

Chester



Events

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Volume 12 • Quarter 2 • 2013



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First Selectman's Corner

Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget Preparation Underway

The Boards of Selectmen and Finance held public workshops in February and March to begin preparation of the 2013-2014 draft budget for hearing on May 1st and the annual Town Budget Meeting on May 21st.

Preliminary budget estimates indicate lower education cost at Chester Elementary School and Region 4 because of their declining enrollments. At the elementary school 15 less students are projected next year and for Region 4 a decrease of 19 students is anticipated. This is significant because Region 4's funding requirements are shared by Chester, Deep River and Essex based on each town's enrollments as of last year's enumeration on October 1, 2012. Together the elementary school and Region 4 budgets expenditures are estimated to decline by almost \$465,000.

The Town's preliminary general government and capital budget expenditures are estimated to increase by \$135,000, approximately 3 percent, driven by a 2.25 percent salary increase for employees, higher medical insurance costs and increased payments to retirement accounts. As of the March 13th budget workshop the combined Boards Education and Town's general government preliminary budgets are \$345,000 lower than the current 2012-2013 adopted budget.

However the revenue side of next year's budget is still

evolving. State payments to Chester for education and general government grants are expected to be slightly lower than this year by \$13,000 while Town non-tax revenue is projected to increase by \$55,000 over current year income. Yet to be determined is the resolution of the proposal to eliminate taxes on vehicles with an assessed value under \$20,000. If implemented this would take about 4,000 vehicles off the Town's tax list. At our current mil rate of 22.45 this is a reduction of approximately \$530,000 of revenue next year. To account for this loss of income the mil rate would have to be increased to raise approximately \$190,000, the difference between \$345,000 of potential lower expenditures and \$530,000 less vehicle tax income, an additional .35 mil to 22.80.

We are still early in the budget preparation process, during April workshops are scheduled to fine tune both revenue and expenditure estimates. Residents are invited to attend these sessions, ask questions and learn more about process that is



First Selectman Ed Meehan

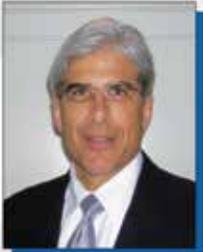
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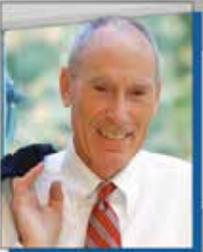
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- Best Chili – River Tavern
- Best Firehouse Chili – Deep River
- Best Table – Wade's
- Most Original – Simons Marketplace

Thank you to all those who participated. We join with the Winter Carnivale committee in thanking all those who helped to make this years' event a success.

Please join us for the following events:

- Mothers Day Breakfast - May 12 (at fire station)
- Fall Frenzy - September 14 (at Whelen)

We continue to stand by, proud and committed with highly trained personnel willing to help you in your time of need since 1912.

— Chief, Charles F. Greeney, Jr.

• *Selectman's Corner continued from page 1* •

followed to bring the proposed budget to public hearing and Town Meeting vote in May.

Chester Elementary School Solar Photovoltaic System Project

On March 12th the Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) awarded the bid for the installation of a 9.25 kW solar photovoltaic system at the Chester Elementary School. This project will be funded by a \$32,000 grant from CEFIA and an \$8,000 commitment from Chester. Chester's match will come from the reimbursement of Chester's share of Region 4's 2012 budget surplus. The Chester Clean Energy Team led this effort to acquire a solar photovoltaic system on a Town building. The elementary school was selected because of its good solar orientation, the Board of Education's and administration's support for clean energy and their foresight in recognizing its educational benefits for students. The installation will move the Town closer to accomplishing our Comprehensive Energy Plan goal that 10 percent of the Town's energy come from renewal energy sources by 2015.

The 9.25 kW system is expected to produce 6,300 Kwh of power with annual savings of \$1,500, yielding a 12.5 percent return on the Town's \$8,000 investment. Higher savings are likely over the 25 year life of the photovoltaic panels as electric energy cost increase. Aegis Solar Energy will do the installation work which is expected to be completed by the end of June.

— First Selectman Ed Meehan

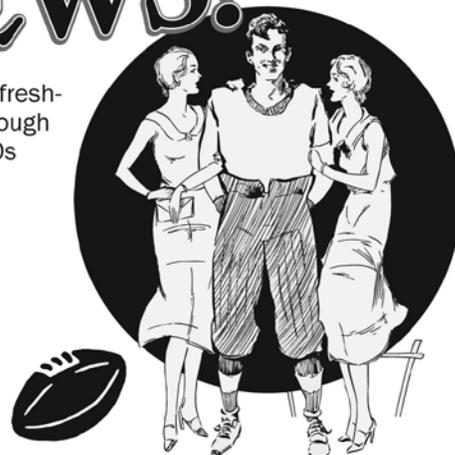
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Collomore Concert Series

To lift your spirits before filing your income taxes, plan on going to the Chester Meeting House on Sunday, April 14, to hear the Grammy Award-winning Parker String Quartet.

Brought to Chester by the Robbie Collomore Concert Series, the quartet consists of four musicians, all in their late twenties, who have been performing professionally for ten years. They have consistently won prestigious awards, including a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance and the esteemed Cleveland Quartet Award from Chamber Music America. They have been called "something extraordinary" by the *New York Times*. Their concert is sponsored by Ceramica.

The final concert in the 39th season of the Collomore Concert Series will be on Sunday, May 12, with singer and songwriter Nellie McKay, who has been described by one reviewer as "an amazing performer; quirky and brilliant, smart and adventurous" and by another as having "staggering musical talents." Not only has she performed on "Prairie Home Companion," she has also acted on Broadway and in a movie with Hilary Swank. Her concert is sponsored by First Niagara Bank.

Tickets for the 5 p.m. concerts cost \$21. A student ticket (elementary through graduate school) is just \$5. All ticket-holders are invited to stay for a reception after the concert to meet the performers.



*Grammy Award winners,
the Parker String Quartet.*



Singer-songwriter Nellie McKay.

For more information about purchasing tickets, and for links to the performers' websites to hear samples of their music, go to www.collomoreconcerts.org. You may also call (860) 526-5162 for ticket information.

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Fishing and Dog License Notice

Fishing season begins Saturday, April 19th. Inland fishing licenses are required for anyone sixteen years or age or older who wants to fish in ponds, lakes and streams, are available in the Town Clerk's Office for \$28.00. Marine fishing licenses are \$10.00. Also available are combination small game and inland fishing licenses at \$38.00. You can also purchase a combination hunting and all waters license for \$38.00. 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 Avenue, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. If you no longer have your dog, please let us know so that we may update our records.

For more information call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-526-0013, Ext. 511. The office is open 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Tuesday the office is open until 7 p.m. 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 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. If you currently have a sticker on your car, you do not need to get another sticker. The sticker you currently have is still good.

— Debra Germini Calamari, Town Clerk

Chester Town Hall

203 Middlesex Ave., Chester, CT 06412

Ph: 860-526-0013 • Fx: 860-526-0004

Town Hall Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:

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

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

Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

www.chesterct.org

Chester Community Clean Up Day

Do you like to work outdoors? Do you have a lot of pent up energy and are you looking for a fun and rewarding activity that would help to beautify the Town of Chester and help the Public Works Department? Then join us on Saturday, April 20th, and help spruce up the parks and roadsides and community buildings so that community pride can shine brightly!

