

# Chester events

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# First Selectwoman's Corner

## Happy New Year to Chester!

Thank you to the many volunteers and staff who keep our town humming along – for everyone who takes time away from their families and extends their workdays to contribute in myriad ways – please know that you are appreciated and valued! We would not be the vital and creative economic and cultural town we are so proud to live in without your dedication and spirit.

## Emergency Communications

During storms and winter weather, we have many ways of reaching out to residents with information – townwide emails, the school automated phone messages to students' families, Facebook, television and radio, the town website, and more. 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 still have in your home). In addition to these methods, you are encouraged to sign up for the SAFER CHESTER Emergency Alert Program. You can do this directly at [www.ctalert.gov](http://www.ctalert.gov), use the link on the Town website at [www.chesterct.org](http://www.chesterct.org), or call Jenny in the Selectman's office at 860-526-0013 x202 if you need further assistance.

This notification program is powered by Everbridge and enables us to keep you informed and provide you with critical, local, and time-sensitive emergency information. To register, simply specify how you'd like to receive the information: home, mobile, business phones, email or text messages. You may also list up to three additional locations in the state for which you want to receive alert, including the town where you work or children attend school. Please help us to protect you and keep you informed by signing up for this free service. Also, please remember to sign up for the Townwide email by

sending your email address to Jenny at [adminassistant@chesterct.org](mailto:adminassistant@chesterct.org). In an emergency situation, we want to make sure you have the information necessary to keep you safe – please help us reach you!



Lauren Gister,  
First Selectwoman

## Budget Season

It's that time of year again. In January, we start reviewing our financials and planning the budget for the next fiscal year. Our schools, town departments, the Chester Hose Company and Boards and Commissions will be compiling and submitting their budget requests, which will be reviewed and discussed at a series of joint Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance budget workshops. Our goal is to continue to meet your needs and expectations with the highest levels of service, to keep our

**continued on page 5**

An advertisement for Saybrook Home. The top half shows a bright, airy bedroom with white furniture, including a bed, two nightstands, and a dresser. A large window is on the left. The bottom half features a black vertical bar with the letters 'SH' in a stylized font, followed by 'SAYBROOK HOME' and 'EST. 1977'. Below this is a horizontal bar with the text 'Furniture | Fashion | Lifestyle'. At the very bottom, the address '2 MAIN STREET, OLD SAYBROOK, CT | 860-388-0891 | SaybrookHome.com' is listed.

# events

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## **First Selectwoman... continued from page 3**

buildings, parks and roads in good condition and repair, and to keep expenditures low. Due to factors that are not directly in our control, it looks like we may have another tough budget year. The schedule of budget meetings will be posted on the Town website and are always open to the public. I hope you will be able to attend. You will have two opportunities to vote to approve our budgets – first for the Region 4 education budget, a percentage of which is charged to Chester taxpayers, and secondly, the Board of Finance will submit a final town budget which will include the elementary school budget for the approval of residents at a Town Meeting scheduled in May of 2020. Throughout this process, I will continue to work closely with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance and with town departments and commissions to craft an intelligent and responsible budget for our town.

### **Main Street Project**

The Board of Selectmen and the Main Street Project Committee, along with our skilled and dedicated town engineers at Jacobson & Associates have been working

diligently to complete the design, draft the program manual and bid documents for submission to RiverCOG and the State Department of Transportation in order to go out to bid for a contractor for this upcoming project. We are hoping to have a contractor in place and begin construction in early spring, with the anticipation that the majority of heavy construction work will occur prior to the beginning of summer. This will be a disruptive process in the downtown area, and we are currently planning strategies to keep our downtown area and merchants busy and active throughout the project. More information will be forthcoming soon, but please know that our shops will be open for business! At the end of the project is a restored roadbed, new wide sidewalks, curb reveal to keep the rainwater away from the building facades, and improved drainage throughout. Let's make a special effort to frequent our local shops during this time, and make sure all of your friends and family know that we request their patience and loyalty to these wonderful businesses – they will not be sorry!

### **Get Involved**

There are many ways to be involved in our town - here are some ideas:

1. If you are a registered voter and wish to serve on a Board or Commission, please contact the Selectman's office at 860-526-0013 ext. 202
2. Please attend Board and Commission meetings or budget workshops (Region 4, Chester elementary or Town) so that you are informed of the issues affecting your taxes.
3. Come to the First Selectwoman's Town Talks to express your opinion, ask a question, or make a suggestion. The times and dates are in each week's Townwide email.
4. Join our Volunteer Fire Department, or get active in Rotary or the Chester Historical Society.

