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#### First Selectwoman's Corner

A very Happy New Year to Chester! Thank you for your continued confidence in the November election. I look forward to getting some good work done this year with the help of town staff and volunteers. Our LED streetlight conversion project is almost complete, the Prospect Street culvert has been rebuilt, our planning process for the next decade has begun, and we continue working to streamline processes and improve communication with residents.

#### **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

With many residents giving up the traditional phone "land lines," we were unable to reach everyone with updated information during the October 29th storm. CT Alert ENS uses the state's Enhanced 9-1-1 database for location-based notifications to the public for emergencies. The state database includes only traditional wire-line telephone numbers in the state (the "land line" phone you may have in your home). If you want the system to send alerts to mobile phones or other devices that you use, **please sign up to receive alerts at www.ctalert.gov**. You can add mobile phones, Voice over IP landlines, e-mail, text messaging, and/or instant messaging to be included to receive alerts from CT Alert ENS. You may also list up to three additional locations in the state for which you want to receive alerts, including the town where you work or children attend school. Please help us to protect you and keep you informed by signing up for this free service. If you prefer not to do it online,

give Jenny Watrous a call in the Selectman's office at 860-526-0013 ext. 202 and she will assist you with the process. In an emergency situation, we want to make sure you have the information necessary to keep you safe – please help us reach you!

## PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

As you may have heard, we are working to update Chester's Plan of Conservation and



Lauren Gister, First Selectwoman

Development, or POCD. The POCD is a document that provides a long term vision for Chester and guides decision making related to growth, development, conservation, and capital improvements over the next decade. The State of Connecticut requires municipalities to update their POCD every ten years. The POCD will look at a range of topics that will influence the Town over the next decade, including demographics, housing, land use, community facilities, economic development, open space, recreation, transportation, and sustainability. While the data is important, it is vitally important to understand the priorities of the community. Your input is critical and there are several ways for you to get involved. We just finished a community survey in December and there will be several public continued on page 3





## TM Ventures, LLC dba Essex Printing & Events Magazines

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from the staff of
Essex Printing and
Events Magazines

#### First Selectwoman's Corner... continued from page 1

workshops during the process, the first one in February 2018. The feedback received from the survey and workshops, along with information from Board, Commission, and staff representatives will shape the goals, recommendations, and actions of the final document. This project is unique because a strategic plan is being developed simultaneously with the POCD. The strategic plan will help set priorities for improvements in town infrastructure and other land use projects based on the public input, taking into account the potential costs and funding sources. The intent of this document is to provide additional transparency and guidance to future budget and tax implications.

#### **BUDGET SEASON**

It's that time of year again. In January, we start reviewing our financials and planning the budget for the next fiscal year. In the last few months, we watched as the state budget process cut our state funding, then gave it back, then cut it again, then gave most of it back – until finally the state legislature passed a budget which cut Chester's funding by (thankfully) less than we expected. We have already received an additional cut in state funding, and expect to see more as the state struggles to balance its budget. All indications are that municipalities across the state will continue to lose grant funding from the state as time goes by. I will work with other towns as well as

our local support organizations to find additional sources of revenue, collaborate and share services and seek savings wherever possible. I will continue to work closely with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance and with town departments and commissions to craft an intelligent and responsible budget for our town.

#### **GET INVOLVED**

## Chester is your town! There are many ways to get involved. Here are a few:

- 1. If you are a registered voter and are interested in serving on a Board or Commission, please contact the Selectman's office at 860-526-0013 ext. 202.
- 2. Attend and contribute to the public workshops for the POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development.)
- 3. Come to the First Selectwoman's Town Talks to express your opinion, ask a question, or make a suggestion.
- 4. Join our Volunteer Fire Department.

I look forward to seeing you at a meeting, workshop or other town event soon!

Lauren S. Gister, First Selectwoman



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## Legal Notices for the January Installment of Taxes

Hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday and are geared up for whatever winter brings! We wanted you to know about our legal notice. Each time there is a new billing for taxes, the Tax Collector is required by state statute to advertise with a legal notice in a local paper the requirements for that particular billing. This step must be printed three times in that paper, to give people adequate time to pay without interest. The legal notice, for those who have never seen it in the paper, states:

#### **Legal Notice**

#### TOWN OF CHESTER

All property owners liable to pay a tax to the Town of Chester on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 are hereby notified that the 2nd installment of Real Estate Tax, Personal Property Tax and Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax become due and payable on January 1, 2018 and are delinquent after Thursday, February 1, 2018 and will bear interest at the rate of one and one half percent per month from the original due date. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00. Under the law, Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes must be paid in one installment during the month of January 2018. The Tax Office will be open during January 2018, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:00 am to 12 noon and from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. On Wednesdays, tax office is open just 9-12 noon and on Friday January 26th just from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Town Hall will be closed on Mon Jan 15th, 2018. Mail checks to: Tax Collector, PO Box 314, Chester, CT 06412-0314

Madaline A Meyer, Tax Collector, Chester, CT 06412-0314

Now that you have read our legal notice, please keep in mind that it is very important to sign your check. It is amazing that about 10 or so checks come each payment time with no signature. It causes a lot of trouble, since we have to track that person down, and somehow link up with them for them to sign their check. We do not always have a phone number or email for that person, which just makes it even more frustrating and time consuming. If they are running late with their payment, it is very possible, the payment then is late, thus causing interest. Do not let that happen. First, pay early, in case there is any type problem, and secondly, pay the correct amount. Tax information is online, so you can double check the amount due without waiting for us to be in the office. You can look at midnight if you want. Search by last name and the first initial of whoever's bill you are interested in or search by street address. It is a simple process and you can print receipts for tax purposes. Third, be sure to sign your check. Fourth, have a great winter and stay safe and warm...

Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector & Kristie Valentino, Tax Clerk

# **Chester Merchants Association**

The Chester Merchants Association was started in the late 1980s by Tom Perry, owner of One of a Kind Antiques, to help what was then a struggling downtown center. Since then, under the leadership of Frank Beth, Leif Nilsson and Leslie Strauss and now Suzie Woodward, the Chester Merchants have become known for always making something happen in Chester – from downtown strolls (now known as First Fridays) and the famous Chester Carnivale to Chester ornaments and the annual tree lighting, and so much more. This fall the Chester Rotary Club honored the Chester Merchants Association leadership with its Paul Harris Fellow Award for being "one of the best in our state and for making our town a special place to live, work and play in."

First Friday in February will be centered on the Danish state of "hygge." Pronounced "HOO-gah," hygge roughly translates to a state of peace, coziness and warmth. February is the perfect time of year - when it can feel like the longest month of the year in the Northeast - to celebrate hygge. Chester's downtown merchants and restaurants will bundle up with cozy offerings like hot chocolate, warm bread, mulled wine and bubbling stews while its galleries host openings and they'll all stay open until 8 pm. A true state of community hygge!

In March, the Merchants will bring back its March Madness event. Stay tuned.

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



#### WHAT IS 2-1-1?

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Visit the website for more information: http://www.211.org/#



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# Board & Commission Meeting Schedule January/February/March 2018

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

Monday, January 8	Town Hall 7 pm
Monday, January 8	Town Hall 7 pm
Monday, January 8	Town Hall 7 pm
Monday, January 8	Town Hall 7:15 pm
Monday, January 8	Town Hall 7 pm
Tuesday, January 9	Town Hall 7 pm
Tuesday, January 9	Town Hall 7 pm
Wednesday, January 10	Town Hall 7 pm
Thursday, January 11	Town Hall 7:30 pm
	Monday, January 8 Monday, January 8 Monday, January 8 Monday, January 8 Tuesday, January 9 Tuesday, January 9 Wednesday, January 10

#### Monday, January 15 - Town Hall Closed - No Meetings

Water Pollution Control Authority	Monday, January 16	Meeting House 7 pm
Board of Fire Commissioners	Wednesday, January 16	Chester Hose Co. 7:30 pm
Board of Finance	Thursday, January 17	Town Hall 7:30 pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Monday, January 22	Town Hall 7:30 pm
Republican Town Committee	Monday, January 22	Town Hall 7 pm
Main Street Project Committee	Monday, January 22	Town Hall 7 pm
Board of Selectmen	Wednesday, January 24	Town Hall 6 pm

Conservation Commission	Thursday, February 1	Town Hall 4:30 pm
Democratic Town Committee	Thursday, February 1	Town Hall 7 pm
Inland Wetlands	Monday, February 5	Town Hall 7 pm
Board of Selectmen	Wednesday, February 7	Town Hall 7 pm
Planning and Zoning	Thursday, February 8	Town Hall 7:30 pm
Citation Review Board	Monday, February 12	Town Hall 7 pm
Economic Development	Monday, February 12	Town Hall 7:15 pm
Park and Rec	Tuesday, February 13	Town Hall 7 pm
Main Street Project Committee	Tuesday, February 13	Town Hall 7 pm
Land Trust	Tuesday, February 13	Town Hall 6:30 pm
Board of Finance	Thursday, February 15	Town Hall 7:30 pm

#### Monday February 19 - Town Hall Closed - President's Day

Water Pollution Control Authority	Tuesday, February 20	Meeting House 7pm
Board of Fire Commissioner	Wednesday, February 21	Chester Hose Co 7:30 pm
Retirement Board	Monday, February 26	Town Hall 6 pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Monday, February 26	Town Hall 7:30 pm
Republican Town Committee	Monday, February 26	Town Hall 7 pm
Main Street Project Committee	Tuesday, February 27	Town Hall 7 pm
Board of Selectmen	Wednesday, February 28	Town Hall 7 pm

Thursday, March 1	Town Hall 4:30 pm
Thursday, March 1	Town Hall 7 pm
Monday, March 5	Town Hall 7 pm
Monday, March 6	Town Hall 9:30 am
Wednesday, March 7	Town Hall 7 pm
Thursday, March 8	Town Hall 7:30 pm
Monday, March 12	Town Hall 7 pm
Monday, March 12	Town Hall 7:15 pm
Tuesday, March 13	Town Hall 7:30 pm
Tuesday, March 13	Town Hall 6:30 pm
Thursday, March 15	Town Hall 7:30 pm
Monday, March 19	Town Hall 7:30 pm
Tuesday, March 20	Town Hall 7 pm
Wednesday, March 21	Town Hall 7 pm
Wednesday, March 21	Chester Hose Co. 7:30 pm
Monday, March 26	Town Hall 7 pm
Tuesday, March 27	Town Hall 7 pm
	Thursday, March 1 Monday, March 5 Monday, March 6 Wednesday, March 7 Thursday, March 8 Monday, March 12 Monday, March 12 Tuesday, March 13 Tuesday, March 13 Thursday, March 15 Monday, March 19 Tuesday, March 20 Wednesday, March 21 Wednesday, March 21 Monday, March 26

Wednesday, March 28

**Board of Selectmen** 

Town Hall 7 pm

## **BRAYCE** is Looking for Host Families



Since 2005, BRAYCE has been providing life-changing educational opportunities for marginalized Brazilian high-school age youngsters. These young people attend summer camp at Camp Hazen either as campers or as participants in the Leadership Training Program. Their American adventure culminates in a week's stay with a host family, without doubt the highlight of their experience.

## WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

In the summer of 2018 BRAYCE will enroll four students in their Cultural Exchange Program. The dates for hosting are as

follows: - for campers July 6-13; for a Leadership student (LEA) July 13-20 and for an Assistant Counselor July 27- August 3. At this point students have not been recruited from the short-list so I am not able to provide details.

## PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH.

Hosting is a wonderful experience both for the young guests and for families. Please do not hesitate to call me if you are interested in hosting, volunteering for upcoming BRAYCE events or would like more information on the BRAYCE Cultural Exchange Program 860-526-9474 or mcalder@brayce.org. If you would like to discuss the hosting experience with a former host family I will be happy to arrange this.

Please refer to our website www.brayce.org for more information. Happy New Year to All!

Margot Calder, BRAYCE

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





## CHESTER TOWN HALL 860-526-0013 • 860-526-0004 FAX

DEPARTMENT EX	XTENSION / NUM	IBER CONTACT INFO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jenny Watrous	202	AdminAsst@chesterct.org
ANIMAL CONTROL Jae Wolf	860-388-7082	jwolf@essexct.gov
ASSESSOR Loreta Zdanys	512	Assessor@chesterct.org
ASSISTANT ASSESSOR Darlene Pollock	512	
BUILDING Ron Rose	207	BldgOfficial@chesterct.org
FINANCE Peter Evankow	215	Finance@chesterct.org
ACCOUNTS CLERK Sharon Echtman	216	
FIRE MARSHAL Richard Leighton	212	FireMarshal@chesterct.org
FIRST SELECTWOMAN Lauren Gister	202	FirstSelectman@chesterct.org
HUMAN SERVICES Rosie Bininger	213	HumanServices@chesterct.org
INFORMATION	202	Info@chesterct.org
INLAND WETLANDS Anna Sweeney	860-526-2220	InlandWetlands@chesterct.org
PARKS AND RECREATION Elizabeth Netsch	223	ParkRec@chesterct.org
PLANNING AND ZONING Judy Brown	208	ZoningOfficial@chesterct.org
POLICE SERVICES Trooper Matt Ewing	860-526-3605	PoliceServices@chesterct.org
PUBLIC LIBRARY Stephanie Romano, Library Director	860-526-0018	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS Tracey Ohaus & Leslie Holbro	ok 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

## **Chester Public Library**

#### **Adult Programs**

**Jan. 20,** "The Truth Behind Investigating the Unknown." Eastern CT Paranormal Group will share their experiences investing paranormal activity, as well as time to share your paranormal stories. This program will take place at the Town Hall, 7:00 pm. Rescheduled from October.

Mar. 21, Book chat with moderator Marsha Bansavage. Our spring book chat will take place so check our website or call the library in January to find out what book has been selected for discussion. This will take place at the library, 7 pm.

#### Children's Programs

**Feb. 4,** Take your child to the library day. Toddler Time every Monday 10:30 – 11:00 am. All ages welcome, with craft time at 11.

# Some Wonderful Resources Your Library Offers....

#### **BOOKS TO HOME**

This is a service the Library provides so that you can enjoy our collection without having to visit the library. Older adults or anyone who has difficulty getting to the library because of health problems, or just lack of transportation, is eligible.

Chester library provides access to several online learning tools; Encyclopedia Britannica, ResearchIt, JobNow!, and Mango Languages.

Chester Library maintains a Netflix account to augment its movie collection. Movies will be requested for patrons when the library doesn't own or intend to purchase a film.

**Museum Passes;** Free or discounted admission passes to many area attractions are available at the library.

**Human Library** - a library where the "books" are living people who volunteer to share their stories, unique interests and life experience with "readers"—members of the community. Want to chat with a fantasy football player, learn about living gluten-free, or start learning to play the ukulele? Borrow one of our living books for a 30-minute conversation at the library.

## AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018, THE LIBRARY WILL INTRODUCE NEW HOURS.

Please note the following:

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Monday & 10 am - 8 pm, \\ Tuesday - Friday & 10 am - 6 pm, \\ Saturday & 10 am - 3 pm. \\ \end{tabular}$ 

## **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 1, 2018 - April 30, 2018.

For a complete list of requirements and a copy of the application, visit the Chester Hose Company website at: www.chesterhoseco.org, stop by Chester Town Hall and see the Town Clerk or stop into the Guidance office at Valley Regional, Xavier, Mercy, and Vinal High schools or The Williams School.

All applications and supporting documentation must be received by 4 pm on 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.

#### All applications are to be sent directly to:

Chester Hose Company Auxiliary Scholarship Committee Attention: Debra Germini Calamari 203 Middlesex Avenue Chester, CT 06412

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#### **Chester - Community Listings**

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS	LIBRARY
Chester Land Trust(860) 526-2775	Chester Public Library(860) 526-0018
Chester Fair(860) 526-5947	
Chester Democratic Town Committee www.chesterctdems.com	POST OFFICE
Chester Republican Town Committee (860) 398-0690	Chester Post Office (860) 526-2780
Chester Garden Club (860) 526-2998	
Chester Historical Society(860) 526-5781	SCHOOLS
Chester Merchants Association www.visitchester.com	Superintendent of Schools District 4 (860) 526-2417
Lions Clubdeepriverchesterct.lionwap.org	Chester Elementary School (860) 526-5797
Deep River and Chester VFW (860) 526-3521	John Winthrop Middle School(860) 526-9546
Tri Town Youth Services Bureau(860) 526-3600	Valley Regional High School(860) 526-5328
Chester Meeting House(860) 526-0013	
	WORSHIP SERVICES
USEFUL NUMBERS	St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (860) 526-5495
Consumer Protection	Congregation Beth Shalom - Temple (860) 526-8920
Community Foundation of Middlesex County (860) 347-0025	United Church of Chester (860) 526-2697



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#### **Chester Parks & Recreation Winter News**

## Celebrating Community through People, Parks and Programs!

860-526-0013 extension 223, parkrec@chesterct.org Call or visit our webpage for more program information and registration forms: http://chesterct.org/?page\_id=7810

#### MARCH MADNESS FAMILY EVENT

For Chester Youth Basketball Players and their Parents on Friday, March 2, 2018, with a game schedule between 5:30 and 8:00 pm at the Chester Elementary School gym for grades K through 6 versus parents and coaches! Enjoy a pizza dinner with your friends! There is no charge or registration for this program.

