

Chester events

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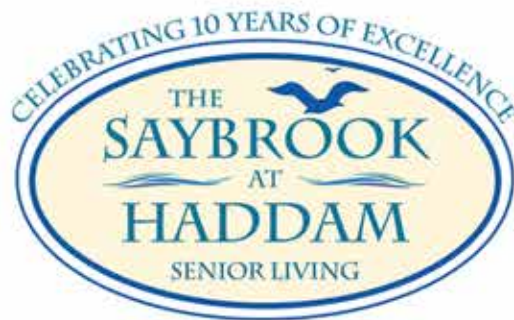
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First Selectwoman's Corner

Hello Chester!

This is most certainly a different kind of season than we have ever experienced. Between the pandemic and its effect on businesses, jobs and schools, we are constantly struggling with decisions about how to best protect our families while still retaining some sort of social and business life. Some are working or schooling remotely; others are scrambling to work from offices and schools greatly changed to provide social distancing and additional safeguards to staff, customers, patients, teachers and students. None of us know what the next few months will bring, but we are resilient and creative in adapting to new requirements. Our beach remained open (albeit strictly controlled); families picnicked and watched socially distant movies and concerts hosted by Chester Presto; the Chester Sunday Market has returned downtown; yoga and karate continue outside and it seems everyone has discovered (or rediscovered) our amazing nature's playground and is hiking and biking like crazy.

During the past few months there has been a small army of folks working to plan for Chester's long term recovery. Starting with the ReOpen Chester Committee and expanding into a series of 11 or 12 sub-committees of the official Long Term Recovery Coordinators, these dedicated and tireless volunteers have spent countless hours with our Chester survey, determining how to

fill unmet needs of residents, planning events to maintain our sense of community and lift our spirits, and taking actions to meet the requirements brought on by the pandemic to keep us safe. We are blessed to have such creative and hard-working residents willing to give so much to our community. There are too many to list individually, but please know that you are greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Lauren Gister,
First Selectwoman

While we are determined to fight for normalcy, I think we are all distinctly aware that the last six months have been challenging for our businesses and residents. Many are unemployed, some are struggling to juggle work and part time home and remote schooling, others are hungry or threatened with eviction or foreclosure. The changes brought on by the coronavirus have left anxiety, depression and isolation in their wake. The Town of Chester and many regional organizations have resources available to assist residents – please do not hesitate to contact my office, Tri-Town Youth Services, our state legislators or simply dial 211 to access these helpful organizations.

MAIN STREET PROJECT

Phase 3 of the Main Street Project is almost complete. By the time you read this we will likely only have punch list items
continued on page 4



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remaining. This project has been all encompassing – new water main, drainage and storm drains, sidewalks, curbs, and signage. Voids under the sidewalks were filled, the Chester wall and stairs have been rebuilt/repared, and a guard rail will be installed at the foot of Spring Street for safety. Main Street has been lowered approximately six inches to allow for proper curb reveals and Main Street, part of Spring Street and the lower portion of Maple Street have been rebuilt. Businesses have been disrupted even more than just from the pandemic and residents and guests inconvenienced by the noise, vibrations and detours. Even though we are not quite complete, the project site is beautiful and busy. Soon the plantings will be installed on the Chester wall and at the flag circle, and trees will be planted along Main Street. For those who are interested, the landscape architect, tree warden and the Main Street Committee worked hard to select as

many native species as possible while choosing trees and shrubs that will be sized properly and thrive in the non-natural environment of a downtown street. Congratulations Chester; this necessary and beautiful infrastructure update will last for many decades.

OTHER NEWS

- We now have a basketball court and a disc golf course at North Quarter Park. Thanks to the dedicated Parks and Recreation Commission, our Park and Rec director and employees, and the town residents whose businesses worked to construct these improvements. We appreciate your hard work!

- Have you seen the renovation of the Chester Library? Library staff and the Library Board of Trustees used the time that the library was closed during the pandemic to install many upgrades to our historic library, including flooring, shelving, restroom fixtures,

paint and lighting. Time to get a library card if you don't already have one.

• The Chester Meeting House has a new floor. This was accomplished during the early spring – then the pandemic hit and all indoor public events were cancelled or postponed. We look forward to the gradual reopening of these type of activities and the opportunity to show off this long planned improvement. (And no more squeaking...).

Whew – there really is a lot going on around here, despite our changed circumstances. Please stay safe, have a peaceful season, and continue to bring new ideas and great camaraderie to our great town.