I look forward to seeing you at a meeting, workshop or other town event soon. Stay safe and have a happy and healthy 2020!

Lauren S. Gister, First Selectwoman

Visit the Chester website at [www.chesterct.org](http://www.chesterct.org)

## **From the Tax Office**

### **A Helpful Hint From The Tax Office If You Are Moving!**

Moving can be an extremely busy time in one's life! Besides the packing and organizing, I am going to suggest another step you should DEFINITELY take during this moving process. It is extremely helpful, if you call or email or stop into the Tax Office and give us your brand-new address. So many times, a person moves and does not give a CURRENT forwarding address to us or to the Post Office, and your old tax bill and new tax bill can't find you! That means we research and research to see if we can find you. Sometimes, we are lucky, and we do indeed find you and can forward the bill or bills to you. However, if we do not find you, then your MV tax bill or PP property tax bill sits here collecting interest. After two or three years, we must send this now higher bill to our collection agency. Then the COLLECTION AGENCY fees are added and hence the bill becomes much larger.

The worst-case scenario is that the bill does not get to you, and you don't get your MV license or registration paper work in the mail either from DMV. This means that you could be driving an unregistered MV or driving with an expired driver's license. This could cause you to receive a citation from the police or worse yet, have your MV towed. So, be sure to give the Tax Collector your new address, so that the bill or bills could be forwarded to you.

If July comes and you do NOT receive a tax bill, be sure to call the Tax Collector in the town that you moved from and ask if there is indeed a MV tax for you. At that time, you could give the Tax Collector your new address, but better to be proactive and do it all before you move! Enjoy your new home but remember during your hectic moving time to think about taxes and paying them...

**continued on page 6**

## Tax Office... continued from page 5

And speaking of taxes, all taxpayers need to pay their January installment on time, and not waiting until the last day! My ten plus years doing this job in Chester has taught me that there could be a storm or illness that keeps you

away on January 31<sup>st</sup>, so again, be wise and be proactive - pay on time and avoid the worry & stress!

Madaline Meyer, TC, Chester and Susan Shrack Tax Office

## Chester Land Trust Receives State Freedom Trail Award for Motley Preserve



On Sunday, Oct. 6, The Chester Land Trust was honored by the State of Connecticut for its Judge Constance Baker Motley Preserve, a 7-acre site on Cedar Lake Road, that was designated a "Heritage Site" on the CT Freedom Trail. Along with the Preserve, Judge Motley's former home across the road, now owned privately, was also included.

The public, friends, and family turned out to celebrate as CT Freedom Trail officials

from the State's Historic Preservation Office awarded official plaques to the Chester Land Trust and the homeowners for the 140<sup>th</sup> site in CT on the Trail. The Motley family received one as well.

Placement on the Freedom Trail is a select designation for sites that celebrate extraordinary African Americans whose efforts expanded freedom and opportunity for all Americans.

Officials from the CT Freedom Trail award special plaques to the Chester Land Trust, owner of the CBM Motley Preserve, and to the current owners of her home on Cedar Lake Road in Chester on Sunday, Oct. 6.

From left to right: Jenny Kitsen, Trustee, Chester Land Trust; Dennis Coleman, home owner; Marta Daniels, Trustee, Chester Historical Society (seated); Todd Levine (at podium), Coordinator of the Freedom Trail; Liz Shapiro, CT Office of Arts and Historic Preservation; and far right: Constance Royster (niece of Motley) and Joel Motley II (son) shown during award ceremony.

Photo by Skip Hubbard, Chester Historical Society.

Judge Motley, who had a home in Chester for 40 years, was a legendary civil rights lawyer who helped dismantle segregation in the South, and later became a distinguished federal judge whose landmark decisions shaped American jurisprudence in many areas of American life.

For more info on the Motley Preserve in Chester, go to: [www.chesterlandtrust.org](http://www.chesterlandtrust.org). For a video of the Oct. 6 ceremony, go to: [www.chesterhistoricalsociety.org/cbm](http://www.chesterhistoricalsociety.org/cbm).

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

### *Fifty Years of Preserving Chester History*

April 25, 2020, is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Chester Historical Society.

*Here are a few of our major accomplishments during our half century of existence:*

- Restored the Meetinghouse in 1972-73 and 10 years later organized and sponsored the construction of its addition.
- Co-sponsored with Chester Rotary the building of the Gazebo on the Green.
- Preserved the 1870s C.L. Griswold Shop (the last factory on the South Pattaconk Brook) by turning it into the Chester Museum at The Mill.