#### **Youth Programs**

Join the Park & Rec Staff for Days off of School and Early Dismissals!

#### HOTSHOT CONTEST

Friday, January 12, 1:15 until 4:15pm at Chester Elementary School

This program is open to children in grades 3 through age 15, but only those who are at least 9 years old by 12/31/17 are eligible

to compete in the State contest. The high scorer from each age

and gender group will be required to complete the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association Hotshot registration form and present a birth certificate to compete on the State level. Please bring a water bottle and wear sneakers. The fee is \$15. The snow date is February 16.

#### YOUTH LACROSSE CLINIC

A lacrosse clinic for boys and girls in grades 2 through 8 will be held at Chester Elementary School on Thursday, March 8, following the early dismissal until 4:15. Students will learn basic skills and rules with experienced coaches and players. Learn a new sport or practice your skills for spring. All levels are welcome. Sticks, balls, mouth guards and goggles will be provided, but students may bring their own equipment. The fee is \$10 for the class and \$15 per family.

#### AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER'S TRAINING

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training will be held in the Community Meeting Room in the Chester Town Hall for students in grade 5 through age 15. The course is offered on Friday, March 9, from 8:45 am until 3:45 pm, a day when school is not in session. The training will help participants develop skills in leadership and professionalism, basic care, safety and safe play, and first aid. The fee is \$45.



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## THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ARE DISMISSED EARLY ON THURSDAY, MARCH 22 & FRIDAY, MARCH 23.

Join our Camp Staff from 1:15 until 4:15 pm. Thursday will be a Magic show and Magic Workshop with Tom O'Brien at the Chester Meeting House (school bus transportation is available from Chester Elementary). Friday it's a field trip to Bounce U in Rocky Hill! \$30 per day, per child, Grades K through 6.

#### **KARATE FOR STUDENTS AGES 5 TO 15**

Karate classes for youth of all ages with instructor Tammy Marino, are held in the Community Meeting Room at Chester Town Hall. The program is held on Mondays, from 5:00 until 6:00 pm. Session 3 is offered on January 22, 29, February 5, 12, and 19. Session 4 will meet on February 26, March 5, 12, 19, and 26. Session 5 is held on April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and Session 6 on May 7, 14, 21, June 4, and 11. The cost of the program is \$45, payable to "Tammy Marino" for each five class session.

#### **Adult Programs**

**BALLROOM DANCING** 

#### Swing, Foxtrot, Chacha, Rumba, Waltz, Hustle

With Instructor Karen Pfrommer from Dance in Rhythm, LLC, Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm at the Chester Meeting House Couples or Singles Session 2: January 22, 29, February 5, 12 and Session 3: March 12, 19, 26, April 2. Registration is \$40 per person for 4 classes. Weather make-up dates are February 22 and April 9.

#### ALL LEVELS OF YOGA IN CHESTER

Participate any Tuesday night, 5:45 pm, \$10 drop in fee payable to the instructor the evenings you attend at the Chester Town Hall.

#### ADULT RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL

Recreational Basketball for adults is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 7:30 until 9:30 pm in the Chester Elementary School gym through April 12. This program does not meet during conflicting school events or when school is cancelled or dismissed early due to weather. The fee of \$10 for a Chester resident and \$15 for a nonresident, for the season, is required with a signed registration form, before participating.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS FIRST AID AND CPR/AED CLASSES AT THE CHESTER TOWN HALL

\$35 for one class, \$45 for both classes - CPR/AED is on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm (and/or) First Aid on Friday, March 23, 2018, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm.

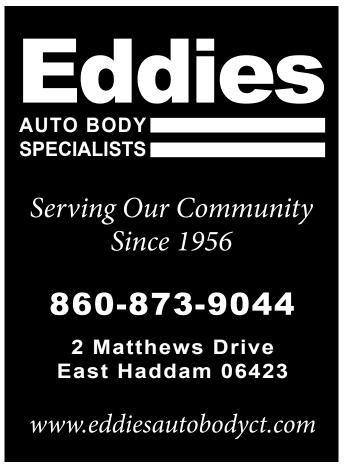
#### **CAUTION!**

THE ICE IN CHESTER IS NOT MONITORED FOR SAFETY

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#### Parks and Recreation... continued from page 11

203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester CT 06412 by March 15, 2018. Chester Parks and Recreation is accepting letters of interest for the position of Substitute Lifeguard at Cedar Lake Beach for the summer of 2018. Applicants must hold current Lifeguard Training certification or be completing the training by June, 2018. Successful applicants will perform duties as a Lifeguard and a Camp Counselor, based on the needs of the Department. Full-time employees work between 30 and 40 hours per week and must be available for at least 9 weeks during the 10 week season. Those interested in part-time employment may be considered. The rate of pay starts at \$11.00 per hour and increases with experience.

#### It's time to register for Chester's Summer Camp JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR:

NATURE & ART on Mondays,

SWIMMING, WATER SAFETY & TEAM CHALLENGES on Tuesdays,

SWIMMING, COOPERATION PROJECTS & OUTDOOR COOKING on Wednesdays,

SCIENCE & ART on Thursdays,

FIELD TRIPS on Fridays,

SPORTS, CRAFTS, GAMES, & FUN every day(!) the weeks of June 25, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, August 6, and August 13.

#### FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES K THROUGH 7 Our Camp Counselors are Certified Lifeguards.

Open to children entering grades 1 through 6 from 8:15 am until 3:45 pm, the weeks of June 25, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, August 6, and August 13, at Chester Elementary School on Mondays, Thursdays 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 will meet at the lake that week. The children take field trips on Fridays. The fee is \$130 per child, per week, and payable at the time of registration.

The weeks of June 25 and August 6 are also open to students entering grade 7 and the weeks of July 9 and July 30 (*see kinder-camp below*) are open to children entering Kindergarten, too! The weeks of July 9, 16, 23, and 30 include, at no additional charge, optional swimming lessons the days the program meets at Cedar Lake. All Kinder-Camp children participate in swimming lessons.