Chester Community Clean Up Day is designed to encourage organizations and people of all ages to make a difference in the look and feel of the community. Trash bags will be available at Town Hall during office hours the week before the event. Stop by or call 860-526-0013 ext 202 and let us know where you will be picking up trash. Participants are asked to supply their own rakes, brooms, shovels or gloves. Place the bags on the side of the road, notify Town Hall where these bags are, and Public Works will pick up the trash for disposal the following Monday.

Anyone can participate – small groups, large groups, families or individuals – you can even “adopt” a particular location. Wear comfortable shoes and clothes and bring your own water and snacks, and enjoy the day. For more information, please call the First Selectman’s Office, 860-526-0013 ext. 202.

Chester Hose Company Auxiliary Scholarship

The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary will again be offering a scholarship to a well deserving child of a Chester Hose Company firefighter or auxiliary member who has been active for at least four (4) years. The firefighter or auxiliary member must be active now, or have been active within the last four (4) years, or be an honorary member of the Chester Hose Company or Auxiliary. This scholarship is also open to any child or grandchild of a deceased firefighter or auxiliary member who had four (4) years of active service at the time of his or her death. For a complete list of requirements and a copy of the application, please stop by Chester Town Hall and see the Town Clerk, speak with a Chester Hose Company Auxiliary member, or stop into the Valley Regional Guidance office.

Letter of application should be accompanied by the following information: school of intent and verification of acceptance, letter of reference from current education system, extra-curricular school activities and community involvement. A decision of the recipient will be made by May 15th.

All applications are to be sent directly to: Chester Hose Company Auxiliary, Attention: Debra Germini Calamari, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412.

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| Tracey Ohaus | 513 | |
| TOWN CLERK | | |
| Debra Germini Calamari | 511 | TownClerk@chesterct.org |
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| Elizabeth Netsch | 214 | Treasurer@chesterct.org |
| WPCA | 230 | wpca@chesterct.org |

www.chesterct.org

Chester Parks and Recreation

Chester Parks and Recreation
 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412
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 Visit our website at: http://chesterct.org/?page_id=476

SPRING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Karate for Children. Karate classes will be held in the multi-purpose room at Chester Elementary School by Valley Shore Martial Arts. Children who are in grades K through 6 will meet on Mondays, 3:00-4:15 pm, March 18, 25, April 1, and 8 to learn the Kempo style of Karate. The cost of the program is \$32 for the four class session.

A Taste of Jazz and Contemporary Dance. Offered to Chester Elementary School students grades K through 4. Students will work on new combinations, help with choreography, work with a dance prop and have a fabulous time with Chester Parks and Rec instructor and professional dancer, Christine Perry.

Three classes, for \$20, will be held on Tuesdays, 3:00 to 4:15 in the Chester Elementary School Gym on March 19th, 26th, April 2nd. Bring a snack, water bottle, wear comfortable clothing and be ready to dance! HOPE TO SEE YOU OUT ON THE DANCE FLOOR!

New Britain Rock Cats Baseball Game during School Vacation Week. A field trip to the Rock Cats v the New

Hampshire Fisher Cats is offered on Wednesday, April 17th, during the school vacation week. We will depart by school bus from Chester Elementary School. Participants will be supervised from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm and lunch will be provided. The fee is \$32. Please call or e-mail if you are interested.

BASKETBALL. Congratulations to the high scorers in the Chester HOTSHOT Program: Lexi Ross, Catherine Malli, Jy'quay Moore, and Josh Ross! They qualified to compete at the State finals on March 24th.

Thank you to the parents, coaches, and players who attended Chester Youth Basketball March Madness on Sunday. You made it a real community celebration. THANK YOU TO ALL THE COACHES WHO VOLUNTEERED THIS YEAR!

Sorry. Adult basketball is full. The last practice for grades 1 and 2 girls basketball will be March 5th. All other Youth and Adult groups will end on March 17th.

SUMMER CAMP AND SWIMMING LESSONS.

Traditional Day Camp. Our traditional camp rivals any camp in the area! We offer swimming, sports, science & nature, arts & crafts, and more, but unlike many camps, children choose most of their activities throughout the day. It is open to children entering grades 1 through 7 and the hours are from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm, the weeks of July 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5, and 12, at Chester Elementary School on Tuesdays, Thursdays and severe weather days, and Cedar Lake

continued on page 9

Now interviewing 3-12 yrs old students for the 2013 school year.



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• *Park & Recreation continued from page 8* •

on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The children take field trips on Thursdays. The fee is \$95 per child, per week, and payable at the time of registration. Children do not need to be Chester residents to attend.

Extended Day Camp Care. This year we are offering extended camp care daily, from 8:00 until 8:30 am and 3:30 until 4:00 pm, for those registered in our traditional camp program. The cost is an additional \$25 per week. When the camp meets at Cedar Lake the afternoon care will be swimming lessons, weather permitting.

Introduction to Day Camp. If you have ever wanted to try the Chester Parks and Recreation Children's Summer Program, this half-day camp may be just right for you! Introduction to Day Camp for children ages 4 through 7 meets from 8:30 am until 12:15 pm, Tuesdays and severe weather days at Chester Elementary School and Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at Cedar Lake, the weeks of July 8, 15, and 22, with staff and programming designed specifically to meet the needs of younger children. Activities include games, sports, crafts, nature, swimming and story time. This camp does not meet on Thursdays. The cost is \$55 for the 4-day week. **THERE ARE CURRENTLY JUST 7 SPACES LEFT IN EACH WEEK OF INTRODUCTION TO DAY CAMP!**

Chester Parks and Recreation Swimming Lesson. The swimming lessons offered by the Park and Recreation Commission are open to Chester residents or current park pass holders.

Children must be at least three years of age and able to attend the classes independent of their parents. The small group classes meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on July 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, and 22. The fee is \$40 for the 7 classes. Severe weather makeup days will be held on July 24 and July 26 if needed.

The classes currently available are: Nonswimmer 12:30-12:55, Nonswimmer 1:05-1:30, Swimmer 1:40-2:15, Nonswimmer 2:25-2:50, Nonswimmer 3:00-3:25, Swimmer 3:35-4:10 and Advanced Swimmers by appointment.

REGISTRATION FORMS AND INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMS IS AVAILABLE OUTSIDE THE PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE, AT CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND AT http://chesterct.org/?page_id=476.

Help Wanted - Bookkeeper

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Chester Fife and Drum Corps 1868



Happy 145th Anniversary – Chester Fife and Drum Corps!

Welcome to the spring/summer of 2013. Here is hoping that your summer is grand and glorious. I would like to start off by giving you a little bit of history about our Corps and Corps in general. As you all know by now, Chester Drum Corps was established in 1867 but was put on the road in 1868. This Corps has continuously been playing our music since the beginning with no time taken off for good behavior. We have gone through many uniform changes and are now in our fourth or fifth uniform in 145 years. We now sport a more easily manageable colonial white shirt, colonial vest and Tricorn with medallion on it. We play on wooden colonial drums and 6-hole fife in the key of B flat.

