you have memorabilia or stories to share, please call Keith Dauer and Sandy Senior-Dauer at 860-526-2331 or email them at kssdauerchst@aol.com. The museum will be open Saturdays (1-4 pm) and Sundays (10 am – 4 pm) during the summer.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, we have just upgraded our ancient archive computers and scanners to ease the load on our curator, Diane Lindsay, and her team of volunteers.

Stay informed through [Facebook.com/ChesterCTHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ChesterCTHistoricalSociety) or www.ChesterHistoricalSociety.org.

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Estuary Council Regional Senior Center

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI) is a community center for the Estuary region's residents over 50 years old providing nutrition, transportation, health support services, education opportunities and socialization. We have been serving Seniors and promoting healthy and active lifestyles for adults 50 and better through quality programs and services in the nine-town Estuary region for over 40 years. Please visit our website at www.ecsenior.org for additional information or call us at 860.388.1611.

Junk In The Trunk, Saturday, May 14 from 9 am - 1 pm. Vendors and artisans will showcase their one of a kind treasures, antiques, vintage pieces, arts and crafts and other assorted bric-a-brac during this one day shopping event. This market will be held rain or shine. Food will be available for purchase, music, information, as well as tours of our wonderful Senior Center, a gift drawing and much, much more.

The Estuary Council offers social & educational programs, health screenings, exercise classes for many levels, a variety of trips, and much more. We also have a gym with evening hours and affordable rates. View our newsletter on our website or sign up to receive it monthly.

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

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

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

For town updates & information:
www.chesterct.org

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New Dementia Caregiver Group Formed at The Saybrook at Haddam

Caring for a family member or loved one suffering from dementia requires patience, fortitude, and a network of much-needed support from others in similar situations. To help caregivers develop this network, better understand the disease, and reduce stress and anxiety associated with dementia care, The Saybrook at Haddam has created a new monthly Caregivers' Support Group. The group, which is open to the public, offers caregivers as well as family and friends of persons with dementia an opportunity to share information, talk through challenges, and learn more about local resources. Meeting dates and times vary, so interested individuals should contact Brooke Conley at 860-345-3779 for details.

Each meeting of the support group will focus on one of the many stages of dementia or issues surrounding those suffering from dementia, as well as general caregiving concerns of members. Recent research or relevant articles will be discussed along with personal stories and experiences (including humorous ones). Group members are encouraged to suggest themes and topics for the meetings based on their specific needs.

"It is very powerful and therapeutic for caregivers to spend time and share experiences with people who also are facing

dementia in their families," said Brooke Conley, The Saybrook at Haddam's licensed clinical social worker who created and moderates the group. "Just having a community to talk to, learn from, and laugh with can bring a sense of reassurance and relief to caregivers, and can improve day-to-day life for those with dementia."

Attendees at the group's first meeting said they were happy to know they were not alone and were eager to build and strengthen connections with others. Those who are new to dementia care were pleased to talk directly with others who have coped with dementia for longer periods of time. The exchanges were helpful on many levels.

"Since Safe Harbor opened in 2011, we have worked one-on-one with family members to help them understand dementia, to try to relieve some of the anxiety families feel, and to work with them to enjoy happy visits with their loved ones," Conley said. "Now with this larger Caregivers' Support Group, we can share our knowledge base with the greater community, build a larger community, and hopefully improve lives for dementia patients and caregivers."

Continued on page 13

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DEMENTIA CAREGIVER GROUP...continued from page 12

Known as the region's premier assisted living, retirement, and memory care community, The Saybrook at Haddam (www.thesaybrookathaddam.com) offers 108 apartments for individuals or couples. The gracious manor is located in Haddam, Conn., with proximity to major highways, medical services, restaurants and entertainment venues. Private tours are being scheduled, and applications for residence are available by calling 860-345-3779.

Town Clerk

Absentee ballots for the April 26 Presidential Primary became available Tuesday, April 5. If you are a Democratic or Republican voter and are going to be out of town during the hours of voting from 6 am to 8 pm you can see the Town Clerk for an absentee ballot.