#### 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 9 and July 30. Our camp fee includes all program and field trip expenses, except lunch. Children do not need to be Chester residents to attend.

Visit our town website at: www.chesterct.org

# College Students & Disabled People Save on 9 Town Transit

While local bus fares have always been affordable for most, for many, the cost is now even lower.

The shoreline's disability community have long advocated for a discounted fare in the valley-shore region. The majority of bus systems statewide have long provided discounts for people with disabilities, understanding the unique financial challenges many of these individuals face.

In January, 9 Town Transit (9TT) introduced a disabled fare for the first time. People with disabilities can now ride any 9TT bus route for just \$.85, less than half the regular rate of \$1.75. Frequent travelers can save even more with the purchase of an unlimited use monthly pass for just \$31. To qualify, riders must show their Medicare card or a statewide reduced fare I.D. Details on obtaining a reduced fare I.D. can be found at: www.9towntransit.com

Another often financially strapped group is college students. While 9TT has transported many students to Middlesex Community College and the Lyme Art Academy for years, they have had to pay the full fare. As of this school year, students at Middlesex Community college, Lyme Art Academy, Gateway Community College, Three Rivers or Southern Connecticut University can ride any 9TT route at no charge. Lyme Art Academy students can ride by showing a valid school I.D., and students at all other schools can obtain a U-Pass from the college or university.

For more information about 9 Town Transit routes and schedules, visit www.9towntransit.com or call 860-510-0429.

## **Tri-Town Youth Services**



Tri-Town Youth Services is thrilled to announce that it has launched a new, more informative and interactive website! Please visit our new online home at tritownys.org to see what is happening now.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR INCLUDE:

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
 Coalition Work Groups are meeting regularly to address drug and alcohol use and addiction in our towns. The emphasis of our work is education and prevention. We work together to build up positive assets and celebrate wellness in our community, delay the first use of alcohol

continued on page 14

# Pilates for Life

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#### **Medical Transportation to Middletown**

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Call 860.510.0429 www.9towntransit.com



9 Town Transit is Operated by the Estuary Transit District

#### Tri-Town Youth Services... continued from page 13

and drugs and make it easier for adolescents to find help if they are struggling with addiction. Please contact Jennifer Buckley, Prevention Coordinator to learn about the Policy Task Force, Community Wellness Group, Parent Advisory Group or Youth Action Council.

The next full coalition meeting will be March 21, 2018 from 9:00 - 10:30 am at Tri-Town Youth Services, 56 High Street, Deep River. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

• "No More Mean Girls" An Evening with Katie Hurley Katie Hurley, LCSW, is a child and adolescent psychotherapist, parenting expert, and writer. She is the founder of "Girls Can!" empowerment groups for girls between ages 5-11. Hurley is also the author of The Happy Kid Handbook, and the new book "No More Mean Girls." She will be joining Tri-Town for a special evening for parents (and girls!) Katie will talk about navigating the ups and downs of friendship building, creating an authentic self, standing up for yourself and others, and expressing yourself in a healthy way.

Please bring a special girl in your life to this talk on Friday, February 2, 2018 at 5:00-7:00 pm at Essex Library, 33 West Avenue, Essex. A light supper will be provided, and Katie's books will be available for signing.

#### • Babysitting Course & CPR Certification

Learn how to become a safe and responsible babysitter! Tri-Town is offering the American Heart Association's Pediatric First Aid and CPR course along with a babysitter training certificate program. This course provides an excellent opportunity to help youth, 11-17, to build self-confidence as well as job leadership and decision-making skills. Completion of this course is a plus on your Job Bank application. The \$75 fee includes instruction, books, and certificate.

The spring session will be held Monday evenings, March 5, 12, 19, 26 from 6-8 pm at Tri-Town Youth Services, 56 High Street, Deep River, CT 06417.

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

It may be winter, but we never rest! For one thing, Diane Lindsay, our curator, and her team of volunteers work in our archives twice a week year-round. We're also developing new publications, transcribing oral histories and working on our exhibits. Want to get involved? Email us at: chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

#### VALLEY RAILROAD PROGRAM

Several years ago, we were very fortunate to have railroad historian Max Miller present a program on the Connecticut Valley Railroad at the Meetinghouse. We're very excited that he's returning this winter to talk about the book he has just published with the Wesleyan University Press, "Along the Valley Line." The book provides the first comprehensive history of the Connecticut Valley Railroad through maps, ephemera, and archival photographs of the trains, bridges,

and scenery surrounding the line (including Chester!). Join us on Sunday, January 21 at 4 pm at the Meetinghouse (snow date Jan. 28) for this fascinating and free program. Refreshments will be served.

## MEMBERSHIP OPENS OUR DOORS

Now Chester Historical Society members can consider a visit to Chester Museum at The Mill off-season. We'll work with you to schedule a visit tailored to your needs and times. Call Diane Lindsay at: 860-526-2443 to start the process.

## HELP US SUPPORT CHESTER HISTORY

For 47 years, our all-volunteer organization, despite a modest operating budget, has preserved, protected and interpreted Chester's rich history. We depend on your

support through memberships, tax-deductible donations, and participation in our fundraisers. Our annual dues are just \$30 per family, \$20 per individual. Membership forms are on our website, chester historicalsociety.org. Tax-deductible donations in any amount can be mailed at any time to: Chester Historical Society, PO Box 205, Chester, CT 06412.

#### STAY IN THE KNOW

Information about Historical Society activities, as well as new gifts to our archives, is in our monthly e-newsletter. To receive the e-news (even if you're not a member of the Historical Society), please send your email address to chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com. All addresses are kept confidential. We are also on Facebook at Facebook. com/chestercthistoricalsociety and frequently post old photos of Chester.

