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middlesexhospital.org/vitality





# First Selectwoman's Corner

Spring is coming – I promise! One storm after the other, intermingled with beautiful 60 degree days especially formulated to keep us on our toes. As we shiver and search for a place to charge our phones, the plows keep going by. A very large thank you to our public works crew, the contract plow operators, our fantastic Chester Hose Company and the emergency management personnel who work day and night to keep us safe. They certainly have done an amazing job this year - hopefully Mother Nature will give them a well deserved rest! As we continue to work to improve communication with residents, it is more important than ever to implement good systems during these emergencies.

# **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

We are updating the format and method of sending our Town wide email. As it stands currently, we have not had the ability to send these emails remotely when there is no internet at Town Hall. With over 700 distinct email addresses that receive the Town-wide email each week, this is an important source of information for Chester residents. If you are not already receiving this communication, please contact the Selectman's office with your email address and we will add you to the list.

I put this notice in last quarter's Events magazine, but, after the past month of storms, it is worth repeating - please sign up for this

valuable emergency notification service! We may use it to contact you about a shelter opening, a water main break, or an important hurricane notice.

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



Lauren Gister, First Selectwoman

your home). If you want the CT Alert Emergency Communications system to send you alerts during life threatening emergencies, 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 where your 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 continued on page 3





# TM Ventures, LLC dba Essex Printing & Events Magazines

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Watercolor by Alan James alanjamesart.com

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# First Selectwoman... continued from page 1

you have the information necessary to keep you safe - please help us reach you!

# PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A big thank you to those who attended one of the two public workshops held in March to discuss Chester's future. Many ideas and helpful comments were offered, and some very interesting conversations were overheard. The consultants from Milone and McBroom have consolidated the information and have posted the results on the POCD/Strategic Plan website: weknowwhereitis.com. More workshops will be held in late spring to build on these results - please come and participate!

# **BUDGET SEASON**

Budget planning and discussions are in process. An early review shows that we are saving substantial amounts of money and energy on our LED streetlights, have plans to save more with a new solar system on the elementary school roof this summer. On the revenue side, we are watching carefully to see what the state will do with our current state revenue and are in talks to determine the effect of Masonicare's purchase of Chester Village West on our tax collections. On the education side, the Region 4 budget is fairly flat, but Chester's share of the Average Daily Membership (better known as ADM) has gone up due to the variations in school populations across the three towns. Please bring us your ideas - we would love to hear from you. All indications are that municipalities across the state will continue to lose grant funding from the state as time goes by. I will continue to 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 continue to work closely with the boards and commissions and with town departments and commissions to craft an intelligent and responsible budget for our town.

### WELCOME TROOPER MATT WARD!

Chester has a new Resident State Trooper as of Friday, March 9th. Dedicated as he is, he started work on the only work day between the storms. Matt lives in Old Lyme with his wife and five (yes, you heard right) children. Welcome to the team, Matt.

# NORTH QUARTER PARK

The Park and Recreation Commission, along with Park and Rec Director Elizabeth Netsch, have come up with a plan for the gradual improvement of our beautiful park. We have started simply, with a new playscape toy to replace some that were broken and improvements in grub control and fertilization of the fields. All playscape equipment will be movable should part of the property be developed at a later date to add a library or other structure.

continued on page 4



# First Selectwoman's Corner... continued from page 3

# **INVASIVE WEED CONTROL. FINALLY!**

A contract has been signed to hydrorake the weeds from Cedar Lake. We began budgeting for this a little over two years ago, and finally will see the clean up begin. We originally intended to complete this job during the spring of 2019, but the fast growing weeds have become a safety hazard to boaters and swimmers alike, so the job has been moved forward a year. In the future, this process

should be repeated every 2 to 3 years to manage the growth of the weeds in a sustainable manner.

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

Lauren S. Gister, First Selectwoman

# **Town Clerk**

# **DOG LICENSES**

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

For more information call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-526-0013 Ext. 511. The office is open 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Tuesday the office is open until 7 pm and on Friday the office closes at noon.

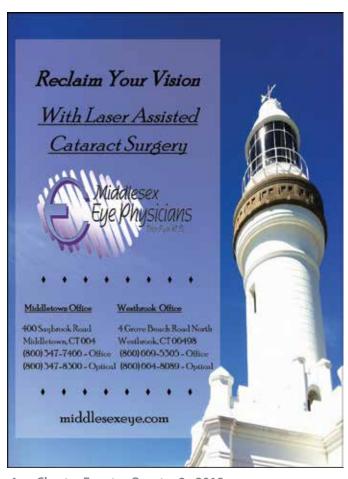
# BULKY WASTE TRANSFER STICKERS

Spring is here and it's time to clean the basement. If you need to get rid of bulky waste, you need to get a bulky waste transfer sticker prior to using the transfer station, which is located in Deep River on

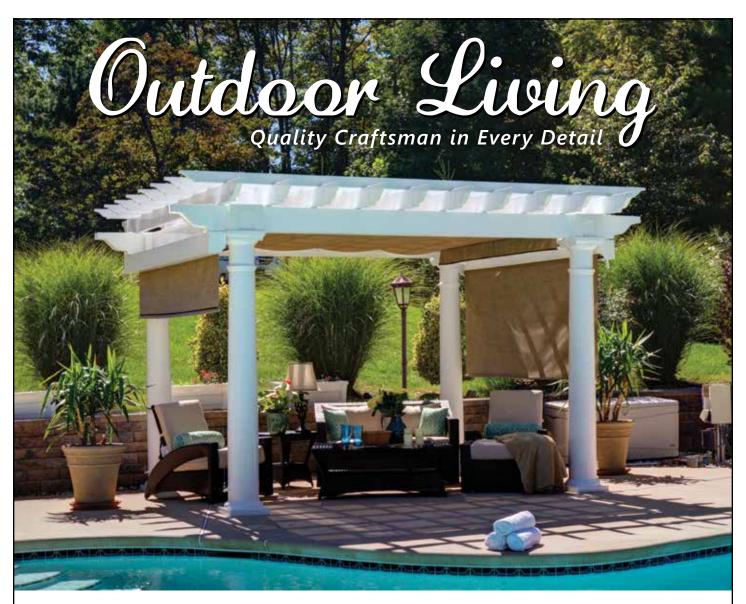
Route 80. Those stickers may be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office with proof of residency and the license plate number of the vehicle you plan to use for hauling the bulky waste.

