

Chester events

VOLUME 18 • QUARTER 2 • 2019



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First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's spring, and that means flowers, rain, and BUDGETS! By the time you get this magazine in your mailbox I hope the sun will be shining and winter coats will be put away for another year. Spring is a season of fun in Chester, with the Easter Egg Hunt, Duck Race, First Fridays, plays and concerts at the Meeting House, and more. If you are not already receiving the Townwide email at the end of each week with news of what is happening in town, please get your email address to Jenny in my office (860-526-0013 x202 or adminassistant@chesterct.org) and she will add your name to the distribution list. It's a great way to keep up on the activities in town.

2019-2020 BUDGET

We are deep into our annual budget review in Town Hall and with the local and regional boards of education. Many hours are dedicated by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and the Chester, Region 4 and Supervision Boards of Education to ensure that we support critical services, maintain our infrastructure, and provide the best possible education to our children. There are several areas that will have a major impact on our budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, among them are the following:

The impact and cost of the past three years of gypsy moth and emerald ash borer damage to the oak and ash trees in town is substantial and taking down these dead trees is a high priority

for the safety of our residents.

The flash flood damage to roads, streams and bridges from the September 2018 storm has been repaired using funds budgeted for other items while we await reimbursement from state and federal agencies. Reimbursement for approved repairs will only replace 70-80% of the funds expended.

The greatest impact to this year's budget will be in education costs. Continued reductions in student populations in Deep River and Essex while Chester's population has stabilized means that Chester will bear a higher percentage of the Average Daily Membership (ADM) used to cover regionally shared expenses. We have had the benefit of cost savings over the past few years for education because of the smaller student population in Chester and expected some increase as the population levelled off this year. This unexpectedly large increase will have a significant effect on this year's budget, with an increase in education costs to Chester without any new programming.

The bottom line here is that we need to be prepared for a difficult financial year and a higher tax increase than usual. Chester's operating expenses are already spare, and we have had to deny **continued on page 2**



Lauren Gister,
First Selectwoman

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events

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department requests for additional program and personnel funding. Our highest priority is the health and safety of our residents. It is crucial that you as taxpayers are informed about what affects your taxes this year and why. Below is a schedule of the remaining budget workshops, school referendum, town budget hearing and final town meeting and budget vote. Please put these dates on your calendar, be informed and let us know your thoughts.

April 18th----BOS/BOF Budget Workshop

May 7nd----Region 4 Budget Referendum Vote

May 8th ----Chester Budget Public Hearing

May 29th---Annual Town Meeting and Vote on Budget for fiscal year 19/20

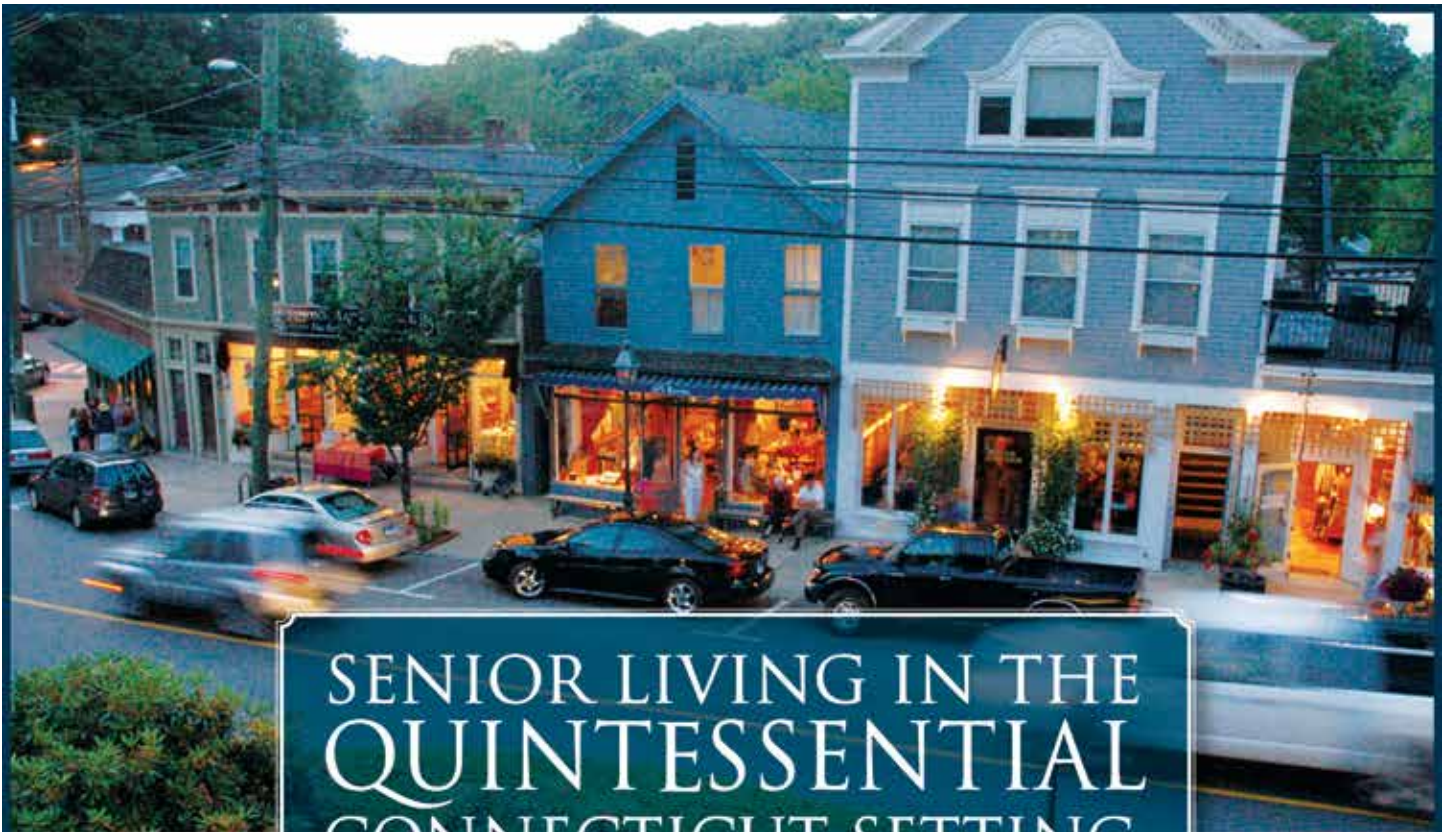
All meetings are at 7:30 pm in the Community Room at Town Hall unless otherwise stated above. Please come – your voice is important!

MAIN STREET PROJECT

Great news for Main Street! We have received a commitment for funding through the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program for the next phase of the Main Street Project. This phase will encompass the replacement of the water main, roadway and sidewalks from the Villager and Grano to the Maple Street flagpole and past Otto to the Laurel Hill Cemetery parking lot.

This is a part of the Main Street Master Plan approved by the town in 2013 and should be fully designed and ready to go to bid in early 2020. Final designs and specs are being worked on now in preparation for meetings with the downtown

continued on page 4



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First Selectwoman... continued from page 2

merchants, property owners, tenants and with all Chester residents to discuss designs, timing, parking during construction and other important issues. Watch the calendar for announcements in late spring. The Main Street Master Plan is available for viewing in the Selectman's Office.

POCD

Chester's update of the Plan of Conservation and Development was approved at the Planning and Zoning Meeting on March 14th and became effective April 1, 2019. This document sets land use, conservation and other priorities and gives us a road map to follow in making decisions over the next decade based on a process of task force meetings, public workshops and public hearings set over the past year and a half.