Dog licenses will be available starting June 1st in the Town Clerk's Office. A neutered or spayed dog will cost \$8 while an unneutered or unspayed dog is \$19. Beginning July 1st a \$1 penalty fee will be charged for every month a resident is late in registering a dog. Licenses can be mailed once proof of current rabies vaccination and a spaying certificate are mailed to the Town Clerk at 203 Middlesex Avenue, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you no longer have your dog, please let us know so that we may update our records.

Spring is here and it's time to clean the basement. If you need to get rid of bulky waste, you need to get a bulky waste transfer sticker, if you don't already have one, prior to using the transfer station, which is located in Deep River on Route 80. Those stickers may be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office with proof of residency and the license plate number of the vehicle you plan to use for hauling the bulky waste.

For more information call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-526-0013 Ext. 511. The office is open 9 am to noon, and 1 pm to 4 pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Tuesday the office is open until 7 pm and on Friday the office closes at noon.

What is 2-1-1?

It is Connecticut's free information and referral service. By dialing 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.

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BRAYCE Yourself For CHICAGO – The Musical

BRAYCE (Brazilian American Youth Cultural Exchange), a Chester-based non-profit, will hold its Annual Scholarship Fundraiser, this year a matinee performance of Chicago, at The Ivoryton Playhouse, on Saturday, July 23rd from 12:30 pm - 6 pm.

Tickets will include pre-performance cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Guests are encouraged to enter into the spirit of the show by dressing in period costume of the Prohibition-era Chicago. Join us on the lovely Playhouse terrace for a fun event with friends to support a worthy and worthwhile cause.

CHICAGO (the musical). Music by Jon Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb and book by Ebb and Bob Fosse. Winner of six 1997 Tony Awards, including Best Musical Revival the show offers one fabulous song

after another with the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen. Set in the legendary city of Chicago during the roaring "jazz hot" 20s, this is the world of gangsters Al Capone, John Dillinger and Bugsy Moran.

For updates of BRAYCE fundraisers, stories and current events check out the BRAYCE website, www.brayce.org or contact Susan Wright at 860-526-3294 or email at wrightbeantree@att.net.

Established in 2005, by Margot and Richard Calder, BRAYCE is dedicated to providing enriching educational opportunities for marginalized "at risk" teenagers from favelas (slums) in Brazil while providing opportunities for American college-age students to perform community service in these same neighborhoods.

Chester Library Friends

New Public Computers

Thanks to a very thoughtful private donation plus a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County/Sherry and Herb Clark Family Fund, River View Cemetery Fund, the Friends of Chester Library have been able to add two new public computers to our library this spring. The computers sit on a "computer bar" handcrafted by Chester resident Steve Bradley of Pondsides Kitchens in Chester. We are thrilled and hope you'll come in and use them!

June Book Sale

Starting in May, the Library Friends will start collecting your gently read book and DVD donations for the annual June Book Sale, which opens June 3. When thinking about making a donation, remember that

books that have spent time in basements and garages are often unfit for sale due to mustiness, water damage, etc. Volunteers interested in helping with the sale are encouraged to call Diane Lindsay at 860-526-2443. The sale is held during library hours with great items at rock-bottom prices (most are \$.25 - \$1). Please support this event, as the proceeds support all library programs and purchases not covered by the town budget.

Stay Informed

Follow the news and happenings at the Chester Library by signing up for our monthly e-newsletter at the library, checking the library news on the town website (chesterct.org) and reading [Facebook.com/chesterctpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/chesterctpubliclibrary).

Lasik Eye Treatment

A future without dependency on glasses or contact lenses can be yours. Imagine being able to enjoy all of life's activities such as hiking, skiing, swimming, biking, and many others without the burden of glasses or contacts. Consider daily activities such as looking at the alarm clock, showering, and picking out an outfit without the hassle of contacts or glasses. If you have a busy lifestyle like most of us or are experiencing discomfort from wearing contacts or glasses, it is time to consider LASIK Laser Vision Correction.

A clear future can be yours with LASIK Laser Vision Correction. Most experienced refractive surgeons agree that LASIK is the preferred refractive procedure, allowing rapid healing with fewer incursions versus other procedures. In just a few days your eyes heal and your vision clears. LASIK combines the precision of the Excimer Laser and the skill of an experienced corneal refractive surgeon.

