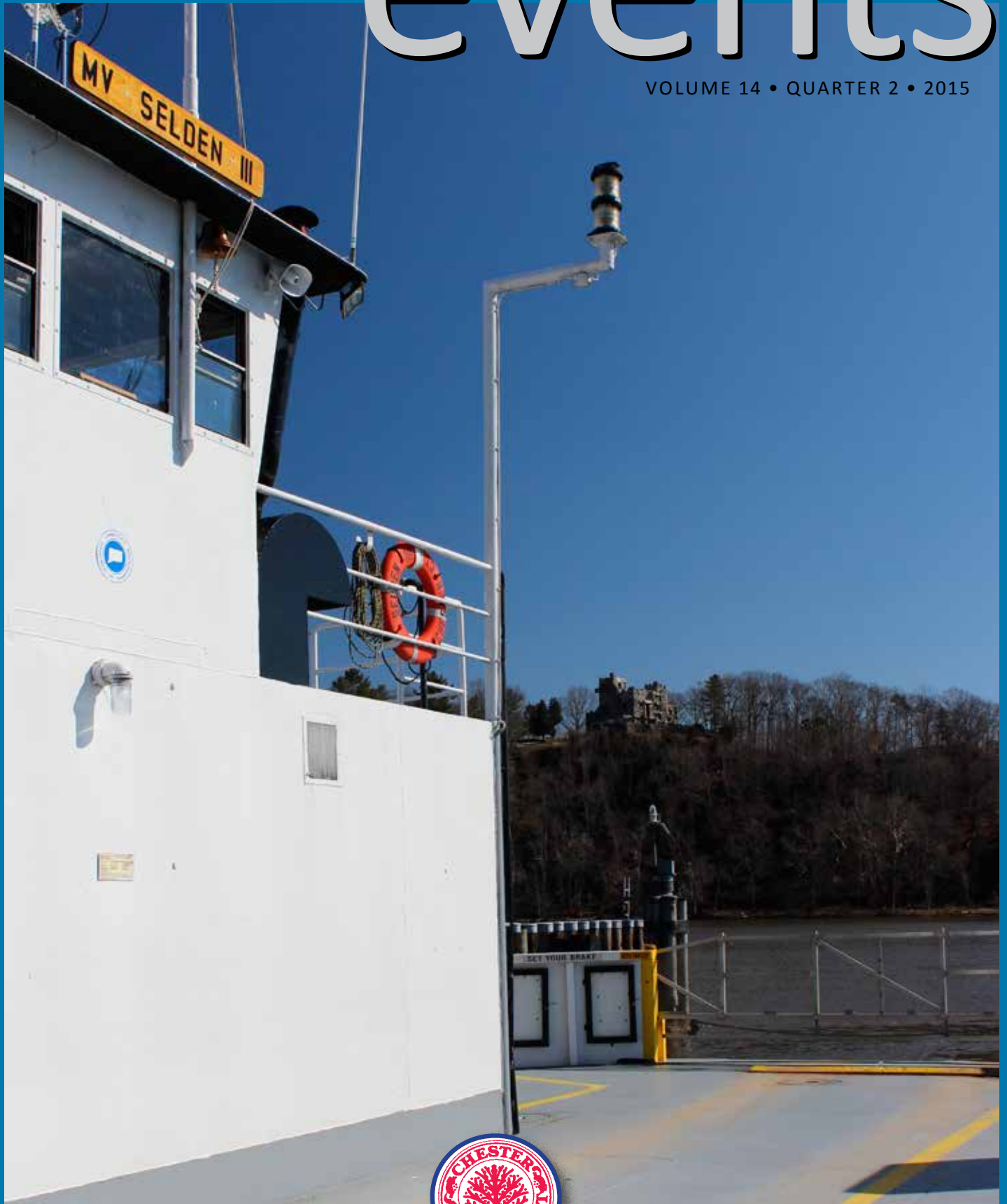


Chester events

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First Selectman's Corner

March Special Town Meeting Authorizations

At a Special Town Meeting March 5th residents approved appropriations for two significant public improvements that have been discussed for a number of years.

Main Street East Reconstruction

The Town Meeting authorized the expenditure of \$100,000 from the Main Street Capital Reserve Fund to begin the complete reconstruction of Main Street from the Maple Street intersection to School Lane. This phase includes new storm water drainage, replacement of the culvert adjacent to the Post Office, new granite curbing, concrete sidewalks, landscape and parking lot improvements at Laurel Hill Cemetery. This \$100,000 is the Town's share of the project's estimated total cost of \$1,025,000 for both engineering and construction. This project was scaled back to end at School Lane; the section east of School Lane to Middlesex Avenue will not be reconstructed but the existing roadway will be milled and repaved.

The advertisement for project bids was issued on March 13th with submissions due on April 9th. The proposed schedule is to begin construction in mid-May and complete work in September. The Town's \$983,000 STEAP grants and \$100,000 of capital funds will pay for the work from Maple Street to School Lane; the repaving

from School Lane to Middlesex Avenue will be paid from the Town's capital road repair account. The next phase of the Main Street improvements is the commercial streetscape between the Main Street bridge and flag pole at the Maple Street intersection. This section will be designed and scheduled for construction after the Department of Transportation complete the Main Street bridge replacement in the fall of 2016.



First Selectman Ed Meehan

North Quarter Park – Community Center Schematic Design

The North Quarter Park Library-Community Center project was authorized \$100,000 to prepare site development options for building location, parking and utility services together with schematic building floor plans, elevations and mechanical design options. The Library Building Committee (LBC) will oversee this project that will take several months of work and public participation to arrive at design and cost estimate that will be presented to residents for possible project bonding. (See Library article on getting involved and current information on LBC public meetings.)

Continued on page 2

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SELECTMAN'S CORNER...continued from page 1

Update on Main Street Bridge Replacement Project

In March the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) issued notice of its tentative determination to approve the Department of Transportation's applications to replace the Main Street Bridge with a new structure. Two environmental approvals are required for the project, a water quality permit and flood impact assessment permit. Both of these permits must be authorized by DEEP before this project can go to public bidding and contractor selection process is complete. The tentative schedule is to begin phased utility relocation work in late 2015 to prepare for bridge closure for removal in January and construction until May 22nd. The schedule calls for the bridge to be open for vehicle use before Memorial Day. Throughout the duration of the closure pedestrian access through the construction area will be provided to facilitate access to Water Street parking and adjacent commercial properties.

Proposed Plan For Pre-K To 12 Regional District No. 4

In February, the Chester, Deep River and Essex Elementary School Boards of Education each voted to request Regional District No. 4, currently grades 7 to 12, to draft a plan to consolidate all grade levels in our three communities into a unified education system Pre-K to 12. The proposal is to dissolve

each of the elementary school boards and expand the current 9 member Region 4 Board to 12 members, comprised of 4 elected representatives from each Town.

The preparation of this plan and its adoption process is governed by statute. When completed this spring the plan will be presented to residents and scheduled for referendum vote by each Town. Approval by all three Towns is required for the plan to become effective. This is a very important decision for our communities to continue and strengthen our excellent education system and improve administrative and budget efficiency during a period of projected declining enrollments.

Residents are encouraged to become familiar with this plan's recommendations before the referendum vote. Contact our Board of Education members or stop by the Selectman's office to discuss – your viewpoints are important.

Stay Informed

Sign up for the Chester Townwide Email Blast! This list is used by the First Selectman's Office only and provides useful information and updates on town events. To have your contact information added please email info@chesterct.org with the subject "town email list."

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Robbie Collomore Concert

The Robbie Collomore Concert Series brings the award-winning Chiara String Quartet to the Chester Meeting House on Sunday, May 10, at 5 pm. This will be the last concert of the Collomore Series' 41st season.

The Chiara Quartet (Rebecca Fischer and Hyeyung Julie Yoon, violins; Jonah Sirota, viola; Gregory Beaver, cello) has established itself as among America's most respected ensembles, lauded for its "highly virtuosic, edge-of-the-seat playing" (The Boston Globe).

Now in its 15th season, the Chiara Quartet is moving forward by taking a cue from the past. Harkening back to a tradition that is centuries-old and still common among soloists, the Chiara Quartet has adopted a new way of performing: from memory, without printed sheet music. After spending countless hours working towards playing their repertoire from memory, they now feel that sheet music is a distraction to the performance, instead of an aid.

Their Chester concert will feature string quartets by Mozart, Bela Bartok and Brahms.

Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$5 for students, and can be purchased by calling 806-526-5162 or go to collomoreconcerts.org. A reception



Photo by Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

follows the concert. Refreshments will be provided by Gabrielle's. The concert sponsor is Ryders Health Management.