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

The earliest American reference to the massing of fifers and drummers under the leadership of a fife major or drum major



Happy 145th Anniversary – Chester Fife and Drum Corps.

occurs in George Washington's general orders for August 23, 1777, wherein he not only orders the massing, but specifies how they will look or act. So much for ANCIENT history, now back to the future.

Our drum line is surging, however our fife line needs more players, but if you do not want to play, we also need members

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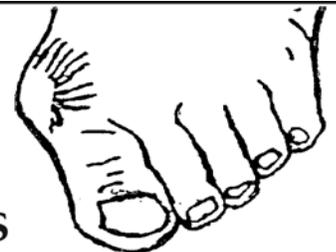
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Mothers Day Pancake Breakfast

Chester Hose Company will host
Mothers Day Pancake Breakfast

Sunday May 12, 8-11:30 a.m. • Chester Firehouse
Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Coffee, Tea & O.J.
Adults: \$7.00 • Kids 12 and under: \$4.00

• *Fife & Drum continued from page 10* •

in the Color Guard to carry our colors. We do teach drum lessons, fife lessons and how to march in unison. We are still practicing at the Company of Fifers and Drummers in Ivoryton, CT for the time being until we can get a home back in Chester.

This is our schedule to date:

March 22 – Company Open Jam Session – 6-11:30 p.m.
April 13 – Company Open Jam Session– 4-10 p.m.
May – Sailing Masters of Essex Commemoration
May 25 – Chester Annual Town Wide Tag Sale
May 26 – Cheshire Memorial Day Parade
May 27 – Chester Memorial Day Parade
July 4 – Provincetown, MA July 4th Parade
July 16-19 – Junior Fife and Drum Camp Week
July 19-20 – DRAM National Muster
July 27 – Civil War Troopers Muster, Montgomery NY
Aug 11 – VJ Day Parade in Moosup
Aug 23-24 – Westbrook Muster
August 31 – Clinton 350th Celebration Parade
October – Moodus Muster

So please come and see what we are about, do and play. We will also be spending some time at Cedar Lake and North Quarter Park.

If you are interested in becoming part of history and are interested in joining our corps, please feel free to call me at 860-691-1735 or call our corps President at 860-526-2178.

Just as a reminder, we are neither a Junior nor Senior Corps. We are a family oriented organization and intend on remaining so.

Better yet, come on down and see what we are about. We practice from 6:30 till 8:00 p.m. at the Company of Fifers and Drummers in Ivoryton, CT, every Monday night. Please call ahead to verify our practice nights just in case schedules change. Summer practice nights may vary depending on our schedule. Hope you have a most enjoyable spring and summer. Hope to see you at a muster or at a parade.

– *Frenchy Cordeau, Business Manager and Drum Major*



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Attention Students – Four Scholarships Available

CHESTER HOSE COMPANY AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP.

The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary will again be offering a scholarship to a well deserving child of a Chester Hose Company firefighter or auxiliary member who has been active for at least four (4) years. The firefighter or auxiliary member must be active now, or have been active within the last four (4) years, or be an honorary member of the Chester Hose Company or Auxiliary. This scholarship is also open to any child or grandchild of a deceased firefighter or auxiliary member who had four (4) years of active service at the time of his or her death. For a complete list of requirements and a copy of the application, please stop by Chester Town Hall and see the Town Clerk, speak with a Chester Hose Company Auxiliary member, or stop into the Valley Regional Guidance office. Please submit applications by April 30th

Letter of application should be accompanied by the following information: school of intent and verification of acceptance, letter of reference from current education system, extra-curricular school activities and community involvement. A decision of the recipient will be made by May 15th. All applications are to be sent directly to: Chester Hose Company Auxiliary, Attention: Debra Germini Calamari, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412

CHESTER GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP. The Chester Garden Club offers a scholarship of \$500 for graduating high school students and current college students who are residents of Chester and are pursuing the study of horticulture and/or environmental-related fields. Interested students are encouraged to apply. The purpose of this scholarship program is to encourage and promote the study of horticulture and/or environmental-related fields. The Club will award a scholarship in the amount of \$500 to a graduating high school senior or currently enrolled college student from Chester who plans to pursue a degree at an accredited two- or four-year institution with the intent on majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, agronomy, environmental science, botany, biology, plant pathology or other related field.

Please contact Chester Garden Club member Margo Novak with any questions or if additional information is needed about

this scholarship. Contact information is (860)-345-2409 or margonov@comcast.net. Students may send completed applications to the Chester Garden Club, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 415, Chester, CT 06412. Applications are due by April 30. Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 31.

DIANA GRZYBOWSKI SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORED BY THE CHESTER AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION. The Chester Ambulance Association is offering a \$1,000 scholarship in the memory of deceased Association founding member Diana Grzybowski. The scholarship is offered to any graduating student from Chester, Chester Hose Company member or child thereof, or any Chester resident entering an accredited school or continuing education program that prepares the person for professional practice in a health related field. Some career pursuits to be considered would include nursing, therapy, paramedic, social work and health administration.

By signing the scholarship application you agree to return funds in the event you no longer plan on entering accredited school or continuing education program that prepares the person for professional practice in a health related field. Applications for the above scholarship are due to Chester Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 209, Chester, CT 06412 no later than May 1. Please email any questions to caa07@att.net.

THE VISITING NURSES OF THE LOWER VALLEY MURTHA SCHOLARSHIP. The Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley Murtha Scholarship is being offered to residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester, who intend to pursue a career in health care, with preference given to those entering the nursing profession.

The Murtha family has provided the Visiting Nurses with the resources to offer these scholarships which have provided tuition assistance to over 20 local youth and non-traditional students. Due to a shortage of nurses throughout the country, preference will be given to those applicants who intend to enter a nursing education program. Applications may be obtained by calling the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley at 860.767.0186 or by emailing smaxwell@visitingnurses.org. All applications must be received by April 26.



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United Church of Chester

United Church of Chester will sponsor its **BAKE SALE AND RUMMAGE SALE** on Saturday, April 27th, from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. There are always fabulous treats at the Bake Sale and bargains galore in the rummage department. For anyone wishing to donate to the Rummage Sale, items may be dropped off Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of that week, but will NOT be allowed on Friday the 26th. We do not accept any furniture, computers, large appliances or exercise equipment. Call the office at 860-526-2697 with any questions.

Run for Chris – Run for Education

In memory of Christopher Belfoure, the 2nd Annual RUN FOR CHRIS 5K will be held on Saturday, June 22, in Essex, CT. Chris was a 2005 graduate of VRHS and received his Bachelor's in History and Chinese from WVU. Chris appreciated educational opportunities that introduced him to new places, such as China. He believed everyone should have the same opportunity. The Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund has been established at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC). It will serve as a catalyst toward integrating multicultural experiences, learning foreign languages, and integrating environmental programs into the schools and libraries of the Lower Valley of the Middlesex County. This year a grant was given to VRHS for their trip abroad to France and Costa Rica. Register online: www.aratrace.com. For more information: "Like" RunforChris at facebook.com/runforchris. Any questions contact Robin Chapin, robinc83@gmail.com; OR Cathy Bishop, cbishop56@sbcglobal.net; 860-767-0354.