# **FISHING**

Fishing season opens Saturday, April 14th. Just a reminder that although the Town Clerk's Office no longer sells the licenses, if you have a computer you can go online to www.ct.gov/deep/fishing and purchase it yourself or you can go to a neighboring Town Clerk's office to purchase it.







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# The Start of Spring... Almost, The Start of Tax Season... Almost

In the tax office, we are always looking ahead and planning ahead for the next responsibility we have to handle. At this time of year, it is preparing for the extremely busy June/July tax time. June is busy because tax time involves multiple steps. We are updating, reviewing, preparing bills and inserts and mailing about 2400 envelopes that contain about 5800 bills out of the total of 9,000 plus bills that the office handles each year. Some Real Estate tax bills go electronically to the 3 largest banks or bank servicing companies, so that saves us envelopes and postage and time. But before all those bills get mailed, we are coding them for the banks when the banks send in their request forms. We are also checking and double checking addresses since so many people either change their actual home location or start using a post office box or stop using a post office box. It is very time consuming checking and correcting but that is much better than having to deal with a lot of returned envelopes, which also does happen, producing more work and research and more postage. So a word to the wise, if you have moved or changed how your mail is delivered to you, be sure to let us know in the Tax Office prior to the middle of June and ...the sooner, the better!

As we prepare for tax time, we hope each of the taxpayers in town is also preparing by saving money in order to pay their bills.

It is so helpful, if the bills are paid on time, and that saves interest from accumulating and saves us from mailing so many delinquent statements. This year, we will be sending delinquent PP and MV bills to a collection agency much sooner so that we can collect more money to help the town out as much as possible.

Also, plan ahead, and send in a slip of paper with your taxes and payment if you would like to be put on our REMINDER list for January. On the paper, all you need to write is your name, address and email address and/ or phone number. We start emailing reminders approximately Jan. 15th and start phone call reminders around Jan. 22nd. January is the time frame that has the most bills that are not paid on time. Part of the reason that they do not get paid is there is no new bill to mail to remind people, and what is the saying... out of sight... out of mind! I always hang my July bill on the December part of my calendar that hangs in my cabinet, and then first, I always know where the bill is, and second, it acts as a reminder come December or January to go ahead and pay the important bill or bills if there is a MV supplemental bill.

So, as we plan ahead in the tax office, I hope each of you is planning ahead to be able to pay on time and not have any interest



added to any of your bills. Good luck with this and enjoy spring when it arrives... take care....

Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector and Kristie Valentino, Tax Clerk

# **Chester Merchants Association**

The town of Chester continues to be a destination for excellent restaurants, galleries, theater and shopping. The Chester Merchants Group pools talents and resources to organize, plan and execute activities and events - such as the first Friday of each month - that keep the downtown of Chester vibrant and in the forefront of people's minds. And when it's time for the Chester Sunday Market (this year, opening June 10), we enjoy welcoming market shoppers and visitors into our businesses.

For ideas, information and networking in a casual atmosphere of like-minded business owners and other lovers of Chester, join the group at our meetings the first Wednesday morning of each month. All are welcome. For more details, email us at: chestermerchants@gmail.com.

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

# Haddam Shad Museum

The Haddam Shad Museum
will be open on Sundays
10:00 am to 3:00 pm from
April 9th to June 11th.
The museum, the only one of
its kind in the United States,
displays the history of shad on
the CT. River since colonial days.

We will be glad to open it by appointment at other times for groups interested. The museum directors are familiar with both commercial and sport shad fishing.

The museum is located at 212 Saybrook Road behind the American Oil gas station in Higganum. Admission is free. For information call 860-267-0388.

Thanks to you good things are happening.



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It takes a community to improve the quality of life for all – neighbors and friends who generously give their time and resources to support a passion or area of interest. Thanks to you, we are able to make even the smallest gift have a big impact - through charitable funds that support animal welfare, the arts, human services, education, heritage enhancements, the environment, and so much more.

Together we are able to make a real difference in the lives of so many. Consider the support provided by the Chuck and Rachel Wiltsie Fund to provide free legal services for indigent veterans living in Middlesex County so they have access to stable housing, affordable healthcare, and suitable income. Or the Preston Family Fund and the Kalayjian Family Fund which provide food and other basic necessities to families in need through support to local shelters and social service agencies.

We celebrate all of you who share the same desire to work in partnership to help our local community thrive today, and tomorrow. We invite you to learn more by calling us at 860-347-0025 or visiting online at MiddlesexCountyCF.org.

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

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	
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ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK Sharon Echtman	511	
TREASURER Elizabeth Netsch	214	Treasurer@chesterct.org
WPCA		wpca@chesterct.org

# www.chesterct.org

# Household Hazardous Waste & Paper Shredding

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SCHEDULE

Essex HHW Facility

Route 9, Exit 4, Dump Road, Essex

May 12th and May 19th June 2nd and June 23rd

July 14 August 11th

September 8th October 6th and 27th

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

### PAPER SHREDDING SCHEDULE

Essex HHW Facility

Route 9, Exit 4, Dump Road, Essex

June 30th September 15th

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

# What you NEED to know about Cataracts

There are different types of cataracts, but the most common cataract is age related. Some patients will see halos around lights, suffer from glare at night or in bright sun, or other visual disturbances. This is a natural progressing eye condition. In fact, cataract surgery is the most common surgical procedure performed world-wide! The internet makes it very easy to find information about cataracts; however it is difficult to differentiate the fiction from the facts.