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Mistakes Made During January When Paying Taxes

This was a difficult winter on all of us because of the weather and the extra costs incurred when it snowed a lot or the weather was cold and more heating oil was required, or in our case, more wood. But to add to the troubles that the weather caused for each of us, it also caused problems in the tax office. We had so many people not able to come in on a particular day, because the weather was so bad. And then they forgot to come in and pay when the weather was okay. So in some cases, it was the last day to pay, without interest, and the snow storm arrived that canceled many schools and many Town Halls had to close. I did come in and was able to help over 22 people, but Town Hall had officially closed after I arrived here. People were frantic that they were going to be late all because of the weather. The only suggestion I could give was for them not wait till the last day or last week next time. Even the Post Office closed early one of the really bad days that had "blizzard" conditions. Weather causes all kinds of problems and people don't want to slide on the ice or slip in the snow. But the rule is LATE IS LATE, no matter what the weather is or what the reason is. Luckily, the Governor did grant an extra day because of the weather this year, but keep in mind, that does not always happen. So a word to the wise: Do not wait till the last week or the last day! Even in July, we have had some very bad storms, including lightning storms, and even one year, a tornado came thru town. No one would want to come out during that type weather. So, even in July, do not wait for the last week or the last day. You are only earning pennies having the money in the bank an extra week or so, since interest in the bank is so low, but late interest is 3% if even only one day late.

We also had mistakes such as checks were written quickly, and some forgot to sign their checks, and many wrote the legal line wrong, either leaving out a word, such as "hundred" or "thousand." That type error stops us from posting your payment, and then you could be late since we need to try to reach you, so you can provide us with a correct check. If you already waited till the last week, then by the time we contact you, the corrected check could arrive after the due date, causing us to charge interest. Look over your payment to be sure you wrote it correctly.

Also, keep in mind, that you can use your own bank to send us a payment. Set us up as an account with your bank, especially if you do online banking, and then the payment will come from your bank to us, and that saves you a trip into the Tax Office. Be sure to put something specific on the account, so that we know what you are trying to pay. Use your full house address especially for your real estate payment, and that will help us a lot.

It is possible that tax information will be online this coming July 1st, since we have had so many requests for that type service. Watch for info in the coming weeks, to see if that service is approved and available starting July 1st.

Enjoy spring and the nice days that we are sure to have in the next several months. Good luck saving your money so you can pay taxes early in July and not at the end of July. And double check how you wrote your check, if you are not doing online checks.

Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector and
Tracey Ohaus, Tax Clerk

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Chester Library Programs & Events

Thanks to the efforts of the Librarians and the Friends, the Chester Library offers you a wide array of great programs. These include:

In Stitches, the library's adult knitting group, welcomes needle workers of all skill levels to join them on Monday evenings from 6 to 8 pm. Drop in once for help solving a problem, or become a regular, whatever works for you.

Kids Knit, a group of upper elementary school-aged knitters, gathers on the rug on Saturdays from 12:30 to 2 pm with Anne Winslow.

Board Game Nights for players ages 12 and up (of all experience levels) to play new games of skill, strategy, and fun are held the first Monday and the third Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 pm.

Zentangle with Sue Zirlen meets on occasional weekday evenings (when scheduled). Any adult who wants to explore this "meditative doodling" technique is invited. All materials are supplied.

Social media will be the topic on Monday evening, April 27, when Ted Funsten shows how to use some of the more popular sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and LinkedIn.

The **fifth annual Chester poetry reading** will be on Monday, May 4 at 7 p.m. at the Chester Meeting House. Details and

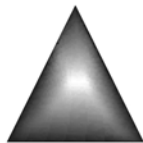
information about the poets will be forthcoming.

Spring Book Discussion on Tuesdays, April 22 and May 5, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Ed Wheeler will lead a discussion of Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*, a novel about the American Dream, sixties counterculture, assimilation, and "success," which is considered by many to be Roth's best work. The novel won the Pulitzer Prize in 1998 and was included in Time's "All-TIME 100 Greatest Novels."

Starting in May, the Library Friends will start collecting your gently read books and DVD donations for the annual **June Book Sale**, which opens June 5. The sale is held during library hours with great items at rock-bottom prices. Please support this event, as the proceeds support all library programs and purchases not covered by the town budget.

Children's Librarian Patty Petrus is organizing the **summer children's program**, titled "Every Hero has a Story." Registration begins in June. It begins with music with Margie Warner on Monday, June 29, and continues through July and August with theme-related activities and the reading program. The **adult online reading program**, titled "Escape the Ordinary," will also be held this summer.

Stay informed about the Chester Library by signing up for our monthly e-newsletter at the library, checking the library news on the town website (chesterct.org) and reading [Facebook.com/chesterctpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/chesterctpubliclibrary).



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

Chester at Play

How did people have fun when there weren't TVs or computer games? Come explore our new exhibit, opening May 30, named "Pastimes in Past Times: Chester at Play." This exhibit will feature team sports in Chester's history, seasonal recreation, and games and toys at home. If you have any stories, pictures, toys or games from Chester's past, we'd love to know. Email chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

The museum will then be open Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm, at no charge. Come visit us.

Waterhouse Millstones

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, this spring we will be moving the pair of millstones, which once stood in front of the old Chester Savings Bank, to flank our museum doorway. Chris Lawrie of Landscape Specialties and civil engineer Nathan Jacobson are working on this project. The millstones are likely to be one of the oldest artifacts of Chester history; they came from a grist

mill operated by Gideon and Abraham Waterhouse on Goose Hill Road. The work will also include new plantings, stonework and signage. We are so excited about this project and so grateful to the Community Foundation for helping make it happen!

Be in The Know

Stay informed about all our programs and new acquisitions for the archives through [Facebook.com/ChesterCTHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ChesterCTHistoricalSociety) or through our monthly e-newsletter (if you don't receive it now, send us an email at ChesterCTHistoricalSociety@gmail.com and we'll put you on the list).

Membership

Approximately 400 people support the Historical Society's ongoing mission to share Chester's rich history through exhibits and programs for all ages. If you are not already a member, isn't it time to become one? Annual dues for members are \$30 (family) and \$20 (individual). New membership forms can be mailed to you by leaving your name and address at info@chesterhistoricalsociety.org. For new members only, your membership will be extended to June 2016.



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Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau

Tri-Town Youth Services has many programs and events lined up for the Spring. Please join us whenever you can!

High on Life

Celebrated this year May 3-9, High on Life week is the twenty-sixth annual substance abuse prevention week. Families, schools, the business sector, the faith community – everyone is encouraged to participate. It takes all of us working together, to make good things happen for our youth, our families, our communities.

Soon you will be seeing our brochures with details of many exciting events planned throughout the tri-town area. Included in High on Life plans:

- School assemblies
- Window painting in Deep River
- Family Fun: Decorate Terracotta Pots for Mothers' Day
- Classroom posters to inspire discussion at all elementary schools

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

The Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition will hold its final meeting of this school year at Tri-Town Youth Services, 56 High Street in Deep River at 9 am on Wednesday, May 20.

Membership on this Coalition is open to all who live or work in the tri-town area who are concerned about substance abuse and interested in its prevention. In addition to ongoing prevention programming in our schools and communities, the tri-town area is currently involved with Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth, an initiative funded through Middlesex United Way. The Coalition also receives funding through the Drug Free Communities support grant.

Please do join the Coalition to share your thoughts, to learn more about prevention, and to get involved. For further information, call 860-526-3600.

Babysitter Training

Learn how to become a safe and responsible babysitter! Tri-Town is now offering the American Heart Association's Pediatric First Aid and CPR course along with a babysitter training certificate program. This course provides an excellent opportunity to help youth, 12-17, to build self-confidence as well as job leadership and decision-making skills. Completion of this course is a plus on your Job Bank application. The \$70 fee includes instruction, books, and certificate.

The spring session will be held on Wednesday evenings, April 15, 22 and 29, 6-8 pm at Tri-Town Youth Services, 56 High Street in Deep River. Classes fill quickly, so register soon – online (www.tritownys.org) or by calling 860-526-3600.

Continued on page 9

Parent/Child Support Groups

What do you and your child get out of playing with us? Parallel play and interactive play. Movement activities. Music. Art development. Social time for parents. Resource library. Groups meet weekly and are led by Meredith Adler, Parent Resource Coordinator. Registration is limited. Call 860-526-3600 to register or go to our website: www.tgritownys.org.

“Outstanding Ones” (children 24 months to 36 months)

Meet: Wednesdays, April 15- June 17

Time: 11:00- 11:30 am (30 minute session)

Place: Tri-Town, 56 High Street, Deep River

Tuition: \$45 tri-town residents, \$55 non-residents

“Terrific Twos” (children 24-36 months)

Meet: Wednesdays, April 15- June 17

Time: 9:30-10:30 am (60 minute session)

Place: Tri-Town, 56 High Street, Deep River

Tuition: \$60 tri-town residents, \$70 non-residents

“Getting Ready for Change”

Have you ever wondered what to say about your daughter’s transition from childhood to maturity? Would you like to learn more about your daughter and teach her about living a healthy lifestyle? These topics and more will be addressed by Health

Educator, Patricia Courmoyer, during this one-evening program! “Getting Ready for Change” is designed specifically for girls in fourth and fifth grade and their mothers. Together you will learn about what happens to girls’ bodies as they go through puberty.

