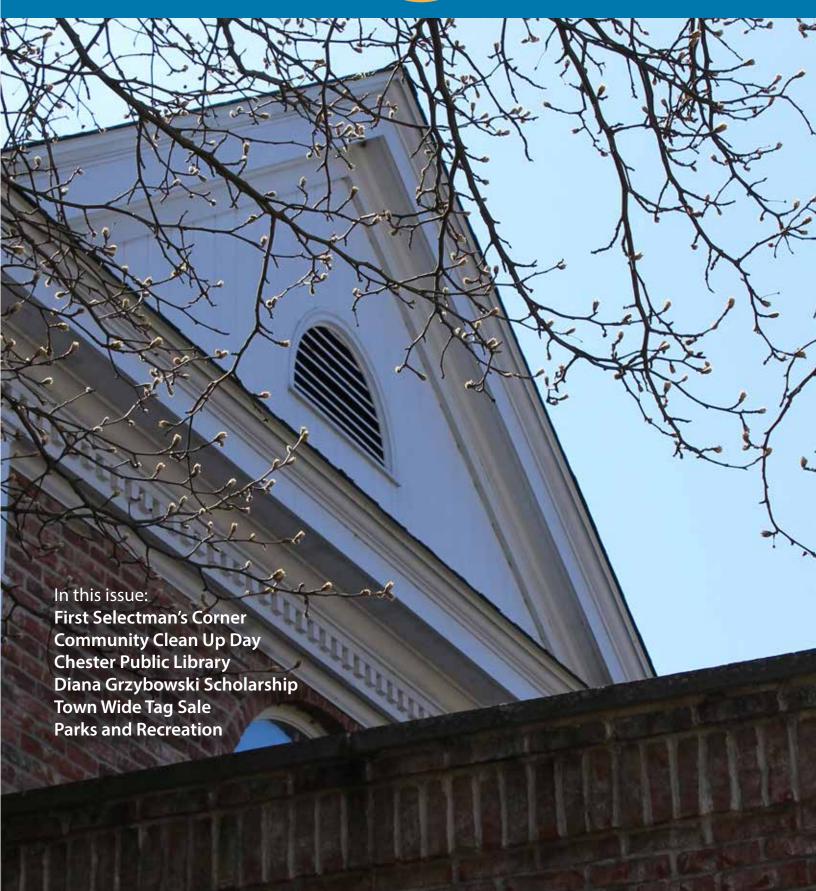
Chester

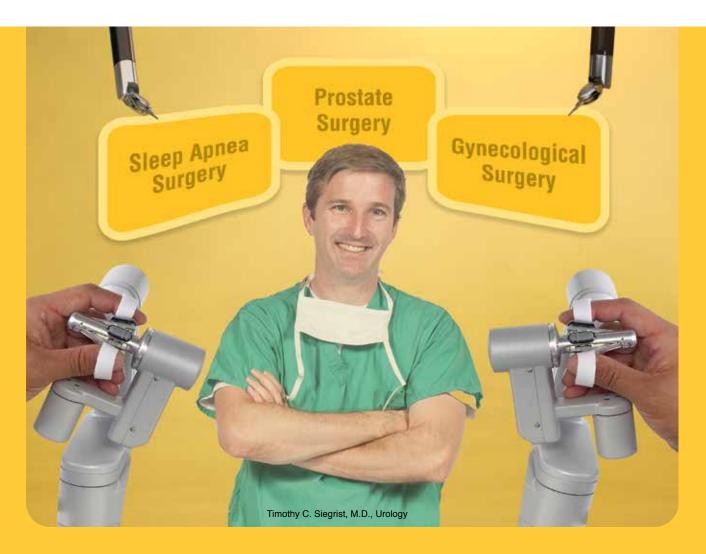


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Volume 11 • Quarter 1 • 2012





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First Selectman's Corner

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget Preparation

The Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance began the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget in January. In preparation for the new budget year which begins July 1, six workshops are scheduled during February, March and April. At these public sessions departmental budget requests are carefully evaluated. Both routine operational expenditures and capital items such as equipment and vehicle purchases and building maintenance are discussed. The goal of these workshops is to bring to Chester's taxpayers a proposed budget that maintains services and schedules capital expenses over the years to spread out costs.

The draft 2012-2013 budget will be presented at a public hearing on May 1st and after making adjustments set for Town Meeting vote on May 15th. All workshops are open to the public. Consult the Town's website for dates and times.

Estuary Region Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Connecticut River Estuary Towns are again partnering to sponsor Household Hazardous Waste Collection days at the Essex Transfer Station - over the next seven months 12 Saturday dates will be available for residents to drop off "FOR FREE" acceptable household waste materials such as batteries, auto fluids, oil-based paints, weed and insect sprays. Last year 199

Chester households and 2,187 area wide households used this valuable service. For more information go to www.crerpa.org.