The Meeting House Players Present

The Meeting House Players are proud to present Tracy Letts' 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play "**August: Osage County**" at the Meeting House located at 4 Liberty Street in Chester. The production opens on Friday, April 29 and continue on April 30 & May 6 & 7.

A vanished father. A pill-popping mother. Three sisters harboring shady little secrets. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoman family homestead explodes in a whirlwind of repressed truths and unsettling secrets. This dark comedy unflinchingly and uproariously exposes the dark side of a Midwestern American family. "**August: Osage County**" is being directed by Lenore Grunko and features a thirteen-member ensemble of talented area actors who bring these unique characters to life.

The curtain for each evening's performance goes up at 8 pm. A matinee performance is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 at 2 pm. Tickets prices are \$20 for Preferred Seating tickets and \$15 for Open Seating tickets. Reservation requests for both Preferred and Open seating are available by calling 860-526-3684 beginning April 11 or now by e-mail at TheMeetingHousePlayers@gmail.com. Unreserved tickets will be available at the door. Please note that this play contains mature themes and may not be appropriate for all audiences.

The Meeting House Players is a not-for-profit, all volunteer community theatre organization pursuing the theatre arts with the talents and interests of individuals throughout Connecticut.

Middlesex Eye Physicians' Dr. Peter Shriver specializes in corneal and refractive surgery with a focus in refractive laser surgeries. He participated in the original FDA trials for LASIK approval and has performed over 10,000 LASIK procedures. Dr. Shriver is a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, International Society of Refractive Surgery, and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

Call today to schedule your free LASIK consultation. During this, your doctor will determine if you are a candidate for treatment. There are several factors ranging from how much correction is needed, the health of your eye, are you 18 years of age or older, and your past medical history that will affect your candidacy. Blurry vision is the result of the eye not being able to focus light on the retina. By reshaping the cornea with LASIK, you can achieve excellent visual results.

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March Was Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colorectal cancer occurs in the colon (large intestine) or the rectum. It is the second leading cancer killer in the United States. However, if everyone over the age of 50 received regular screening then over 60% of the deaths from this cancer would be avoided.

Who Gets Colorectal Cancer?

Both men and women can get it. It is usually found in people over age 50 and your risk increases with age. You may be at high risk for getting it if a close family member has had colorectal polyps or cancer. Other risk factors are inflammatory bowel disease and a genetic syndrome of familial adenomatous polyposis.

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

Screening Can Save Lives

Having a colonoscopy beginning at age 50 could save your life. Colorectal cancer begins as a polyp or growth in the colon or rectum. Over time the polyp can develop into a cancer. If the polyps are found during the colonoscopy they can be removed and the cancer will be prevented. In addition, if cancer is found and it is found early then the chance of being cured is improved.

What are the Symptoms of Colorectal Cancer?

In many cases there are none so you may not know it is there. That is why regular screening is so important. If symptoms do occur they be present as blood in the stool, or persistent stomach pain, or weight loss for no reason.

Types of Screening Tests

Talk to your doctor about which screening test is best for you. The most common one is a colonoscopy where a flexible lighted tube is passed into the rectum and colon to visualize any polyps or growths. There are other types of tests so ask your doctor about each one.

Wires Down and/or Power Outage Protocol

First and foremost, if you see wires down ASSUME THEY ARE LIVE and do not go within ten feet of them. Do not touch anything that is touching them, electricity travels. If you are in a vehicle with wires touching it DO NOT ATTEMPT to exit the vehicle and call 911.

If you observe one end of the wires (at the pole, and or on your house) smoking or in flames dial 911. If your power goes out, dial 1-800-286-2000 to report it. If you don't, EVERSOURCE has no way of knowing you are out of power.

Joel Severance, Emergency Management Director

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries provide 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.

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Chester Hose Company

Looking for a showcase to sell your crafts or hobbies? The Second Annual Craft Fair sponsored by the Chester Hose Company is now accepting applications from local crafters who wish to participate in this fun family event!