#### 2018 Chester Land Trust Calendar of Adventures



#### THE CHESTER LAND TRUST WOMEN'S WALKS



#### January 6th 2018 - 4 mile loop through Chester

The first and third Saturdays in the month, meet at Public Parking on Water Street at 8:30 am. At the end of each walk, we will determine the

route for the next adventure. We can choose a walk in the woods or hike in another local Land Trust's preserve. All welcome!

#### THE OSPREY ARE COMING!

January, we will begin the construction of two new Osprey Nests. The nests will be "raised" mid-March as the Osprey come habitat hunting around the first days of spring. Please watch for updates on this project on the Town of Chester Friday email blasts and our website: www.chesterlandtrust.org. We welcome your help!



#### **HUCKLEBERRY ADVENTURE SERIES**

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.

DATE: Friday, May 4th, 2018

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Carini Preserve on Water Street PARKING: Public lot available on Water St.

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!







## **Middlesex Brings Cancer Services to Shoreline**

Getting the best possible care close to home is essential for people fighting cancer. Middlesex Hospital recognizes this and has expanded its cancer services to better meet the needs of Connecticut shoreline residents.

In October, Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center opened a second location at the Shoreline Medical Center in Westbrook. This new, state-of-the-art facility offers the same services found at the Cancer Center's Middletown location, including medical oncology, radiation therapy, infusion, genetic counseling, survivorship services and integrative therapy.

#### THE DIFFERENCE

The new center means easier access to care for patients who live in Connecticut shoreline towns. Cancer treatments can sometimes make patients tired or nauseous, and it can be difficult for them to travel. The Westbrook Cancer Center location will make their lives, and the lives of those who support them, a little easier.

Middlesex Hospital is known for its expert and dedicated staff. Highly skilled medical professionals treat patients like people—not numbers. They focus on providing compassionate, personalized treatment experiences, and specially trained advance practice nurse navigators guide patients through the treatment and rehabilitation process. This is the high-quality care that patients now receive at both Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center locations.

Additionally, Middlesex Hospital is a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. Middlesex collaborates with Mayo Clinic and is using its resources to tackle patients' most complicated medical cases in a variety of areas, such as cancer care, pulmonary medicine and urology, among others.

Like the Cancer Center in Middletown, the Westbrook location also uses the latest technology to diagnose and treat patients and is accredited by leading organizations, including the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers.

For more information, visit www.middlesexhospital.org/cancercenter, or call 860-358-2000.

# Essex Printing and Events Magazines Honored as 2017 Business of the Year

Essex Printing and Events Magazines is proud to announce that it has been named the 2017 Business of the Year by the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce. The announcement was made at the Chamber's Annual Awards Evening and Silent Auction held at The Kate in Old Saybrook on December 6, 2017.

"This is such a special honor for us. The company has been serving this community for many decades now. We always strive to do our best for our customers and the community. And no matter what we do, we always are looking to do more and we will continue to do so," said William McMinn, the company's President. "For our company and our employees, this is a moment to cherish. We look forward to continuing to serve this community, building on existing relationships, and fostering new and exciting partnerships



going forward. We are also grateful to the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce and the important role it plays in so many ways for so many of us."

Essex Printing and Events Magazines is a full service commercial printing and

publishing company. Its skilled staff provides top quality service with respect to projects ranging from business cards to books and from graphic design, digital and large format printing to marketing consultations. The company has won 13 major print awards in the past 5 years, including the "Benny" award - an international award that is universally recognized as the symbol for excellence in the printing industry.

The company also produces and publishes Events Magazines. These magazines are published quarterly in 16 Connecticut towns, and have been a trusted source for local news for 22 years. They are mailed directly to every home and business in these 16 towns, are a "must read" for residents, and are widely recognized as a cost-effective advertising vehicle for businesses.

## Vista Supports USVI Family Impacted by Hurricanes



Members and staff of Vista Life Innovations, a community-based organization that supports the personal success of individuals with disabilities, recently mailed care packages to a family in the U.S. Virgin Islands struggling due to the impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. After hearing about the devastation wrought by these two powerful storms, members of Vista's Connect day program researched ways in which they could aid hurricane victims.

Through social media, they were turned on to Adopt a Family USVI, a grassroots initiative that pairs families in the U.S. Virgin Islands affected by the hurricanes with supporters.

Once the Connect program was matched to a family in need, members and staff spearheaded a collection drive—which yielded enough supplies to fill eight care packages. Items included canned goods, personal hygiene products, diapers, batteries, snack foods and more.

Giving back is a key component of Vista's philosophy. From hosting American Red

Cross blood drives to volunteering with programs like Meals on Wheels, Vista students, members and staff actively seek opportunities to support their communities throughout the year.

With campuses in Madison, Westbrook and Guilford, Vista has been providing services and resources to individuals with disabilities for over 28 years.

## **Glaucoma National Awareness Month**

January is National Glaucoma
Awareness Month. Glaucoma affects
60 million people worldwide and
more than 3 million people in the
United States. Glaucoma is often
called the "thief of sight" since often
there are no symptoms and glaucoma
related vision loss is permanent. As
much as 40% of vision can be lost
without a person noticing. If not
diagnosed and treated, 1 in 10 people
go blind from glaucoma. Glaucoma
affects people of all ages, even infants.

## THERE ARE TWO MAIN TYPES OF GLAUCOMA

They are Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma and Angle-Closure Glaucoma. Open-angle glaucoma is dangerous because most of the time a person affected will not notice any symptoms until vision is severely damaged. The vision loss isn't noticed because it often starts with your peripheral vision and the brain makes up for what you don't see. The inner eye pressure (IOP- intraocular pressure) rises because the correct amount of fluid can't drain out of the eye. This occurs usually deep into the drainage canals. Closed-angle glaucoma occurs when the drainage canals get blocked or covered. Angle-closure glaucoma is dangerous because, while there are often symptoms of pain including headaches, nausea, and eye pain they happen rapidly and without warning.