Chester E-Team: Reduces Costs and Greenhouse Cases

Chester's E-Team members are a valuable and knowledgeable asset that help Chester reduce our electrical costs by purchasing renewable clean resources. With guidance from the E-Team the Board of Selectmen voted to

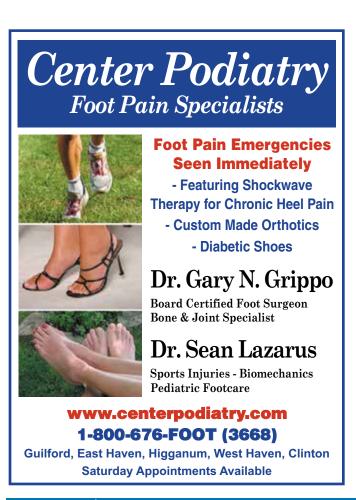


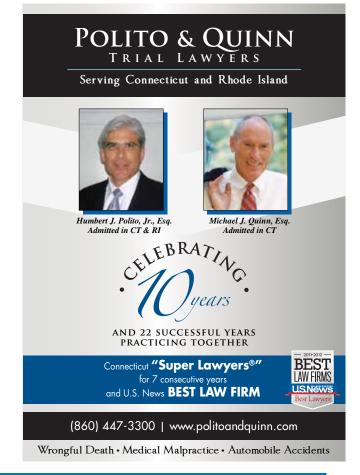
First Selectman Ed Meehan

acquire electricity from Dominion Energy Solutions. Dominion is a provider of electricity generated from solar, fuel cells and hydropower that have lower emissions and impacts on our environment than conventional fossil fuel sources. The switch to Dominion will realize an estimated \$2,800 savings per year.

In addition to changing suppliers the Board of Selectmen agreed to purchase a small amount of Renewal Energy Credits that will qualify Chester as a "Clean Energy Community". This designation is given to communities that demonstrate that at least 30 percent of the electricity used by municipal facilities

continued on page 2





• Selectman's Corner continued from page 1 •

is from clean renewal sources. This achievement enables Chester to receive a free solar photovoltaic electrical system that could be installed on a municipal building. This solar array would produce an estimated 4300 Kwh per year, saving \$500 to \$700 per year in electrical costs.

Spring Projects:

Chester Library. The State Historic Preservation Office approved a \$20,000 grant for conceptual designs for library renovations and possible expansion. The Library Expansion Committee selected the architectural firm of Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. (DRA) to lead this study. The DRA contract was signed March 5th. This project is expected to take three to four months to complete.

Middlesex Turnpike-Denlar Drive Water Main Extension. Project construction documents have been completed by the Connecticut Water Company engineering staff; request for contractor bids were advertised March 6th with a submittal date set for March 29th. The Connecticut Water Company will review bid proposals and recommend the lowest qualified contractor to the Board of Selectmen for appointment. Construction is expected to begin in late April.

Main Street Project. On March 6th the Main Street Committee issued requests for engineering and design teams

to submit their qualifications to prepare a master plan for Town Center streetscape improvements. Responses are due on March 27th. The Committee will schedule interviews with their top choices and select the preferred consultant for review and appointment by the Board of Selectmen.

Water Street Bridge Replacement

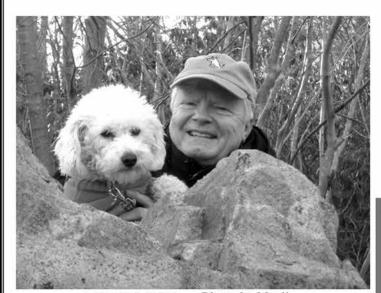
The Connecticut Department of Transportation awarded the Water Street Great Brook Bridge replacement project to Black and Warner Construction of Unionville. The contract price is \$1,117,000.

The contract stipulates work periods based on environmental restrictions to limit brook disturbance during spring spawning season and traffic control conditions to manage higher summer vehicle usage on Water Street.

The contractor will have 240 days to complete the bridge replacement. The work period starts April 1st and runs through the end of November. Three construction stages are anticipated. The first will be April 1st to July 5th for overhead utility relocation and roadway work, no permanent road closures except for incidental utility work. The second stage will be July 5th to Labor Day for removal of the old bridge and preparation of Great Brook for the new box culverts, one lane closures for alternate traffic control will be required. The third stage will

continued on page 4

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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.