This year, the fair will be held on October 8th from 10:00-3:00 at St. Joseph's Parish Center on Middlesex Avenue in Chester. Spaces are available both inside and outside at this venue and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

For an application or more information, please email fallbackspringahead7@gmail.com or contact Emily Masters at 860-526-3275.

The Rotary Club of Chester Announces 2016 Citizenship Awards

The Rotary Club of Chester is now accepting applications for its 2016 Citizenship Awards. This year, two \$2500 awards will be given in the form of scholarships to graduating Chester resident high school seniors who exemplify the Rotary "Service Above Self" maxim through community and volunteer services. Applications must be received by May 1. Applications and information are available now from the guidance departments at Valley Regional High School, Mercy High School, Xavier High School, The Williams School and Vinal Technical High School or on-line at www.chesterrotary.org.

Haddam-Killingworth Relay for Life American Cancer Society

The 10th Annual Haddam - Killingworth Relay for Life walk will be Saturday, June 11th at 3:00 pm until Sunday, June 12th at 9:00 am. If anyone is interested from Haddam, Killingworth or any surrounding town, please join us. Come and walk the Haddam - Killingworth track for an hour, two hours or stay the night. Campsites are available. The American Cancer Society walk is a fundraiser which helps in its fight against Cancer! The night of the event has a survivor dinner, entertainment, silent auction, food, etc. You may find more information on our website RelayForLife.org/HKCT or you may contact Ed Yantosh at rflofhk@gmail.com.

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St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Chester

Spring is here! Celebrate the most colorful and festive season of the year by joining our St. Joseph's family for mass, sharing your time and talents, or participating in one of our upcoming events.

Upcoming Events:

Family Mass and Social Sunday: Attend the monthly family mass, every second Sunday of the month, April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, and July 10th at 10:00 am, followed by some fellowship and treats.

Misgivings, Comedy Show and Hors D'oeuvres: Enjoy a good laugh with Mr. Dave Kane who portrays Father Patrick Aloysius in this one man comedy show. The cost of this exciting, adult only evening out on Saturday, April 30th is \$20.

Bikes For Kids Receives Non-Profit of the Year Award

The Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce recently awarded Bikes For Kids as the 2015 Non-Profit Organization. The award was presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting. The award was accepted by Dave Fowler, President of Bikes For Kids. This award is presented to the organization which has had a major impact on the lives of individuals within the last year. Founded in 1989, Bikes For Kids has given away more than 18,000 bikes. During the past year, Bikes For Kids has had an impact on more than 1400 individuals in need by giving away refurbished bikes and new helmets.

Ninety percent of donated bikes are given to young people living right here in Connecticut. The organization is contacted by churches, schools, local and state social service agencies and individuals who have identified people in need and the bikes are distributed. Volunteers and donations are always welcomed! Visit the website at bikesforkidsct.org or call 860-388-bike (2453).

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Bible Study: Learn to interpret and apply biblical text to your everyday life. Bible study will take place on May 10th and July 12th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Sorrows in Essex.

Celebrate and witness two Sacred Sacraments

Confirmation: Friday, May 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm

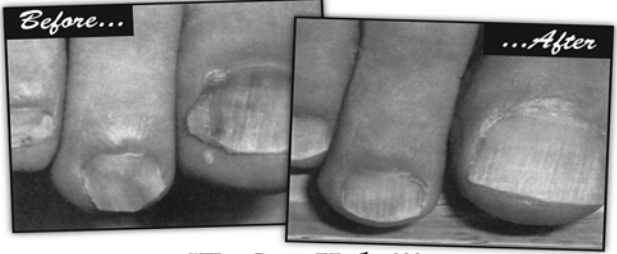
First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 4:00 pm

The youth ministry mission trip to Redding, PA will take place June 28th through July 2nd. Twenty-eight parishioners will participate, twenty of them teens. Upcoming fundraising projects for the mission trip will include a car wash and a pancake breakfast on May 15th.

Our sincerest gratitude is extended to all who supported the Lenten Friday Fish-Fry. We appreciate those who dined with us, volunteered their time, baked, and contributed in making this another successful year.

The St. Joseph's family wishes you a Spring season of growth and renewal. For information on any of our upcoming events, please call 860-526-5495 or visit our website: www.stjosephs-chester.org.