Best wishes,
Lauren

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Fall Home Projects To Boost Your Comfort and Energy Efficiency

By: Enoch Lenge

Fall is a great time to tackle those home improvement projects that have been put off because of the summer heat. In addition to landscaping, gutter cleaning, power washing, and deck repair, here are some home improvement projects to add to your list to boost your comfort while helping save you money and energy this winter:

- Upgrade Your Lighting – Did you know that the average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting? Now that it's getting darker earlier and your lights are on longer, consider switching your current light bulbs with LEDs. According to Energy.gov, ENERGY STAR-certified residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.
- Insulate Doors and Windows – Air sealing, especially in an old, drafty house, can save homeowners more than 20% on their heating and cooling costs. Installing weatherstripping around your doors and windows is an easy and low-cost way to improve your home's energy efficiency and keep the cold winter wind at bay.
- Check Your Attic for Air Leaks – An unfinished, poorly insulated attic is another common area where homeowners experience significant heat loss. Adding insulation to the attic floor and sealing any air leaks can help stabilize the temperature inside your home, prevent ice dams, and save on energy costs.
- Maintain Your Heating and Cooling Systems – Be sure to add scheduling a preventative tune-up with your local



- HVAC company to your list to keep that system running efficiently and preserving air flow. A clean system that is free of dirt and debris will run more efficiently and preserve airflow.
- Install Programmable Thermostats – You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day from its typical setting. Programmable thermostats allow you to easily set your home's temperature in advance to avoid coming home to a freezing house. A smart thermostat takes that a step further by allowing you to set your temperature from your smart phone or tablet. Some even learn your habits and adjust accordingly – saving you even more.
- Window Replacement – While this may not be at the top of your list, replacing old windows, especially with high performance ones like triple-pane windows, can improve a home's energy efficiency and overall comfort.

Before researching various contractors or DIY-ing these improvements, take advantage of the limited time only, no-cost Home Energy Solutionssm program offered by Eversource. To get started, you can schedule an appointment with an Eversource-authorized energy expert to evaluate your home's energy efficiency needs. During in-person visits, energy experts, while following COVID-19 safety requirements, will also conduct important safety tests and install weatherization measures and energy-saving improvements, such as air sealing, LED lighting, and advanced power strips.

To help make these improvements more affordable, program participants can take advantage of 0% financing on approved energy-saving improvements, and up to 100% off of eligible insulation projects. Eversource has you covered with a wide range of energy-saving rebates and discounts, including a new triple-pane window rebate.

From now through December 31, Eversource is offering a \$100 rebate per window for each window replaced with an ENERGY STAR-certified triple-pane window.

Whether you're looking to improve the comfort of your home, save on your energy bill, or help save the environment, Eversource has several budget-friendly solutions to help you get started. To schedule your energy assessment, call 1-877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873), or visit Eversource.com to learn more about Eversource's residential offerings and additional ways to save.

Enoch Lenge is Eversource's energy efficiency spokesman and provides energy saving tips on the company's blog.

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What To Do With All Those Leaves?

With the arrival of fall, many of us have to deal with that annual chore of getting rid of fallen leaves. Rather than raking them into piles and carting them away or blowing them into adjacent wooded areas, consider composting leaves to make a valuable soil amendment to improve your gardens and lawn. Composting leaves can be as simple as raking them into a pile and leaving it alone to let nature convert the leaves into nutrient rich compost. Another option would be to construct a small compost bin (there are lots of examples and instructions online) which helps keep the leaves from blowing away and facilitates the composting process. And of course you can add household vegetable waste to your

new compost bin. If you have a vegetable garden, rake or blow leaves onto the garden and then run a lawn mower back and forth over them to cut them into smaller pieces. This will speed up the composting process and add nutrients and organic matter to your garden where they'll be used during next year's growing season.

Lastly, if you live near a stream or wetland, please don't blow or deposit leaves there. Too much leaf matter can upset their sensitive ecological functions.

Chester Conservation Commission.



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Chester Public Library ~ Fall Events



The COVID-19 outbreak had libraries canceling programs and closing their doors along with many other businesses. As we navigate into the uncertainty of fall, below is a tentative list of adult programs. Our Summer Reading program is on.

However we have yet to plan any other children's events. Please check our website for updates <http://chesterct.org/library/library-programs/>.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Nov. 23 – “The Library Book” by Susan Orlean. Facilitator and discussion leader Marsha Bansavage will complete our fall book discussion. This program will take place via ZOOM from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The Zoom link will be posted on our website or please sign up at the library with your email for an invitation. Books

will be available at the library on a first-come, first-served basis.