- Established the Robbie Colomore Music Series.
- Published 10 books and created 12 YouTube films.
- Archived 10,000+ Chester items.
- Took 70 oral histories from longtime residents.
- Host 2400 visitors annually at our museum and programs.

### **Preserving Our Past – Securing Our Future**

This month we are launching a campaign to address major maintenance items on our historic Mill building. Items at the top of our list include installing a new roof and gutters; improving our driveway; and improving our exterior lighting. We thank you for your support of our Light Up the Night star project, which

raised several thousand dollars toward the lighting improvement, but we've still got a long way to go. You'll be receiving a letter that explains the museum's needs in more detail.

### Commemorating 100 Years of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed and protected women's constitutional right to vote. We plan to celebrate this anniversary in several ways.

Sandy Senior-Dauer and Keith Dauer are organizing our first Delaney Series Program on Sunday, March 28 at 3 pm in the Meeting House. Joanie DiMartino, from the Prudence Crandall Museum, will talk about "The Road to Women's Suffrage in Connecticut."

Our summer exhibit will focus on Chester women in the years up to and including 1920. We also are collaborating with Deep River and Essex Historical Societies on a November program about the women of our three towns.

#### Ways You Can Donate:

##### Time

Our curator, Diane Lindsay, can use help in our archive room. If you want to know more about what's needed, please give Diane a call at 526-2443. Want to help us tape (and/or type) the memories

of our longtime citizens? Please call Cary Hull at 860-558-4701.

##### Chester Items

We love gifts of Chester memorabilia to add to our archives. If you don't want to donate something outright, we can make a scan (such as with photos) and return the original to you. Please talk to Diane Lindsay (526-2443) or email us at [chesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:chesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

##### Money

Gifts of money are always welcome! A donation of any size helps provide financial support needed for our operations. You can give through our website ([chesterhistoricalsociety.org](http://chesterhistoricalsociety.org)) with a credit card or you can mail a check to P.O. Box 204, Chester CT 06412.

##### Storage

Do you have a shed or barn where we can store large items (such as tools)? We'd like to talk! Email us at [chesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:chesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

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# Chester Parks and Recreation

*Celebrating Community through People, Parks and Programs!*

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

Visit our website for additional program information and registration forms: <http://chesterct.org/town-government/parks-recreation-commission/>

## **YOGA**

All levels welcome, 6:00-7:00 pm on Tuesdays through May 19 at the Chester Town Hall Community Room. Attend any class for \$10 per class payable to the instructor Annette Babek.

## **BALLROOM DANCING**

Ballroom Dancing this spring! All levels, 6:30-7:30 pm on Mondays at the Chester Meeting House, April 6, 13, 20, 27, \$40 per 4 class session payable to the instructor Karen Pfrommer.

## **ADULT RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL:**

Ages 16 through adult, 7:00 pm-9:30 pm on Thursdays through February 27 in the Chester Elementary School gym. \$10 for Chester residents and \$15 for nonresidents for the season, advance registration required.

## **MARCH MADNESS**

For Youth Basketball players in grades K through 3, and their

parents, will be held on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> this year, from 5:15 pm until 8:00 pm in the Chester Elementary School gym.

## **EARLY SCHOOL DISMISSAL FIELD TRIPS**

Directly following the early school dismissal 1:15 pm until 5:45 pm departing from and returning to Chester Elementary School, to *SpareTime Entertainment* in Bristol Thursday, March 19 and *Fun In* in Middletown on Friday, March 20, for grades K through 6. \$36 per field trip, includes dinner. Activities on Thursday include bowling, laser tag, and arcade games. Join us for trampolines, including trampoline basketball and dodgeball, triple size playscape, a ninja warrior ball pit, climbing wall, foam pit, and a virtual rollercoaster on Friday.

## **KARATE**

Ages 5 through 12, 5:00-6:00 pm on Mondays, Session 4: February 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23, Session 5: March 30, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, Session 6: May 11, 18, June 1, 8, 15 at the Chester Town Hall Community Room. \$47 per session payable to the instructor Tammy Marino.

## **MAKE A SPLASH NEXT SUMMER**

We are an outdoor program specializing in waterfront activities. Our Camp Counselors are Certified Lifeguards. Join us for NATURE & ART on Mondays, SWIMMING, WATER SAFETY, COOPERATION PROJECTS & OUTDOOR COOKING on Tuesdays, SWIMMING & TEAM CHALLENGES on Wednesdays, SCIENCE & ART on Thursdays, FIELD TRIPS on Fridays, SPORTS, CRAFTS, GAMES, & FUN every day!