What exactly is a cataract? As we get older, the natural lens inside our eye becomes cloudy causing blurred vision, which cannot be corrected by glasses.

Who is at risk? Risk factors include: age, family history of cataracts, diabetes, eye injury, smoking, radiation treatments, and exposure to UV rays.

**Are cataracts preventable?** Some ways to slow progression of cataracts are to eat healthy, get a complete eye exam yearly, and wear sunglasses with 100% UVA & UVB protection.

How can I treat cataracts? There are a few ways to treat cataracts, including the latest advancements in eye care technology to our region and the implantation of premium lenses during cataract surgery. Using the LensX laser, surgeons have the ability to customize the procedure to achieve the best visual outcomes.

Middlesex Eye Physicians

# **Health Department**

# **Summer Food Safty**

Summer is a time for many outdoor activities including picnicking and grilling. The Chester Heath Department would like to remind everyone the importance of preparing and cooking foods properly to prevent foodborne illnesses.

HAND WASHING - Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, dry them with a clean towel after using the restroom, before preparing any food, handling raw meat like hamburger, and before eating. It is important to wash hands thoroughly after handling raw meat or poultry and before handling other foods. Hand washing will help prevent the spread of potentially illness causing bacteria or viruses.

RINSE - Rinse all fruits and vegetables with clean running water. Melons should be rinsed and scrubbed with a soft brush to remove and dirt or bacteria.

CLEAN - Clean all food contact surfaces, such as cutting boards, utensils, and counter tops, with warm soapy water before and after food preparation.

SEPARATE UTENSILS - Use separate plates and utensils for cooked and uncooked foods. Bacteria from raw meats and poultry or unclean fruits and vegetables can contaminate cooked foods if separate plates or utensils are not used. Discard marinade after the food is removed from it.

PROPER COOKING TEMPERATURES - Cooking food thoroughly is the safest way to prevent a foodborne illness. Raw or undercooked foods can lead to illness. It is not possible to tell if food is properly cooked by simply feeling it or just slicing it to look. Use a food thermometer to check the temperature. Minimum internal cooking temperatures for some foods are continued on page 11

# **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
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 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

# ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM

In order to provide the highest level of assistance to the residents of Chester, the Office of Emergency Management is asking its residents to pre-identify themselves in the event of needing special assistance during an emergency.

If you, or know of someone who, may be in need of transportation or any other assistance during an emergency, please fill out this special needs form and return the form to

CHESTER TOWN HALL OFFICE of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, 203 MIDDLESEX AVE, CHESTER CT 06412.

In the event of an emergency, local emergency workers can contact you and provide assistance.

This information is voluntary and will remain confidential.

NAME:				_
ADDRESS:			APT #	_
TOWN:	TELEPHONE:			
EMERGENCY CONTACT	Γ INFORMATION (	OF A RELAT	ΓIVE, CAREGIVER	OR
NAME:		TELEPHONE	3:	_
SPECIAL DIRECTIONS TO  PLEASE CHECK AN		H MAY ADDI	RESS YOUR NEED	- S
I am hearing impaired		I use a TDD/	TT device	
I am oxygen dependent		I have impair	red vision	
I depend upon electrically	powered life sustain	ing medical eq	uipment	
Respirator equipment	In-home dia	lysis 🗌	Other	_
I have mobility concerns a	and rely on the use of	`a:		
Wheelchair	Walker	Cane	Other	_
I have a service animal, gu	iide dog or pet 🗌	I have specia	l dietary needs	
I rely on In-home health c	are assistance	I have specia	l prescription needs	
I would require special transportation in the event I had to evacuate my home				
I understand that this information is voluntary and will remain confidential.				
SIGNATURE:			DATE:	_

# Health Department... continued from page 9

158 degrees Fahrenheit for hamburgers, 145 degrees for steaks and ribs, and 165 degrees for poultry. Cooked hot foods should be kept at 140 degrees or warmer, like on the back of the grill.

COOLING - Keep cold food refrigerated until ready to be cooked or eaten. Cold foods should be kept below 45 degrees in a cooler with ice.

# **Estuary Council Regional Senior Center**

220 Main Street, Old Saybrook 860-388-1611

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. is a community center for the region's residents over 50 years old providing meals, transportation, health services, educational classes, exercise programs, and socialization activities. We have been promoting healthy and active lifestyles through quality programs and services in the nine-town Estuary region for over 40 years. Please visit us at www.ecsenior. org for additional information or call us at: 860-388-1611.

### ESTUARY BINGO IS BACK

Thursdays at 6:30 pm, April 12 is the first night. Admission, including game package, is \$12 per player. Cash prizes with a progressive jackpot maximum payout of \$1,000 (increases \$100 each week). Snacks will be sold along with water, soda and hot dogs.

# ESTUARY PROM "Classic Hollywood"

On Saturday, May 19, 5:00 - 8:00 pm, mark your calendars, shine your dancing shoes, and get your best suit or dress ready for a night out in Classic Hollywood style! Call Deb at: 860-388-1611 x204 for details.

# CAFÉ LUNCHES

Call 860-388-1611 x216 to reserve by 11:00 am the day before. Lunch is served at noon. Please join us! Meals supported by Senior Resources with Title III funds available from the Older Americans Act. Lunch is a suggested donation of \$3 for

those aged 60+ and costs \$13.93 for anyone under 60.

# **ESTUARY GYM IS SILVER SNEAKERS APPROVED!**

If you are a member of a Silver Sneaker participating health plan in CT, the Silver Sneakers plan will pay for your gym visits. Does NOT apply to fitness classes. Check eligibility easily by contacting the Estuary at: 860-388-1611 x202.

# THE MARSHVIEW FITNESS CENTER

Stay healthy and strong by working out in our gym. Please call for membership options: for 3 months, 6 months, and for a year. Stop by the Office for a tour and learn how to become a gym member. continued on page 12



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# Estuary Senior Center... continued from page 11

# THE ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP

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

Volunteers are always welcome at the Estuary Council Senior Center. Help pack or deliver Meals on Wheels, work in our Thrift Shop, serve on our Board of Directors, and so much more. Please contact Judy at: 860-388-1611 x213 for details.