KIDS/TEEN PROGRAMS

Join Miss Stephanie for story time every Monday and Friday at 10:30 via Facebook live or enjoy the recording when it fits your schedule.

Check back on our website for additional programs that may be added.

21 W Main Street, Chester, CT 06412
(860) 526-0018

Chester Hose Company Incorporated

CRAFT FAIR - We hope you enjoyed our “Fall Back, Spring Ahead” Art & Craft Fair on Saturday, October 24th at The Chester Hose Company Incorporated, 6 High Street, Chester. All items were uniquely handmade from our local crafters. Chow Food Truck served up breakfast and lunch throughout our event. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this was an all outdoor event to maintain the safety and well-being for all.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Our annual elections were in August. We congratulate:

Chief: James Grzybowski

President: Richard Tsou

Deputy Chief:

Charles Greeney Jr.

Secretary: Karen Schaefer

Deputy Chief EMS:

Geoff Vincelle

Treasurer: Scot Mills

Assistant Chief: John Ahearn

Trustee: Denise Sypher

Assistant Chief EMS:

Kimberly Mills

Trustee: Chuck Tower

Battalion Chief: Brian Ahearn

Trustee: Vinny Germini

Captain: Dylan Grzybowski

Lieutenant: Benjamin Belisle

Medical Coordinator:

Suzie Currier

We thank the following past officers for their dedicated service and leadership which they provided to the Department over the past year: President: Vinny Germini, Treasurer: Ben Belisle, Deputy EMS Chief: Sara Blaschik, Treasurer: Edward Calamari.

Now that cooler weather is upon us, October is Fire Safety month. We would like to remind you to check and change your smoke detector batteries. Additionally, use caution on the roads, especially as the leaves continue to fall. Please rake leaves away from your house and not into the roadways to help prevent possible leaf and brush fires. Contact the Fire Marshal at (860) 526-0013 x212 or firemarshal@chesterct.org for burn permits for any burning to be done.

Fall is also the time to prepare for winter. Make sure your furnaces and chimneys are in safe working order prior to the winter months.

If you have a fire hydrant near your house without a tall flag marker to make it visible in the snow, please contact us so we can mark it prior to the snow falling. Unfortunately due to COVID-19



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our annual Apple Pie Night has been cancelled this year. Keep current with our other upcoming events by logging onto our Facebook page (Chester Hose Company Inc),

website (www.chesterhoseco.org), or watch our signboard.

Sincerely,
James Grzybowski, Chief

Virtual Tellabration!



Attend our virtual Tellabration featuring storyteller Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi on Saturday, November 14th at 7 pm. The annual fundraiser for The United Church of Chester and The Connecticut Storytelling Center will go on this year from the comfort of your own home. If you are a fan of the Moth Radio Hour or TED Talks, then you will love this virtual storytelling event, featuring award-winning storyteller Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi, a versatile performer and educator who believes in the power of the spoken word to enlighten, educate and delight. Funny and poignant, she

has been described by others at the CSC as “a storyteller’s storyteller”.

Reserve your spot by going online to: www.connstorycenter.org/tellabration.htm.

“Doors” will close online at 6 pm before the tellabration, so reserve early. We are limited to 100 people. Donations will be split 50/50 between the UCC and the CSC, and are 100% deductible, as the artist and the emcee donated their performance for this event. For more info call Margie Warner at 860-526-5794.

Sign up to receive weekly townwide email by emailing adminassistant@chesterct.org

Your Support Matters...Now More Than Ever.

Now is the time for us to give thanks for all the good people making great things happen in Middlesex County.

Thank you for stepping up to support our frontline workers with critical supplies and services.

Thank you for helping our local nonprofits meet the increasing and changing needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for working together for a better today and a brighter tomorrow for all.



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How Could A Virus Affect Taxes?