Meet: John Winthrop Middle School Library

Date: May 5

Time: 6:30 pm

Tuition: \$25 per mother/daughter pair

Safe Grad Night

VRHS is preparing 177 young adults for graduation in June.

The Safe Graduation Committee is working hard to ensure a safe and joyous celebration for the senior class by planning Safe Graduation 2015. For many years, with the sponsorship of Tri-Town Youth Services, our seniors have been safe while they celebrate this most important occasion, graduation from high school. The success of the Safe Graduation, depends solely on fundraising and donations. You can help provide an alcohol-free alternative to graduation parties by helping us in our fundraising endeavors. To find out how you can get involved please email Carol Jones at CJones@deepriverct.us. If you would like to make a donation to Safe Grad 2015, please make checks out to Tri-Town Youth Services’ Safe Graduation 2015 and mail to Grace Petroka, P.O. Box 972, Deep River, CT 06417.

“Good People Doing Great Things.”



Community volunteers break ground on a new home with the Aguililar family and Middlesex Habitat for Humanity, just one of the many projects supported by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Learn more online or by phone.

At the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, we know that it’s the little things that count, that can change a community and improve the quality of life for all. TOGETHER we feed the hungry, shelter families, teach young and old to read, preserve local history and land, help people of all ages explore the arts, teach children to swim, support anti-bullying programs in our schools, help those with disabilities experience independence, and so much more. We do this by developing endowments, making grants that have impact, and assisting donors in meeting their philanthropic goals... all made possible by so many good people doing great things throughout Middlesex County. We invite you to join us.

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Animal Control Officer News

Robert Jenkins, Animal Control Officer, who has provided services to the residents of Chester for 29 years, has retired. We wish Bob all the best in his retirement.

Jae Wolf, Animal Control Officer for Essex, has taken on the Towns of Chester and Deep River, and his primary objective for the tri-town area is to provide quality service to our residents, while improving the co-existence of animals and humans. He will provide effective Animal Control services through the active enforcement of state and local laws, and the promotion of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.

To contact the ACO, you may email Jae at jwolf@essexct.gov, or call his cell 860-388-7082.

Chester Parks and Recreation

Make a Splash this summer during 8 weeks filled with a variety of camp experiences run by our qualified staff.

Link to http://chesterct.org/?page_id=7810 for forms, information, and to meet our staff. We are an outdoor program specializing in waterfront activities. Our Camp Counselors are Certified Lifeguards.

Our **summer camp** rivals any camp in the area. We offer swimming, sports, science & nature, arts & crafts, and more, but unlike many camps, children choose most of their activities throughout the day. It is open to children entering **grades 1 through 7** and the hours are from 8:15 am until 3:45 pm, the weeks of **June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27, August 3, August 10, and August 17**, at Chester Elementary School on Mondays, Fridays and severe weather days, and Cedar Lake on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The children take field trips on Fridays. The fee is \$100 per child, per week, and payable at the time of registration. The fee includes all program and field trip expenses, except lunch. Children do not need to be Chester residents to attend.

We offer the option of **swimming lessons**, at no additional charge, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, with our Red Cross certified Water Safety Instructor, and assisted by our certified Lifeguards. The option of **Jazz & Hip Hop Dance** is available each Monday morning during SUMMER CAMP. Chester's dance studio choreographer, Rana Bailey, will teach your child fun combinations or "dance moves" to today's top music. Just fill in the dates on the registration form if you would like your child to participate in either of these programs.

For town updates & information:
www.chesterct.org

Attention Dog Owners and Chester Parks

DOG OWNERS! Please abide by the statutes of our State and ordinances of our Town. Dogs are not permitted on playgrounds or beach parks, except guide dogs. Dogs in other areas of the parks must be controlled by a leash. Dogs may not roam on the property. Any waste material deposited by your dog must be removed before leaving the immediate area.

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 unsprayed 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 am to noon and 1 to 4 pm. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Tuesday the office is open until 7 pm and on Friday the office closes at noon.

Our Local American Legion is Here for Service Members and Veterans

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans' service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

The organization in Centerbrook welcomes all service members and veterans in the tri-town area (Chester, Deep River and Essex). Stop in to see what they offer at 3 Westbrook Road, Centerbrook, 860-296-0719, or call Jerry LaMark, 860-304-0364 for more information.

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The Chester Land Trust 2015

Soon the snow will melt and our work and joy shall begin! 2015 will be a busy year for The Chester Land Trust. We have a calendar of events that we hope will engage Chester residents of all generations. We welcome your participation and help. The Chester Land Trust relies solely on the generosity of our members to support our programs and activities. Catch the excitement and become a new member or continue your membership. Thank you!

Our goals are to affix signage on all CLT properties, build benches, viewing platforms, add picnic tables, construct bird dwellings, replace a beaver baffle system on Duck Pond and hold property clean-ups. And, we are launching new events. Please watch for updates in the weekly eblasts from the Chester Town Hall.

April 18, The Chester Land Trust's Women's Walks: We invite all women, all ages and all abilities! The women of the Board of Directors of The Chester Land Trust will lead one, three and five mile walks that will include some of our properties. Come meet your neighbors, make new friends and help initiate and sustain a women's walking program on a monthly or weekly basis.

Date: April 18th, meet at the Carini Preserve on Water Street (parking at Water Street public parking lot).

Time: 8:30 Five Mile Challenging Course
9:00 Three mile (some hills)
9:30 One mile (flat)

Wear: Comfortable shoes and bring something edible to share for post-walk. The Chester Land Trust will provide tea and coffee.

Contact: Priscilla Robinson: probinson02@snet.net
Karen Kaestle: kkaestle@comcast.net
Marian Bairstow: marian_bairstow@comcast.net
Carol Watts: cfwinteriors@comcast.net

May 1, 2015: The first in the series of Chester Land Trust's "Huckleberry Adventures" will be held in conjunction with the Chester Merchant's May 1st Events that will be held throughout downtown Chester. Those of you who are between the ages of four and four hundred follow the sidewalk to the Carini Preserve because: "Other places do seem so cramped and smothery, but a raft don't. You feel mighty free and easy and comfortable on a raft."

Date: May 1st

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Carini Preserve, Water Street (parking at Water Street public parking lot)

Dress: As a character out of *Huckleberry Finn* or *Tom Sawyer*

Make: A 12" floatable raft (The Chester Land Trust will provide recycled materials and tables to work on)

Race: Rafts will be launched at 6 pm SHARP from the new Water Street bridge and picked-up 100 ft. Downstream.

Prizes: First Raft and Best Costume!

Contact: Karen Kaestle: kkaestle@comcast.net
Dick Harrall: rmharrall3@att.net
Bill Myers: wkm@att.net

October: Annual Meeting. Details to be announced in summer Chester Events.

November 1, "The Fall-Back Run" (turn your clocks back, fall back to sleep but don't miss this RUN!) Run a beautiful 5k (3.1 mile) race course along Cedar Lake Road in Chester, Connecticut.

Date: November 1

Time: 11 am START

Distance: 5K (3.1 measured mile)

Continued on page 13



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CHESTER LAND TRUST...continued from page 12

Course: Out and back mostly flat with rolling hills)

Fee: \$20 by October 26th, \$25 after that

Halloween costumes from the night before...welcomed! Further information and race applications will be posted on our website.

Contact: Steve Cline: s.cline@cldessex.com
Andrew Landsmen: sonscotkem@aol.com
Carol Watts: cfwinteriors@comcast.net
Deb Dembo: heydebs@gmail.com

The Chester Land Trust Contacts

Membership: Karen Kari /kkaren1@gmail.com

Membership fees: Annual: Individual; \$20; Family: \$25; Friend: \$50; Sustaining: \$100; Patron: \$250; Steward: \$500; LIFE: \$1000.

Property Donations or Trusts: Attorney Steve Cline/ s.cline@cldessex.com

Steward Volunteers: Bill Myers/ wkm@att.net
Jenny Kitsen/ jennykitsen@sbcglobal.net

Building Projects: bird houses, benches, picnic tables etc.: Dick Harrall/ rmharrall3@att.net

Any Questions: Priscilla Robinson/ probinson02@snet.net

Estuary Council Regional Senior Center

Greetings from The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. ECSI is a community resource for the nine-town Estuary region's residents over 50 years old providing nutrition, transportation, health support services, education opportunities and socialization. We have been serving Seniors and promoting healthy and active lifestyles for adults 50 and better through quality programs and services in the nine-town Estuary region for over 40 years.