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

Learn how you can help at:
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Top Ten Helpful Hints to Remember for Tax Time

10. Remember to read you bill carefully!
9. Remember to call in the beginning of July if you have any questions or problems. Since both the Assessor and Tax Collector could more easily help you when we do not have a line of people trying to pay their bills at the end of the month!
8. Remember to NOT wait till the last week, or especially the last day, to pay, since "Late is Late" no matter what the emergency!
7. Remember to NOT double the amount, especially on MV bills. The amount that is listed is the amount for the year, and there should not be a January amount for those MV's that you are paying in July!
6. Remember to double check your bank balance before writing your check. We now must charge \$15 bounced check fee if your bank returns your check marked as "insufficient funds" and this could cause your payment to be late and then interest!
5. Remember to double check your math if you are combining bills into one check and do NOT round numbers up or especially down!
4. Remember to sign your check. An unsigned check causes a delay and it also could cause your payment to be late and that would add interest!
3. Remember that paying taxes are your responsibility and the law and if you do NOT receive a bill, you should call early to either the Assessor or to the Tax Collector to figure out why a bill is missing!
2. Remember that late payments cause interest to be charged if even one day late and the charge is 1½% per month starting at the due date, so late July payment would mean a 3% interest charge which is 1½% for July and 1½% for August!
1. Remember to REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR TAXES IN JULY!

— Madaline A Meyer, Tax Collector and Tracey Ohaus, Tax Clerk

Accolades for Events Magazines!

I've always enjoyed reading your Events Magazine. I've lived and worked on the shoreline most of my life and love to see what's going on and look at the ads for local businesses. I think it's important to shop local and support our fellow businessmen and women.

As a graphic designer, the look of the magazine is clean, stylish and classy. Keep up the good work.

— Bette McLean, L.E. Designers, Inc., Old Saybrook, CT

Help for People in Need

HUSKY Health Coverage. The HUSKY Plan is Connecticut's free or low cost health insurance program for children and youth up to age 19. Designed to provide health coverage to all uninsured children, HUSKY is open to children in families of every income level. HUSKY can also provide health coverage for parents, relative caregivers and pregnant women, depending on income. Children receive a comprehensive health care benefits package, including preventive care, physician visits, prescriptions, vision care, dental care, physicals, mental health and substance abuse services, durable medical equipment, emergency and hospital care. For more information call toll-free: 1-877-CT-HUSKY (1-877-284-8759), or visit their website at www.huskyhealth.com.

Charter Oak Health Plan. The Charter Oak Health Plan provides affordable health care coverage to Connecticut adults, aged 19 through 64, of all incomes. It's the first time every uninsured adult in Connecticut can get quality, affordable health insurance, and it costs as little as \$75 per month in premiums, depending on your income. Coverage includes preventive care, emergency room and hospital visits, primary care and specialist physicians, pharmacy, behavioral health services and prescription medications. To get more information, request an application or apply by phone. Call 1-877-77-CT-Oak (1-877-772-8625) or visit their website at www.charteroakhealthplan.com.

Housing. You can only apply for Section 8 Housing Choice voucher program and the state Rental Assistance Program when a housing authority or the state opens its waiting list. For information about housing waiting lists that may be taking applications for the Housing Choice Voucher program, dial 2-1-1 or visit the United Way 2-1-1 website at www.211ct.org. You may also register your email address at this website to be notified when a Housing Choice Voucher waiting list opens. There are many other low cost housing options; please dial 2-1-1 for information about options, as well as for information about other housing services, such as eviction and foreclosure prevention, security deposits and shelters for the homeless or victims of domestic violence.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP. SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is a nutrition program that helps low income individuals and families buy food. SNAP is funded by the US Department of Agriculture and administered by the CT Department of Social Services. Benefits are provided through an Electronic Benefits Transfer card that works just like a regular debit card. You can use your EBT card at most grocery stores and at some farmers' markets. All SNAP recipients are eligible to receive free nutrition education. For more information and to find out where to apply, visit www.ct.gov/SNAP or dial 2-1-1.

— Social Services for the Town of Chester

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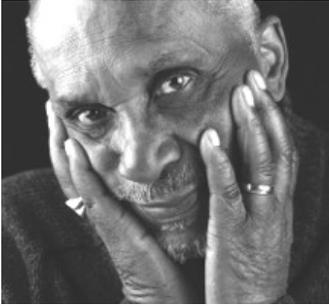


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Music & More Continues



Jazz vocalist Ed Reed.



Classical pianist Dalia Lazar.



A Klez Act, the synagogue's outstanding home-grown klezmer band.

A jazz baritone who made his recording debut just shy of his 78th birthday. A classical pianist from Croatia who studied in the former Soviet Union. A popular klezmer band playing a free concert, with food.

Ed Reed, Dalia Lazar and A Klez Act bring their artistic gifts to Chester this spring. These are the spectacular and diverse artists of Music & More 2013, as the fifth year of Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek's acclaimed concert series continues. The concerts are all on Sundays: April 28, May 19 and June 23.

All performances take place at the synagogue at 55 East Kings Highway in the historic Connecticut River town of Chester. They start at 5 p.m., with a reception following the concert to meet the performers and enjoy refreshments.

At each concert, a program book is distributed featuring local businesses. Concert tickets are \$25 each; synagogue congregants, \$20, and children under 16, \$10. Klezmer is free. For ticket reservations and purchases, and/or to participate in the program book, please call (860) 526-8920, or visit www.cbsrz.org. Look for Music & More on Facebook as well.

Performances in detail

An astonishing jazz singer is up next in Music & More 2013 with an April 28 performance by Ed Reed. A winner of many awards (DownBeat Annual Critics Poll: Rising Star in Male Vocalist category 2011, 2009, 2008; DownBeat editors Pick, July 2011 for "Born to Be Blue" CD; Jazz Hero award from Jazz Journalists Association 2011), Mr. Reed did not make his recording debut until just before his 78th birthday in 2007.

In a June 2009 profile in The Wall Street Journal, famed jazz critic Nat Hentoff said of Mr. Reed, "Hearing him . . . underscored how much I have missed, for years, the enveloping sensuous balladry of Duke Ellington's Herb Jeffries and the conversational intimacy of Johnny Hartman in his sessions with John Coltrane."

Next up in Music & More 2013 is classical pianist Dalia Lazar on May 19. Born in Croatia, Ms. Lazar began studying piano at an early age. Her first piano teacher recognized her uncommon talent, and at the age of 16 she was admitted to Moscow's P.I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory.

During her studies in Moscow, Ms. Lazar performed throughout the then-Soviet Union. Immediately after her graduation from the Moscow Conservatory, Ms. Lazar decided to continue her career in New York and London. Dalia Lazar made her New York debut at Rubenstein Hall, followed by her Carnegie Recital Hall debut later that year. Since then she has performed a broad repertoire as a soloist in concerts and recitals worldwide. Critics and peers have praised her artistry as "such noble playing," "a profound sentiment," "that rare combination of charisma, personality and terrific pianistic facility," and ". . . an inspiring display of musical excellence."

Finally, Music & More 2013 closes its season with the "Picnic with A Klez Act," in a free concert June 23 on the synagogue's grounds. A Klez Act plays klezmer music, the historic music of Eastern European Jews. A Klez Act is the synagogue's

continued on page 17

3rd YEAR WINNER!

TeamJermainne Real Estate Services
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Check out the full article in the March edition of Connecticut Magazine.