It seems the COVID-19 has affected everything, even town taxes. Because of this virus, the Governor issued many executive orders and one of them was 7 S. This executive order allowed all the towns in the state to pick an option to help taxpayers pay their own town taxes. One such option was for the tax offices to use a lower interest rate instead of 18% interest on any bill that had been due as of July 1st, 2020 but then was delinquent in August. This option would have helped only a small percentage of taxpayers. The other option, and this is the one that Chester selectpersons chose, is to allow any of the new bills that were due July 1st, 2020 to have the final due date deferred to Oct 1st, thus allowing the taxpayers of Chester 3 months to pay, instead of the normal one month. This should have helped a much larger number of people and help more of our townspeople get through this extremely difficult time with a bit more time to pay their real estate, personal property or motor vehicle bills. During this time period, there was no interest attached to the current 2019 grand list taxes. It did not help the taxpayers who were already late on their taxes unless they could have hurried up and caught up on old bills. Then and only then would their newest taxes have been deferred until Oct 1st, 2020. I had hoped that some of those who had been behind on their taxes could find that miracle to help them get caught up, and then they would have been able to take advantage of that “grace” period and helped them out in the long run. The only ones that were required to pay in July were the escrow companies and owners who were considered “landlords.”

The escrow companies were required to pay with no exceptions or face the 18% interest late charge. “Landlords” could have applied for deferral, but that paperwork had to be to the Tax Collector by July 1st, so luckily, most just paid in July.

This executive order 7 S had added to the paperwork and technicalities in all the tax offices across the state and to the companies that help all Tax Collectors with the fine tuning of payment timeframes and rules. So, yes, the virus did indeed and still is affecting taxes all across the state and probably across the whole country.

Our collections were down approximately 15% during July largely due to the deferred option, but people continued to send in money over the August and September timeframe. All numbers are not in yet, so I don't have final estimates of who did not pay but should have. We are hoping as many people as possible pay this coming January for the second half and all get back on track for future payments. There are NO deferral options at this time for January. We wish you all the help and support at this difficult and stressful time continues. And we are hoping that each and every Chester resident and their extended families stay well and stay safe now and always! Because we wanted all to stay safe and stay well, we had requested that you mail in your payment or better yet, use the online process with your own bank and thus save the postage and an envelope! The free return envelopes were indeed used in large numbers and quite a few new online payments came in. We hope the online, with your own bank, catches on, so less taxpayers need to come in and pay. The great part is that a taxpayer can look online a day or two after the bill is posted to make sure their payment did indeed arrive on time.

Stay well... stay safe...

Sincerely,

Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector & Susan Shrack, Tax Clerk

Clean Energy Task Force

Chester's Clean Energy Task Force has been following a number of initiatives which it started quite a while ago. If you visit Town Hall, you will be impressed by the wonderful lighting upgrade which resulted from a lighting review last fall. The fixtures in the lobby, the hallways, and the downstairs office have been replaced with attractive ones containing very efficient LEDs.

Also last fall, the Task Force initiated a project to install new lighting for the Maple Street parking lot. These LED fixtures will provide greater illumination and greater safety for the parking lot as well as the top of the walkway to the lot from Main Street. We hope to see completion of this project by the end of October.

The Energy Task Force is particularly interested in promoting the Home Energy Solutions program, which is being administered

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Tri-Town Youth Services

 *Tri-Town Youth Services Now Accepting Insurance!*

Melanie Meyer, LMFT provides affordable, convenient clinical support for residents and we now accept Husky, Cigna and Anthem. Tri-Town follows best practices to offer a safe environment for in-person therapy sessions, but we're pleased to continue to offer telehealth so you may meet virtually with your therapist from the comfort of your own home. TTYSB treatment is intended to be short-term, and Melanie has a great deal of experience working with children and adolescents. We offer therapy for individuals, families, couples and groups, as well as short-term parent support and coaching. Call 203-533-1937 to make an appointment.

Volunteer Opportunities at Tri-Town

Though COVID has changed the way we work with children, teens and parents, the need for our programs and services has never been greater. We offer virtual youth programs, support circles and we continue to bring together volunteers dedicated to issues that impact our community.

We are seeking energetic individuals who represent the diversity of our community, who want to make a difference in children's lives and elevate the needs of families experiencing economic hardship, children of color and LGBTQ+ youth.

- Early Childhood Council- increasing contributions to the local Preschool Scholarship Fund so that all children have access to a quality preschool education before Kindergarten.
- Prevention Coalition- school-based and community-wide projects to promote wellness, support mental health, reduce teen vaping rates and prevent drug and alcohol abuse.
- Restorative Circles- creating opportunities for healthy, respectful dialogue to support each other through difficult times, to address controversial issues, problem-solve collaboratively, or resolve conflict peacefully.

If you would like to learn more about these volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Allison Abramson at 860-526-3600 or Allison@ttysb.org. We'd love to have your participation!

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News from the Chester Historical Society

TODAY IS TOMORROW'S HISTORY.