The Plan is posted on Chester's website and a hard copy is available for review in the land use office at Town Hall. Thank you to all who worked so hard and participated in the brainstorming!

All the best,
Lauren

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Town Clerk Information

Fishing and Dog License Notice

Fishing season begins Saturday, April 20th. Resident inland waters fishing licenses for anyone 16 years of age or older who want to fish in ponds, lakes and streams, are available in the Town Clerk's Office for \$28.00. Resident marine fishing licenses cost \$10.00. Also available are all waters inland and marine fishing licenses for \$32.00. All licenses expire December 31st. Senior citizens age 65 and older may get licenses at no cost.

Dog licenses will be available starting June 1st in the Town Clerk's Office. A neutered or spayed dog will cost \$8.00 while an

unneutered or unspayed dog is \$19.00. Beginning July 1st a \$1.00 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 Ave., 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.

For more information call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-526-0013 Ext. 510. 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.

Bulky Waste Transfer Stickers

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.

Chester Merchants Celebrate First Friday

Mark your calendar for the First Friday of every month to come down to Chester's downtown to shop, dine and enjoy a beverage or two! The merchants and galleries in the village center are open until 8 pm on April 3, May 3 and June 7 (plus the first Friday of every other month year-round) with artist openings, new product

introductions and demonstrations and other activities while the restaurants often offer specials, too. It's always a fun-filled evening strolling charming Chester! For more information and to stay current with Chester's shopping and dining activities, follow us on Facebook @VisitChesterCT.

It's Tag Sale Time!

Make Sure to Get on the Map!

The long-standing Chester tradition, the Town Wide Tag Sale, takes place on Saturday May 25th. We are here to help you participate, get you started, and learn how to run a successful tag sale. The first step to having a successful selling day is get your location highlighted on the map to be sure everyone finds you! Volunteers sell the maps the morning of the event at several locations throughout town, including the commuter lot and downtown to all the excited shoppers from all over the area.

For questions and resource information contact:
ChesterRTC@gmail.com.

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The Chester Hose Company News

EASTER EGG HUNT

Come enjoy an afternoon on our lawn at the Chester Firehouse, 6 High Street Chester. Saturday, April 20 at noon. Egg Hunt will start with a signal by the traditional fire whistle! "Waddlers"- Age 10. Three hunting areas...

prize eggs...visit with the Easter Bunny... fun for all. Hot dog lunch. Water will be available for purchase. Don't forget to bring a basket to collect the eggs. Sponsored by The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary.



LUCAS DEVICE

Thanks in kind to a generous donation from The Chester Ambulance Association we began a campaign to purchase a "Lucas Device" (an automated chest compression system that can deliver the correct amount of compressions during CPR) to add to our emergency equipment.

In response to our campaign, an anonymous Chester resident sent us an incred-



ible donation enabling us to secure the purchase of the new tool. This device will better enable us to potentially save lives.

Pictured here with our newly acquired Lucas Device are past Chester Ambulance officers, Ed Grzybowski, Treasurer and Bill Beni, President along with John Brainard, Chief of The Chester Hose Company, Incorporated.

UPCOMING EVENT!

The Chester Hose Company Incorporated will be holding its fundraiser "Fall Back, Spring Ahead" Art & Craft Fair on Saturday October 26th from 10 am to 3 pm located right at our firehouse, 6 High St, Chester. We currently have a couple of food trucks such as Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream and Chow from Clinton scheduled for purchasing of food during our event. There will be an array of handmade items from our local crafters. A few items include

woodworking, crochet items, home décor, and much more. We offer free parking and free admission.

Come join us for a fun filled day. If you or someone you know may want to join us and show off their creations feel free to contact our committee at fallbackspringahead7@gmail.com.

THE CHESTER HOSE COMPANY AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary will again be offering a scholarship to a well deserving student. Applications will be accepted February 6 - April 30, 2019. For a complete list of requirements and a copy of the application, visit the Chester Hose Company website (www.chesterhoseco.org), stop by Chester Town Hall and see the Town Clerk or stop into the Guidance office at Valley Regional, Xavier, Mercy, or Vinal High schools. All applications and supporting documentation must be received by Tuesday April 30th to the address below. A decision of the recipient will be made by May 15th. If you have any questions please call (860) 526-0013 x203 or email CHCAuxiliary@gmail.com.

All applications can be sent to:

The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary, Attention: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 214, Chester, CT 06412

FISH

FISH (Friends in service here) - FISH provides free transportation to and from medical, dental and physical therapy appointments in the area roughly bounded by Middletown, New London and Guilford. The service is available Mondays through Fridays (except holidays) from 8 am to 5 pm for ambulatory residents of Essex, Centerbrook, Ivoryton, Deep River and Chester who have no other means of transportation.

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- Your name, address and telephone number
- Day/date/time of the appointment
- The address and telephone number of the facility to be visited
- The expected duration of the appointment

Call 860-388-2693 if you appointment is cancelled. A FISH driver will call you the evening before the appointment to arrange pick-up. FISH is always looking to hire drivers - call 860-388-2693 if you are interested!

Chester Fair / 8th Wine & Beer Tasting



The Chester Fair will be holding its 8th Wine & Beer Tasting on Saturday, June 1st from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Chester Fairgrounds. There will be wine and beer vendors, live entertainment, and various local restaurants will be selling food. Proceeds will go toward Chester Fair educational programming. 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>. If you would like to participate, contact Rob Miceli at ert14@sbcglobal.net.

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>. If you would like to participate, contact Rob Miceli at ert14@sbcglobal.net.

Four-on-the-Fourth Road Race

JULY 4 - SAVE THE DATE!

The 41st annual Chester Four-on-the-Fourth road race sponsored by the Chester Rotary Club will start at 9:00 am Thursday, July 4. Early registration is on the 3rd from 4:30 to 6:00 pm, and race day registration will be at the St. Joseph's Parish Center, 48 Middlesex Turnpike, Chester from 7:00 to 8:30 am. The race loops through the village of Chester and is USATF sanctioned. Timing will be provided by Super Race Systems. Team and individual awards will be presented. For more information visit www.chesterrotary.org or RunSignup.com for advance registration.



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Chester Democratic Town Committee

Chester is a wonderful town not only because of its physical beauty and surrounding environment, but especially due to its residents and our welcoming spirit, community support and civic involvement. Our town is vibrant due to the numerous volunteers of all backgrounds. We encourage more people to participate in the business of our town. We are presently seeking further volunteers to serve on the following Boards and Commissions with openings which include:

- Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate (two positions)
- Cable Advisory Council Number 5

- Citation Review Board
- Grounds & Buildings Maintenance & Oversight Committee
- Management Commission Alternate (two positions)
- Middlesex County Revitalization Commission
- Regional Mental Health Board
- South Central CT Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.
- Tourism Liaison for Town of Chester
- Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau Representative

This year is also a municipal election of our local elected Boards and Commissions. For further information on any of the above open positions, or to review a listing of Chester elected and appointed positions, including current representatives serving our town, go to the Town website, www.chesterct.org, and click on the Town Services tab, and then the Town Clerks page and review the Official Listing of Elected Officials (includes appointed positions). For specific information on Boards & Commissions, go to the Town Services page and click on the Board or Commission of interest for a summary of their members, scheduled meetings, agenda/minutes and responsibilities.

For further information or to volunteer and apply for an open Board or Commission position or to run for municipal office, contact the Board of Selectman's office at 860.526.0012 ext 202, or the Democratic or Republican Town Committee chairs for information. To contact the Chair of the Chester Democratic Town Committee, Lori Ann Clymas, call 860.526.8171 or by email at laclymas@comcast.net. To contact the Chair of the Republican Town Committee, Carolyn Linn, call 860.398.0690.