## **SUMMER CAMP**

Our Summer Camp rivals any camp in the area! We offer swimming, sports, science & nature, arts & crafts, team building, and more, but unlike many camps, children choose most of what they wish to participate in throughout the day from a variety of programmed activities. The hours are from 8:15 am until 3:45 pm 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 camp will be held at the lake that week. The children take field trips on Fridays. The fee will be determined in January.

## **ADVENTURE CAMP**

The week of June 29 is Adventure Camp, a premium week with 2 field trips for students entering grades 5 through 7, only. The weeks of July 13 and August 17 are open to campers entering grades 2 through 7.

The weeks of July 6, 20, August 3, and 10 are open to children entering grades K through 6.

KINDER-CAMP & 1\* is a separate program for children ENTERING, AND JUST COMPLETING, KINDERGARTEN. It features staff and programming designed specifically to meet

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the needs of younger children. Activities include games, sports, crafts, nature, music and movement, 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 2 through 6 camp, at the same location the weeks of July 6, 20, August 3, and 10.

## The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

Meal Site - Chester  
Sundays 5:00 - 6:00 pm  
United Church of Chester  
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## Chester - Community Listings

### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Chester Land Trust.....(860) 526-2775  
Chester Fair .....(860) 526-5947  
Chester Democratic Town Committee ..... laclymas@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](http://www.visitchester.com)  
Lions Club.....[deepriverchesterct.lionwap.org](http://deepriverchesterct.lionwap.org)  
Deep River and Chester VFW.....(860) 526-3521  
TriTown 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

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

### WORSHIP SERVICES

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



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## Finding Lung Cancer

While lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, it's important to understand that it can be treated successfully when found early. Lung cancer often has no symptoms, making it difficult for people to realize that something is wrong. Most often, early stage lung cancer can be best detected through lung screenings. Lung screenings are ordered by physicians and recommended for those aged 55 to 80 who have a 30-pack year history of smoking. You must also be a smoker or former smoker who quit within the past 15 years and not be exhibiting lung cancer symptoms.

Middlesex Health is a Lung Cancer Screening Center of Excellence. This means that Middlesex demonstrates responsible, high-quality screening practices, and it ensures that the low-dose CT scans used to screen for lung cancer are carried out safely, efficiently and equitably. Early lung cancer can also be detected through "incidental findings," meaning that a suspicious lesion was detected during the reading of a diagnostic test that a patient was having for another medical issue. It is critically important that lesions, regardless of how they are detected, are followed up on as recommended.

The Total Lung Care Center, part of Middlesex Health Cancer Center, works with primary care physicians, radiologists and nurse navigators to coordinate expedited care plans. The goal is to always get you an appointment with a pulmonologist as soon as possible. A timely diagnosis is very important because it allows lung cancer to be treated at an earlier stage. If your lesion is determined to be cancerous, you may need additional care and treatment. The Total Lung Care Center's nurse navigator will guide and support you through all aspects of lung cancer care - from diagnosis to survivorship.

For more information, visit [MiddlesexHealth.org/lung](http://MiddlesexHealth.org/lung).

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# Chester Library

## Adult Programs

Mar. 25

### "In Cold Blood" by Truman Capote

Facilitator and discussion leader Marsha Bansavage will lead our spring book discussion. This program will take place at the library from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and is free, but registration is encouraged. Books will be available at the library on a first-come, first-served basis.

Apr. 22

### "Furious Hours" by Casey Cep."

Facilitator and discussion leader Marsha Bansavage will continue our discussion of Truman Capote and Harper Lee and the trial this book is based on. This program will take place at the library from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and is free, but registration is encouraged. Books will be available at the library on a first-come, first-served basis.

### May 8 - "CT Wine Trail"

Join Michelle Griffis as she talks about her experiences writing for the CT Wine Trail, tips on visiting the wineries on the

trail, various programs and events that the wineries have, as well as the Passport Program and a virtual tour of the CT Wine Trail's website. Town Hall, 7 p.m.

May 20

### The Library Book by Susan Orlean

Facilitator and discussion leader Marsha Bansavage will complete our spring book discussion. This program will take place at the library from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and is free, but registration is encouraged. Books will be available at the library on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Children's & Teen/Tween Programs

Jan. 25, Feb 1 & 8

### Arduino Coding

This STEM/STEAM pilot project made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County will introduce Arduino coding using our new Chromebooks to create fun projects. Class is limited to 12 students, ages 10+ and registration is required. 11 am at the library.