It is very important to get an annual dilated eye exam. As you age or if you have a family history of glaucoma you may have the visual field test performed. This test checks your peripheral vision and the loss of your side vision is one of the first signs of glaucoma. If you are diagnosed with glaucoma there are ways to manage it. In the early stages you might be prescribed eye drops or have laser surgery performed. Other ways to manage glaucoma are done by performing filtering surgery or a drainage implant.

Dr. Mascarenhas at Middlesex Eye Physicians is our Glaucoma Specialist. She is Yale educated specialist and trained in Trabectome glaucoma surgery.

Middlesex Eye Physicians Offices in Middletown and Westbrook

## **Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek Events**

55 E. Kings Highway, Chester, CT 06412

#### Music & More 2018 Series

Saturday, January 27, 8:00 pm COMEDY TONIGHT!

Something familiar, something peculiar, the CBSRZ stage turns into a New York comedy club with talented comedians Alexandra McHale and Johnny Lampert. Both are veterans to the NYC comedy club circuit, Comedy Central, network TV and perform at casinos regularly. For information on Music and More visit www.cbsrz.org/engage/events/music-more/.

## Sunday, March 11, 4:00pm THE MACCABEATS

Returning from an extremely successful appearance last year at Music & More where they were a sellout, The Maccabeats bring an infectious and uplifting brand of entertainment. This premier a capella group from Brooklyn have entertained and inspired audiences worldwide. Using nothing but the pure human voice, a clean-cut presentation, and a little bit of Jewish humor, this unique group of singers are able to connect with fans of all backgrounds and ages. You won't want to miss their performance.

#### **Art Gallery**

January through April, 2018 ASHBY CARLISLE AND RICK SILVERBERG

Ashby Carlisle from Old Lyme and Rick Silberberg from Ivoryton. This extraordinary art exhibition brings two very distinctive artists together in one exhibition.

Ashby Carlisle creates sculptural landscapes with an impressionist flair. Ashby comments on her work and

method, "my routine of witnessing the first light with black silhouettes of bare vines and trees lyrically dancing across the vista fuels my art with colors, images, lines and ponderings about nature. I have developed a unique process to translate my observations into sculptural landscapes. It starts when I form clay to become the earth's crust. With the clay pieces finished I begin fabricating the paper, metal and wood that join the clay to complete the image. While labor intensive, the work is very engaging as it summons many different skills and techniques: printing and dyeing paper; forming, firing and glazing clay; welding steel and bronze; routing and constructing wood boxes; and applying the various finishes each material requires."

Rick Silberberg's landscape paintings have been described as both peaceful and disquieting. "Silberberg's creations seem to transform into something other than they started out to be. Here are abstract landscapes that reach for more literal grounding; there, one finds quasi-representational landscapes in the process of melting into pure abstraction. The longer one spends with the paintings, the more hypnotic and enchanting their effects." (Steve Starger - Art New England)

March 25, 2018, 3 pm NOSHING OUR WAY THROUGH JEWISH HISTORY SERIES, PART 4.

The Legacy of the Golden Age of Spanish Jewry.

Traditions and recipes handed down by those who fled the Iberian peninsula, traditions that survived among conversos down to the modern day and recipes that came to us from an unexpected, but unimpeachably accurate source, the Inquisition itself. For information on the Art Gallery visit: www.cbsrz.org/engage/events/art-exhibits/.

## The Chester Democratic Town Committee (CDTC)

The Chester Democratic Town Committee (CDTC) would like to thank you, our fellow residents, for your service and care for our town and for participating and voting in the recent election, no matter your party affiliation. We believe it is critical that people exercise their right to vote. Special thanks to CDTC members and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly during the municipal campaign and on Election Day.

These are challenging times. It is more important than ever for people to get involved at the local level where it all begins, and to be heard by our local, state and national political leaders as their decisions touch and affect each of our lives.

The CDTC works diligently all year long on local, state and national issues. We do not believe in negativity or divisiveness, but in reaching out in a positive and productive manner for the common good. All are welcome. You can contact us at chesterctdtc@gmail.com to receive membership news, meeting dates and agendas, event notices and news.

Lori Ann Clymas, Chester Democratic Town Committee Chair

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#### **News from the United Church of Chester**



# HERE ARE SOME SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE COMING MONTHS.

January is a time to reflect on all the blessings of life and renew our commitment to serve our community. Food donations are welcome the first Sunday of each month for the Chester Food Pantry.

**January 28:** Installation of our new minister, Reverend W. Alan Froggatt at 3 pm, with reception to follow.

At the United Church, the music and fellowship continue even after the busy holiday season. We welcome you to come meet our new minister - either on Sunday - or on Friday mornings at the Villager or Simon's where Rev. Alan holds his popular "Coffice hours!" The choir presents inspiring music each Sunday morning at 10 am; you may have heard them caroling at Chester's tree lighting event, seen their picture in the new book "A Connecticut Christmas," or heard their annual Christmas Cantata in December.

February brings the season of Lent with special services and March continues towards Easter. Call or visit our website for details.

29 West Main St., Chester, CT 06412, Phone: 860-526-2697, Web: unitedchester@sbcglobal.net, Office hours: Mon, Wed - Fri, 8 am - 1 pm

# Chester Rotary Takes Part in Liberty Bank's 2017 Thanksgiving Food Drive



Left to right: Stephen Rednak, Liberty Bank Deep River Branch Manager, Rosie Bininger, Chester Community Fund & Francine Curto, Chester Rotary.