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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
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INLAND WETLANDS Anna Sweeney	212	InlandWetlands@chesterct.org
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PLANNING AND ZONING Judy Brown	208	ZoningOfficial@chesterct.org
POLICE SERVICES Trooper Matt Ewing	860-526-3605	PoliceServices@chesterct.org
PUBLIC LIBRARY Linda Fox, Library Director	860-526-0018	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS Tracey Ohaus & Leslie Holbrook	211	ChesterRegistrar@chesterct.org
SANITATION Lee Vito	206	Sanitarian@chesterct.org
TAX COLLECTOR Madaline Meyer	513	TaxCollector@chesterct.org
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

Calling all Businesses

MARC Community Resources (MARC) has advocated for the rights of people with disabilities since 1955. Since that time MARC Community Resources has grown into a multi-service agency with nearly 100 paid staff and over 100 volunteers. Today we serve more than 200 people with disabilities throughout Middlesex County and the Greater Hartford area by providing choices for housing, employment, advocacy and social/recreational life.

MARC's largest program is its Group Supported Employment Program. Small Group Supported Employment crews provide a vast array of companies with eager and enthusiastic employees capable of a multitude of tasks.

We provide a low cost work force while improving productivity. "The Crew from MARC has been an integral part of our Connecticut operation since 1996, and has contributed to our company's growth here during this period. They are a pleasure to work with; they have become family. There is no Greenwald without MARC," said Helmut Henry, Traffic Supervisor, Greenwald Industries (Chester).

Hiring a work crew from MARC provides companies with many benefits including increased profitability, employees who happily accept repetitive tasks without complaint, lower insurance risks, and a richer work environment for their own employees. "The MARC crews are a valuable part of our stores, not only do they keep our stores clean and safe, they brighten the experience of our staff and guests. They bring inspiration, cheer and good work ethic everyday they are here," said Gino Pacitto, Facilities Maintenance Manager, Shop Rite East Hartford/Manchester.

No job is too big or too small for MARC's work crews. Work crews are available Monday through Friday from 10am-1pm. If you are interested in receiving more information on hiring a MARC work crew, contact Erin Gasparini, Vice President of Vocational & Leisure Services at (860) 635-5151.

Help Wanted – Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper- full time. Must have experience with QuickBooks, record daily transactions, A/R & A/P, customer invoicing, sales tax and payroll, month end close, reconciliation, filing and other tasks as needed. Hours 9-4:30. Please send resume to wmcminn@essexprinting.com.

Roto Frank Raises Food & Funds for SSKP with Year-Long Campaign of Caring

The employees of Roto Frank of America, based in Chester, recently presented a check for \$2,867 to The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, as well as collecting over 300 pounds of food. These generous gifts of food and funds were the culmination of a year-long campaign of giving throughout 2015.

The company wide effort included a variety of special events, such as bake sales, pancake breakfasts, raffles and company competitions, as well as regular contributions via payroll deductions. Using a special “soup ladle thermometer,” Roto Frank’s employees could watch their efforts begin to really add up over the months. To keep motivated, every Friday was “Charity T-Shirt Day,” when employees wore special campaign shirts, printed with the logo and mission of SSKP.

“Roto Frank’s year-long campaign for SSKP was truly inspiring, and will help so many local neighbors in need,” said Patty Dowling, Executive Director. “They are an amazing example of what a company can accomplish, when everyone comes together in the spirit of caring for others. On behalf of all our volunteers and especially those we serve, we say thank you to all our friends at Roto Frank of America.”

About The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

Founded in 1989, The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP) provides food and fellowship to people in need through 5 food pantries and 8 hot meal sites, serving 11 Connecticut



shoreline towns. Last year with a small staff and 900 dedicated volunteers, SSKP distributed enough food for over 1 million meals to shoreline neighbors in need. Learn more at www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org or call (860) 388-1988.

About Roto Frank of America, Inc.

Roto Frank of America, Inc. is a Chester, Connecticut-based manufacturer of window and door hardware. The company, which offers solutions for North American and European hardware applications, has an extensive product line including its renowned X-DRIVE™ casement and awning hardware, sash locks and WOCD, sliding patio, NT Tilt&Turn, patio fold, and hinged patio, among others. For more information please visit www.rotohardware.com.