— Debra Germini Calamari, Town Clerk

Annual Chili Cook-Off

We were honored again to host the Annual Chili Cook-Off. Thank you to all competitors for participating in this years Chili Cookoff as well as the 1,175 people who joined us for this exciting event. Congratulations to this years winners:

Best Table: Bill's Seafood. **People's Choice:** Chester's BBQ, Mount St. John, Bill's Seafood. **Most unique:** River Tavern. **Best Firehouse:** Deep River Fire Department.

Please watch our sign in front of the firehouse for these upcoming events: Easter Egg Hunt - Noon Sharp Saturday April 7, Mothers Day Breakfast - Sunday May 13.

The Chester Hose Company is celebrating 100 years of service to the Town of Chester. Mark your calendar and join us for our celebratory parade to be held June 9, through downtown Chester.

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

— Chief Charles F. Greeney, Jr., Chester Hose Company

• Selectman's Corner continued from page 2 •

begin after Labor Day and continue to project completion. During this last stage the new box culverts, roadway paving and site restoration are scheduled. For this last stage Water Street will be closed to through traffic.

Average daily traffic on Water Street is approximately 2,200 vehicles. Detour routes will direct east bound traffic onto Main Street through the Center and North Main Street to East Liberty and Goose Hill. West bound traffic will detour from Middlesex Avenue to Main Street through the Center or use Kings Highway, East Liberty or Story Hill to reach West Main Street. Several "Business Access" signs will be located at detour points to guide motorists to the Town Center.

- First Selectman Ed Meehan

Chester Community Clean Up Day – April 28, 2012

Do you like to work outdoors? Do you have a lot of pent up energy and are you looking for a fun and rewarding activity that would help to beautify the Town of Chester and help the Public Works Department? Then join us on Saturday, April 28th, and help spruce up the parks and roadsides and community buildings so that community pride can shine brightly!

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

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

1st Annual Run for Chris

First Annual RUN FOR CHRIS 1-3-5 Oddman/Woman 5K: Saturday, June 23; Essex Town Hall. Benefits Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund at MCCF for education. Chris was a 2005 graduate of VRHS. Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. Kids Fun Run - 8:15, 5K - 8:45. Walkers' welcome. Register online: www.raceit.com/register/?event=9564. \$20.00 (\$23.00 after June 9th). T-shirts to the first 200 applicants. Challenge yourself to this new course of rolling hills in beautiful Essex. Prizes awarded to 1st, 3rd, and 5th place in 10-year age groups. Any questions contact Robin Chapin: robinc83@ gmail.com; 860-767-1541, OR Cathy Bishop: cbishop56@ sbcglobal.net; 860-767-0354.

We Apologize...

The last Chester Events omitted Debra Calamari's name on the Chester Town Hall page, and had Tracy Ohaus in the wrong job position.

CHESTER TOWN HALL

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THE CHESTER TOWN HALL • www.chesterct.org

		g		
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	EXT.			
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ANIMAL CONTROL				
Robert Jenkins	860-767-3219			
ASSESSOR				
Loreta Zdanys	512	Assessor@chesterct.org		
ASSISTANT ASSESSOR				
Sheila Ahearn	512			
BUILDING				
Ron Rose	207	BldgOfficial@chesterct.org		
FINANCE				
Peter Evankow	215	Finance@chesterct.org		
ACCOUNTS CLERK				
Sharon Echtman	216			
FIRE MARSHAL				
Richard Leighton	212	FireMarshal@chesterct.org		
FIRST SELECTMAN				
Ed Meehan	202	FirstSelectman@chesterct.org		
HUMAN SERVICES		_		
Rosie Bininger	213	HumanServices@chesterct.org		
INFORMATION	202	Info@chesterct.org		
INLAND WETLANDS		•		
Anna Sweeney	212	InlandWetlands@chesterct.org		
PARKS AND RECREATION				
Elizabeth Netsch	223	ParkRec@chesterct.org		
PLANNING AND ZONING				
Judy Brown	208	ZoningOfficial@chesterct.org		
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Trooper Matt Ewing	860-526-3605 PoliceServices@chesterct.org			
PUBLIC LIBRARY	000 020 00	T UNDOOFFICES SHOOLOID. SIG		
Linda Fox, Library Director	860-526-0018			
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	000-020-0010			
John Divis. Foreman	860-526-0020			
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS	000-020-0	020		
Charlene Janecek / Tracey Ohaus	211	chesterregistrar@chesterct.org		
SANITATION	211	chesterregistral@chesterct.org		
Lee Vito	206	Sanitarian@chesterct.org		
TAX COLLECTOR	200	Samilarian@chesterct.org		
Madaline Meyer	513	TayCallastar@abastarat ara		
TAX CLERK	อเง	TaxCollector@chesterct.org		
-	F40			
Tracey Ohaus	513			
TOWN CLERK	F44	Town Olayle Sahaatayat aya		
Debra Germini Calamari	511	TownClerk@chesterct.org		
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK	=44			
Sharon Echtman	511			
TREASURER				
Elizabeth Netsch	214	Treasurer@chesterct.org		
WPCA	230	wpca@chesterct.org		