# The Vascular Experts Becomes Team of 7

The Vascular Experts, which practices at Middlesex Hospital's Center for Vascular Surgery, recently expanded and is now a team of seven vascular surgeons with offices in Middletown and Old Saybrook.

Led by Dr. Bart Muhs, The Vascular Experts team is comprised of capable, board certified surgeons who are solely dedicated to vascular care and who can deal with simple or complicated cases. This team includes newcomer Dr. Megan Shue.

Utilizing Middlesex Hospital's state-of-the-art diagnostic and interventional suite, these vascular surgeons now have access to the latest technology, giving them the tools they need to better help their patients. The Hospital's suite, which opened in 2016, allows vascular surgeons to perform a number of minimally invasive procedures, which require much smaller incisions than traditional surgeries. In turn, patients experience fewer risks when having surgery, and Hospital stays are dramatically reduced.

Vascular surgery patients also benefit from Middlesex Hospital's collaborative relationship with Mayo Clinic. Middlesex Hospital is a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, and the relationship allows physicians, including vascular surgeons, to collaborate when faced with complex cases.

Vascular surgeons at Middlesex Hospital work with physicians from other specialties to ensure that patients are cared for appropriately. They treat several different vascular diseases, and common procedures include leg angioplasty and stenting, peripheral bypass surgery, carotid endarterectomy and abdominal aortic aneurysm repair.

If you experience pain or ulcers in the legs, of if you have blocked arteries in the abdomen or the neck, you may need to see a vascular surgeon. If vascular diseases are left untreated, you may encounter risks, such as losing a limb. If left untreated, some conditions may also result in an aneurysm or stroke and can be fatal.

For more information call: 1-800-548-2394.

# Vista Starlight Benefit to Serve Up 50s Nostalgia



Vista Life Innovations is turning the clock back to the 1950s for its annual Starlight Benefit spring fundraiser and social event on April 28 at Water's Edge Resort and Spa in Westbrook.

Open to community members, the Vista Starlight Benefit is a spirited evening that includes live and silent auctions, a cocktail hour, dinner and live entertainment. This year's event will feature a 1950s diner theme complete with soda

jerks, rock and roll music, poodle skirts and, of course, old-fashioned hamburgers and milkshakes. Guests are encouraged to come dressed in 1950s-inspired clothing.

Funds raised by the Starlight Benefit support the many programs and services offered by Vista Life Innovations, a community-based program supporting the personal success of individuals with disabilities.

The Starlight Benefit begins at 6:00 pm. For information about tickets and event sponsorship opportunities, visit: www.vistalifeinnovations.org/starlightbenefit. For questions, please contact Malley O'Shea, Director of Organizational Development & Communications, at: 860-399-8080 ext. 227.

Vista Life Innovations is a 501©3 nonprofit organization accredited by the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES). With campuses in Madison, Westbrook and Guilford, Vista's mission is to provide services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success. Visit: www.vistalifeinnovations.org for more information.



# **Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek Events**

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek (CBSRZ), 55 E. Kings Highway, Chester, CT 06424

# **Activities**

MUSIC & MORE 2018 10 ANNIVERSARY SEASON Sunday, April 15, 2018, 4:00 pm, doors open at 3:00 pm for a pre-show reception.

The Lonely Heartstring Band comes to the Music & More stage. This nationally known masterful bluegrass band is nourished by deep roots in the expansive canon of traditional American music and embodies the modern American condition—an understanding and reverence for the past that informs a push into the future. This multi-talented group of



musicians is a classic Bluegrass quintet—always far greater than the sum of its parts. Combining soulful instrumental virtuosity with soaring three-part harmonies, their growing repertoire of original songs and compositions showcases not only their considerable talents, but also a dedication to meaningful roots-conscious music. Advance tickets can be purchased through these links: www.cbsrz.org/events/music-more or facebook.com/music.more.cbsrz.

Sunday, June 24, 2018, 5:00 pm – The Cluppin Spielers. CBSRZ's annual community picnic and free concert. This new 14 member CBSRZ house band offers a mix of old and new. The repertoire draws on traditional melodies of Eastern European Klezmer, contemporary Jewish bluegrass and American Fold. Regardless of the genre, the group's lively, toe-tapping melodies leave audiences laughing, smiling, and clapping. The picnic will provide plenty of grilled summer foods for purchase with proceeds going to local charities.

### ART GALLERY

# May, June, July, 2018 will feature the Connecticut Valley Camera Club

The Gallery welcomes back this dynamic group of Connecticut photographers. The exhibit is a juried selection of photographs covering a wide variety of subjects from an organization whose purpose is to help its members hone their technical and creative skills through presentations, interactive workshops and critiques.

### **BOOKS & BAGELS**

Sunday, June 3, 2018, 9:30 am – Amy Bloom author of White Houses on Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickok. For more information on any of these activities visit www.cbsrz.org or if you have questions call the CBSRZ office at 860-526-8920.

# The Chester Democratic Town Committee (CDTC)

# Save the Date

June 10, 2018, Chester Meeting House on the Green

Join Us! Sunday, June 10, 3-6 pm, at the Chester Meeting House on the Green to join A Rising Tide that lifts all boats in the 2018 mid-term elections. Enjoy live music from local bands, share a great barbeque from the grill, tasty food and refreshments from local restaurants and taverns; browse tables filled with issue and candidate literature. Families and young people are welcome. Join us to talk about the issues important to you, as well as participate in the activities planned for all ages.

Watch for our May event flyer with further event details, planned activities, and our special Keynote Speaker. All are welcome!

For more information, or to volunteer to assist at this event, contact Marta Daniels: marta.daniels@snet.net.