Feb. 22

### Ekklesia Ballet Workshop

This workshop will feature a story book and themed dance and imaginative exercises. At the end, children will put together dance steps they learned together to share a performance. 10:30 am, ages 4-8.

Mar. 25

### Harry Potter Party

Calling wizards of all ages. Dress as your favorite Harry Potter character and join us for a themed party at the library. We will have potion and spell stations, wand making and more! 11 am.

Mar. 28

### NASA Saturday

Have fun learning about space, the planets, and much more! Try out easy-to-use tools and do STEM activities to grow your knowledge about the sun, moon, and how people relate to objects in space. 10:30 am. Ages 8+.

## TOWN HALL HOURS

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY / 9 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 4 pm**

**TUESDAYS / 9 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 7 pm**

**FRIDAYS / 9 am - 12 pm**

Hours may vary by department



**PETER H. CHARBONNIER**

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
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Philanthropy • Leadership • Legacy

## Building Community and Expanding Opportunities - One Grant at a Time

At the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC), we know that *Helping Good People Do Great Things* is a simple formula: together we make a positive impact. We also love sharing stories of what our donors make possible through CFMC grants. One such grant is providing new and exciting opportunities to the individuals of Brian House in Chester. A bit of background ...

### BRIAN HOUSE ADULT VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Brian House is a human service organization serving individuals living in 18 locations in the lower Middlesex County area. Each member of the Brian House community has an individual plan developed through an annual, collaborative, client centered process with recommendations and requests from the individual, case managers, program managers, and the family or guardian(s).

Imagine wanting to take a music class, or hoping to participate in art therapies, or enter Special Olympics activities, or even needing a specialized piece of equipment to aid you in your daily life. Yet the one hurdle you face is the financial support to take advantage of an opportunity. The Enhanced Wellness Fund ensures that everyone at Brian House is able to join in such activities which will add to their quality of life and personal wellness goals.

Brian House was recently awarded a CFMC grant to support the new Enhanced Wellness Fund. This special fund was established in celebration of Brian House's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses in the community, it will offer Brian House individuals opportunities to achieve their personal wellness goals.

Peggy Winkley, CEO and Founder, Brian House, stated "We are thrilled to be the recipient of a Community Foundation grant supporting our new Enhanced Wellness Fund. Thanks to CFMC, many of our individuals will have therapeutic and recreational opportunities that have previously been unavailable to them."

"CFMC's phrase 'Good people doing great things' rings true time and time again," stated Dawn Parker, Director of Business Development, Brian House. "The Enhanced Wellness Fund was created so that many people coming together would bring

extra care and compassion to the individuals served at Brian House. The community has come together to make something great happen. That makes this truly a success. Having CFMC as a partner in this new program is very important to us and to our families."

The Community Foundation knows that Philanthropy Matters and Philanthropy Works. We also know that your compassion and your commitment to support our local community truly make a collective, positive difference in the lives of our neighbors and families.

"Our mission at the Community Foundation is to help our community – our nonprofits, our donors, our businesses – understand the issues and needs right here in our backyard," stated Cynthia Clegg, President & CEO, CFMC. "Our goal is to connect the dots and find ways to make an impact for the benefit of all in our region. We are so pleased to have the opportunity support Brian House and its mission to enhance the quality of life for the individuals they serve by providing safe, caring, compassionate, and supported housing and vocational support."

The Community Foundation of Middlesex County is a community resource, working to enrich the quality of life for everyone today – and forever. We are committed to serving our community in three ways: with donors as partners for giving

**continued on page 14**



Dawn Parker and Peggy Winkley, Brian House, (l) and Josh Webster and his mother Sally Mayer (center) joined Cynthia Clegg, CFMC, for CFMC's radio show "Feel Good Friday" on iCRV to talk about Brian House and Josh's experience as a participant in their services.

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## Community Foundation... continued from page 13

and a resource for information about local needs; with nonprofit organizations as a source of grants and technical assistance; and with the community at large as a force committed to helping our communities thrive over the long term.

The Community Foundation of Middlesex County works with the community for everything which makes our community a great place to live, work, and play. Our interests are your interests, including animal welfare, arts and culture, health

and social services, education, history, the environment, civic improvements, recreation, and economic security and opportunity. To learn more, call us at 860.347.0025 or visit us at MiddlesexCountyCF.org.

## Did You Know?

Publisher's Note: The year 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution. Our "The Last Word" feature found on page 18 of this Chester Events Magazine provides for a commemoration of this milestone and honors the commitment of so many who fought painstakingly over so many decades for women's right to vote. Below, we have compiled a few fun facts regarding women's suffrage.