Chester - Community Listings

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Chester Land Trust (860) 526-2619
 Chester Fair (860) 526-5947
 Chester Democratic Town Committee ... www.chestertcdems.com
 Chester Garden Club (860) 526-2998
 Chester Historical Society (860) 526-5781
 Chester Merchants Association. www.visit-chester.com
 Lions Club deepriverchesterct.lionwap.org
 Deep River and Chester VFW (860) 526-3521
 Tri Town Youth Services Bureau (860) 526-3600
 Chester Meeting House (860) 526-0013

LIBRARY

Chester Public Library (860) 526-0018

POST OFFICE

Chester Post Office (860) 526-2780

SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools District 4 (860) 526-2417
 Chester Elementary School (860) 526-5797
 John Winthrop Middle School (860) 526-9546
 Valley Regional High School (860) 526-5328

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Chester Fife & Drum Corps – Celebrating 148th Anniversary

Welcome to the spring of 2016. If you're like me, you've had enough of winter! It's time to think of more pleasurable outside activities. We, the members of the Chester Fife and Drum Corps, look forward to the parade and muster season. As you may know by now, Chester Drum Corps was established in 1867 and went "on the road" in 1868. This Corps has been playing our music continuously since the beginning with no time taken off for any reason (good, bad or otherwise!). We have performed in many different uniforms, and are now planning our fourth (or fifth) uniform in 148 years. Our new look will be more colonial. We hope to be newly outfitted by the summer.



Update on new uniforms. We are almost there with uniform upgrades. We are still working, on getting bits and pieces, to finish off the whole look. Just think old Chester and add a little flair of modern.

We are also in the process of making plans for our 150th Anniversary Celebration/Muster to be held in 2018. So keep looking for more information as we finalize our plans.

Our drum line is well staffed; however our fife line needs more players. 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 also 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. Our tentative summer schedule is noted below.

- May 14 Sailing Masters of 1812 Commemoration
- May 28 Town Wide Tag Sale
- May 29 Cheshire Memorial Day Parade
- May 30 Chester Memorial Day Parade
- June 11 Gaspee Days Parade Warwick RI
- July 4 Columbia July 4th Parade
- July 16 Deep River Muster
- July 30 9th Annual Deerfield Valley Parade VT
- Aug 14 Moosup VJ Day Parade
- Aug 27 Westbrook Muster
- Sep 10 Portland 175th Anniversary Celebration
- Sep 17 Guilford Citizens Day Parade
- Oct 9 Bridgeport Columbus Day Parade

Call today for a private tour: (860) 345-3779

Richard and Ellen Klinck enjoy tai chi and many other activities at The Saybrook at Haddam

We are Part of a Wonderful Community

Richard and Ellen Klinck always wanted to be part of a real community—relaxed lifestyle, so they can fill their days visiting friends and family, and taking part in plenty of activities such as tai chi. The best part is no more chores and no more cooking.

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www.TheSaybrookAtHaddam.com

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 have a most enjoyable summer. Hope to see you at a muster or at a parade.

Frenchy Cordeau, Business Manager and Drum Major
Brian Schiller, President

News from Chester Merchants

The Chester Merchants group aims to attract visitors to our picturesque Chester Center. We do this through our own businesses as well as combining our efforts with special events – such as our May Daze Night on Friday, May 6, when we welcome everyone with special events and refreshments.

We've been especially busy since the Main Street Bridge reconstruction began in January with Always on Sunday happenings, which will continue all spring. April's theme is "Enchanting Chester" and May is "Swinging through Chester." Watch our Facebook pages, Facebook.com/visitchesterct and Facebook.com/AlwaysonSundayinChester, for weekly details.

We welcome the activity of the Chester Sunday Market, organized by Chester resident Sue Hotkowsky, which opens for the season on June 12.

Anyone interested in keeping our town vibrant and attractive to visitors is 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 FindItInChesterCT.wordpress.com.