Again this year...thank you to all the respondents who took the time to answer the surveys and phone calls involved in the research. We really appreciate it and will continue to provide the best service to our clients old and new and to look for ways to improve and do more for each every one of them. Your confidence inspires us.

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BRAYCE Yourself for Pizza!

SAVE THE DATE and plan to join us for the Third Annual BRAYCE Pizza extravaganza on Saturday, June 22 from 6 – 10 p.m. This popular fundraiser for BRAYCE will be held at the beautiful riverside home of Jim Scala in Deep River. You will enjoy a leisurely cocktail hour with guitar music featuring New York performer, Jared Newman, and vocalist Pauline Batista, BRAYCE graduate; full bar; a lively band to dance the night away, and of course, lots and lots of fabulous pizza, as much as you can eat. For information about the BRAYCE Cultural Exchange Program and details on upcoming events, check out the brand new BRAYCE website www.brayce.org.

Garden Club Scholarship

The Chester Garden Club offers a scholarship of \$500 for graduating high school students and current college students who are residents of Chester and are pursuing the study of horticulture and/or environmental-related fields. Interested students are encouraged to apply.

The purpose of this scholarship program is to encourage and promote the study of horticulture and/or environmental-related fields. The Club will award a scholarship in the amount of \$500 to a graduating high school senior or currently enrolled college student from Chester who plans to pursue a degree at an accredited two - or four-year institution with the intent on majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, agronomy, environmental science, botany, biology, plant pathology or other related field.

Please contact Chester Garden Club member Margo Novak with any questions or if additional information is needed about this scholarship. Contact information is (860)-345-2409 or margonov@comcast.net. Students may send completed applications to the Chester Garden Club, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 415, Chester, CT 06412. Applications are due by April 30, 2013. Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 31, 2013.

• *Music & More continued from page 16* •

outstanding home-grown klezmer band, and its concerts are marked by fun, picnicking and the sale of food, including grilled fare, that benefits local charities. At its concert, A Klez Act is expected to play a signature piece, a Yiddish version of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

Come join the music and festivities at Music & More 2013!

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Oregon Wines

Spring into warmer weather with light, bright and savory wines from Oregon. Oregon produces several different styles of light and refreshing whites. Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Riesling and Pinot Gris are the most widely grown varietals. One of the most sought after, Pinot Gris, is the same as the Italian Pinot Grigio grape, however from Oregon it tends to have more body with the same great acidity. The Rieslings are fruity with a slightly sweet edge to them. Due to the cooler climate, most of them tend to have a bit more acidity in the finish which makes them pair nicely with spicy dishes.

The top producing red varietal from Oregon is by far Pinot Noir, followed by Gamay Noir. The cool climate is the ideal condition to grow Pinot Noir, much like its birthplace in Burgundy, France. This varietal brought notoriety to Oregon in the mid-seventies from wine lovers all over the world, though they have been producing other varietals since the mid-late 19th century. Pinot Noir has complex flavors while showing a light body and occasionally an earthy finish. The flavors most often noted are cherry/black cherry and blackberry. Due to its complexity Pinot Noir can be enjoyed with a wide variety of food choices spanning from light appetizers to heavier fare and meat dishes.

Prepare your palate for the warmer days ahead by venturing out and trying a few of these savory, mouth-watering wines from the west coast. They will be sure to please both you and your guests!

— Art LiPuma, Manager, SeaSide Wine & Spirits

What is the CT Solar Challenge?

The Town of Chester is sponsoring programs to reduce the costs and environmental impacts of electricity usage for Chester residents. The CT Solar Challenge™ is a new program which is just being initiated. This program enables homeowners and businesses to have solar panels installed on their building or property at substantially lower costs than are currently available for individual installations. The cost reductions are a result of the economies of multiple installations in a single community and the full utilization of State rebates and Federal tax credits.

If your home or business meets the criteria for solar orientation and shading which are necessary for a successful installation, then an onsite review by a qualified professional would be necessary to determine the actual feasibility of such a project.

To learn more about this opportunity, the Energy Team invites you to attend a Solar Workshop to be held on April 11th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Chester Town Hall. In order to attend the workshop, please visit the CTSolarChallenge.com website and complete the form on the Chester page. We look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

CHESTER CT SOLAR CHALLENGE TEAM: Roger Koontz, Michael Learned, Sandy Prisloe, Matt Sanders, Mike Sanders, Bruce Watrous, Pat Woomer, Al Bisacky, Brian Buckley, Bill Everett, Peter Harding, Rick Holloway, Errol Horner, and Lynne Jacques.

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Side Doors Benefit Concert for Chester Historical Society



The Chester Historical Society is hosting a concert by Leif Nilsson's Side Doors band and the Dizzy River Band on Saturday evening, April 20, in the Meeting House, from 8 to 10 p.m. A \$20 donation to the Historical Society includes refreshments. Ticket information will be on our website, chesterhistoricalsociety.org.



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Mark Johnston Book Discussion Series Presents "The Raft and the Veil." *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain and *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. Du Bois will be discussed this April when Charlotte Rea returns to lead a new series, *The Raft and the Veil*. Charlotte notes that Twain and Du Bois both take us back to the early days of cross-cultural understanding and to the mature insights of people who witnessed profound changes in this country. With these stories, they lead us to insights about the development of our own senses of identity and our consciences as well as views of others.

Dates for the discussions are Wednesdays, April 10, 17 and 24 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Books on paper and on CD are available at the library on a first-come, first-served basis. EBook versions of both titles can be downloaded from Overdrive. Please call the library to register, or visit the library website at http://chesterct.org/?page_id=286 to register online.

April is National Poetry Month: Come Celebrate! Join poets living locally for this tribute to the importance of poetry in our lives. The Chester Meeting House will be the site of the library's third annual celebration of National Poetry Month. Leading up to this event, Chester poet Pamela Nomura will be working with sixth grade students at Chester Elementary School. Join us at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 29 at the Chester Meeting House.

Get Ready to Dig Up Some Great Books and Treasure this Summer. There's more than one reason to look forward to summer: your library is planning some fun and rewarding programs for readers of all ages. Here's a sampling of what's on the calendar. Check out all the ways you can Dig Into Reading!

- "Dig Into Reading" incentive program begins June 24.
- Kids dig in and make "compost stew" July 10.
- Stories and crafts for ages 3-10 July - August (Monday mornings for 3-6's, Wednesday afternoons for 7- 10's)
- Book discussions for JW and Valley students (gather with friends to take care of those summer reading assignments!)
- Plans for a reading club/discussion group for elementary age kids.
- Not to be missed..."Farmer Minor and Daisy the Pig" Live! August 12.

Beginning in June, call the library to register for these events. More information will be available on the library website at http://chesterct.org/?page_id=286 as summer approaches.

Like us on Facebook! You'll receive inclement weather closing notifications, program information, fun photos and lots more. Check out Facebook.com/ChesterCTPublicLibrary.

Library Hours. Mondays, 10 am-8 pm; Tuesdays, 2-6 pm; Wednesdays, 10 am-6 pm; Thursdays, 2-8 pm; Fridays, 10 am-6 pm and Saturdays 10 am-2 pm. The library will be closed on Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day). Weather-related closings and delays will be announced on the library answering machine (860-526-0018), and posted on the website and the library's Facebook page (have you 'liked' us yet?).