While voting rights could no longer be denied because of race or sex, after the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendments, many voters still faced ballot restrictions, including registration rules, literacy tests, poll taxes, and moral residency requirements. Source: [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/)

[www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/)

The official colors of the formal woman suffrage movement in the United States were gold, white, and violet, or "Give Women the Vote." Red was the official color of the anti-suffrage movement. Source: [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/history-woman-suffrage-movement-prior-to-ratification/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/history-woman-suffrage-movement-prior-to-ratification/)

Alice Paul, of the National Women's Party, designed a "ratification banner," on which she sewed stars for each state that ratified the 19th Amendment. When she reached 36 stars, it was complete. Source: [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/ratification/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/ratification/)

Not all Connecticut women and men were in favor of women's suffrage. By the early 1900s, the Connecticut Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage had local branches all across the state. Members of the organization thought voting put an unnecessary burden on women. Like many other states in America, Connecticut was split on the issue of women's suffrage. Source: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/connecticut-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>

In 1869, Frances Ellen Burr and Isabella Beecher Hooker (the half-sister of Harriett Beecher Stowe) established the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association (CWSA). This group advocated for women's suffrage in local elections and eventually worked with national leaders to organize protests and demonstrations. Source: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/connecticut-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>

Katharine Martha Houghton Hepburn (mother of actress Katharine Hepburn) co-founded the Hartford Equal Franchise League in 1913, a group that eventually numbered between 20,000-30,000 members. She later became President of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, an affiliate of the NAWSA, actively speaking as a representative of women who were mothers as well as suffragists. In September 1917, inspired by the arrests of the

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White House pickets, she resigned from the Connecticut organization and joined the National Woman's Party. By November 1917 she was on the NWP's National Executive Committee, where she continued to make public appearances on behalf of the cause. <http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/exhibits/suffrage/nawsAlums.html>

In 1918, Katharine Ludington (who settled in Old Lyme, CT) became the President of Connecticut Women's Suffrage League. In 1919, the federal amendment that would grant women the right to vote was passed by Congress and sent to all the states for approval.

Women wanted to vote in the 1920 presidential election and Ludington worked for the Connecticut legislature to approve the amendment because it needed 36 states to be officially ratified, and at this time only 35 had agreed. Ludington organized rallies, mobilized supporters, wrote letters, and tried to convince Connecticut's Republican Governor Marcus Holcomb to call a special session to bring the suffrage amendment to a vote. Unfortunately, Holcomb refused and Tennessee ended up being the thirty-sixth state to approve the amendment. Source: <https://votesforwomenct.com/ct-suffragettes/>



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## A Round of Applause and Many Thanks to You.



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During this season of giving, we give our thanks to you, our neighbors and friends. Thank you for your generosity of time, talent, and resources to support a passion or area of interest that improves the quality of life for all.

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**Thanks to you, great things happen every day in your community.**

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



## **Connecticut Cancer Foundation Comes to the Rescue**

The Connecticut Cancer Foundation, (CCF) helps hundreds of CT cancer patients each year. However, one recent story really stands out. On Wednesday evening, Nov 20, Terri Eickel (Director of Development & Special Events,) received a phone call from Tracie Brown, the wife of Sgt. Ian Brown (Willimantic Police Department). Tracie told Terri that they were in a financial crisis and there was no hope or help for them. Bills were past due, late fees were piling up, and nobody was willing to extend them any grace or compassion. Feeling that she had nowhere to turn, Tracie called CCF.

Ian was the Ambassador for CCF's No Shave November CT campaign, which meant that Ian would receive a significant grant as a result of what No Shave November CT raises. But CCF usually issue the checks in December, once it is known what the whole month has raised. But for the Browns, even a check on



December 2 was not going to be soon enough to stop the repossession of their car, which they need to get Ian to treatment. Obviously, help was needed.

And help CCF did! On Thursday, November 21, CCF overnighted the Browns a significant grant that brought them up to date on their bills and gave them a cushion for December.

When Terri called Tracie to tell her the good news, there was a long silence. Terri thought, "Oh no, is she upset with me? Is something wrong?" And then she realized - Tracie was crying. She was crying from relief and gratitude and once she got her voice back, she said, "Terri, you guys are all amazing! Nobody else would help us and you are saving us! Thank you!"

This is just one story of many. Last year, CCF helped over 500 CT cancer patients. But CCF couldn't have done it without your support! To help CT cancer patients throughout the year please visit [www.ctcancerfoundation.org](http://www.ctcancerfoundation.org).