The Chester Democratic Town Committee's goal is to keep our fellow residents informed and involved. Collaboration makes us stronger as a community. We thank all our volunteers, present and past, for their service to our town.

Lori Ann Clymas, Chair, Chester DTC
9 Old County Road, Chester, CT / 860-227-6956

Chester - Community Listings

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

LIBRARY

Chester Public Library.....	(860) 526-0018
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POST OFFICE

Chester Post Office.....	(860) 526-2780
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SCHOOLS

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

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



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Planning & Zoning Commission Adopts 10-year Plan

The Planning & Zoning Commission has adopted the 2019-2029 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The Plan looks at Chester as it exists today and what may be anticipated for the Town over the next ten years.

Mandated by Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes, this Plan looked at Chester as it has evolved since the last review in 2009. A number of workshops were held, with representatives from boards and commissions providing current-day knowledge of the town. Additional workshops engaged Chester residents and two rounds of questionnaires surveyed what residents would like to plan for in the years to come.

The POCD will be the Town's guide as Chester moves forward, taking on new initiatives identified by residents. It will help guide long-range planning efforts and prioritize needs for funding with specific goals to strengthen the town economically while protecting its natural resources and history.

The Commission is appreciative of the time, energy and patience brought to this undertaking by town officials and Chester residents. These joint efforts are what help to make Chester a unique and special community, today, tomorrow and in the years ahead.

Office of Emergency Management and Harbor Management Commission

At a recent US Coast Guard conference we were told of the surge in the last 2 years in search and rescue response calls. The primary cause was for reports of "paddleboards" observed, drifting, with no one on board. Responders would have no way of telling if someone had fallen overboard, or if it had just broken loose and was drifting away. It has been recommended we hand out identification stickers to owners of these crafts so if a paddleboard is found, the responders can call the contact listed.

You can pick up a identification sticker at the Town Hall in the First Selectman's Office.



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CHESTER TOWN HALL

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ASSISTANT ASSESSOR Darlene Pollock	512	
BUILDING Ron Rose	207	BldgOfficial@chesterct.org
FINANCE Peter Evankow	215	Finance@chesterct.org
ACCOUNTS CLERK Sharon Echtman	216	
FIRE MARSHAL Richard Leighton	212	FireMarshal@chesterct.org
FIRST SELECTWOMAN Lauren Gister	202	FirstSelectman@chesterct.org
HUMAN SERVICES Rosie Bininger	213	HumanServices@chesterct.org
INFORMATION	202	Info@chesterct.org
INLAND WETLANDS Anna Sweeney	210	InlandWetlands@chesterct.org
PARKS AND RECREATION Elizabeth Netsch	223	ParkRec@chesterct.org
PLANNING AND ZONING Judy Brown	208	ZoningOfficial@chesterct.org
POLICE SERVICES Trooper Matt Ward	860-526-3605	PoliceServices@chesterct.org
PUBLIC LIBRARY Stephanie Romano, Library Director	227	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS Tracey Ohaus & Leslie Holbrook	211	ChesterRegistrar@chesterct.org
SANITATION Ryan Grenon	206	Sanitarian@chesterct.org
TAX COLLECTOR Madaline Meyer	513	TaxCollector@chesterct.org
TAX CLERK	513	
TOWN CLERK Debra Germini Calamari	510	TownClerk@chesterct.org
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK Sharon Echtman	510	
TREASURER Elizabeth Netsch	214	Treasurer@chesterct.org
WPCA		wpca@chesterct.org

www.chesterct.org



Annual Scholarship Event

SAVE THE DATE

BRAYCE Annual Scholarship Event

Where: The Ivoryton Playhouse

When: Wednesday, July 10th, 6 pm

Over 60 million people worldwide have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make Mamma Mia! the ultimate feel-good show! Set on a Greek island paradise, the story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

NOTE: If you are a Season Ticket Subscriber please consider switching your ticket(s) to attend the Wednesday, July 10th evening performance. For an additional \$40 to BRAYCE you can join our pre-theatre reception and meet the four wonderful young Brazilians participating in the 2019 Cultural Exchange Program. Please call Krista May directly if you want to switch into the BRAYCE event.

Telephone number: 860.767.9520 x 205 or email krista@ivorytonplayhouse.org with your contact telephone number and she will call you back. For more information about the event please go to www.brayce.org. See you at the show!

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek

55 East Kings Highway, Chester
860-526-8920 www.cbsrz.org

Saturday, April 20th – 6:00 pm 2nd Night Passover Seder

Do you remember the smell of Grandma's Matzah Ball soup simmering on the stove as she prepared for Passover Seder? If you are looking for an opportunity to reconnect with your Jewish heritage, please give us a call to learn about our PASS-OVER ACROSS AMERICA seder at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek. Our Seder will be on the second night of Passover, Saturday, April 20th, starting at 6:00 pm.

Sunday, April 28th – 9:30 am and 11:00 am

Books & Bagels with author Leslie Bulion

Author Leslie Bulion will be at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek on Sunday morning, April 28th, to introduce children and adults alike to the tiny critters that crawl in the leaves underneath our feet and the winged creatures that soar in the sky above our heads. In a double-header Books and Bagels event, one for adults, one for children, Leslie will share her two latest books with us.

The first session of Books and Bagels will begin at 9:30 am, when Leslie will share her book first with bird-loving adults, followed by a special Kids Books & Bagels session for children at 11:00. As always, our Books and Bagels events are open to the public and there is no charge. Books will be available for purchase (and signing) at both sessions. No reservations necessary.

May 3rd – 5th – Scholar-in-Residence weekend at CBSRZ
Visiting Scholar, Rabbi Simcha Raphael, PhD will lead and join in on various discussions and programs throughout the weekend. Top of discussion: Judaism and the Mysteries of Life, Death and the World Beyond. Details are still pending, visit our website for more information, www.cbsrz.org.

Saturday, May 11, 2019 – 7:30 pm

CBSRZ Comedy Tonight

A funny thing is happening on the way to Chester, as CBSRZ once again turns into a NY comedy club featuring Steven Scott and Moody McCarthy, both veterans of Comedy Central, network TV, casinos, Las Vegas, and the NYC comedy club circuit. Hosted by the congregation's Music & More



Steven Scott and Moody McCarthy

committee, we look forward to an enjoyable evening full of laughter, complete with wine, beer, seltzer and snacks.

Audience 18 and older only. Tickets available for purchase.

Sunday, June 2nd - Sol LeWitt, Lary Bloom and Books & Borscht

On Sunday, June 2nd, at 4 pm, friends and fans of Chester's very own artist, the late Sol LeWitt, are invited to a special Books & Bagels at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek when we celebrate the book launch for Sol LeWitt, A Life of Ideas, Lary Bloom's new and definitive portrait of LeWitt, his good friend, fellow CBSRZ congregant and fellow Chester resident. Books and Bagels, a CBSRZ institution that Lary Bloom himself started back in the 90's, will transform itself into Books and Borscht for this occasion, paying tribute to Sol LeWitt's New Britain upbringing and his love for the humble foods of his childhood.

Tuesday, June 18th – Red Cross Blood Drive

1:00 to 6:00 pm

CBSRZ is proud to support the American Red Cross.

Our next blood drive at the synagogue will be on Tuesday, June 18th. Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or visit www.redcross-blood.org to schedule an appointment today.

For more information on all events, call 860-526-8920 or visit www.cbsrz.org.