New Chester Films

Beginning this summer, we've been giving you opportunities to learn some Chester history in the comfort of your home. Some of these learning opportunities have been our short films relating to Chester history that you can find on YouTube, accessible through our website (ChesterHistoricalSociety.org).

The most recent film now on YouTube is "Chester Abolitionists' Connection with the Underground Railroad," presented by Chester native Donald Perreault, the chair of the History Department at Valley Regional High School. Our videographer is Jon Claude Haines of Sea Robin Tech, right here in Chester. More will be coming, so keep checking or "subscribe" to our channel.

Historical Walking Tour

We also have written the histories for the Chasing Squirrels Walking Tour, now on our website and the visitChesterCT website. The brainchild of Rebecca Joslow MacGregor, this is a walking tour of historical places between Chester Center

and the Meeting House, and Chester Center and United Church of Chester, with historical images from our archives. Similarly, VRHS senior Kailey Costa, worked with videographer Taylor Sahl to create a film of some of the sites and their history, for her Gold Award from Girls Scouts. It is also available through our YouTube link on our website.

Looking for Chester's "Notable" Women

This fall, we are working on a new project, "Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Achievements," with Deep River and Essex Historical Societies in honor of the Women's Suffrage Centennial. We are soliciting photos of women from our three towns from over the past 100+ years - including TODAY - who have made a difference in our communities in some way. These women do not need to be "famous." They can be mothers, teachers, store owners, volunteers, military personnel - as long as you consider them "notable." Please keep in mind that we're not focused only on women from the past 100 years. We're also interested in including you - your friends and neighbors - women who are making a difference in some small (or

large) way today. Remember - today is tomorrow's history.

We will need a digital image (high-resolution) photo, its approximate date, and a brief description of this woman's importance in the community. If you can't do the scanning, we can. We will borrow your photo and return it to you. The end result will be a free slide show presentation, starting Nov. 15 - online. Please note that these photos will become part of our archives and will be visible through social media, such as our website. If you have questions, email us at chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call Diane Lindsay at 860-526-2443.

And Finally....

Even without our museum open this summer, we have not stopped preserving and showcasing Chester history. Help us out! We need your memories, your memorabilia, your photos (we can just borrow them for scanning). They're all a part of Chester history. You can call Diane Lindsay, our curator, at 860-526-2443, or email us at chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Chester - Community Listings

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

LIBRARY

Chester Public Library (860) 526-0018

POST OFFICE

Chester Post Office (860) 526-2780

SCHOOLS

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 Chester Elementary School (860) 526-5797
 John Winthrop Middle School..... (860) 526-9546
 Valley Regional High School (860) 526-5328

WORSHIP SERVICES

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 Congregation Beth Shalom - Temple (860) 526-8920
 United Church of Chester..... (860) 526-2697

The BRAYCE Program continues to have a positive impact on Brazilian youth in this time of coronavirus.

In Brazil, the only comparison for this current pandemic might be those diseases brought by colonization such as small pox that totally decimated indigenous populations when Europe first arrived in the Americas.

First making its appearance at the end of February 2020, the coronavirus took just 3 months to kill 50,000 people and another 50 days to kill its next 50,000 hapless victims. Although reported deaths are 114,000 and rising, currently, there is no coordinated federal plan to fight the pandemic.

What kind of future can BRAYCE kids hope for here? Diana Nijboer, Founder and President of EduMais reports: "The situation of each BRAYCE student is different however, but without exception it has been affecting them all badly. Parents have lost their jobs. Social security only got up and running after three months and the emergency support has hardly been sufficient. Kids have been schooling online. All families received additional support with food baskets provided by various NGO's (non-profit organizations). From the beginning the favelas and their NGO's started to campaign to support families with food & hygiene baskets. There were initiatives to sanitise favelas. BRAYCE partner in Rio de Janeiro, EduMais, has provided 3055 food & hygiene

baskets during the five months of lockdown.

Schools have not yet opened and it is expected that they will stay closed until the end of the school year. Online classes in the favelas of Rio are daunting with no place to study.

Many people cramped in a very small space and not even having a computer but needing to use the phone of one of the parents to do homework and follow online lessons.

Despite these overwhelming conditions, we have learned that the BRAYCE experience has had a profound impact on our youth and has helped to equip them to cope with, and even outwit the challenges of COVID.