When the library isn't open, access your library account 24/7 at <http://chst-verso.auto-graphics.com>. Log in to your account using the 14-digit barcode number on your library card and your password. When logging in for the first time, use the password "userpass" (without quotation marks). From this website you are able to renew items you have checked out, search the catalog, place reserves on items you'd like to have, request interlibrary loans and more.

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley Murtha Scholarship

The Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley Murtha Scholarship is being offered to residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester, who intend to pursue a career in health care, with preference given to those entering the nursing profession.

The Murtha family has provided the Visiting Nurses with the resources to offer these scholarships which have provided tuition assistance to over 20 local youth and non-traditional students. Due to a shortage of nurses throughout the country, preference will be given to those applicants who intend to enter a nursing education program.

Applications may be obtained by calling the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley at 860.767.0186 or by emailing smaxwell@visitingnurses.org. All applications must be received by April 26.

Family Conversations

Through many years of experience working with seniors and their families, we at Chester Village West have discovered that there is a need to assist adult children with the approach and eventual conversations they will have with their parents and loved ones.

These adult children are usually between the ages of 45 and 60. They are managing work, educating their children, and worrying about their aging parents at the same time. They have many options, but little time to do the research on their own. They need answers in a factual and timely manner.

Through our new "Conversation Starters Program," we offer free consultation services for your family, employees, clients and/or peers. We will provide a balanced approach, whether the family decides to re-locate their parents to a senior living community, or access in-home care. We will help them assess their current situation and streamline the process to give them enough knowledge to make their own decisions. We understand that "knowledge is power."

How to Access Our Complimentary Consulting Services

1. Contact Marian Bairstow at 860-526-6800, bairstow@lcsnet.com
2. Visit our Conversation Starters Landing page, www.AConversationStarter.com/CT

Chester Food Bank



Rana Bailey presents check to Rosie Bininger, Social Services Director for the Town of Chester.

The Chester Food Bank here at Town Hall needs your help restocking the shelves - please bring non-perishable food items, such as canned fruit, chili, hash, ravioli, canned veggies (no green beans please) toilet paper or laundry detergent - all these items would be appreciated.

Chester-based Rana's School of Dance raised \$180 and a back seat full of groceries at her Zumba-a-thon this March - a fun and healthy way to raise awareness of the need to provide assistance to others here in Chester



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Your Chester Library and Its Future

This winter the Library Board of Trustees hosted two Community Conversations about the future of the Chester Library, which were facilitated by Ken Best, CT-certified Historic Architect, who worked with a selectmen-appointed committee last year to determine if the current library site is feasible for a building expansion. The committee had been charged to answer two frequently asked questions by Chester residents: "Can our library building be made accessible to all?" and "Is there any way we can make our library building bigger?" The answer to both questions was, "Yes!"

As part of the feasibility study, which was fully funded by an outside grant, Mr. Best worked with the committee to develop a conceptual plan for renewing the library. The concept

- provides for a handicapped accessible entrance on the parking lot side of the building while maintaining the historic entrance and façade
- adds an elevator and accessible restrooms
- restores a reading area by the old fireplace
- creates new children's and teen spaces
- delivers additional computer/internet access
- includes space for tutoring and quiet study, and work space for the staff
- offers flexible programming/meeting space that can be used by the community when the library is not open.

Current collection size would be maintained, housed comfortably and accessible to all patrons. In all, the new plan would approximately double the size of the existing library, to about 4000 sq.ft.

The first conceptual plan was introduced at the first Conversation to an audience of about 60 residents. Some people expressed appreciation for keeping the library in its current location, while others expressed their concern over the asymmetry of the additions to the east and west sides of the historic library building. Some residents asked if other ideas – such as constructing a new building or sharing a library with a neighboring town – had been explored.

Following that Conversation, the Board of Trustees, with some members of the Feasibility Building Study Committee,

asked Ken Best to "go back to the drawing board" before the March Conversation. The trustees also discussed the feasibility of building a new library at North Quarter Park or of asking if the town of Deep River would consider sharing its library with Chester. Very preliminary, informal discussions were then held with the selectmen.

When the second Community Conversation was held on March 13, Mr. Best presented to an audience of about 27 residents two possibilities to consider. The first was a building expansion that preserved most of the western façade while having a major addition on the east (downhill) side and a "terrace" across the front of the entire building. The second was a very preliminary drawing of a one story, slab-on-grade building, which at about 5500 sq.ft. is larger than the expanded existing building would be. The new structure would provide most of the same features bulleted above.

Of course, there are unknowns and questions associated with either approach: Would an expanding building be visually too large for the current library site, and where in town is there a suitable location for a new library. Mr. Best estimated that the costs for building expansion or an entirely new building would be approximately the same amount - \$3 million. The Trustees have consulted a professional fundraiser and will explore various funding mechanisms, from state grants to private fundraising to offset a significant portion of building expense.

So where do we go from here? That was the question asked by residents as the March Community Conversation drew to a close. The Library Board of Trustees will discuss all comments and questions raised by residents; will look at all the pros and cons of all proposals; and will meet with the Board of Selectmen sometime this spring for further discussion. Your input is very welcome as we explore the possibilities. Stop in at the library, follow our comments on our library website (http://chesterct.org/?page_id=286) and on our library Facebook page, and offer your own comments. Please. This is your library.

2nd Wine and Beer Tasting

The Chester Fair will be holding its 2nd Wine & Beer Tasting on Saturday, June 8th from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm at the Chester Fairgrounds in Chester, CT. There will be wine and beer vendors, live entertainment, and various local restaurants will be selling food. Admission is \$20, and proceeds will go towards the Chester Fair scholarship program. The Chester Package Store and the Chester Bottle Shoppe will be sponsoring this event.



A Century of Chester Travel

We are very excited about this summer's new exhibit at the Chester Museum at The Mill. Titled "Over the River and Through the Woods: One Hundred Years of Road, Ferry, Train, Trolley and Steamboat Transportation," the exhibit will demonstrate how our town developed as the mode of transportation evolved over 100 years. Five exhibit areas, each related to a different mode of transport – roads, ferry, train, trolley and steamboat – will show how the progress of transportation impacted the growth of our town. Part of that story will be told through interactive exhibits, such as a road map with overlays and a video of train and ferry travel.

We are thrilled to have received a grant of \$4,655 from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County/Connecticut Humanities Fund for the exhibit.

The Middlesex County Community Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the people of the County, now and in the future, by developing endowments, making grants that have impact and assisting donors in meeting their philanthropic objectives. Since its founding in 1997, the Community Foundation has awarded 850 grants totaling over \$2.5 million for the arts, cultural and heritage programs, educational activities, environmental improvements and for health and human services.

The grant will help us print exhibit signage; enlarge and mount photos from our archives; create a video of travel on the Chester-Hadlyme Ferry and Valley Railroad; create an interactive road map with overlays; record oral histories onto SoundSticks ; and more.

We are looking for any old Chester road signs or any other pieces of Chester transportation history that might be suitable to the exhibit. If you have something you might share with us for the summer, please contact us through chestercthistorical.society@gmail.com.

CT Cookie Platoon

Mission: Our mission is to get America baking homemade cookies once a month for our troops, veterans, or recovering soldiers.