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Chester Historical Society ~ 50 Years of Preserving History

In April 1970, a group of concerned Chester residents founded the Chester Historical Society, and immediately set to work to restore the “Old Town Hall” as the Chester Meetinghouse was known then. The structure – built in 1793-94 – was deteriorating and could no longer be used. We all know the results of their efforts. If it weren’t for the Chester Historical Society, we might not have this working architectural treasure in our town.

From this April through next April, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Chester Historical Society, honoring the efforts and accomplishments of the founders, charter members and generous volunteers. We are looking forward to the future by engaging our young families and children in special activities.

Already this spring, we have enjoyed watching old films of Chester, which were

digitized, edited and preserved, thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. We look forward to watching more films with the Deep River Historical Society in the fall.

Our fundraising Creative Challenge in early April was a celebration of our preservation of the Meetinghouse. Local artists and others made artistic creations with squares of red velvet cut from old Meetinghouse stage curtains.

Our seasonal exhibit this summer will focus on our years since 1970, featuring happenings such as the founding of the Robbie Collamore Concert Series and the Meetinghouse Players. Expect to see an abundance of our photos and artifacts plus a display of the designs of Chester and the Historical Society from Peter Good and Janet Cummings Good in the past 49 years.

Of course, our purchase and creation of Chester Museum at The Mill is our biggest accomplishment, so please don’t miss the opportunity to visit it this summer. We are immensely proud that as we begin this anniversary year, we have paid off the last of our notes on the museum and now own it free and clear. Our next endeavor will be a capital campaign drive to replace the roof, work on the deck, and replace our failing furnaces.

This year celebrate with us, as we continue all our work to preserve and showcase Chester history. Take a look at our website, www.chesterhistoricalsociety.org; check out the variety of books we’ve published since our founding; watch our growing collection of videos on YouTube; and attend our programs.

Without you, we wouldn’t be here. Thank you.

Chester Public Library

Summer 2019

ADULT PROGRAMS

May 22 – “Great Alone by Kristin Hannah.” Facilitator and discussion leader Marsha Bansavage will lead our spring book discussion. This program will take place at the library from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and is free, but registration is encouraged. Books will be available at the library on a first come, first served basis.

May 23 – “Beyond the Bicep: The Real Story of Rosie the Riveter.” The Chester Library is partnering with Masonic Care of Chester Village to bring your this exciting lecture by Amanda Goodheart Parks. This program is free and open to the public and will take place at Masonicare at Chester Village, 7:30 pm. Registration required.

June 5 – “Getting There: Connecticut’s Transportation Past & Future.” Long-time commuter advocate and newspaper commentator Jim Cameron offers a lively presentation and Q&A on Connecticut’s transportation crisis. Registration encouraged. This program is free and is open to the public and will take place at the Town Hall, 6:30 pm.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

April 20 – “Rechenka’s Eggs.” Drop-in for this Easter Egg craft inspired by Patricia Polacco’s, Rechenka’s Eggs. Families can swing

by the library during open hours to create one of these beautiful craft paper and doily eggs. Learn a fun art technique with water, markers and paintbrushes in lieu of watercolors! 10:30 – 2:30 pm.

May 4 – “Paint and Plant Flower Pots.” Looking for the perfect Mother’s Day gift? Bring your children and grandchildren to paint on a terracotta planter this spring. Each child will receive a planter and pansies with dirt to plant. Learn the basics of gardening from the Chester Garden Club. Registration will be limited to the first 20 people. Ages 6+

May 8, 15, 22, 29 - Participate in this 4 week STEM teen workshop that combines Legos and stop-motion technology. Use a brand new iPod Touch and Stop-Motion Animation software to create Lego-brick films. We will take you through the process step-by-step from brainstorming and building to editing your own mini-movies. Limited space available. Made possible by: Community Foundation of Middlesex County and the Sams Family Fund and River View Cemetery Fund. This program will run from 4-5 pm at the library.

June 25 – “Animal Embassy: Over the Moon Animal Adventure.” Join Animal Embassy on this nocturnal journey through the fascinating night life of the animal kingdom! We will help

children to understand the differences between “nocturnal,” “crepuscular” and “diurnal” animals by providing exciting, live examples of each. Discover what these amazing creatures do while we are tucked tightly in our beds dreaming. 1 pm at the Chester Meeting House.

July 10 – “Children’s Museum of Southeastern CT: Moon Mission.” Watch footage from NASA of the Apollo Moon Landing and participate in a variety of hands-on activities to better understand our solar system. 3 pm at the library.

July 17 – “Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center: Alien Insects!” Want to contribute to a growing global scientific initiative? Your little bug-collectors can help by collecting an insect sample for DNA barcoding. Find insects using LifeScanner kits that include vials, collection instruments and DNA preservation fluid. Perhaps the etymologist in your life will have found a new species! Join Kim Hargrave in the instruction and practice using these kits. 3 pm at the Library.

July 24 – “The Mind and Movement Project: Space Yoga.” 5-4-3-2-1... Families are invited to join us on a Space Yoga Adventure. We will blast off into space and soar into the universe stretching our imaginations as well as our bodies. Breath work, poses, and relaxation will be incorporated into the class as well as plenty of fun and laughter! 4 pm at the Library.

July 31 – “Jedi Training with Darth Vader.” Is there a Star Wars fan in your life? Here’s a chance for your young Jedi warrior to defeat the evil Sith Lord. Each participant will receive a lightsaber and the opportunity to use his or her best moves against Darth Vader. This professional costumed actor will interact with your little hero and provide a memory to last a lifetime! 3 pm Town Hall.

*****Story Hour with Miss Trish**, Mondays at 10:30 am. Miss Trish was a guest speaker at the Chester Elementary school for National Read Across America Day. She continues to advocate for the Kindness Campaign which promotes kindness throughout our community.

The library is pleased to announce our new STEM/STEAM initiative made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and the Sams Family Fund and River View Cemetery Fund. We will be hosting a number of programs geared towards kids 12-17. Stop motion animation and robotics programming are some of the programs being offered. The library has acquired an American Girl doll “Molly” available for check-out. She’s located in our new “American Girl” section in the children’s room. The library is host to a new writer’s group that meets the second Thursday of the month. New members welcome.

A Round of Applause...

For Supporting Our Seniors and Veterans.



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It takes a community to improve the quality of life for all – neighbors and friends who give their time and resources to support a passion or area of interest. We applaud the good people who are partnering to provide access to essential services to those who might otherwise go without.

Together, we are making a real difference. Thanks to our donors and Funds, critical programs for veterans and seniors continue in Middlesex County. One of our newest Funds, the St. Luke’s Home Fund, is providing financial support to nonprofit organizations working to improve the daily lives of seniors and veterans. Grants are awarded to programs offering basic services such as shelter, access to care, and transportation.

Thanks to you, we are able to make even the smallest gift have a big impact - through charitable funds that support animal welfare, arts and culture, health and social services, education, history, the environment, civic improvements, recreation, and economic security and opportunity.

We celebrate all of you who share the same desire to help our local community thrive today, and tomorrow.

We invite you to learn more by calling us or visiting us online.

The Chester Republican Town Committee

WITHOUT YOU, IT CAN'T HAPPEN.

You CAN make a difference. There isn't anything that happens in town government without the efforts of individual people. Everything from donating to the local food pantry, serving on a committee or serving as a town official. Yes, it takes time, commitment, and at times even courage. But the gratification of positively contributing to the greater good is a huge and far-reaching reward.

The Chester Republican Town Committee (CRTC) supports the Chester community through individual efforts at the town and state levels. We work with local and state legislators to inform them about the concerns, issues and problems of our friends and neighbors. The CRTC is a political committee, which is open to registered Republicans. We actively welcome and encourage constituents of many differing opinions and viewpoints. We're here to listen to you, to your neighbors, people of all ages. Working together, we can bring about change, and, yes...Your voice does matter!