The Rotary Club of Chester teamed with Liberty Bank to raise funds for the bank's 2017 Thanksgiving Food Drive. Chester Rotary's Food Drive Committee Chair, Fran Curto, successfully organized club activities that reached out to the individuals and Chester businesses who generously participated in Chester Rotary's fund-raising efforts. The money raised by Chester Rotary, with the assistance of the Valley Regional Interact Club, and the additional 25% donated by Liberty Bank totaled \$2,907.17. A check was

presented to Rosie Bininger for the Chester Community Fund. The resources offered by the fund to members of our community provide an opportunity for all to enjoy the many bounties that the holiday season offers. Chester Rotarians are dedicated to providing funding and service to local, national and international charitable organizations. Please visit us at www.chesterrotary.org for more information regarding our activities, upcoming events and club membership.

Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian

# The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

Meal Site - Chester Sundays 5:00 - 6:00 pm United Church of Chester 29 West Main Street

# Better Together.

# Chester Village West & Masonicare.

Masonicare welcomes the residents and employees of Chester Village West to our family. As the state's largest not-for-profit provider of senior living and healthcare, we are excited to bring our full continuum of senior care to Masonicare at Chester Village. This includes assisted living services and home care, and a full-time Wellness Nurse on campus.

Set on 55 acres just three miles from Route 9, Masonicare at Chester Village is an inclusive senior community where each person is known, cared about and encouraged to live their life to the fullest.

Come visit us and discover all that we have to offer!





317 West Main Street . Chester . 860-526-6800

## **Chester Fife and Drum Corps 1868**



We have 9 Fifers, 7 Snares, and 5 Bases, plus 9 in our Color Guard and our official Corps Photographer.

As we start the year 2018, it is with great pleasure that I report, that the Chester Fife and Drum Corps had a banner year. We enjoyed the camaraderie of each other as we marched pretty much all over New England. It looks like 2018 will be just as busy, especially with our muster coming up on September 22, 2018.

We had our annual meeting in November and elected new officers and members. Currently on our roster, we start out the year with 9 Fifers, 7 Snares, and 5 Bases, plus 9 in our Color Guard and our official Corps Photographer. Of course we are always looking for new members. Remember that we teach all of our instruments

"Experience the Difference" at The Saybrook at Haddam.

Resident Doris Whitmore with daughter Beryl enjoying a cup of tea in the country kitchen.

#### Mom has Blossomed!

"Mom's memory loss meant her way of life was changing, but we did not want her quality of life to change as well. We are so happy at how quickly she settled into her new home and routine at Safe Harbor Memory Care Neighborhood in The Saybrook at Haddam. Safe Harbor offers:

- Stimulating and therapeutic programs that promote individual self-worth, dignity and independence
   A kind and specially trained professional staff 24 hours/day
- Personalized care and medication management A cozy, homelike setting with lovely living/community room and dining room for shared meals with family and friends • Fresh air and sunshine in our secure "Walking Garden"

Call 860-345-3779 for information and a guided tour. Visit us at www.thesaybrookathaddam.com



and provide uniforms, free of charge. Currently, we are teaching 3 new fifers.

Speaking of uniforms, Chester's new old look, we have started wearing them and are currently almost outfitted and hope to debut the complete new uniform sometime in 2018, our 150th Anniversary.

We currently have 5 veterans (2 Army, 2 Navy, and 1 Air Force) marching in our corps. We also have one on active duty in the Army and one member's son on active duty in the Navy. We are indebted to those who served and those who are serving allowing us the opportunity to do what we love to do every year. Thank You.

As this article is coming out, we are currently on winter shutdown until February of 2018. We will return to the Chester Elementary School to get ready for the upcoming year. If you are interested in becoming part of our Corps and its long history, please feel free to call me at 860-691-1735. Follow us on our Facebook page (Chester Drum Corps) or contact us at chester1868@gmail.com. Just as a reminder, we are neither a Junior nor Senior Corps. We are a family oriented organization and intend to remain so. Better yet, come on down and meet the Corps. We practice from 6:30 until 8:00 pm on Thursday at the Chester Elementary School. Stay warm and come on down. Hope to see you at a muster or at a parade.

Frenchy Cordeau Business Manager and Drum Major



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## **Chester Elementary & Chester Rotary Work Together**



For many years students, faculty, staff and visitors have enjoyed a salt water aquarium located in the entry hallway at CES.

However, the aquarium and related parts were aging and in need of replacement. When Chester Rotary approached the elementary school earlier this year looking for ideas for a project at the school that they could support, CES was ready with an answer, the creation of the Chester Elementary Aquarium Learning and Relaxation Center.

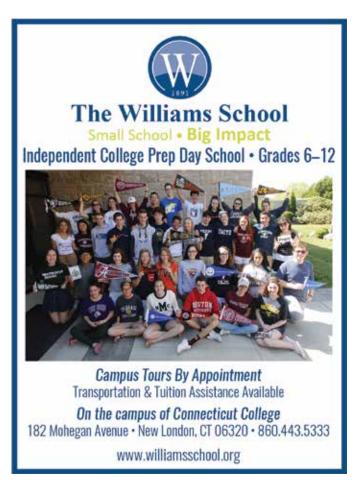
Chester Rotary worked with CES principal Tyson Stoddard and Building Manager James Grzybowski and in September gained approval of a matching Rotary District Grant to help Chester Rotary fund the project. Chester Rotary immediately began work on a new, larger aquarium, new equipment, a display cabinet to hold the aquarium and hide the equipment,



bulletin boards for either side of the aquarium, portable benches, and acrylic lights acknowledging both CES and Chester Rotary. The school provided site improvements, including overhead lighting and new flooring.

With a project now in mind, Lori Lenz, the Art Teacher at the Chester Elementary School, designed an ocean-themed mural for the wall behind the aquarium center and Chester Rotarians spent several days, under Lori's direction, working with the students to paint the beautiful mural. Rotarians were also involved in the project throughout the summer, staffing a booth at the Chester Sunday Market to create publicity for the aquarium center and raise money for new fish. In November the beautiful new Aquarium Center was ready for assembly by James Grzybowski. The fish were moved to their new home and the big reveal of the Chester Elementary Aquarium Learning and Relaxation Center was held at a schoolwide assembly on November 16, 2017.

Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian



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