Next Platoon Event: May 11. Our shipment/packing party will be at the Whelen Engineering, located at 51 Winthrop Road in Chester. Cookies may be dropped off beginning at 9:00 a.m. We'll start packing at 9:30 am. Finished cookies must be 2 inches in diameter. They must be homemade, not store-bought. Please put your cookies in large Ziplok Bags before giving them to us for shipping. You can stay at the site for our packing party. We'd love to meet you, and we'll be happy to have your help. If you can't get to the packing site, we can pick up your cookies. Please call Debbie Schaefer at 860-526-2789 to make arrangements or e-mail info@cookieplatoon.com for more information.

Historical Society

For A Look into the Past. If you'd like to receive the Chester Historical Society monthly e-newsletter, please send your email address to chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Membership in the historical society is not required. Your address will be kept confidential.

The exhibit will open to the public on Memorial Day weekend. After that, we'll be open Saturdays and Sundays; we offer free admission and we are handicapped accessible. Anyone interested in becoming a museum host during the summer can contact Diane Lindsay to find out more (860-526-2443).

Staying in Touch. We've started a monthly e-newsletter, giving information about historical society activities and items in our archives of Chester history. If you're interested in receiving the newsletter (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 try to post the newsletter on our website, ChesterHistoricalSociety.org, as well.

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Middlesex Hospital Now Offers 3T MRI

The Radiology Department at Middlesex Hospital has a strong tradition of keeping current with the latest, most advanced technology. The 3-Tesla (3T) MRI is just the latest example of how the Hospital is staying ahead of the curve in the level of technology it provides to patients. This diagnostic marvel provides the most up-to-date technology currently available for MRI imaging. The strength of the MRI magnet itself (measured in “teslas” and 3 teslas being the most powerful magnet currently available on the market) allows the machine to provide sharp, detailed pictures of the entire body. It is especially useful for getting unparalleled image clarity, leading to definitive diagnoses, of the breasts, prostate, head and small joints such as the knees, ankles, shoulder, elbows, wrists, hands and feet.

This super-powerful, wide-open bore, high-field MRI also offers a new dimension in patient comfort. It combines a much larger bore (circular opening) size and a much shorter “tunnel” (length). The new MRI looks just like a CT scanner, only a foot longer. The new wide-open bore design accommodates patients of all sizes, eliminating anxiety and claustrophobia. For many exams, both the feet and head remain outside the machine. The newer technology combines an open feel with the ability to capture high-field quality diagnostic images. In addition, the new MRI is quieter and may require less time to capture the necessary images.



The 3-Tesla (3T) MRI.

When using the new, 3T MRI at Middlesex Hospital, patients can be sure that their doctors will get the highest quality medical imaging possible. They will also be comfortable, experience less noise and likely spend less time in the machine. In other words, patients can now make a smarter choice at Middlesex Hospital if they need to have an MRI!

Fondue Season is Still Upon Us

It really doesn't need to be winter with a huge snow storm to enjoy fondue, but that's usually the time when people think about it the most. A picture is conjured up of a warm fireplace, a bubbling pot of fondue, a great glass of wine or your favorite beer, and friends and family to enjoy it all. It's fun, fresh, and elegant to serve. Fondue is the party, at least in my home. When's the last time you had real Swiss fondue?

The name fondue actually comes from the French verb “fonder” which means to melt. Like so many great meals today it began as a simple, peasant food. It was a great way to use up day old bread, opened wine, and leftover, dry cheese. Once heated and mixed together, a great feast was created.

Although there are many variations of fondues available today, I still like the classic Swiss recipe which you can find on our website. It's tried and true and I've been using it for over 40 years. Many will disagree as to the best combinations of Swiss cheeses that should be used but most agree to start with a good, aged Gruyere. Emmenthaler, Appenzeller, Challerhocker, and Vacherin Fribourgeois are readily available and should be considered as additions to the mix. These are all very flavorful cheeses from Switzerland which are also great eating cheeses. If you can, try them before you buy and see which ones suit your palate.



The fact that most of the meal is prepared in advance allows you to actually enjoy your own party; you can sit and relax with your guests. The only reason to get up from the table would be to retrieve another bottle of wine. I hear many ask, “Oh, fondue is back?” My answer, “it never left.”

— Paul Partica, *The Cheese Shop Of Centerbrook*

A Brief Look at Alzheimer's Disease

More than 5.4 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of memory illness known as dementia. This means millions of spouses, adult children, friends and other family members are suffering alongside the Alzheimer's patient as they progress through the different stages of the disease. It also means no one travels through dementia alone, and family and friends are needed now more than ever.

Spouses or other relatives may be the first to notice warning signs of memory loss beyond what is considered normal, such as a change in someone's ability to concentrate or work with numbers, taking much longer to do things than before, confusion of time and place, or even complications having a conversation. (Visit the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org for more information on early signs and symptoms of memory loss that may help determine if there should be concern).

These signs may not necessarily mean someone has dementia. There can be medical reasons for them, such as depression, or the result of an infection, or even dehydration. If there ever is any doubt about changes in memory, all families are encouraged to seek a proper diagnosis from a qualified geriatrician or physician with specific geriatric experience.

If the diagnosis is indeed a memory illness, you can work together as a team to prepare a care plan that works for everyone. It is ideal for those suffering from memory-related illnesses to be in a safe environment that also offers stimulation and engagement throughout the day. Sometimes that can be done in a home setting if they don't wander, or at an adult day care center, or at an assisted living community with a memory care specialty.

Regardless of where a person with dementia lives, it is very beneficial for them to have interaction with those who know and love them. For family and /or friends who may be



Oversized murals help engage patients with Alzheimer's disease.

uncomfortable around people with Alzheimer's, it is important to realize that although these memory-impaired folks don't recall your name or relationship, they often sense that you are a significant person to them. By talking about people and places from their past, you not only act as their memory, you validate their sense of self.

Life with dementia is a challenging one, but does not have to mean the end of a relationship with your loved one. Families dealing with this illness are encouraged to seek out educational events as well as educational reading material, to join a support group, and to view your relatives as your care partners during this journey. You may be surprised by how many special moments you will continue to enjoy and treasure with your loved one.

— Kathy Ryan, Executive Director,
The Saybrook at Haddam

Diana Grzybowski Scholarship

The Chester Ambulance Association is offering a \$1,000 scholarship in the memory of deceased Association founding member Diana Grzybowski. The scholarship is offered to any graduating student from Chester, Chester Hose Company member or child thereof, or any Chester resident entering an accredited school or continuing education program that prepares the person for professional practice in a health related field. Some career pursuits to be considered would include nursing, therapy, paramedic, social work and health administration. Applications may be obtained from the guidance departments of Valley Regional High School, Vinal Technical High School, Xavier High School, Mercy High School, Chester Town Office Building or the Town of Chester website. Applications are due to Chester Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 209, Chester, CT 06412 no later than May 1, 2013. Questions may be emailed to caa07@att.net.

For town updates & information:

www.chesterct.org

What is 2-1-1?