Attention Shoppers, Design Creators, Vintage Courtesans and Treasure Hunters! The Estuary Council of Seniors in Old Saybrook at 220 Main Street is hosting the first annual Junk in the Trunk, A Parking Lot Shoreline Market on Saturday, April 25.

The market will feature vendors and artisans showcasing their one of a kind treasures, antiques, vintage pieces, arts and crafts and other assorted bric-a-brac during this one day shopping event. The market will be open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, rain or shine.

There will be food available for purchase, music, information and tours of our wonderful Senior Center, a gift drawing and much, much more. If you are interested in being a vendor, please call Director, Paul Doyle at 860.388.1611, extension 211.

For more information, visit us at <http://www.ecsenior.org>.

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Chester Hose Company – Chief’s Corner

James E. Grzybowski, Chief

It is inconceivable to imagine Spring is in the air while there is snow still on the ground. After an exceptionally long winter, the grass is starting to show and the flowers are beginning to poke up through the ground. This winter has been especially difficult for all of us. We appreciate all the help from residents assisting to open fire hydrants that became buried storm after storm. Special thanks go out to our Public Works Department for their aide and assistance as they enabled us to navigate our roads when many 911 calls came in for help. So many of you reminded us why we love living in Chester as we witnessed our neighbors helping neighbors through this difficult winter season.

The Winter Carnivale committee was forced by Old Man Winter to postpone Carnivale in February and rescheduled

it for Sunday, April 12. We were honored to host the Chili Cook-off Competition again this year. We hope you all had a chance to partake in the festivities throughout Town!

Keep us in mind when you’re making plans to treat Mom to breakfast this Mother’s Day. Our kitchen crew made up of all Fire-MEN cooks up a feast fit for any Queen. We hope you will join us at the Firehouse on Sunday, May 10 from 8:00 to 11:30 am.

A Fall Craft Fair is in the works as well as several other events.

Follow us on Facebook or check our website for all upcoming events and firehouse happenings.

Help us help others...join our volunteer department.

Is Your Well Water Safe To Drink?

It is the responsibility of every home owner, including owners of rental units, to ensure that well water is safe to drink. Before a home is purchased, whether it is new construction or an older home, the well water should be tested as part of the home inspection. It is also important to test the water on a regular schedule to be sure it continues to be safe.

It is good practice to test the water at least once a year or any time that the water develops a change in odor or taste or if contamination is suspected.

Along with water testing it is also a good idea to regularly inspect a well to ensure the well cap and all connections to the well casing are watertight. Be sure that all hazardous chemicals and potential sources of pollution are kept at least 75 feet away from the well.

Regular testing is the only way to be sure the water is safe from harmful chemicals

and bacteria. If you have small children, it is even more important to regularly test your well. Small children are more sensitive to contaminants because of their size and that they are still growing.

There are some areas of Connecticut where the water contains naturally occurring uranium and arsenic. Homes that are built on old farm ground may contain pesticides in the water. Old industrial sites may be contaminated with volatile solvents like trichloroethylene or benzene that can leach into the ground water or fuel oil can contaminate the water from leaking underground storage tanks.

You can find out more information about testing at certified laboratories, potential chemical health effects and how to treat an infected well by contacting the CT Department of Public Health at 860-509-7296 or www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells.



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Chester Fair Wine Tasting

The Chester Fair will be holding its 4th Wine & Beer Tasting on Saturday, June 6th from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Chester Fairgrounds. There will be wine and beer vendors, live entertainment provided by Jekyll & Hyde, and various local restaurants will be selling food. Admission is \$20, and proceeds will go towards the Chester Fair scholarship program. The Chester Package Store will be sponsoring this event, which will be held rain or shine.

Chester Hose Company Auxiliary Scholarship

The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary will again be offering a scholarship to a well deserving student of a Chester Hose Company firefighter or auxiliary member who has been active for at least four (4) years. The firefighter or auxiliary member must be active now, or has been active within the last four (4) years, or be an honorary member of the Chester Hose Company or Auxiliary. This scholarship is also open to any child or grandchild of a deceased firefighter or auxiliary member who had four (4) years of active service at the time of his or her death. For a complete list of requirements and a copy of the application, please stop by Chester Town Hall and see the Town Clerk or stop into the Guidance office at Valley Regional, Xavier, Mercy, Vinal High School or The Williams School. All applications and supporting documentation is due by 4 pm on April 30th to the address below. A decision of the recipient will be made by May 15th. If you have any questions, please call (860) 526-0013 x203.

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

Septic Tank Pump Out

Chester residents are reminded that the Town ordinance requires septic tanks to be pumped out and inspected every 5 years by a licensed sewage disposal company.

Pumping out and inspection of the septic tank is really preventative maintenance and can save on costly repairs later on. It is much cheaper to pump out the septic tank than to have to replace the septic system later on!

If you have questions, please call Lee Vito, Town Sanitarian, 860-526-0013 ext. 206.

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The Meeting House Players

The Meeting House Players Present “Five Women Wearing The Same Dress,” a comedy written by Alan Ball (American Beauty, HBO’s True Blood). The production opens on Friday, April 24 and continues on April 25 and on May 1 & 2 at the Meeting House located on 4 Liberty Street in Chester, CT. The curtain rises each evening at 8 pm and at 2 pm for a matinee performance on Saturday, May 2.

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress is set in 1992 during an ostentatious wedding reception at a Knoxville, Tennessee estate. During the reception, five reluctant, identically-clad bridesmaids take refuge in an upstairs bedroom, each with her own reason to avoid the proceedings below. As the afternoon – and alcohol – wears on, these very different women discover a common bond in this wickedly funny and touching celebration of female friendship.

The play’s six member ensemble spotlights a gifted troupe of area actors that features Beth Nischan, Abby Roccapriore, Jessica

Davis, Vanessa Vradenburgh, Kristine Donahue and Daniel Nischan. The play is being directed by Missy Burmeister.

Tickets for “Five Women Wearing The Same Dress” are on sale now. Ticket prices are \$20 for Preferred Seating tickets and \$15 for Open Seating tickets. Reservation requests for both Preferred and Open seating are available by calling 860-526-3684 or by e-mail at TheMeetingHousePlayers@gmail.com. Unreserved tickets will be available at the door. We accept cash or check payment only. No Credit Cards. **Please note that this play contains strong language and may not be suitable for children under the age of 14.** For additional information please contact Debbie Alldredge at 860-526-3684.

The Meeting House Players is a not-for-profit community theatre organization. We pursue the theatre arts with the talents and interests of people throughout Connecticut.

Chester Garden Club Scholarship

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

The purpose of this scholarship program is to encourage and promote the study of horticulture and/or environmental-related fields. The Club will award a scholarship in the amount of \$500 to a graduating high school senior or currently enrolled college student from Chester who plans to pursue a degree at an accredited two- or four-year institution with the intent on majoring

in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, agronomy, environmental science, botany, biology, plant pathology or other related fields.

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

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Chester Rotary Continues Fundraising For Food

The Longest Dinner Table Event

Chester Rotary continues its long practice of giving back to the Town of Chester and its residents. The Fund Raisers such as 4 on the Fourth- its noted Annual Road Race on the Fourth of July, and Lobster Festival on September 12th at the Chester Fairgrounds are examples of such successful events. Last year a new event was started called The Longest Dinner Table. Its main goal was for proceeds from the event to benefit organizations such as The Chester Food Pantry, The Back Pack Program and the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. Once again a successful event!

This year The Longest Dinner Table is being held on Saturday April 18 at St. Joseph's Parish Center from 7-11 pm. It is an Adults only event consisting of music, food, silent auction and fun.

Guests are asked to gather together eight people to form a themed table. Create your own dinner menu and cocktails centered on your theme. And after dinner, dance to the Rockabilly tunes of Four Barrel Billy – a local upbeat band.

Remember – buy your tickets, bring your own food and cocktails...create a themed table, dance and support local programs. Tickets can be purchased at ChesterRotary.org or from Chester Rotarians. Chester Rotary cares about our community.

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 one week earlier this year! Opening day was on Saturday, April 11th. Just a reminder that although the Town Clerk's Office no longer sells the licenses, if you have a computer you can go on-line to www.ct.gov/deep/fishing and purchase it yourself or you can go to a neighboring Town Clerk's office to purchase it.

Want to Advertise?

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Troop 13 – Chester/Deep River Boy Scouts

Troop 13 Boy Scouts serves the boys ages 11-18 of Chester and Deep River. The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to help young men develop their character and life skills all while having fun. There is much emphasis placed on assisting these young men to develop into strong healthy citizens who will lead our communities and country in the years ahead. The Boy Scout methods help to promote these ideals through the challenge of putting them into practice with the Troop Program. This is done in a way that is both challenging and fun.