Sponsored by the Chester Democratic Town Committee and local DTCs

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

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

# 2018 WORSHIP & UPCOMING EVENTS! April 21: Saturday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

It's Rummage & Bake Sale Time! Clothing, home goods, books, baked goods. Donate items starting on Monday April 2 through Thursday April 19.

Please no electronics, furniture or exercise equipment. Please contact Judy Schondorf at: 860-399-7772 or Marie Ready at: 860-526-1487. Church office open for donations 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

**Sunday June 10:** Children's Sunday, Katie Wilcox Day and Pot Luck Picnic. All welcome! 10:00 am, picnic following service.

**Sunday June 17: Choir Appreciation Sunday!** 10:00 am

**Ongoing:** We offer Monday morning Bible Study 11:15 am to 12:30 pm.

# Home Tour Saturday September 29, 2018.

The Home Tour returns! Volunteer hostesses and parking help please call 860-526-2697. Keep an eye out for more details to come.

**Summer Camp** opportunities at Silver Lake Conference Center are available. Inquire in the UCC office.

The UCC office is open 8:00 am - 1:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Phone: 860-526-2697.

# The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

Meal Site - Chester Sundays 5:00 - 6:00 pm United Church of Chester 29 West Main Street, Chester, CT 06412



# MARK REEVES - BUILDER Start new or spruce up for spring! New Homes / Whole House Remodels / Additions / Kitchens Bathrooms / Basement Conversions / Siding & Windows Entertainment Centers / Flooring / General Remodeling CT LICENSE # 538583 & 10263 FULLY INSURED 860-388-3825 MARKJREEVESBUILDER@COMCAST.NET WWW.MARKREEVESBUILDER.COM

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# **Chester Parks & Recreation Spring 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

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

\$35 for one class, \$45 for both classes - First Aid is on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm (and/or) CPR/AED on Friday, May 18, 2018, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm.

# ALL LEVELS OF YOGA IN CHESTER

Participate any Tuesday night through May 22, 5:45 pm, \$10 drop-in fee payable to the instructor the evenings you attend at the CHESTER TOWN HALL.

# **COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING**

This program is available to 7th and 8th grade students who have previously attended OUR CAMP. The classes meet Wednesdays and Fridays, May 4, 9, 11 from 2:45 pm until 5:00 pm and May 16 and 17 from 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm at the Chester Town Hall. The \$95 fee includes 8 days of summer camp registration. School bus transportation is available from John Winthrop Middle School.

RETURNING 8th and 9th grade students who participated in our 2018 program may reapply for a summer of 2018 CIT position. There is a \$25 registration fee for returning applicants and they are required to participate in any two of the classes offered this spring.

# **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 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.

# IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR CHESTER'S SUMMER CAMP!

Ioin us this summer for:

NATURE & ART - Mondays,

SWIMMING, WATER SAFETY & TEAM CHALLENGES

- Tuesdays,

SWIMMING, COOPERATION PROJECTS & OUTDOOR

COOKING - Wednesdays, SCIENCE & ART - Thursdays, FIELD TRIPS - 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, August 6, and August 13 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.

### **CEDAR LAKE 2018**

The Town Beaches on Cedar Lake are scheduled to be open for the 2018 season from June 14 through August 19, 10:30 am until 6:00 pm. Hours may vary according to staff availability, training, weather, or special programs.

Access to the Town parks, including the beaches on Cedar Lake, is by permit only. Non-resident passes are available at Pelletier Park during operating hours for \$65 per household. Chester residents may enter staffed facilities by showing a driver's license, or other proof of residency or taxpayer status with identification. Groups of 10 or more must make reservations in advance and provide a certificate of liability insurance.

**Fishing!** To avoid hooks in swimmers' feet, do not fish in the swimming areas, even in the off-season!

continued on page 18





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# Parks and Recreation... continued from page 17

# If your child is in the water you should be too!

With the opening of Cedar Lake the Parks and Recreation Department would like to remind parents to please watch your children while they are in the water, and do not leave them unattended at the facility. Drowning is the second leading cause of trauma deaths for ages 1-19 years old and the third leading cause of ALL deaths of children 0-4 years of age. There are 3,533 fatal (non-boating related) drownings annually in the United States. This translates into about 10 drowning deaths per day.

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

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

We hope you enjoy the Town properties maintained by the Chester Park and Recreation Commission. They include Pelletier Park, Lake View Park, the baseball fields at Chester Elementary School, L'Hommedieu Park, Chester Creek Overlook, North Quarter Park and Parker's Point Boat Launch. Contact us if you have a comment or a concern regarding any one of our parks! Call us at: 526-0013 extension 223 or e-mail us at: parkrec@chesterct.org.

# **Chester Public Library**

21 West Main Street, Chester, CT 06412 | 860-526-0018 Hours: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

# Adult Programs

Apr. 10, "Hogan's Hope: A Deaf Hero's Inspirational Quest for Love and Acceptance." Hogan's Hope is the tale of a legendary deaf canine hero who, after being rescued from neglect, prevailed as he learned over 65 signs in American Sign Language and thereby providing the hope of life for many deaf dogs worldwide. Local author Connie Bombaci will speak about her new award-winning book as well as will bring in one of her rescues to demonstrate his skill. This day will mark Hogan's birthday so we will have a birthday cake to celebrate. This event will take place at the Town Hall, 7:00 pm.

May 16, "Sweethearts at Sea: Love and Marriage in the New England Whaling Industry." Speaker Amanda Goodheart's lecture will focus on a remarkable married couple, Captain John and Elizabeth Marble of Fall River, Massachusetts, who defied social and industrial tradition by going to sea together

aboard whaleships in the 1840s - using the letters and journals they left behind tell a story of love, life, and loss at sea. This event will take place at the Town Hall, 7:00 pm.

**June 6,** "Coyotes in CT." Master Wildlife Conservationist Paul Colburn presents the history of coyotes in Connecticut, an overview of coyote habitat, diet, behavior, and reproduction. Colburn will also share practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with our coyote population. Coyote artifacts are shared with the audience. This lecture will take place at the Town Hall, 7:00 pm.