We are hoping you will take the plunge and work with the CRTC to help make a difference in the lives of citizens of Chester and the state of Connecticut. . There are a number of current and

emerging vacancies on our local boards and commissions that make it difficult to take necessary action. Consequently, things don't move forward; rather they grind to a halt. A thriving Chester needs volunteers and this is where YOU can help!

Also, even beyond Chester the actions in Hartford have huge impacts on our lives. Currently the state's House and Senate are proposing new legislation such as: regionalization of our schools, new and expanded tax hikes, tolls on your commute to work and other measures. Our legislators need to hear from us with respect to these actions.

Another election season is upon us and working together, as a growing team, we can make things happen and make positive changes, which will improve our future.

Step forward. Decide to take part. Help make things better.

To learn more about how you can make a difference, contact the Chester Republican Town Committee at 860-532-0234 or chesterrtc@gmail.com. The CRTC meets the 4th Monday each month at Town Hall at 7:00 pm. All registered Republicans are welcome to attend.

Tri-Town Youth Services



Tri-Town Youth Services and the local Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition are celebrating prevention throughout the month of May! We kick things off with a celebration of FAMILY in downtown Chester for First Friday, May 3rd. Join the Chester Merchants and other Coalition partners for family-friendly festivities that highlight wellness and community spirit.

After a day providing hands-on training to Valley Regional High School students and Coalition Volunteers, National Trainer Joe Markiewicz will present a Community Call to Action on May 7th. All community members are invited to this presentation of the most recent youth survey data and in-depth discussion of local trends. Find out what our youth have to say about drug and alcohol use, depression and family life. Let's come together to celebrate our community's strengths, and get ready to roll up our sleeves to make sure that all children are happy and healthy!

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In mid-May we join prevention agencies across the country to celebrate National Prevention Week from May 12-18. Chester, Deep River and Essex are home to so many businesses and organizations ready to support your physical and mental health all year long. Many of your favorites have joined the fun for

National Prevention Week, so look for special promotions and incentives to try something new! Be sure to pick up your copy of Tri-Town's National Prevention Week Bulletin at the Library or Town Hall, which lists all of the local happenings throughout the week, or check out the event calendar at www.tritownys.org.

Sleep Soundly with Inspire

Sleep apnea is a serious problem that can cause high blood pressure, heart failure and stroke.

Symptoms of sleep apnea include, but are not limited to, getting up frequently to use the bathroom, waking up feeling tired and not well rested, excessive daytime sleepiness, waking up with headaches and problems with memory or concentration. If you experience any of these symptoms, you should see your doctor.

The standard treatment for obstructive sleep apnea is the use of a CPAP machine, which is a positive pressure therapy that involves the use of a mask, hose and small machine. The CPAP mask works by having

a flow of air create a pressure in the back of your throat and mouth to hold open the soft tissues that are falling back and closing your airway.

If patients cannot use a CPAP machine then they may be offered an oral appliance or surgery, such as transoral robotic-assisted surgery. They may also be offered an implantable device called Inspire Therapy, which is similar to a pacemaker.

Dr. Mark D'Agostino, Middlesex Health's chief of Otolaryngology, was one of the first in the country to offer Inspire Therapy, which treats sleep apnea by implanting into patients a small device that senses breathing. A stimulation cuff is placed

around a nerve that controls the tongue, allowing patients to breathe normally through the night. Patients control the therapy with a remote control.

To receive Inspire Therapy, you must be 22 or older and have failed CPAP therapy, and you must have moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea with an apnea-hypopnea index between 15-65 and less than 25 percent central sleep apnea. You must also have a body mass index at or below 32. You should not be significantly overweight.

To learn more, visit www.middlesexhealth.org/sleep.

Chester Parks and Recreation

Celebrating Community through People, Parks and Programs!

860-526-0013 extension 223, parkrec@chesterct.org

Web Page: <http://chesterct.org/town-government/parks-recreation-commission/>

BALLROOM DANCING RETURNING IN APRIL! 3 Classes for \$30 6:30-7:30 pm on Mondays, April 1, 8 and 15 at the Chester Meeting House. \$30 per person fee payable to the instructor Karen Pfrommer.

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

KARATE. Ages 5 through 15, 5:00-6:00 pm on Mondays, session 6 - April 29, May 6, 13, 20, June 3 at the Chester Town Hall Community Room. \$45 per session payable to the instructor Tammy Marino.

SUMMER CAMP

MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER! We are an outdoor program specializing in waterfront activities! Our Camp Counselors are Certified Lifeguards.

continued on page 16



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Chester Parks & Rec... continued from page 15

Summer Camp Is Open To Residents Of All Area Towns!

NATURE & ART on Mondays, SWIMMING, WATER SAFETY, COOPERATION PROJECTS & OUTDOOR COOKING on Tuesdays, SWIMMING & TEAM CHALLENGES on Wednesdays, SCIENCE & ART on Thursdays, FIELD TRIPS on Fridays, SPORTS, CRAFTS, GAMES, & FUN every day!

Our SUMMER CAMP rivals any camp in the area! We offer swimming, sports, science & nature, arts & crafts, team building, and more, but unlike many camps, children choose most of what they wish to participate in throughout the day from a variety of programmed activities. It is open to children entering grades 1 through 6 and the hours are from 8:15 am until 3:45 pm, the weeks of July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5, and August 12, at Chester Elementary School on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and severe weather days, and Cedar Lake on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If the camp meets at the school on Tuesday or Wednesday due to weather, Thursday camp will be held at the lake that week. The children take field trips on Fridays. The fee is \$140 per child, per week, and payable at the time of registration.

The week of June 24 is ADVENTURE CAMP, a premium week with 3 field trips for students entering grades 4 through 7, only. The price is \$225. The week of July 15 is also open to students entering grade 7. The weeks of July 22 and August 5 are open to children entering Kindergarten, too! KINDER-CAMP for children ENTERING KINDERGARTEN has staff and programming designed specifically to meet the needs of younger children. Activities include games, sports, crafts, nature, teacher led swimming and story time. The children have their own teachers, lunch time, and activities in their own group running concurrently with our grades 1 through 6 camp, at the same location the weeks of July 22 and August 5.

All Kinder-Camp children and those entering grade 1 participate in swimming lessons the weeks of July 22 and August 5. Campers entering grade 7 have an optional introduction to lifeguarding activity the weeks of June 24 and July 15. Our camp fee includes all program and field trip expenses, except lunch. Children do not need to be Chester residents to attend.

CEDAR LAKE 2019 SEASON

Please note that watercraft* will no longer be permitted at Pelletier Park while lifeguards are on duty. For access to Cedar Lake please use alternate launch areas at the Town Beach across from Lakeview Avenue or the State Boat Launch on Bishop Road. *including – but not limited to – kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, row boats, and inflatables.

The Town Beaches on Cedar Lake are scheduled to be open for the 2019 season beginning June 13 through August 19 with scheduled hours from 10:30 am until 6:00 pm. Hours may vary according to staff availability, training, weather, or special programs. It is the policy of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission that access to the Town parks, including the beaches on Cedar Lake, is by permit only. Vehicles of residents parked at unstaffed parks must display a public access sticker, which is available at the Town Clerk's Office. Non-residents must display a park pass on their vehicles at unstaffed parks and show their pass and identification when entering a staffed facility. Non-resident passes are currently \$75 and valid through June 19 of 2020. They are available at Pelletier Park during operating hours and at the Parks and Recreation Office during the off-season. Chester residents may enter staffed facilities by showing a driver's license, or other proof of residency or

taxpayer status with identification. Residents and pass holders may bring up to six people, but must accompany them.