Recent Troop Happenings

Boy Scouts in Troop 13 held their Winter Court of Honor Dinner & Awards on February 11 at the United Church of Chester's Fellowship Hall. After a potluck dinner and dessert the Scouts were presented with rank advancement awards and more than seventy-five Merit Badges

were earned by the Troop since returning from summer camp. On February 6-8, Troop 13 proudly hosted and ran events at the Annual Mattabesett Trail District Klondike Derby held at June Norcross Scout Reservation in Ashford, CT. Eight Troops and one hundred ten Boy Scouts participated in cold weather camping games and thanks to Mother Nature, there was enough snow to make the sled races extra fun. Upcoming events for Troop 13 include, swimming nights, assisting at the Mattabesett Trail District Pinewood Derby for Cub Scouts, attending the Merit Badge Madness at Xavier High School, and spring hikes and campouts.

Information

To learn more information about joining Troop 13 please contact our Scoutmaster, Steven Merola @ 860-526-9262.



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New Urgent Care Center

Middlesex Hospital will open a new urgent care walk-in medical center this spring at 1687 Boston Post Road (at the intersection of Spencer Plains Road). The Center will provide patients with a lower-cost alternative for non-emergency medical care. The Hospital has two other urgent care centers, one in Madison and another in Middletown.

More and more people are seeking lower-cost, more convenient options for their health care needs. As a result, urgent care centers have begun to spring up in many communities to address this consumer preference.

The Middlesex Hospital Center is unique from other such centers, because of the electronic patient medical records system that ties together all hospital medical records, as well as medical records from all Middlesex primary care physicians. This gives the providers at the urgent

care center access to a patient's medical history, as well as allowing for results of the urgent care visit to be reviewed by the patient's primary care provider.

The new urgent care center treats non-emergency health problems, including colds, coughs, earaches, moderate fevers, minor cuts, bruises, severe sprains and more. Patients should seek immediate emergency care for things such as head injuries, broken bones, uncontrolled bleeding, chest pains and any signs of a stroke.

The urgent care center is staffed with physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses, and also has x-ray capabilities.

More information on Middlesex Hospital Urgent Care Centers can be found at www.mhurgentcare.com.

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

Time to Hire a Caregiver?

Have you ever wondered if it is time to get some extra help at home for yourself or a loved one? Maybe household tasks that used to be easy are more difficult now. Perhaps you notice that you or your loved one is not as well groomed as they used to be. Burners on the stove are left on for long periods of time. Food is getting moldy in the refrigerator. Moments of forgetfulness may be happening more often. While there is not an absolute answer to the question of when to hire a caregiver, there are some warning signs.

Here are some of the key factors to consider:

- Bathing and dressing is difficult.
- Confusion, depression, apathy, and forgetfulness are frequent.
- Safety issues, such as falling, become a daily factor.
- Dehydration and poor nutrition are a concern.
- Lack of personal hygiene and incontinence are evident.
- Medications are not taken as prescribed.
- Routine housekeeping and errands are very hard or left undone.

There are many options for caregivers from 24 hour care to help with a bath once or twice a week. A companion can help with shopping, errands or transportation. A caregiver can help with meal preparation. Companions may even provide outings just to have some fun. Supportive care in the home is a great way to allow one to stay comfortable in their home safely for as long as possible. It is always a good idea to make an appointment with the primary physician to make sure that medical conditions are being managed effectively.

For more information call Deborah Ringen RN, MSN, FCN at 860-767-0186.

About Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Inc. is a not-for-profit, Medicare and Medicaid home health care organization serving Deep River, Essex, Chester and the Lower Valley region. Please check their website (www.visitingnurses.org) or call (860) 767-0186 for service information.

Chester Town Hall

203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412
Ph: 860-526-0013 • Fax: 860-526-0004

Town Hall Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:
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Tuesday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Chester

Come celebrate the wonders of Spring with the St. Joseph's Family! We welcome you to join us in the Celebration of the Eucharist: Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 8:30 am.

Our gratitude goes out to all the outstanding parishioners and friends who made the Lenten Friday Fish-Fry an outstanding success and donated clothes for the New Haven shelters. Your commitment and generosity shows God's goodness in action.

Movie Nights: The Knights of Columbus host monthly movies at our Parish Center on Friday evenings at 7pm. There is NO charge for admission. Refreshments are available for a small donation. Here is our current movie schedule.

- **May 15th The Miracle of Father Kapaun** - This is a documentary of a rare man and Korean War hero, Emil Kapaun, Priest and Soldier.
- **June 12th Courageous** (Fathers' Day Movie) - Four men, one calling: To

serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, they are confident and focused. Their major challenge, fatherhood.

Sunday Social: Join our monthly informal second Sunday social gathering after the 10:00 am mass on May 10 and June 14. Coffee, juice, donuts and fellowship at the Parish Center.

Celebrate and witness two Sacred Sacraments

- **First Holy Communion:** May 9th at 10:30 am
- **Confirmation:** Sunday, May 10th 10:00 am

June Parish Breakfast: Delightful breakfast will be offered at our Parish Center from 8 am to 12 pm. Cost per person is \$6. Children under 12 eat free. Menu will include pancakes, sausage, omelets, coffee, tea, and orange juice. The exact date will be posted on our Marquee.

Mission Trip: The St. Josephs youth ministry mission trip will take place

from June 20th -27th. Twenty-one parishioners will participate, fifteen of them teens. Mission work in Ocean City, Delaware will allow our youth to show care for a community through service. Service will include building ramps and decks as well as painting and small household repairs.

You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to believe, trust, let God take over and see what happens. Come worship with us! For information on any of our upcoming events, please call 860-526-5495 or visit our website: www.stjosephs-chester.org.

What is 2-1-1?

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

Chester - Community Listings

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

LIBRARY

Chester Public Library (860) 526-0018

POST OFFICES

Chester Post Office (860) 526-2780

SCHOOLS

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth

If you can't remember the last time you heard something great about young people, you are not alone. Many Americans – in particular those whose exposure to young people is limited to news reports and infrequent encounters in the community – have an image of young people today as disengaged, disrespectful, and irresponsible. With few exceptions, media coverage of young people only serves to perpetuate this negative image.

But the picture isn't really so bleak. In fact, young people today are involved in community service and leadership in amazing and inspiring ways. Teenagers are running their own businesses, writing books, competing in Olympic events – not to mention doing well in school, having great relationships with their families and friends, volunteering in their communities, taking care of their own physical and mental health, and other admirable things.

On the other hand, we know too well that some young people are struggling, in pain, hurting others or themselves. Why do some youth thrive while others don't? How can young people overcome economic, social, physical, and emotional challenges and emerge as competent, healthy adults?

A Reason for Hope

At least part of the answer can be found in research done by Search Institute, a nonprofit organization that studies and promotes strategies for the healthy development of children and youth. On the basis of more than 40 years of research and surveys of hundreds of thousands of young people, the organization has identified 40 experiences and qualities that have a tremendous positive influence on young people from all walks of life.

These 40 factors known as Development Assets, are linked to a multitude of positive outcomes, including success in school, maintaining good health, being a leader, and avoiding high-risk behaviors such as alcohol use, violence, and sexual activity.

The Spring Rummage & Bake Sale

April 25th 9:00 to 2:00 pm

The usual restrictions apply: no computers, no large appliances, no exercise equipment and no large furniture. Start hauling out those unused items from your basement and attic and bring them in. Items brought in before April 18th must be brought to the attic. Delicious, home-made baked goods (cakes, pies, cookies, breads, etc.) will also be available.

United Church of Chester
29 West Main Street

Worship with us on Sunday at 10:00 am
We are an open and affirming church

External Supports and Internal Strengths

The Developmental Assets fall into eight broad categories of human development:

- Support
- Commitment to learning
- Empowerment
- Positive values
- Boundaries and expectations
- Social Competencies
- Constructive use of time
- Positive Identity

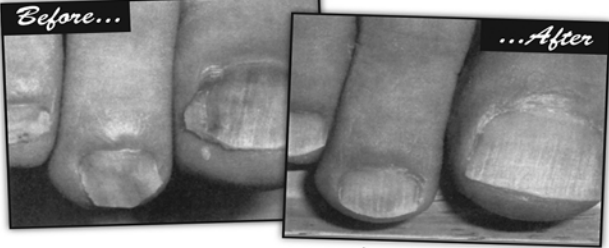
The first four categories focus on the external supports that surround young people; the second four categories reflect the internal strengths and competencies that young people need to develop in order to fully engage with and function in the world around them. Regardless of where they live, how old they are, or the color of their skin, young people who have more assets are more likely to succeed.