# **Children's Programs**

# Apr. 7 - DIY BIRDHOUSES.

Create a birdhouse using recycles materials. Why buy a birdhouse when you can make one yourself?

# Apr. 14 - TREEHOUSE PLAYER'S.

Join Amy Forbes from Treehouse Player's in a children's storytelling adventure where children can sing, dance and act. For ages 4+. Registration required.

# May 12 - RANGER RUSS.

Ranger Russ is bringing his traveling exhibit of frogs and turtles from Meigs Point Nature Center at Hammonasset State Park. Registration required.

# May 26 - DOLL AND BEAR PICNIC.

Bring your beloved American Girl Doll or favorite stuffed animal to a picnic on the Library's lawn. Games will be offered and refreshments served. Please call the library to notify Miss Trish of any allergies your child has for this event.

### June 9 - WATER PLAY!

Come to the Library to celebrate World Ocean Day. Net Fishing, a Car Wash for Matchbox Cars, Under the Sea Sensory Bins, a Pouring Station and Squirt Gun Painting are just some of the activities that will be offered. Please bring a bathing suit or change of clothes for your child.

# June 23 - SUMMER READING KICK OFF WITH SUNNY TRAIN.

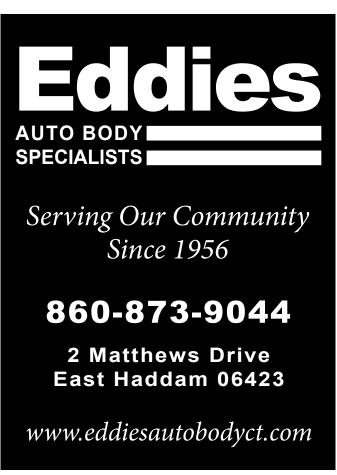
Sunny Train is an acoustic duo that provides fun, interactive music for the whole family! Shake eggs, bang on drums, twirl hula hoops or play with the world's biggest bubbles. We are super excited to have them play for us here at the Chester Library for our summer reading kick-off.

# July 7 - LEMONADE STAND.

Help us sell lemonade and other fun refreshments featured in The Lemonade Stand Cookbook. Inspire your child's entrepreneurial spirit.

All children's programs begin at 10:00 am.





# **Collomore Concert Series - Chester Historical Society**

Collomore Concerts is pleased to announce the hiring of its first Managing Director, Ann Drinan. She will assist the Collomore Committee in securing artists, negotiating contracts, and overseeing the smooth running of the organization. Martin Nadel will remain in his long-time position as Chairman of the committee.

Ann, a violist with the Hartford Symphony, has years of experience as an arts administrator. She was the Executive Director of CONCORA, a professional chorus based in Hartford, for eight years, and is currently Managing Director of Chestnut Hill Concerts and Orchestra New England. She is also an accomplished grant writer, with non-profit clients throughout the state. Ann lives in Branford with her husband, Algis Kaupas.

The 45th season of the Collomore Concert Series begins on Sept. 23, with Stella Chen, violin, and Tomer Gewirtzman, piano. The season will continue on Oct. 14, with jazz singer René Marie & Experiment in Truth; followed by pianist Salome Jordania on Nov. 4. The final concert of the season will be on Nov. 25, when Andes Manta returns to the Collomore stage with their folk music of the Andes. All concert dates are Sunday afternoons at 5 pm in the Meetinghouse.

Stay informed about the Collomore season through the website at: www. collomoreconcerts.org. You may request to be on the mailing list by contacting us through the website. The Collomore Concert Series is under the auspices of the Chester Historical Society.

# Today is Tomorrow's History – News from the Chester Historical Society

As we send our news for this magazine issue, we mourn the death of Barbara Delaney on March 10. Barbara and her husband Edmund were instrumental in the founding of the Chester Historical Society in 1970, and Barbara served as the first president. Barbara was also influential in in the drive (2000-01) to purchase the building that has become the Chester Museum at the Mill. Barbara's words, "Onward and Upward," at the end of every meeting have guided the organization's growth for nearly 50 years.

# SUMMERTIME EXHIBITS

When driving Route 148 or Liberty Street, do you ever glance at the waterfalls and wonder what industries took advantage of all that power? Your curiosity will be rewarded at Chester Museum at The Mill when we open our season on June 1.

On the first floor, our 2018 seasonal exhibit will be "The Waterways & Early Industries of Chester." We'll tell that story through a large map of Chester pinpointing the location of the dams on the North and South Branches of the Pattaconk and the Waterhouse Brook Watershed. Archival items from the early industries along those dams (including some of the less familiar ones like the Middlesex Handle Company and Gandy's Greeting Card Company) will be featured.

This new exhibit will expand on the upstairs permanent exhibit, "Streams of Change," which will also have some changes, thanks to our recent grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County/River View Cemetery Fund. The grant, shared with the Deep River Historical Society, enables us to digitize historical films of our towns

and present them through our exhibits as well as in public programs.

Following an opening reception on Friday evening, June 1, the museum will be open on Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and Sundays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm through October.

# PRESERVING CHESTER HISTORY

For 48 years, our all-volunteer organization, despite a very modest operating budget, has preserved, protected and interpreted Chester's rich history. Your support-through memberships, tax-deductible donations, and participation in our annual fundraisers-is essential to our efforts. Our annual dues are just \$30 per family, \$20 per individual. Membership forms are on our website, chesterhistoricalsociety.org.

Tax-deductible donations in any amount can be mailed at any time to: Chester Historical Society, PO Box 204, Chester, CT 06412.

# STAY IN THE KNOW

Information about Historical Society activities, as well as new gifts to our archives, is in our bimonthly 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.

# Chester Fair 7th Wine & Beer Tasting

The Chester Fair will be holding its 7th Wine & Beer Tasting on Saturday, June 2nd from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Chester Fairgrounds.

There will be wine and beer vendors, live entertainment, and various local restaurants will be selling food.