All other guests are \$3 each. Groups of 10 or more must make reservations in advance by submitting a completed group use application at the bottom of this page, a certificate of insurance to the Town, and pay a group fee.

If your child is in the water you should be too! ALL NONSWIMMERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT WHO

IS STANDING WITHIN ONE ARMS LENGTH.

With the opening of Cedar Lake the Parks and Recreation Department would like to remind parents to please watch your children while they are in the water and do not leave them unattended at the facility. Drowning is the second leading cause of trauma deaths for ages 1-19 years old and the third leading cause of ALL deaths of children 0-4 years of age. There are 3,533 fatal (non-boating related) drownings annually in the United States. This

is about 10 drowning deaths per day. We would like all patrons to realize that no one is permitted in the water if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or while they are chewing gum or eating. Among adolescents and adults, alcohol use is involved in up to 70% of deaths associated with water recreation.

Please remember that head first entries are not permitted at our swimming facilities. This includes throwing children into the water. Head-first entries are the leading cause of sports related spinal injuries.

8th Annual Run for Chris - 5K with the Y

**JUNE 22, 2019, IN ESSEX, CT
JOIN US FOR A GREAT FAMILY-FUN EVENT!**

Proceeds from the Run for Chris with the Y 5K support the Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund at Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Honoring the memory and vision of Chris Belfoure, a 2005 graduate of Valley Regional High School - influenced by his own life altering experiences traveling and living abroad, Chris was passionate about encouraging others to broaden their own horizons. The fund benefits foreign language study abroad programs at local area high schools.

In April, 2019, students from VRHS will go to France for their exchange program, supported by a \$3,000 grant. The grant is made possible by proceeds from the run and from our sponsors. Race information and registration at www.chrisbel4mf.com.

Note: Until June 7 ages 14 and under free, and group rate discounts (online only). Awards include... under 20 age group awards (<10, 10-14, 15-19). Food for runners include a generous

donation of bagels from Cohen's. Great raffles including a family membership to the Westbrook Y.

Friends of Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund @CFMC thank the following local sponsors: Tower Labs, The Clark Group, A.J. Shea Construction, Essex Savings Bank, The Crehan's, Middlesex Health. Raffles from Savour. Please consider sponsorship or raffles: email: robinc83@gmail.com.

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The Chester Land Trust ~ Spring

**THE CHESTER LAND TRUST
PRE-EARTH DAY "GREEN" WALK
& CARINI & SCUDDER PRESERVES
CLEAN-UP**



SATURDAY APRIL 20

Lil Bella will lead those who wish to walk along Chester Land Trust Properties and pick up litter. Wear gloves. Those who do not wish to walk, please bring a rake and gloves (mark with your

name) and help us clean-up Carini and Scudder Preserve. Bags will be provided for walkers.

TIME: 9:00 am sharp (please park at Water Street parking)

LOCATION: Meet at Carini Preserve, Water Street, Chester

QUESTIONS: 860.526.2775. If you'd like, bring a lunch and Chester Land Trust will supply water, beverages and cookies at noon.

THE HUCKLEBERRY ADVENTURE SERIES

will hold **The Recycled Raft Race** in the creek at the Carini Preserve. Come one, come all to "build" and race your creek-worthy vessel. Materials will be provided.

DATE: Saturday, May 18th

TIME: 9:30 am SHARP!

(no staggered starts)

WHERE: Carini Preserve on Water Street

PARKING: Public lot available on Water St. There will be age groups: Ribbons awarded to first, second and third; 6 and under, 10 and under, 14 and under, Adults. Come dressed as a Huckleberry character, (prizes awarded).

QUESTIONS: 860.526.2775. Details: chesterlandtrust.org

For more info call/email Priscilla Robinson, 860.526.2775, Probinson02@snet.net. CLT Events are free. Tax free donations and new members are always welcome!



Chester/Deep River Boy Scout Troop 13

Troop 13 Boy Scouts serves the boys ages 11-18 of Chester and Deep River. The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to help youth develop their character and life skills all while having fun. There is much emphasis placed on assisting these youth to develop into strong healthy citizens who will lead our communities and country in the years ahead. The Boy Scout methods help to promote these ideals through the challenge of putting them into practice with the Troop Program. This is done in a way that is both challenging and fun.

Recent Troop Happenings

Boy Scouts in Troop 13 held their Winter

Court of Honor Awards on March 27, 2019 at the United Church of Chester. The Scouts were presented with rank advancement awards and more than thirty Merit Badges were earned by the Troop this year. In February, Troop 13 competed at the Mattabesett Trail District Klondike Derby held at June Norcross Scout Reservation in Ashford, CT and attended an overnight at Prime Climb in Wallingford where the boys earned the Climbing Merit Badge.

In April the scouts will be attending the Merit Badge Madness at Xavier High and have spring hikes and campouts planned. Please be sure to stop by and find some

great bargains at Troop 13's Tag Sale during the Town Wide Tag Sale.

Eagle Scouts

Troop 13 is proud to announce three new Eagle Scouts this year. Ryan Douglas built the gate guard booth for Deep River Landing, Kenny Peterson cleared invasive vines and installed benches in the tennis court area at Valley Regional High School, and Edward Lenz built and installed an arbor and benches at John Winthrop Middle School as part of the farm outdoor classroom. To learn more information about joining Troop 13 please contact our Scoutmaster, Steven Merola @ 860-526-9262.

CT River Area Health District



Warm weather is quickly approaching, which means beach days, hikes, bike rides, pools, drawing on asphalt with chalk, lemonade stands, and our not-so-favorites; mosquitoes and ticks! These pests are known to transmit West Nile Virus,

Zika Virus, and Lyme Disease, just to name a few. Prevention from bites is the best way to avoid these diseases, so follow these important steps: Use EPA-registered insect repellents, with one of these active ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus, or 2-undecanone. Use products that contain permethrin on clothing. Treat clothing and gear, such as boots, pants, socks, and tents with products containing 0.5% permethrin. It

remains protective through several washings. Make your yard safe by removing stagnant water, leaf litter, clearing tall grasses

and removing brush, mowing the lawn frequently, keep playground equipment away from yard edges and trees, discourage unwelcome animals (such as deer, raccoons, squirrels) from entering your yard by constructing fences, and remove old furniture or trash that may give ticks a place to hide. Avoid traveling through wooded and brushy areas, but if necessary, wear long and bright clothes that cover any bare skin, as well as



walk in the center of the trail if possible.

Conduct a full-body tick check upon returning from potential tick-infested areas. Thoroughly check areas such as under the arms, between the legs, in and around the ears, and in hair.

Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors to wash off and more easily find ticks that are crawling on you.

Put clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on clothing.

Check pets for ticks as soon as they come from outside. Ticks can be transported into a home by our pets.

If you have any questions, please contact the CT River Area Health District at 860-661-3300.

Why Does Chester Tax Collector Not Accept Credit or Debit Cards?

Credit cards probably have a benefit in larger towns, especially towns with a low collection rate or in towns with several people working in their tax office. Towns with low collection rates need to do everything possible to help their town collect money. Luckily, the Town of Chester has a very good collection rate and most people pay their taxes on time or eventually pay when it is time to register their motor vehicles (MV). It certainly is supposed to be that tax payers pay when the bill is first sent out for July or the supplemental bill for January. Bills aren't supposed to be paid just when the MV is due to be registered, but when the actual bill is due originally.