Building Assets

Search Institute trainings and resources emphasize that all people in a community have a role to play in the lives of young people, even if it's as simple as greeting them with a smile rather than frowning or looking away – Take a second; make a difference!

Contact Tri Town Youth Services for more information.

**DO YOU HAVE
"Ugly Toenail Syndrome"?**
**Unattractive, thick, yellow,
discolored, brittle toenails**



We Can Help!!!

Introducing a new innovative "laser" treatment for toenail fungus. The "Q-clear laser" is FDA approved. Safe and painless. No longer a need for oral medications or topical creams and solutions!! No longer a need to hide your embarrassing toenails!! Free consultation available.

Call today for an appointment at one of our two office locations.

**HADDAM FOOT CARE SPECIALIST
Dr. Stuart L. Jablon**
1606 Saybrook Road (Tylerville), Haddam, CT 06438

**Marlborough: 860-295-8791
Haddam: 860-345-3674**

Dr. Stuart L. Jablon offers a full array of podiatric services to help you maintain healthy feet.

CT17-18-13

Calendar of Events for Boards and Commissions

All meetings take place at Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, unless otherwise specified. Dates and times may change. Please be sure to check the town hall bulletin board or website www.chesterct.org before attending.

April 20	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Library Board of Trustees	Library	7:30 pm
April 21	Board of Selectmen	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
April 28	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
May 4	Inland Wetlands Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
May 5	Harbor Management Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Board of Selectmen Meeting	Town Hall	7:00 pm
May 6	Public Hearing – 2015-2016 Budget	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Library Building Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
May 11	Energy Task Force	Town Hall	9:00 am
	Economic Development	Town Hall	7:15 pm
May 12	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
May 14	Planning and Zoning Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
May 18	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Retirement Committee	Town Hall	5:30 pm
	Library Board of Trustees	Library	7:30 pm
May 19	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Selectmen Meeting	Town Hall	7:00 pm
May 20	Board of Fire Commissioners	Chester Hose Co.	7:30 pm
May 21	Citation Review Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
May 25	Town Offices Closed for Memorial Day		
	Memorial Day Parade	Downtown	9:00 am
May 26	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
May 28	Annual Town Budget Meeting Vote	Town Hall	7:30 pm
June 1	Inland Wetlands Commission	Town Hall	7:00 pm
June 2	Harbor Management Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Board of Selectmen Meeting	Town Hall	7:00 pm
June 4	Conservation Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Library Building Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
June 8	Energy Task Force	Town Hall	9:00 am
	Economic Development Commission	Town Hall	7:15 pm
June 9	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Workplace Safety	Town Hall	9:30 am
June 11	Planning and Zoning Commission	Town Hall	7:30 pm
June 15	Zoning Board of Appeals	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Library Board of Trustees	Library	7:30 pm
June 16	Water Pollution Control Authority	Town Hall	7:00 pm
	Board of Selectmen Meeting	Town Hall	7:00 pm
June 17	Board of Fire Commissioners	Chester Hose Co.	7:30 pm
June 18	Board of Finance	Town Hall	7:30 pm
	Citation Review Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
June 23	Main Street Project Committee	Town Hall	7:00 pm
July 3	Town Offices Closed		

Spring News from Chester's Energy Team

Have you seen the colorful info cards prepared this winter by the Chester Energy Team? Pick one up at town hall or Simon's and keep it in a handy place. Link to the updated E-Team webpage on the town website (chesterct.org) and check out the energy-saving tips and resources we've listed for you (especially needed after this costly, brutal winter!).

The E-Team and the Chester Elementary School E-Team celebrated the installation of the town hall's new photovoltaic solar array on Feb. 12. The solar array was rewarded to Chester for its participation in the CT Solar Challenge, which had resulted in 20 new photovoltaic and thermal installations around town. Want to see how much power we're generating at the Town Hall? Check one of these links:

<http://tinyurl.com/TownHallSolarKiosk>
<http://tinyurl.com/ChesterSolar>

Consolidating Chester's position as a CT Clean Energy Community, the E-team continues to conduct energy audits of municipal buildings, in an effort to reduce energy usage. The team also provides energy-saving tips for residents through



At the ribbon cutting ceremony for Chester Town Hall's new solar array were (from left to right): Michael Benjamin, Raen Corbett, James Tedeschi, First Selectman Ed Meehan, Chris Lenda from Aegis Solar, Leah Bargnesi, Maggie Treichel from CT Solar Challenge, and Pat Woomer from Chester Energy Team.

Facebook.com/ChesterCTEnergyTeam and the weekly townwide e-newsletter. The team meets the second Monday of each month at 9 am at town hall.

Chester Merchants Celebrate Spring


Since 1992 the Merchants of Chester have been celebrating the beginning of May with the "May Daze Night."

This year, May Daze Night happens to fall on May Day – Friday, May 1 – and the Merchants are throwing a "flower party." Blooms, petals and buds will take center stage during the annual "May Daze" evening of openings and special offerings at the shops, restaurants and galleries from 5 to 8 pm. After the long and brutal winter we've just had, we all deserve a flower-filled Spring celebration.




More info on this and all other Merchants events and activities is available at [Facebook.com/VisitChesterCT](https://www.facebook.com/VisitChesterCT), FindItInChesterCT.wordpress.com and [Facebook.com/AlwaysOnSunday](https://www.facebook.com/AlwaysOnSunday).

Always on Sunday, Always in Chester! Every Sunday, something's happening in Chester Center, whether it's the Bloody Mary Bar at the Pattaconk or a reception at Maple & Main Gallery or brunch at the River Tavern. Before long, the Chester Sunday Market will be open. So pick up an Always on Sunday pin, designed by Janet Cummings Good, and remember there's always something on Sunday in Chester.



CLINTON: Great Investment Opportunity! Live in this well maintained ranch with in-law apartment. Home is set in a private setting, separate entrances, flat lot, plenty of parking and close to I-95 & Clinton Crossing. All features make this a very desirable home to live in. MLS N355474 Asking: \$269,000.



Betty Martelle
860-339-5251
cell: 860-333-7117
[website: bettymartelle.com](http://www.bettymartelle.com)
 33 Main Street
 Old Saybrook, CT

WILLIAM RAVEIS
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Chester Fife and Drum Corps



Welcome to the spring of 2015. 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 planning our fourth (or fifth) uniform in 147 years. We now sport a colonial white shirt, colonial vest and Tricorn with medallion on it. Our new look will be more colonial. We hope to be newly outfitted by the summer.

We play on wooden colonial drums and 6-hole fife in the key of B flat. A little background on fifes and drums: A fifer and a drummer were officially and necessarily attached to each company in both European and American military forces in colonial times. While in camp, they sounded all the duty calls, such as dinner time, reveille and taps. In the field, on maneuvers or in battle, they signaled movements and actions ordered by the officers, such as forward, retreat and fire.

The earliest American reference to the massing of fifers and drummers under the leadership of a fife major or drum major occurs in George Washington's general orders for August 23, 1777, wherein he not only orders the massing, but specifies how they will look or act. So much for ANCIENT history, now back to the future.

Our drum line is 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 also 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 summer schedule is noted below.

- May 9** Sailing Masters Commemoration Parade
- May 23** Chester Tag Sale
- May 24** Cheshire Memorial Day Parade
- May 25** Chester Memorial Day Parade
- June** Middletown Elks Flag Burning Ceremony

- June 13** Gaspee Days Parade 50th Anniversary
- July 3** Canoe Club Middletown
- July 4** 4th of July Parade
- July 18** DRAM
- July 25** Charlemont, MA
- Aug 9** VJ Day Parade Moosup, CT
- Aug 22** Westbrook Muster
- Sept 19** Guilford Citizens Day Parade
- Sept 26** Sudbury Muster
- Oct 17** Moodus Muster
- October** Chester Halloween Parade
- Nov 19** Chester Annual Meeting
- Dec 12** Torchlight Parade

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 see what we are about. We practice from 6:30 till 8:00 pm. Hope you have a most enjoyable summer. Hope to see you at a muster or at a parade.

Frenchy Cordeau, Business Manager and Drum Major Barbara Pynn, President

Chester Food Pantry

The Town of Chester needs your help. We collect non-perishable grocery items to keep food in stock in the food pantry set up at Town Hall. The best foods to donate are:

- canned vegetables
- vegetable and fruit juices
- diced tomatoes
- tomato sauce
- spaghetti sauce
- canned fruit
- dried fruit
- shelf stable fruit cups
- oatmeal
- crackers
- all types of pasta
- cereal
- whole grain rice
- dry milk
- evaporated milk
- boxed shelf-stable milk
- canned tuna, salmon, chicken
- baked beans
- canned chili
- canned beef stew
- peanut butter
- nuts
- jelly, jams

This is only a suggested list. Please pay careful attention to the expiration dates, as we cannot use any item that is already expired.