This is what Marcos, a 17 year old, who participated twice in Camp Hazen, first as a camper and then as a LEA (a trainee on the Leadership Program) wrote:

"Having the opportunity to belong to the BRAYCE family is one of the things I most appreciate in my life. Being part of the BRAYCE experience, linked to the transforming teachings of

continued on page 14



Diana Nijboer stands beside EduMais contributions.

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BRAYCE... continued from page 13

Camp Hazen and the generous coexistence with our host families and the BRAYCE team, they bring me the true feeling of being part of a big family.

As someone who has had so many valuable experiences, so many friendships and values cultivated in opportunities like exchanges in the USA, I wanted to help in some way to focus on the best Marcos that I could be during this difficult time. I believe that hope is a great duty, even in challenging times like now.

My contributions are as follows:

- I have worked on promoting information on social networks about necessary care in times of so many fake news.
- Another project has been one live interview per week, via the internet, with a specialist from a selected area. The goal here is to to lighten-up/enrich people's lives (besides myself) and bring more tranquility. In this project we have already talked to more than 15 professionals such as a nutritionist, a religious leader, a doctor, volunteers in social actions, among others. It has been a challenge, but a valuable challenge. I hope that this effort has helped people a little."

Margot Calder
BRAYCE
September 2020

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Lobsterfest / Chester Rotary



A few of the 18 at Rotary's first Lobster Take-Out!

Lobsterfest has been a Chester Rotary tradition for decades, fun for the town and important for fundraising. However, when the usual event could not happen this year due to COVID-19, Chester Rotary had a choice: skip a year or come up with another plan. After much debate and planning, both for food and safety, the Chester Rotary Lobster Take-Out was born. Double

lobster dinners were ordered online, with patrons choosing a 15-minute time slot for pick up at the Chester Fairgrounds.

Eighteen club members helped – cooking lobster and corn, wrapping hot food, packaging meals, and delivering meals to cars. The event sold out (yay!), ran smoothly (pew!), and thanks to our generous community raised funds that Rotary can now use to support local needs. Rotary thanks all who participated and our

long-time sponsors: Aaron Manor, Whelen, Zanardi Oil, Essex Savings Bank and West Main – plus Adams Hometown Market and Scotts Farms for their support with food.

Meanwhile, while adjusting for COVID-19 safety concerns, Rotary will continue to work to support need in the community. We will run our annual Turkey Drive, which receives a 25% donation from Liberty Bank for every dollar we raise. This year we will promote mailing donations to Chester Rotary, P. O. Box 111, Chester CT 06412, as well as donating in person downtown. Making sure all have a nice Thanksgiving meal and food throughout the year has never been more important.

Chester Rotary will again give dictionaries to each third grader at Chester Elementary – but virtually this year. Since members cannot be there to present the dictionaries, a slide show was prepared to be used instead with info on dictionaries, Noah Webster, and Rotary's work to support education around the world. Visit ChesterRotary.org to learn more about what we do.

Chester Police Department

Chester Residents,
I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received during my short tenure here in town. The Chester Police Dept. and I have learned to adapt to the many changes that have impacted the world, and on a smaller scale in Chester such as COVID-19, civil unrest, and police reform. The town of Chester is unlike anywhere else I have worked, and I feel a sense of pride knowing that I work here.

Our town has recently had several vehicles stolen and broken into which can easily be avoided. Please train yourself and make it common practice to lock your vehicles upon exiting them. Thieves coming into town to steal from the interior of vehicles or the vehicle itself aren't looking to smash

out a window and "hotwire" your vehicle, instead they are looking for items to steal within an unlocked vehicle then steal the vehicle if car keys are accessible. Many of the stolen vehicles within the past year throughout Connecticut have been used to commit various crimes. Purchasing surveillance cameras or a doorbell camera for the exterior of your home will thwart larcenies, burglaries, or any other malicious crime that a criminal has in mind. The aforementioned surveillance cameras will assist with documenting an incident at your residence if a crime were to occur.

Purchase lawn signs or reach out to your residential alarm companies and have them ship you one to make criminals

aware they are being watched or your home is protected.

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goPINK 2020 is All Quacked Up!

This year the goPINK Project invites the community to give back and support cancer patients from the comfort of their own homes by participating in the goPINK virtual duck race to benefit Middlesex Health Cancer Center and provide free integrative medicine to cancer patients.



Throughout the month of October, you can participate by donating as an individual or by forming a duck race team. Visit MiddlesexHealth.org/gopink to get started.