There is logic to why Chester does not accept credit cards. Towns that accept credit cards use a large amount of extra paper, all to process one or two payments. In addition to the extra paper as a result of all the steps required for the process of a credit card payment, the time required would be double or triple. Then there are issues of timing and account balancing. Let's look at one example – the person who wants to use a credit card to pay taxes in order to register a MV: On a Thursday, a taxpayer realizes he owes taxes and cannot register his MV. He/she goes online to pay and thinks all is ok. But the credit card company does not send the information until

after hours. The Tax Collector does not see the information until Tuesday. The Tax Collector then processes the file (which may only be that one payment) and must go on the DMV website and clear that one person. It is only then that the taxpayer can register the MV. Meanwhile, frustration and anger has accumulated on the side of the taxpayer.

Then, there are the issues of interest and accounting. If it is the end of the month and a credit card payment is made but the credit card company does not send the file until the following month, another month's **continued on page 20**

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Tax Collector... continued from page 19

worth of interest has accrued. Also, the credit card company might send the file but does not send the money at the same time. It could be a full week or, in some cases, a full month before the funds are in the Tax Collector's account. Now, the file says one thing as to what was collected but the cash report shows a lower number, causing the Tax Collector's account to not agree. This is a huge issue. It would eventually balance out, but sometimes it is not for

weeks. This is not the type system I want to work under. I pride myself that our office balances at the end of every month.

We have many ways for people to pay their tax bills – by mail or check when the bill is due; dropping off a check when bill is due; or bringing in cash when the bill is due. Taxpayers could also set the "Tax Collector" up as an account with their own bank, and have the bank mail us the payment.

In the case of someone out of town, they could have a family member, friend, former neighbor do them a favor and bring in a payment if they need instant clearance. The options are numerous. It simply is not efficient to accept credit cards in a small town with a limited staff and limited hours.

Sincerely, Madaline Meyer
TC Chester

Chester Fife & Drum Corps ~ Est. 1868

2018 was a very busy year in the history of the Chester Fife & Drum Corps. With many parades, musters and fundraising events, as we turned 150 yrs old. We celebrated with our own muster up at the fairgrounds in September.



In November we had our annual meeting and new officers were elected: President, Brian Schiller; Vice President, Wendy

Moonan; Secretary, Mare Harlow; Treasurer, Tom Groth and Business Manager, Trent Ruffino.

We'd like to thank two of our members for their time and dedication they put into the Corps. Stepping down from business manager after 10 years is Frenchy Cordeau, and also stepping down as treasurer for the past 7 years is his wife June.

April is usually a quiet month for us. Then May really kicks the season off. So if you can, please come out to any of the events and support your home town Drum Corps.

- May 11 Essex Ct. Burning of Ships parade
- May 26 Forestville, Ct. Memorial Day parade
- May 27 Chester, Ct. Memorial Day parade
- June 1 Kinderhook NY. Toga Muster
- June 8 Warwick RI. Gaspee Day parade

We are always looking for new members. If interested, there are three ways you can reach us, at Chester1868@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at [@chesterfifeanddrumcorps](https://www.facebook.com/@chesterfifeanddrumcorps) or finally stopping by one of our rehearsals Thursday nights from 6:30-8 pm at North Quarter Park. Free lessons, free loan of instrument. Here's to another 150 years!

In the spirit,
Trent Ruffino, Business Manager / CF&D 1868

United Church of Chester



29 West Main Street, Chester, CT 06412
Reverend W. Alan Froggatt,
Pastor & Teacher

Have you ever wondered what the sermon might sound like after seeing the topic on the sign board outside the United Church? Well, you can read Alan's each Sunday's sermon at the church's website www.uc-chester.org as well as his weekly blogs,

The Villager Voice & Simons Says. Also there is information about groups that meet at the church (including Chester Garden Club, Quilters, and scout groups); about community services offered by the church during the year (including a weekly soup kitchen dinner, a Backpack Program providing food for children over the weekend, and special Thanksgiving and Christ-

mas donations to those in need); and other activities. The church has a Facebook page where you can follow the latest news and learn about upcoming activities.

April 18: Maundy Thursday 6 pm - Pot Luck Dinner 7 pm service.

April 19: Good Friday 12 pm -3 pm. Prayer and meditation. Readings every 30 minutes. Come and go as you need.

April 14: Palm Sunday

April 21: Easter Services 6:00 am Sunrise Service at Mt. St. Johns in Essex. 10:00 am service at UCC.

May 4: Saturday 9-1. It's Rummage & Bake Sale Time! Clothing, home goods, books, baked goods. Church office is open for donations 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Tue-Th, 8-2 Fri.

May 19: The Essex Piano Trio A musical performance to be held at the UCC at 3 pm, with Ashley Offret, violin, David Cabral, cellos, and Beverly Soll, piano. \$10 suggested admission. 50% going to a local charity.

June 9: Children's Sunday, Katie Wilcox Day, Bring a friend and Pot Luck Picnic. 10:00 am.

June 16: Choir Appreciation Sunday! 10:00 am.

Ongoing: Monday morning Bible Study 11:15-12:30 pm.

The UCC office is open 8:00 am-12:00 pm Tue-Th, Fr 8-2. Phone # 860-526-2697, email unitedchester@uccchester.org

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 APRIL 24TH - MAY 12TH

GODSPELL
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 Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
 MAY 22ND - JUNE 16TH

MAMMA MIA!
 Music and Lyrics by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus and some songs with Stig Anderson, Book by Catherine Johnson Originally Conceived by Judy Craymer
 JUNE 26TH - JULY 28TH

CABARET
 Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb, Book by Joe Masteroff
 AUGUST 7TH - SEPTEMBER 1ST

SHEAR MADNESS
 Written by Paul Portner
 SEPTEMBER 18TH - OCTOBER 6TH

WOODY SEZ - THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF WOODY GUTHRIE
 Devised by David M. Lutken with Nick Corley and Darcie Deaville, Helen J. Russell & Andy Teirstein
 OCTOBER 23RD - NOVEMBER 10TH

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Chester/Deep River Cub Scouts Pack 13

Cub Scout Pack 13 in Chester/Deep River is dedicated to the growth and development of boys and girls in grades K-5. Through close interaction with our local schools, towns people and the Chester/Deep River Boy Scout Troop 13, Cub Scouts in Pack 13 are exposed to wonderful opportunities for physical, mental and intellectual development. Most of all - Everything is focused on FUN! Boys & girls involved with Cub Scouts are all given the opportunity to learn to be a leader.

This year Pack 13 has held a Raingutter Regatta, Pinewood Derby, Scouting For Food Drive for the Chester & Deep River



Scouting for Food Drive to benefit Chester & Deep River Food Pantries. Performing a Good Turn Daily.

Food Pantries, Christmas Caroling at Aaron Manor and Chesterfields and were in the Deep River Holiday Lights Parade. During Pack meetings they learned about police dogs with CT State Trooper Taylor and Lucas and exotic reptiles with the rescue animals from Ashleigh's Garden. In the spring

Pack 13 is planning community service projects, pack campout with fishing, rocket launch day and picnic and summertime Minor League Baseball Game with a campout on the outfield. Be sure to look for Pack 13 at the Memorial Day Parades in both Chester and Deep River this year.



Chester/Deep River Cub Scout Pack 13 Lion and Tiger Den reward Lucas with belly rubs with Trooper Taylor.

For more information or to join Cub Scout Pack please email Pack Committee Chair, Lianne Ruddy at cdrscubscoutp13@gmail.com. Pack 13 welcomes and serves all youth grades K-5 in Chester and Deep River. The Pack meets once a month as a large group and Dens are made up of youth of the same school grade. Dens meet 1-3 times each month to work on requirements, field trips or do service projects.