Thank you for supporting the Chester Food Pantry.

Chester Public Library

Chester Library Building Project: an Update

On March 5, Town Meeting approved the transfer of \$100,000 in unexpended funds to the Library Building Project. This money will do two things. First it will underwrite studies to confirm NQP as a suitable site for a new library. Subsequently it will enable development of the schematic plans. Over the next several months, the Library Building Committee (LBC) will move forward with development of the site plan with grading and drainage proposals and with building floor plans & elevations, proposed furnishings, materials and finishes and descriptions of the various building systems. The goal is to put all the pieces in place so accurate project cost estimating can be accomplished.

There are a variety of ways to get involved or stay up-to-date on the project. The LBC invites you to attend its meetings that are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Find Agendas and minutes on the library website under "Library Building Project" (scroll to the bottom). Follow the library on Facebook where periodic

Looking to Save Energy or "Green" Your Home?

Check out the following resources:

energizeCT.com: Need a home energy audit on a limited income? Want to see if a rebate is available for your energy-saving purchase? Research for an electric supplier? This site covers all the bases for CT businesses and residences. Plus, the benefits and costs of renewable energy options, such as photovoltaic and thermal solar systems, are covered in depth.

energy.gov (U.S. Dept. of Energy): The federal government's website also covers all the bases, such as weatherizing, saving electricity, heating water, landscaping to save energy and purchasing renewable energy systems.

cl-p.com: CT Light & Power's website offers energy and money saving tips and links to energizeCT.com.

epa.gov: Information on environmental topics such as water conservation, composting, indoor air quality, recycling and water quality.

epa.gov/greenhomes: Ways to "green" your home – reduce home energy, conserve water, use renewable energy, choose greener products, etc.

energystar.gov and toptenusa.org: In the market for new appliances, electronics, LED lighting, etc.? Both sites are helpful. The top ten website goes one step further by also rating products by energy cost and price and also gives suggestions where to buy them within your zip code area.

updates and items of interest will be posted, or email the library at Library@chesterct.org with a request to be placed on the Building Project Update distribution list. And, always feel welcome to drop by the library to share your thoughts. Your participation will help ensure that Chester's library services suit Chester just right.

We've got Periodicals!

"Of course," you say, "they're on the window sill." But now they are also on your smartphone, tablet, or PC. Overdrive, one of our sources for downloadable eBooks and audiobooks, is now offering downloadable periodicals through collaboration with Barnes and Noble. Among the diverse titles available, cooks will find *Saveur* and *Eating Well*, the tech-minded will quickly spot *Wired* and *PC World*, while *Runner's World*, *ESPN* and *Bicycling* may appeal to sports enthusiasts. There is *Bloomberg Business*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Mental Floss*, and the *New York Review of Books*; quite a variety. It's really worth taking a look. Visit the library website, click on the Overdrive link and get started. Another nice feature- the periodicals remain on your device until you delete them; there are no due dates...and no fines, either!

Happy Spring!

From all of us at
**Essex Printing
& Events Magazines**



State Police Tips for Summer Safety

Summer is a time of parties, cookouts and vacations and keeping Connecticut residents safe during this season is a top priority for the Connecticut State Police.

As summer begins and the temperatures rise, jumping into a pool or a cool natural water source offers great relief. That type of refreshment, however, can spell disaster if children are not properly supervised.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that an annual average of 383 pool- and spa-related drownings of children 14 and younger occurred from 2006-08. About three-quarters of those drownings involved children younger than age five. Each year, about 5,000 pool or spa-related injuries occurred for children 14 and younger. Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths for children aged 14 and younger in the United States. A child can drown within seconds of going underwater, even in just one inch of water, often without any sounds or warning. Parents should be extremely vigilant whenever their children are near water.

Besides water safety, State Police remind residents that they should never leave their children unattended in a closed or locked motor vehicle. Parents, guardians, day care providers and babysitters should be educated about the dangers involved

in leaving children in cars. Children are sometimes supervised less during the more relaxed summer months and may play in unlocked cars or trunks. Children should never be left in a locked car or have access to unlocked, parked vehicles or trunks. During summer weather, temperatures inside of a car can rise into the triple digits in just a matter of minutes. Studies on thermal injury to children show that "dry heat" temperatures, within a closed vehicle, can become dangerous to small children and infants in only minutes. A high level of humidity can reduce that time by one half. Body temperature in children increases three to five times faster than that of an adult, leaving them more vulnerable when left unattended or trapped inside a motor vehicle. Even temperatures as low as 60 degrees Fahrenheit can become dangerously high in an enclosed auto within minutes and can cause heatstroke or death.

While spending time outdoors, remember to wear a helmet for many activities. Adults and children should put on a helmet before getting on a bike, a scooter, a skateboard or a motorcycle.

Since elderly are especially susceptible to the high heat and humidity, make it a point to check on older neighbors and parents. Ensure that they are drinking plenty of water and staying out of the heat during peak temperature hours.

Continued on page 27

*The latest Events for all our towns
in one convenient place –
plus town information,
photos and links*

eventsmagazines.com

**BRANFORD • CHESTER • CLINTON • EAST HADDAM
EAST LYME • ESSEX • GUILFORD • HADDAM
MADISON • MONTVILLE • OLD LYME
OLD SAYBROOK • VERNON • WESTBROOK • WOODBRIDGE**

Coming Soon – Updated website

TIPS FOR SUMMER SAFETY...continued from page 26

- Never leave children (even those who can swim) unattended in, around or near pools or other water sources – not even for a few moments. A child can drown in the moment it takes to answer a phone.
- Never swim alone. Use the buddy system and maintain eye contact.
- Keep pool area locked and secure when not in use.
- Swim only in supervised and approved areas.
- Keep rescue equipment near the pool. Have emergency flotation devices and a phone near the pool.
- Enroll children in swim lessons.
- Enforce water safety rules. No running, pushing or dunking.
- Never falsely claim to need help in the water.
- Take all toys out of the pool when not swimming so that children will not be tempted to go after the toys.
- Learn CPR and water rescue techniques.
- Have a professional inspect all entrapment hazards in the pool, including the pump and drain.
- Know and mark the location of the electrical cut-off switch for the pool pump.
- As Connecticut residents cool down this summer, keeping safe at the pool, lake or Sound must remain a top priority. By following these simple rules, tragedy can be avoided..

Shoreline Soup Kitchens

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries provides food and fellowship to people in need and educates the community about hunger and poverty, serving the Connecticut shoreline towns of Essex, Chester, Clinton, Madison, Old Saybrook, East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme, Killingworth, Westbrook and Deep River. Founded 26 years ago, in 1989, at the Baptist Church in Essex, the agency continues in its mission to feed the hungry in body and spirit. Last year with a small staff and over 900 dedicated volunteers, SSKP served almost 950,000 meals worth of food to shoreline neighbors in need.

The most needed items are:

Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, salmon)	Canned & Boxed Meals
Canned Fruits & Vegetables	Canned or Dried Beans
Peanut Butter	Pasta & Rice
	Cereal

Items not accepted:

Rusty or Unlabeled Cans	Canned Items
Perishable Items	Alcoholic Beverages & Mixes
Homemade Items	Open or Used Items
Noncommercial Packaged or	

For more information call (860) 388-1988 or cbellerjeau@shorelinesoupkitchens.org or visit www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org.

Your Photo Becomes Our Cover

Take a photo capturing the spirit and beauty of one of our Events towns and it could be selected to be on the cover. We will be selecting a prize-winning photo from the entries in this year's Chester Fair Town Photo category. (see www.chesterfair.org for contest rules)

Memorial Day Parade – Monday, May 25

The annual Memorial Day Parade and Exercises in Chester is planned for Monday, May 25th with Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Watrous serving as Parade Marshal. All service people, interested groups and residents are invited to participate. We would also like to encourage children riding on decorated bicycles alongside the parade.

Your participation in the traditional Memorial Day Parade is encouraged and welcomed. If you are interested in participating in this special day of

remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service, please contact the Town Hall at 860-526-0013 ext. 202 for more information.

If anyone has a convertible that they would like to drive in the parade, there is a Chester veteran who would love to ride as a passenger. Please call Jerry LaMark 860-304-0364, he would love to hear from you.

The formation of units will start at 8:30 am at St. Joseph's Parish Center on Middlesex Avenue. Parking will be on the right side of the parking lot and parade formation will

be on the left. Upon arrival, you will check in with Bruce Watrous or Jerry LaMark and they will guide you to your position in the lineup.

Please support our military members – past and present – and take part in making this event a special day of remembrance.

Lt. Colonel Bruce Watrous
Ed Meehan, First Selectman
Larry M. Sypher, Selectman
Tommy K. Englert, Selectman

It is Not Too Early to be Aware of Ticks!