The duck race will be held November 2 at 3 pm, and it will be live streamed on the goPINK Project Facebook page, @GOPINKPROJECT. Rubber ducks will be tossed into a body of water. The sponsors of the first ducks to reach the finish line win prizes. There will also be prizes for the top fundraising teams. A donation of \$10 enters one duck into the race.

For each additional \$25, another duck will be entered into the race for you. If you donate \$500 or more, a larger size duck will be entered in the race for you.

For duck race teams, the minimum fundraising goal is \$100. For that amount, four ducks will be entered in the race. For every



\$500 raised, a larger size duck will be entered into the race for your team.

The goPINK Project is in its 11th year. The money raised helps Middlesex Health cancer patients receive free integrative medicine therapy, including patients who have breast cancer. Integrative medicine includes massage therapy, reflexology and acupuncture - all therapies not covered by insurance. Integrative medicine helps patients with symptoms of cancer treatment, including fatigue, pain and nausea.

Since 2010, the goPINK Project has raised more than \$263,856 and has helped 1,400 patients.

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Camp Hazen YMCA: Always Here for Our Community



Summer 2020 has been unlike any summer that has come before. For months prior, children's worlds were shrunk down to four walls, a few faces and countless hours of screen time. Camp Hazen YMCA felt an essential need to open our doors to the children of our local community for Day Camp Programs this summer and their parents who were headed back into the workforce.

Here are some examples of how we've adapted our programs this year:

Camp Care: For Children of Essential Workers: Starting March 23rd, 2020, Camp Hazen YMCA received approval from the State of Connecticut's Office of Early Childhood to operate a program that provides child care for local families of essential community workers. This program had very limited availability and still reached up to 30 participants by June.

Summer Day Camp: In May of 2020, the Governor of Connecticut announced that Overnight Camps were not permitted to open this summer. Therefore, Camp Hazen YMCA focused solely on providing day programs for our local community this summer. We ran a program from June 29th, 2020 until August 28th, 2020. We averaged about 170 campers per each 2-week session.

LEAdership Program: Our LEA program was altered this summer to include a group of 25 teens who participated in a 2-week day program. They took part in leadership training workshops (topics ranging from time management to leadership styles and public speaking).

Fall Camp Care: To Support Hybrid Learning Schedules: Camp Hazen YMCA received approval from the State of Connecticut's Office of Early Childhood to operate a program that helps with childcare for local families transitioning back to school this fall.

Family Camps: Traditionally, Camp Hazen YMCA offers Family Camp during the Memorial Day and Labor Day holiday weekends. This year, we added the weekend from September 11th - 13th. These weekends include lodging, food, and outdoor activities for families throughout their stay.

Robbie Collomore Concert Series

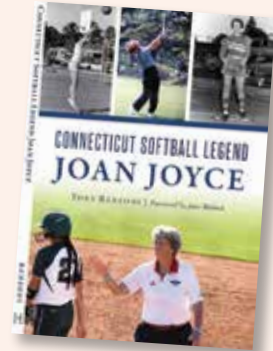
The Robbie Collomore Concert Series is very saddened to report that we have cancelled our 2020 concert series because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, we were successful in rescheduling all of our 2020 artists for our 2021 season. We are hopeful that we will be able to present a full season of four concerts in the fall of 2021, from September 26th to November 21st. All concerts are at 5 pm in the Chester Meeting House.

Our season opens with violinist Paul Huang and pianist Helen Huang (no relation) on September 26, 2021 with a program of Mendelssohn, Brahms, Sibelius, and Saint-Saëns. The concert on October 17, 2021 presents Frank Vignola's Hot Jazz Guitar Duo, one of the most extraordinary guitarists performing today. November 7, 2021 brings Sam Reider and the Human Hands to Chester (an ensemble of acoustic musicians). The season ends on November 21, 2021 with the Ulysses String Quartet, an ensemble formed at The Juilliard School in 2015. Visit www.collomoreconcerts.org for more information about our 2021 artists.

Chester Events • Quarter 4 • 2020

Read About the Connecticut Native many consider the Greatest Female Athlete in Sports History!

"Connecticut Softball Legend Joan Joyce" by Tony Renzoni traces the life and career of the legendary Joan Joyce.



The book is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Signed copies can be found locally at: RJ Julia Bookstore (Madison); Griswold Inn's "Goods and Curiosities" store (Essex), and Seaside Homes and Gifts (Branford).