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

Calendar of Events

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

| | | | |
|----------|---|------------------|---------|
| April 11 | Planning and Zoning Commission | Meeting House | 7:30 pm |
| April 15 | Zoning Board of Appeals | Meeting House | 7:30 pm |
| | Library Board of Trustees | Library | 7:30 pm |
| April 16 | Board of Selectmen | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| April 17 | Water Pollution Control Authority | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| | Board of Fire Commissioners | Chester Hose Co. | 7:30 pm |
| April 18 | Joint Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance Meeting | Town Hall | 7:30 pm |
| April 23 | Main Street Project Committee | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| May 1 | Conservation Commission | Town Hall | 7:30 pm |
| | Public Hearing – 2013-2014 Budget | Meeting House | 7:30 pm |
| May 6 | Citation Review Committee | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| | Inland Wetlands Commission | Meeting House | 7:00 pm |
| May 7 | Harbor Management Commission | Town Hall | 7:30 pm |
| | Board of Selectmen Meeting | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| | Region 4 Budget Referendum Vote | JWMS | 7:00 pm |
| May 9 | Planning and Zoning Commission | Meeting House | 7:30 pm |
| May 13 | Energy Task Force | Town Hall | 9:00 am |
| | Economic Development | Town Hall | 7:15 pm |
| May 14 | Main Street Project Committee | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| May 15 | Water Pollution Control Authority | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| | Board of Fire Commissioners | Chester Hose Co. | 7:30 pm |
| May 16 | Board of Finance Meeting | Town Hall | 7:30 pm |
| May 20 | Zoning Board of Appeals | Meeting House | 7:30 pm |
| | Retirement Committee | Town Hall | 7:30 pm |
| | Library Board of Trustees | Library | 7:30 pm |
| May 21 | Annual Town Budget Meeting Vote | Meeting House | 7:30 pm |
| May 28 | Main Street Project Committee | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| June 3 | Citation Review Committee | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| | Inland Wetlands Commission | Meeting House | 7:00 pm |
| June 4 | Harbor Management Commission | Town Hall | 7:30 pm |
| | Board of Selectmen Meeting | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| June 5 | Conservation Commission | Town Hall | 7:30 pm |
| June 10 | Energy Task Force | Town Hall | 9:00 am |
| | Economic Development | Town Hall | 7:15 pm |
| June 11 | Main Street Project Committee | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| June 13 | Planning and Zoning Commission | Meeting House | 7:30 pm |
| June 17 | Zoning Board of Appeals | Meeting House | 7:30 pm |
| | Library Board of Trustees | Library | 7:30 pm |
| June 18 | Board of Selectmen Meeting | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| June 19 | Water Pollution Control Authority | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |
| | Board of Fire Commissioners | Chester Hose Co. | 7:30 pm |
| June 20 | Board of Finance | Town Hall | 7:30 pm |
| June 25 | Main Street Project Committee | Town Hall | 7:00 pm |

Estuary Council

ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC. has been serving seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 38 years. Call us to receive our *Gazette Newsletter* or go to www.ecsenior.org for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more.

PAINTED CHAIR AUCTION: THE SECOND SEATING! APRIL 27th, 3-6:00 pm. Join us for our "Second Seating" Chair Auction. This unique event will offer hand painted and decorated chairs as well as wooden collectibles. The Second Seating will feature fabulous hors oeuvres, wine and a large array of beautiful pieces to bid on. Proceeds will benefit the Meals on Wheels Program and other vital Estuary programs in our nine-town Estuary region. Tickets are \$25 and limited to the first 150 people. Tickets are available, beginning April 1st at the Estuary, 220 Main Street, Old Saybrook. Call Rhonda at 860-876-7340 with any questions.

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

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

STAN GREIMANN ESTUARY MEDICAL OUTPATIENT

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

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

ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP: Open 10 am - 4 pm, Monday - Friday; 9 am - 1 pm on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, crafts, and more available. Donations are accepted and volunteers always needed.

THE MARSHVIEW GALLERY AT THE ESTUARY: Open daily 8 am - 4 pm, and from 9 am - 1 pm Saturdays. The art on exhibit changes monthly and highlights the talents of local artists from along the shoreline. The artists donate a portion of their art sales to the Estuary Council of Seniors. An artist's reception is held the second Friday of each month from 5 - 7 p.m. Refreshments are served, and a door prize is drawn each month. All ages are welcome. Cal 860-388-1611 for information.

DONATE YOUR CAR OR BOAT TO THE ESTUARY COUNCIL - Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling: 1-800-716-5868. Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide for seniors in the nine-town Estuary Region.

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

Chester - Community Listings

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

LIBRARY

Chester Public Library (860) 526-0018

POST OFFICES

Chester Post Office (860) 526-2780

SCHOOLS

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

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



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 Estuary Transit District

Weather Emergencies and Food Safety

Severe weather, such as snow storms and hurricanes, can affect food safety. Whenever there is a loss of electrical power and depending on the length of time the power is out, there is the possibility that foods kept in refrigerators and freezers may spoil and therefore not be safe for human consumption.

The following guidelines from the U.S. Department of Agriculture can help you determine the safety of foods following the loss of electric power.

Steps to follow to prepare for a possible weather emergency:

- Keep an appliance thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer. An appliance thermometer will indicate the temperature inside the refrigerator and freezer in case of a power outage and help determine the safety of the food.
- Make sure the freezer is at 0° F or below and the refrigerator is at 40° F or below.
- Freeze containers of water for ice to help keep food cold in the freezer, refrigerator or coolers after the power is out.
- Freeze refrigerated items such as leftovers, milk and fresh meat and poultry that you may not need immediately – this helps keep them at a safe temperature longer.
- Plan ahead and know where dry ice and block ice can be purchased.
- Have coolers on hand to keep refrigerator food cold if the power will be out for more than 4 hours. Purchase

or make ice cubes and store in the freezer for use in the refrigerator or in a cooler. Freeze gel packs ahead of time for use in coolers.

- Group food together in the freezer — this helps the food stay cold longer.
- Store food on shelves that will be safely out of the way of contaminated water in case of flooding.

Steps to follow after the weather emergency:

- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature.
- The refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened. A full freezer will hold the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) and the door remains closed.
- Discard refrigerated perishable food such as meat, poultry, fish, soft cheeses, milk, eggs, leftovers and deli items after 4 hours without power.
- Food may be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals or is at 40° F or below when checked with a food thermometer.
- **Never taste a food to determine its safety!**
- Obtain dry or block ice to keep your refrigerator and freezer as cold as possible if the power is going to be out for a prolonged period of time. Fifty pounds of dry ice should hold an 18-cubic-foot full freezer for 2 days.
- If the power has been out for several days, check the temperature of the freezer with an appliance thermometer. If the appliance thermometer reads 40° F or below, the food is safe to refreeze.
- If a thermometer has not been kept in the freezer, check each package of food to determine its safety. If the food still contains ice crystals, the food is safe.
- When in Doubt, throw it Out!

**Deadline for the next issue of
CHESTER EVENTS
is June 14th.**

SPOTLIGHT!

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Chester Branch

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Offices: Essex, 35 Plains Road, (860) 767-2573

Essex, 9 Main Street, (860) 767-8238 • Chester, 203 Middlesex Avenue, (860) 526-0000

Madison, 99 Durham Road, (203) 318-8611 • Old Lyme, 101 Halls Road, (860) 434-1646

Old Saybrook, 155 Main Street, (860) 388-3543

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