Information from the CT Department of Public Health

Prevent Lyme Disease

What steps can be taken to prevent Lyme disease?

Preventing Lyme disease takes thoughtful preparation. It requires that you prevent ticks from getting on your skin. When you go outside into areas where ticks can be found, it is helpful to:

- Avoid tall grass and over-grown, brushy areas.
- Stay in the middle of the trails when hiking in the woods.
- Wear light-colored clothing so the ticks can be easily seen.
- Wear long pants to provide a better barrier than shorts.
- Tuck pants into socks creates a barrier and ticks will not be able to get to your skin.

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and closed shoes when in tick infested areas.
- Use insect repellent to significantly reduce the chance of tick bites and the transmission of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases.
- DEET is the primary active ingredient in most tick repellents and is considered the most effective. It must be used as directed on the container.
- Examine yourself, your children, and pets for ticks when returning indoors.
- Remove feeding ticks as soon as possible. Ticks need to feed for 24 hours before transmission occurs.
- When returning indoors, shower using a wash cloth or buff to remove walking ticks on your body. Ticks have a tendency to walk on the body before biting and feeding.

- Talk to your veterinarian to find out how to protect your pets from tick bites.

The sooner ticks are removed from the body the less likely you will get Lyme disease.

Most people with Lyme disease do not remember being bitten by a tick because a tick bite is not felt; unlike mosquito bites. Ticks are very small and difficult to see, and many people do not get the expanding red rash that resembles a bull's eye and identifies Lyme disease infection.

If you have any signs or symptoms of Lyme disease, especially after a tick bite, contact your doctor right away.

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley Murtha Scholarship

The Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is offering the Murtha Scholarship for 2015. These scholarships are available for residents of Essex, Deep River, Chester, and Old Saybrook, who intend to pursue a career in health care, with preference given

to those entering the nursing profession. We are very grateful to the Murtha family for providing us with the resources to offer these scholarships. We have provided tuition assistance to over 20 local youth and non-traditional students, and are

looking forward to doing it again this year. **For more information and copies of the scholarship application, please contact Susan Maxwell at (860) 767-0186.**

BRAYCE Pizza Party



BRAYCE (Brazilian American Youth Cultural Exchange), a Chester-based non-profit, will hold its Annual Scholarship Fundraiser, the BRAYCE PIZZA PARTY, on Friday, June 19th, 2015. Join us beside the Connecticut River in Deep River from 6 - 10 pm, and enjoy the best pizza on the shoreline served by the Big Green Pizza Truck. The cocktail hour will feature surprise entertainment followed by live music, a great silent auction, open bar and more. Go to www.brayce.org and click on "events" for more information, purchasing tickets and to view some of our silent auction donations. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Established in 2005, by Margot and Richard Calder, BRAYCE is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to socially excluded children and teenagers from favelas (slums) in Brazil and providing opportunities to American college-age students to perform community service in these same communities.

Chester Ambulance Association Scholarship

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

Center Podiatry Foot Pain Specialists



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Valley Baseball's New Dugouts

If you haven't driven up to the Valley Regional High School lately then you haven't seen the four new dugouts sitting on the baseball and softball fields. They are a result of the hard work and determination of a group of dedicated, baseball players (now seniors) and their parents.

It was freshman year when this core group of ballplayers had a dream to have dugouts built before they graduated from Valley. The school budget didn't include money for that kind of capitol expense, so the weight of seeing this dream realized fell on the shoulders of these kids. Led by senior Ethan Petroka, they engaged the Baseball Booster Club to help raise funds and the four year journey began.

First, they had to find a local architect to draw up plans and have them approved by the Deep River Building Official. With plans in hand, the boys approached the Superintendent and attended a Region 4 Board of Education meeting to present their idea and to gain approval. It was at this time that the boys were educated on the Title IX Education Amendment of 1972 which would require that they also build two dugouts for the girls' softball field as well. Their big dream now became a huge dream! And the amount of money needed was doubled!

Along with Petroka, seniors Evan Makowicki, David Bradbury and Peter Jones, and juniors Jacob Meketa and Arik Sypher pitched



their idea personally to local businesses and merchants by going door-to-door, writing letters or making phone calls. They attended meetings of the Rotary Club, The Lions Club and the Region 4 Foundation and reached out to the tri-town area Little Leagues.

Despite all of their hard work and time commitment, when the money was counted late last spring, they were still shy of their goal. Petroka decided to begin another letter writing campaign and it was through this process that Ethan met both Mr. Herb Clark and Mr. Norm Needleman. Both of these local business

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NEW DUGOUT...continued from page 30

owners were so impressed by the dedication and determination of the players and because they both concurred that the high school should have dugouts, they offered to make up the shortfall! Construction could now begin!

So in June of 2014, the architectural plans were redrawn gratis by Thomas Lee Elliott, AIA and work was started. Most of the work was accomplished by volunteer efforts from the players, their parents and tradesmen who donated their time and talents. Local companies, such as Haynes Materials, Essex Concrete and Ring's End Lumber either donated materials or offered building supplies to the group at a discount. Greg Peterson and his crew of Peterson's Dirt Works donated their time as they did the excavation, site prep and concrete portion of the project. Local stone mason Scott Hartzell, built the stone block dugouts and offered his services at a discount since Ethan and Evan volunteered their help, sometimes working from 5 am until 7 pm! Framing was done at no expense to the project by parents John Petroka, Tom Makowicki, Michael Martorelli and Paul Dona; while the roofing was donated by Marco Amaya Home Improvements. The finishing touch was the installation of the homemade benches in each dugout donated by the Jim Sypher family. All-in-all the project took over three months to complete, with work continuing into September as Ethan and Evan would head down to the dugouts afterschool and on the weekends.

It has been a long haul for all who supported the project from inception to completion. The Booster club could not have provided all the support needed without the generosity of the local businesses and civic groups who got behind this worthwhile project.

The Valley Boys baseball team is looking forward to the upcoming season which begins in March. They have a new head coach, Mr. Gray Marineau who shares the enthusiasm for the sport and for all the new changes at Valley with that of the ball players returning to his squad. How appropriate it is that the seniors of the class of 2015 can enjoy the fruits of their labor this season when Valley takes the field and they get to use the new dugouts. Come out and catch a game and support Valley Regional High School baseball and of course, check out the new dugouts!

LIST OF DONORS:

The Valley Regional High School Baseball Booster Club would like to thank the following for their support and either their generous monetary donation or a donation of goods and services towards the new Valley Regional High School Dugouts. It was because of their generosity that the dugouts could be completed!

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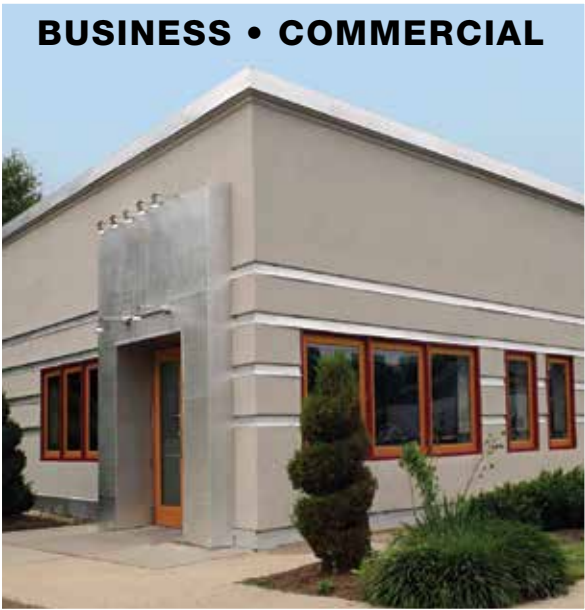
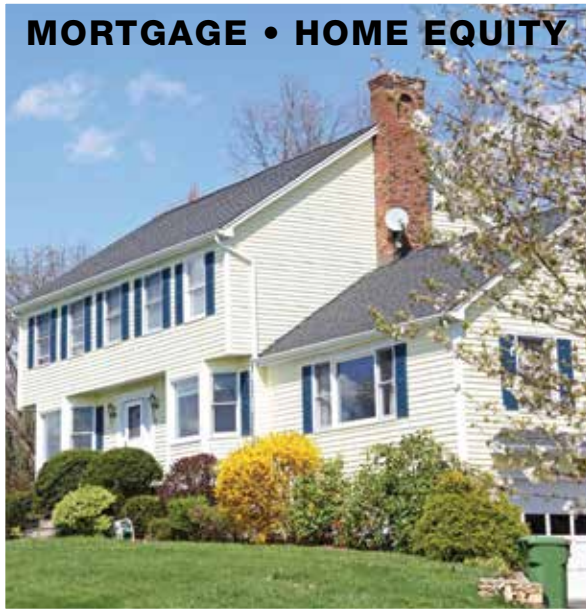
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