## **Old Saybrook Chili Fest**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 29th, for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Saybrook Chili Fest, when Main Street will be lined with chili competitors vying for the highly coveted title of "Best Chili."

Chili Fest is a much-anticipated winter event, attracting 3,000+ visitors. The money raised from Chili Fest supports multiple charitable causes. The first is the C. Wilfred Hunter Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce to area students pursuing post-secondary education. Additionally, the top three winners earn a donation to their designated charity. The Chili Fest competition is open to the



The crew from Fresh Salt won the popular vote and "Best Chili" in last year's Chili Fest, awarding their donation to Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services. Photo courtesy Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce.

community. Professional chefs as well as non-professionals compete for votes, with the public casting ballots for their favorite chili. In addition to the popular vote, a panel of independent

judges will conduct a taste test and announce the "Judges Choice" Award. Applications and instructions for entering Chili Fest may be found on the Old Saybrook Chamber web site, [www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/chili-fest](http://www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/chili-fest).

Tickets may be purchased at ballot stations along Main Street and at the Chamber office at 1 Main Street the week preceding the event.

Chili Fest is presented by Guilford Savings Bank and is held rain, snow, or shine along Main Street, Old Saybrook.

Submitted by Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce.



## Offers Unique Opportunity to Community

Since 2005, The BRAYCE Cultural Exchange Program has provided scholarships for marginalized high school students from favela (slum) communities in Brazil to participate in summer programs at Camp Hazen, in Chester. Students may participate as campers or be invited to join the Leadership Training track.

A week's Homestay with a local family follows the camp experience and without question, this is the highlight of the young Brazilians' American adventure.

One of last year's host mothers, Sarah Waterhouse, comments, "The hosting experience is truly a wonderful opportunity, to bring another culture and experience into your home without having to travel. We learned so much about Brazil, their culture, music and food... it was a fabulous experience. The students



2019 Exchange Program recipients with Margot at the Ivoryton Playhouse

are polite, respectful and speak great English. If you have an opportunity to host a student, I would encourage you to consider it. Our family is so grateful for the experience and can't wait to meet the BRAYCE students next summer."

To learn more about becoming a Host Family, or to be put in touch with former families please call Margot Calder at 860-575-8967 or email [mcalder@brayce.org](mailto:mcalder@brayce.org).

### SAVE THE DATE

BRAYCE Annual Scholarship Event on the terrace of the Ivoryton Playhouse featuring Flashdance, the Musical, on Wednesday, July 8. More information will soon be available at [www.brayce.org](http://www.brayce.org).

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## Women's Suffrage 100 Years Later

by Sigrid Kun

### Honoring the Hard Fought Battle for Women's Voting Rights



WOMEN VOTE

Connecticut Suffrage Centennial

The year 2020 marks 100 years since the passage of the 19th Amendment, which was ratified on August 18, 1920. The 19th Amendment reads as follows:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Two simple sentences, it seems. Today, it is unimaginable that this basic right would not exist for women. Yet, the 19th Amendment resulted from a long, incredible struggle for equality and it represents a true turning point in United States history. It is only fitting to take a moment to reflect on this centennial. This brief segment can only present a few historical snippets surrounding the fight and can only point out some of the organizations commemorating the centennial.

#### THE BEGINNINGS

The first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. It marked the beginnings of what would become a national movement for women's suffrage. The first National Woman's Rights Convention was held in 1850 in Worcester, MA. Other conventions followed. The Civil War (1861-1865) effectively halted the women's suffrage movement with activists focused on the abolition movement.

While the movements for the abolition of slavery and women's rights, respectively, were often entangled, the constitutional amendments following the Civil War created rifts.

By 1869, there were two main groups advocating for women's suffrage. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). Lucy Stone and others founded the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). While each entity had the same ultimate goal of winning woman suffrage, their philosophies differed. The NWSA sought change through constitutional amendment while the AWSA focused on gaining rights via individual states.

There were also differences between the AWSA and NWSA when it came to the constitutional amendments following the Civil War. The NWSA opposed the 15th Amendment (the right of a U.S. citizen to vote not to be abridged by race, color or previous condition of servitude) due to the exclusion of women. The AWSA supported the amendment, believing that voting rights for women were not far away. The two organizations ultimately united in 1890 as the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

*"There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers"*

Susan B. Anthony



One of "Hartford's Mothers" Josephine Bennett.

Photo courtesy State Archives at the CT State Library.

#### AN ARDUOUS STRUGGLE

Progress for the women's suffrage movement was painfully slow and rights were garnered state by state. Women achieved voting rights in Wyoming first in 1869. Colorado followed in 1893. In 1896, Utah and Idaho were added. Fifteen states granted women the right to vote prior to the adoption of the 19th Amendment.