Training is required for all adult volunteer leaders, and is provided by both the Pack and the Boy Scouts of America Council office.

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Memorial Day Parade



The annual Memorial Day Parade and Exercises in Chester is planned for Monday, May 27th. All service people, interested groups and residents are encouraged to participate in this town wide event.

Your participation in the traditional Memorial Day Parade is encouraged and welcomed. If you are interested in participating in this special day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service or have any questions, please contact the Town Hall at 860-526-0013 ext. 202 for more information.

The formation of units will start at 8:30 am at St. Joseph's Parish Center on Middlesex Avenue. Parking will be on the right side of the parking lot and parade formation will be on the left. Upon arrival, marchers will check in with Bruce Watrous for parade positioning.

Please support our military members – past and present – and take part in making this event a special day of remembrance.

Lt. Colonel Bruce Watrous
 Lauren S. Gister, First Selectwoman
 Charlene Janecek, Selectwoman
 James Grzybowski, Selectman

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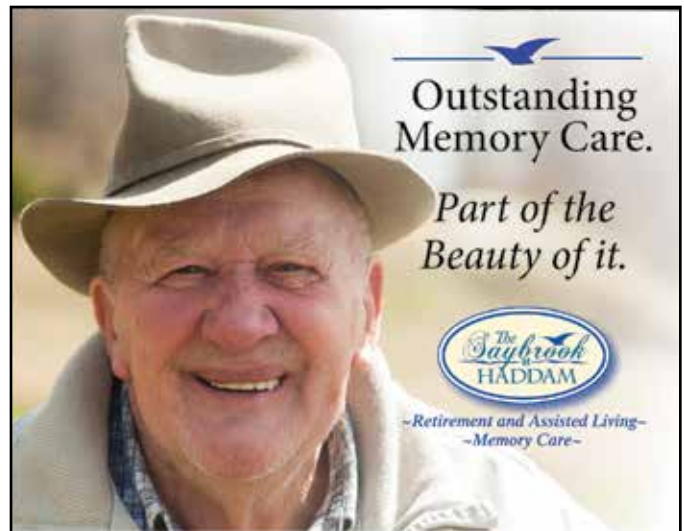
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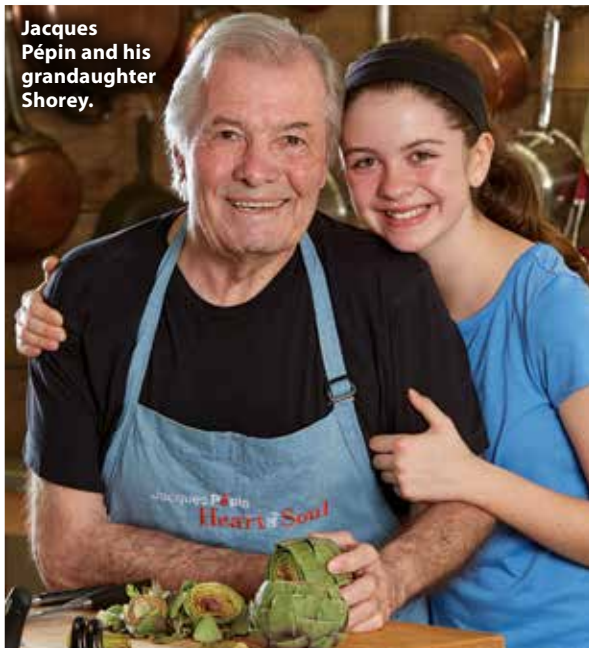
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Jacques Pépin and his granddaughter Shorey.

Jacques Pépin: Simple ingredients, extraordinary results

by Sigrid Kun



Jacques Pépin strolling along the beach in Madison with one of his poodles.



Above, cooking with Julia Child on PBS's show "The Joy of Cooking."

All photographs by Tom Hopkins

A career that began in his family's kitchen continues in the family kitchen today. Whether preparing a lovely scallop or a veal chop with mashed potatoes, dinner is Jacques Pépin's "culmination of the day." The piano, he says, is the nickname for the stove. That makes Pépin a master musician.

DESTINED FOR THE KITCHEN

Pépin's skills were honed early. Home was working in his parents' restaurant near Lyon, France. A Paris apprenticeship began in 1949 at the age of 13 (interestingly, Julia Child was working in Paris at the same time). His military service in France (1956-58) found him as the personal chef to 3 heads of state (including Charles De Gaulle) at a time when chefs toiled in anonymity. There was no such thing as a celebrity chef. If commanded to the dining room, things had gone awry. "Now, [being a chef], all of a sudden, you are a genius," he quips. "It is a very different world. I am lucky to be a part of it."

A year after coming to the US in 1958, he was working at New York's finest French restaurant, Le Pavillon. He turned down the position of chef to the Kennedy White House. He opted to develop food lines for Howard Johnson. It all worked out. A NY Times food editor connected Pépin with Helen McCully, a food industry icon. She introduced Pépin to then unknown Julia Child. The delightful cooking duo went on to win a daytime television Emmy Award in 2001. Yes, the friends would often argue. "On the whole we agreed on what was important," he recalls. "Quality, simplicity."

"Extraordinary," he reminisces. "Nothing was planned. I am very existentialist that way. You do something and it projects you somewhere else. You do that and it projects you elsewhere." One thing has always led to another for Pépin. Trips to the Catskills in the early 1960s led to his catching the "painting bug." His paintings are now a new business line. This June, his

A LIFE OF EVOLUTION

No life is without hardship. A 1974 car accident nearly claimed Pépin's life. He could no longer withstand the rigors of 7 days a week, 10-14 hours in the kitchen. His life transformed into "teaching, writing, and just cooking." Since 1975, he has written 30 books. He also became and remains a beloved fixture on television. He isn't a fan of today's harsh reality cooking shows. "You are asked to put a lot of yourself in your food. Love is a very important component. Yelling at you? There is no way you can teach with that approach... Cooking is interactive. You follow your taste. You taste and adjust. You taste and adjust."

At 83, he recognizes his own progression. "For many people in the country, I was known as the quintessential French chef... If you look at my books, there is the soup and cilantro with banana on one page, then the salad and fried chicken, and then the lobster roll. After half a century in the US, I am probably the quintessential American chef." Pépin's life/career has been profiled on the PBS series "American Masters." "I am probably the first cook to have an American Masters," he notes.

The Madison, CT resident continues to teach, paint, and enjoy life. Whether it is a game of boule, mushrooming, or walking his poodles along the beach, food still remains center stage. He is currently the Dean of Special Programs at the International Culinary Institute of New York and continues a 37-year teaching stint at Boston University. He performs countless cooking demonstrations across the country. In 2016, the Jacques Pépin Foundation was formed. His books/manuals of cooking techniques form the curriculum for soup kitchens from Boston to Seattle. The idea is to take what Pépin has created over so many decades to assist disenfranchised individuals - those who may be coming out of jail, are homeless, or are recovering from addictions.

JACQUES PÉPIN...NOT INVINCIBLE?

"Yes, yes," he relates. "One time. It was 30 years ago or more. It was in the early 70s, a 3-hour show with dancing and singing. I did a cheese soufflé." Pépin came on the stage two hours into the show to put the soufflé in the oven. There was no way of checking on the controls so he did not know the oven was set on self-cleaning mode. He went back on stage for the unveiling. "I have never seen anything so burned." He laughs heartily. "It was crust on the outside and still liquid on the inside... There was no recovery on that one. But it was the biggest standing ovation I ever had."

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