The Chester Fair 5th Annual Wine & Beer Tasting

The Chester Fair will be holding its 5th Wine & Beer Tasting on Saturday, June 4th from 6:30 pm to 10 pm at the Chester Fairgrounds. There will be wine and beer vendors, live entertainment, and various local restaurants will be selling food. Admission is \$20, and proceeds will go toward the Chester Fair scholarship program. The Chester Package Store will be sponsoring this event, which will be held rain or shine.

Contact us at 860-526-5947 or email at remcgee@snet.net. Like us on facebook for updates! Our web address is <http://www.chesterfair.org>

Last year's vendors:

Two Roads Brewery	Senor Sangria
Cottrell Brewery	Middlesex Malters (Club)
She Been Brewing	Broad Brook
Harpoon Brewing	Mash (Club)
Stomp & Crush	Mionitto
Charter Oak Brewing	Cork and Brew
Thimble Island Brewery	Ripe
Back East Brewing	World Wide
Witch Doctor Brewing	Winebow
Brescomb an Barton	
Traveling Vineyards	

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Know Your Farmer

More and more, people are becoming interested in where their food comes from and how to support their local farmers. And more and more, they seek to find the freshest food around for their families.

Did you know that there are almost 75 farms in Middlesex County alone!? Ever wonder if there was an easier way to find the farms, learn about what products they sell and find the best times to visit?

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments Regional Agriculture Council – the first formed in the state – has taken a step that will make it easier to find where to buy such fresh food!

Using an “Ag Viability” grant provided by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, the Regional Ag Council has launched a website titled “Know Your Farmers” in an effort to introduce many of the farms and farmers from Middlesex County to the public. The public will be able search for fresh food by town, by farm and by product. The website will also provide notices of



events occurring at our local farms and will include a page sharing recipes. The Ag Council, whose members are all local farmers themselves, will include a “Farm of the Month” which will tell the story of a farm and the people who pour their blood, sweat and tears into the land.

The mobile-friendly website will allow you to search out just the right farm and products to support your efforts to support your local farmers. Go to <http://www.ctrivervalleyfarmers.org> at your desktop, on your tablet or on your Smartphone and start exploring. To learn more about the RiverCOG Regional Ag Council, go to <http://www.rivercog.org/agriculturecouncil>.

Help to Believe and Achieve

With funding from Middlesex United Way, Tri-Town Youth Services has been spearheading youth asset development throughout the tri-town area since 2005. Asset development is a positive approach we can all take to help our youths and our communities be our best.

Just about everyone can look back on her or his life so far and see that certain people have been especially important in helping us feel valued and empowered.

Near the Y, write the names of people who have believed in you, whether long ago or more recently.

Near the E, jot down something (or several things) you were able to do because one of those people believed in you.

Near the S, write the name of a young person who might benefit from knowing that you believe in her or his abilities and potential. Then think of one way to show that person you believe in her or him.

Y _____

E _____

S _____



**CELEBRATING
FOUR YEARS!**

THANK YOU



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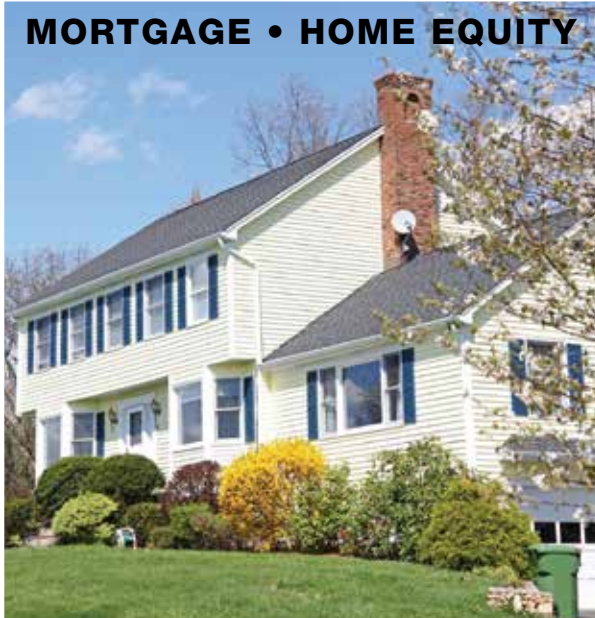


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