Proceeds will go toward the Chester Fair educational programming.

The Chester Package Store will be sponsoring this event, which will be held rain or shine.

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

Contact Rob Miceli at 860 526 9245 or ert14m@sbcglobal.net if you are a brewer, wine maker or distributor and would like to be part of this year's event.



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

It is Connecticut's free and confidential information and referral service.

By calling 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.

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



# **CONNECTING YOUR CONNECTICUT!**

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# **Tri-Town Youth Services**





### DON'T BE PART OF THE PROBLEM

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal. Unused or expired prescription medication is a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, abuse and overdose. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects our water supply.

The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks as the second most common form of drug abuse

in America. The majority of teenagers abusing prescription drugs get them from family and friends - and from their home medicine cabinet.

Please bring any unused or expired medication to the Drug Take Back Day on April 28th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

# For your convenience, we will provide two drop off locations that day:

Tri-Town Youth Services - 56 High Street, Deep River Chester Village West - 315 Main Street, Chester

**Can't make the Take Back event?** You can dispose of your prescription medication anonymously at the 24-hour locked drop box located in the lobby of the State Police Barracks at 315 Spencer Plain Road in Westbrook.

# OTHER TIPS FOR PROPERLY DISPOSING OF YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS:

- Remove the medicine from its original container and mix it with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter.
- Place the mixture in a sealable bag, empty bag, or other container to prevent medicine from leaking or breaking out of the garbage bag.
- Many pharmacies have medication disposal bags that safely dispose of leftover medication.

### SAVE THESE DATES

The Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is planning other community events this spring, focused on drug use, prevention and community wellness.

- **High on Life Week is April 30 May 6.** The theme for this year will be "We can all be Agents of Positive Change." There will be many school and community activities happening throughout the week. Pick up a bulletin or visit tritownys.org for a complete calendar of events.
- Community Breakfast May 9th from 8:00 am 10:00 am at: Camp Hazen. Keynote speaker: Dr. Michael Saxe will present "The Opioid Epidemic: The Solution is You." RSVP at: 860-526-3600.
- We are partnering with Region 4 Schools and Project Courage to present the documentary ANGST on Tuesday May 15 from 6:00 8:30 pm at the John Winthrop Middle School Auditorium. This 56-minute film and virtual reality experience explores anxiety- its causes, effects and what we can do about it. A discussion will follow about the risks of self-medicating with alcohol or drugs, and how to find resources and support for anxiety in our community. A must-see for parents and teens!



# The Art of Living Well.

Every person, like each work of art, has a unique personality and perspective on life. And that's what colors our world and makes it so truly beautiful.

This is our philosophy at Masonicare at Chester Village, where a renaissance has begun.

With a palette of services and amenities, you'll experience living as you wish every day. Whether it's a walk on the picturesque grounds, a dip in the indoor pool, or a trip to a local cultural attraction, our community offers something for everyone. And, should you ever need further supportive services, Masonicare's full continuum of healthcare is at your fingertips.

Come explore our welcoming community nestled in the heart of the Connecticut River Valley. Call 860-526-6015 today to schedule a personal tour.



317 West Main Street . Chester, Connecticut 06412 . 860-526-6800





# Chester, CT



The Town of Chester, Connecticut was settled in 1692. Chester is a beautiful small rural town that has grown and adapted since its historic beginnings as a shipbuilding and mill town. Often described as quaint and unique, Chester has a picturesque Main Street with interesting architecture, elegant shops, art galleries, superior restaurants, and the world renowned Goodspeed Opera House's local Norma Terris Theatre. Located on the hillside of the Connecticut River, we have a number of marinas, lakes, hidden streams, cascading waterfalls, thousands of acres of state forest, and hiking trails. We also have a Y.M.C.A. camp and small airport. We celebrate community, the outdoors, art, history, music, theater,

crafts, cuisine and conversation. We cherish our small town way of life, striving to preserve it as we live fully embracing life in the 21st century.

Chester is a vibrant town full of creative people who welcome all to visit. With year round town-wide events, it is always a good time to come to Chester. Easy to get to by car, rail, air, or boat, we are just over 2 hours from both New York City and Boston. Come experience all Chester has to offer. You will want to stay longer than you planned.

# **Chester Four-on the-Fourth Road Race**



**IULY 4th SAVE THE DATE!** 

The 40th annual Chester Four-on the-Fourth road race sponsored by the Chester Rotary Club will start at 9:00 am, Wednesday, July 4. Early registration is on the 3rd from 4:30 to 6:00 pm, and race day

registration will be at the St Joseph's Parish Center, 48 Middlesex Turnpike, Chester from 7:00 to 8:30 am. The race loops through the village of Chester and is USATF sanctioned. Timing will be provided by Super Race Systems. Team and individual awards will be presented. For more information visit: www.chesterrotary.org as the date draws near.

# Events Presents ~ Saybrook Country Barn



Furniture? No problem. Rugs? They've got that. Window treatments? Lighting? Bedding and bath? Yup, all that too. And don't forget hardware, and even apparel. Where could you possibly find all that? Saybrook Country Barn (SCB), of course.

What started with a pioneering grandmother (Clara Zirkenbach) in the mid-1970s and her indomitable "I can do that" attitude has continued into two more spirited generations. The family has spearheaded three expansions that have broadened product offerings and catapulted showroom space from 2,000 to 42,000 square feet. This October marks the 40th anniversery of SCB.

It's a true family affair. Keith Bolles (who started with emptying waste bins when he was 4) represents the third generation. He's now in charge of marketing. Mother Jane heads up the home and apparel side. Father Keith is President and oversees everything - from executive duties to showroom upkeep.

How has the SCB family become so successful? "Customers would say I wish there were a rug shop or a curtain shop" says Bolles. "We said: 'We can do that.' We listen to our customers so that we can provide exactly what they want."