The 19th Amendment itself languished for many decades. Drafted by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848, the 19th Amendment was not introduced in Congress until 1878 (30 years after the Seneca Falls convention). It was not until 1919 - 41 years after the amendment's introduction and 71 years following Seneca Falls - that Congress submitted it to the states for ratification. The successful struggle capped heroic efforts by a multitude of women

- including pickets, petitions, marches, and speeches. The suffragists endured mockery, arrests, jail, and even forced feeding after hunger strikes.

#### CONNECTICUT'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Numerous events in 2020 around the country are celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage. Here in Connecticut, the Centennial Commission on Women's Suffrage (co-chaired by Secretary of State Denise Merrill, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Connecticut's First Lady Annie Lamont) was launched to celebrate the 19th Amendment. Merrill calls the 19th Amendment "the largest expansion of democracy our

nation has ever seen." The Commission she adds "celebrates the women who made this victory possible, and take[s] a thoughtful look at the work that is left to be done."

"The moment of achieving a woman's right to vote was a turning point for our country and for our world, that one of the most powerful nations on earth was sending a message that women have the right and responsibility to contribute to our government," stated First Lady Lamont. "That moment opened the door for women to hold positions of power in government, education, healthcare, and of course, in business."

Please see [www.votesforwomenct.com](http://www.votesforwomenct.com) for some of the Connecticut events commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment. The website also provides insightful biographies of some of Connecticut's women suffragists, including Josephine Bennett pictured above.

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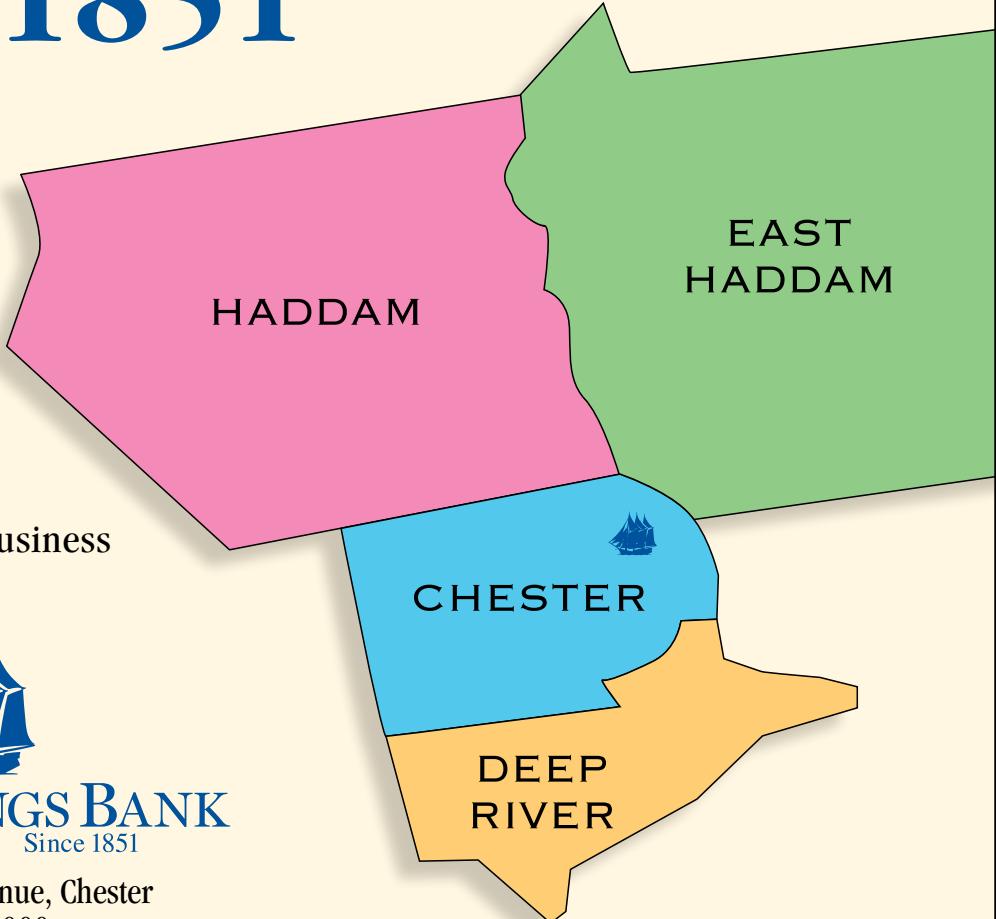
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