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Joan Joyce - Our Finest Athlete by Sigrid Kun

Many fondly remember going to Raybestos Memorial field in Stratford, CT. Amid chants of “Joanie, Joanie,” the softball phenom mowed down the competition. Joan Joyce dominated women’s fast pitch softball for decades - beginning her amateur career at age 13 with the Raybestos Brakettes. The Waterbury, CT native excelled at every sport she tried - a true competitor, a lifelong coach/mentor. Joyce combines an unbridled, remarkable talent with a matter of fact, humble personality. While she readily speaks about her success, there is no bragging.

Many consider her as “The Greatest Woman Athlete of All Time.” Her jaw-dropping achievements/honors take pages to list, including 20 Hall of Fame inductions, Connecticut Athlete of the Year (selected by the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance), and a softball field renamed Joan Joyce Field (a part of Municipal Stadium in Waterbury).



Women’s softball coach at Florida Atlantic University.

A LIFETIME OF ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Joyce’s softball career covered 1954-1963 and 1967-1975 with the Brakettes and 1964-1966 with the Orange Lionettes. The slingshot pitcher notched 150 no-hitters and 50 perfect games with a lifetime earned run average of 0.09. An outstanding hitter, her career batting average is .327. In 1974, her Brakettes were the first American team to win the World Championships.

She co-founded the International Women’s Professional Softball Association, being the star player for

and part-owner of the Connecticut Falcons. The Falcons won every championship of the IWPSA’s existence (1976-1979).

She is a four-time Women’s Basketball Association All-American and three time AAU Basketball All-American. She played on the USA Women’s National Team in 1964 and 1965, setting a national tournament basketball single-game scoring record (67 points) in 1964.

She formed the Connecticut Clippers volleyball team in 1968, and competed as a player/coach. She was named to the All-East United States Volleyball Association Regional Team. Taking up golf at age 35, she spent 19 years on the LPGA tour (1977-1995). She still holds the LPGA and PGA record of just 17 putts in one round of golf.

Now 80, Joyce is the women’s softball coach at Florida Atlantic University. Starting the program from scratch in 1994, she has amassed 12 Conference Championships, participated in 11 NCCA Tournaments, and won 8 Coach-of-the Year Awards.

THE SECRET TO SUCCESS?

“I don’t know,” she says. “The only thing I can say about me is that I am very competitive. . . . I will beat you at just about everything. If you beat me, I’d shake hands. But I’d say to myself, you are not going to beat me a second time.”



Joan with her biggest fan - Dad (Joe Joyce).

Photo courtesy of Joan Joyce.

Her mother worked days. She, her father (above) and brother played sports all the time. “We would end up going to my father’s softball games,” she recalls. “We had no gloves. We’d run around everywhere while my father was playing. When they came in from the field, they’d put the gloves under the bench. We’d take them and start catching. When they went back in the field, they’d have to come and get the gloves back from us.” When her father played basketball, she and her brother would wait for the halftime buzzer and then fly onto the court to play.

SPECIAL MOMENTS - JOYCE SHARED A FEW



Striking Out Ted Williams/Hank Aaron. She calls striking out Ted Williams (left) and Hank Aaron, her favorite moments. “It’s the easiest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” she relates. “They had no chance against a softball pitcher just because of the distance.” She faced Williams as part

of fundraisers in 1961 and 1966; Aaron in 1978 in a West Hartford exhibition. There were no radar guns then. A doctorate study from USC determined her pitching speed to be the equivalent of 119 mph in baseball.

Invited to China by the All-China Sports Federation (1979).

“It was the first team ever invited to China,” she recalls of the Connecticut Falcons. “When we played our last game sixty thousand people came to the game. I was looking out and it was like a flood of people just coming and coming and coming. And I’m thinking, ‘Oh, my God!’” The American team won all six games. In the final game, Joyce pitched a no-hitter to beat the Chinese all-star team.



Softball World Championships (1974).

Joyce pitched a no hitter against Australia. “Only one walk. And we picked her off,” notes Joyce. “It would have been a perfect game.” She also stymied Japan, giving up only two hits. No team wore helmets then. Japan showed up wearing them. Was it to distract her or out of fear of her? “It didn’t work,” she laughs. “You did not want to get me focused or to get my attention. Stare at me? Give me looks? I would say to myself,

keep doing that ‘cause you’re never going to beat me. I just didn’t like to lose.”

Photo of Joan coaching (far left) courtesy of FAU Athletics.

Photo of Joan pitching (left) and photo of Joan with Ted Williams (above left) courtesy of Joan Chandler.

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