The family's customer-focus makes for an inspiring shopping experience. Customers say SCB is the most beautiful place they've ever been to. SCB displays the furniture and accessories as they'd look in customers' homes. Ninety percent of what SCB does for its customers is customized. And if that isn't enough, SCB visits customer homes for in-home design consultation. That way customers can get exactly what they want. That's the point.

Through the success, the family remains humble. "There's only so much Mom and Dad and I can do on our own," said Bolles about the SCB employees. "Without them, we'd be nothing." And as to customers? "We don't always get the chance to say 'thank you.' We are here because you want us here. We appreciate it."

Looking forward, there's no reason to change the formula. "People enjoy the experience of shopping and that person-to person experience," says Bolles. "It's where our future lies. Great products, great atmosphere, and top notch customer experience. If we do those three things, we'll be just fine."

# **BRAYCE Annual Scholarship Event**

**SAVE THE DATE** 

**Where:** The Ivoryton Playhouse **When:** Wednesday, July 11th, 6:00 pm



It's the original high-school musical, featuring all the unforgettable songs from

the hit movie including "You're The One That I Want," "Summer Nights," "Hopelessly Devoted To You," "Greased Lightnin" and many more. Dust off your leather jackets, pull on your bobby-socks and take a trip to a simpler time as Danny and Sandy fall in love all over again.

NOTE: If you are an Ivoryton Playhouse Season Ticket Subscriber please consider exchanging your ticket(s) to attend the Wednesday, July 11th evening performance. For an additional \$40 to BRAYCE you can join our event and meet the four wonderful young Brazilians participating in the 2018 Cultural Exchange Program.

For more information go to our website at: www.brayce.org.







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# **Chester Fife and Drum Corps 1868**



Welcome to the spring of 2018. If you're like me, you've had enough of winter! It's time to think of more pleasurable outside activities. We, the members of the Chester Fife and Drum Corps, look forward to the parade and muster season. As you may know by now, Chester Drum Corps was established in 1867 and went "on the road" in 1868. This Corps has been playing our music continuously since the beginning with no time taken off for

any reason (good, bad, or otherwise!). We have performed in many different uniforms and are now wearing our fourth (or fifth) uniform in 149 years. Our new look is more colonial.

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

We are also in the process of making plans for our 150th Anniversary Celebration/Muster to be held September 22, 2018. We currently have 17 local Fife and Drum Corps attending our Anniversary Celebration Muster. So, keep looking for more information as we finalize our plans.



Chester Drum Corps has released its Anniversary Muster T-shirt. See any member of the corps or on Facebook to see how to get one. We have all sizes, and I mean all sizes.

Our drum line is well staffed. However, our fife line needs more players. If you are interested in joining us, but do not wish to play an instrument, we also need

members for the Color Guard to march at the front of our Corps and carry our colors. We provide drum and fife lessons free of charge and teach our members the ins and outs of marching in unison. We practice at the Chester Elementary School in the fall, winter, and early spring. Summer practices are at North Quarter Park and Cedar Lake. So please come and see what we are about, do and play. Our tentative 2018 schedule is noted below.

May 12	50th Annual Burning of Ships Essex	Jul 4	July 4th in Provincetown, Ma
May 26	Chester Town Wide Tag Sale	Jul 14	EH Old Home Day Parade (Pending)
May 27	Cheshire Memorial Day Parade	Aug 12	VJ Day Parade Moosup
May 28	Chester Memorial Day Parade	Sep 22	Chester F&DC 150th Celebration
June 2	Old Toga Muster (Pending)	Sep 22	Guilford Parade
June 9	Gaspee Day Parade	0ct 7	110th Bridgeport Columbus Day Parade

We also have the Deep River Muster (July), the Westbrook Muster (August), and the Moodus Muster (October).



If you are interested in becoming part of history and joining our corps, please feel free to call me at 860-691-1735. We are on Facebook; the Town of Chester website and our email address is chester1868@gmail.com.

Just as a reminder, we are neither a Junior nor Senior Corps. We are a family-oriented organization and intend on remaining so. Better yet, come on down and 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/Drum Major

# Visit our website at: www.chesterct.org

We hope you will find our website to be a useful tool to find updated information and explore our wonderful community.



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# **Conservation Commission**

# SUSTAINING WILDLIFE WITH NATIVE PLANTS

I hope you heard Jane Seymour's talk on March 25 sponsored by Chester's Conservation Commission and Garden Club on the importance of native plants to the conservation of native wildlife. We have a number of alien plants in our Chester landscape all making it more difficult for the native animals, from insects to mammals, to survive. Some of these plants are more attractive and less dangerous than others, and some are here by accident and others were purposely introduced. Many of them became problems because they left their natural predators in their homelands, so there is nothing to check their growth and spread here.

These alien plants do not provide adequate food for native wildlife. Their leaves do not attract native herbivores so they do not support many native insects, and often what food they do provide does not come at the right time. For example, berry producing plants like the non-native autumn olive or bittersweet produce berries in the fall. Birds need large

amounts of food - mainly insects - when they are feeding their young in the spring. A solution to this problem is to encourage native herbivores, insects, to eat the aliens, but their leaves do not taste good to them, so they do not provide attractive habitat for native food sources like insects. It will take a long time - eons not years - for this to change.

So what to do? Diversity of plants in the garden is the answer. Plant some aliens if you must, but mix them up with many different native plants which produce wonderful flowers, interesting foliage and support insects that will provide food for native wildlife. This food will be available when needed by birds and other native wildlife.

For more information see Douglas Tallamy's book *Bringing Nature Home*. You can also check out: https://www.ct-botanical-society.org/Gardens/ to view information on native plants that grow in Connecticut.

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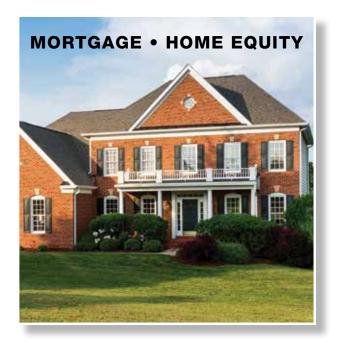
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