www.chesterct.org

Tax Collector Prepares for Busy Tax Time

Yes, it is spring and flowers are growing and birds are chirping, but spring time means the Tax Office is busy preparing for the busy June prep time and July collection time! Tax payers are reminded to read their bills carefully when they arrive, sometime after the middle of June each year, and try very hard not to wait till the last week for questions or problems. We handle over 6000 bills at this time, and if each person waited till the last minute, we would not be able to help each person efficiently with long lines.

So, first step...read your bill carefully. Next step, call or stop by the Tax office if you have a tax amount question or mailing

Easter Egg Hunt

The Chester Hose Co. Auxiliary will host their annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Chester Fire House on High Street on Saturday, April 7th at noon. Ages 1 to 10 are invited to participate. Children should bring their baskets.

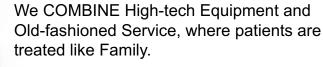
address correction. Call or stop by the Assessor's office if you have an assessment question or you sold a motor vehicle that is being billed and that plate number did NOT get put on a different motor vehicle that you own. And lastly, remember to write your check, sign your check, and mail or drop off your check before the last week of July and avoid the rush. If you prefer to use "online" payments with your bank, be sure to put something significant on the account info that will allow us to post the payment accurately. An old bill number does NOT help especially since our computer has an archive capability back till grand list year 2003 only. Please remember, do NOT double your motor vehicle bill. The amount that shows up on your MV bill in the box marked "Amount Due" is the amount for that particular bill for a whole year. Some people try to avoid having to write a check in January, but only a few people get another bill for MVs, such as the person who purchased a new MV during the year. We will be keeping the hours for July as Mon, Tues, Thurs from 9-12 and 1-4 p.m. & Wed just 9-12. We will try to be open on the FIRST Fri of July & the LAST Fri of July just 9-12.

Good luck to one and all paying their taxes on time and good luck to us in the tax office, that it will be another good collection year for the Town of Chester.

- Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector

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Two Spring Concerts of the Robbie Collomore Music Series

Wrapping up its 38th season, the Robbie Collomore Music Series is bringing two world-class performers to the Chester Meetinghouse.

On Sunday afternoon, April 22, avant-garde performer Iva Bittova performs, accompanied by bassist George Mraz. Reviewers describe Iva Bittova's performances as "unique" and "thrilling" as well as "impossible to categorize." She is influenced by jazz, rock, Czechoslovakian folk music and classical violin training. And, as expected from an actress featured in a Czech film nominated for an Academy Award in 2004, her performances are called "spellbinding." First Niagara Bank is a sponsor of this concert.

A few weeks later, on Sunday, May 6, young classical saxophonist Ashu - who says about the saxophone, "It's a really incredible instrument. It can play with such emotional intensity and sing like a voice" – will perform in this year's Barbara and Edmund Delaney Young Artists Concert.

Ashu has helped establish the saxophone as a solo classical music instrument for both recital and concerto performances. As reviewed on WQXR, "a remarkable saxophone virtuoso...an ability to keep an audience totally enthralled, as he certainly did at Steinway Hall," Ashu has shown that the concert saxophone can attract new and younger listeners to the concert hall. In fact, he will be giving a Master Class at the Community Music School while he is in the area. Aaron Manor is the sponsor of this concert.

Tickets for Collomore concerts are \$21 for adults, \$5 for students. The concerts are held at 5 p.m. in the Chester Meetinghouse. For more information about tickets, call (860) 526-5162, or visit www.collomoreconcerts.org.



Young classical saxophonist Ashu will perform in this year's Barbara and Edmund Delaney Young Artists Concert.

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Chester Public Library

Mark Johnston Book Discussion Series Presents Three Greek Tragedies. In ancient Greece, the tragedies were performed in late March and early April so it is appropriate that we shake out those winter cobwebs with an exploration of three plays by Sophocles and Euripides this spring. Taking place on three consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., the discussions are planned as follows: April 11 *Oedipus Rex*, April 18 *Antigone*, April 25 *The Trojan Women*.

Chester library is pleased to welcome discussion leader, Charlotte Rea. Former Head of School at the Williams School, Charlotte's academic background is in English and theatre. She taught Greek Drama as well as Introduction to the Theatre for many years and is excited to re-visit the three Greek tragedies, *Oedipus Rex, Antigone*, and *The Trojan Women*. A former resident of Chester, Charlotte is also very pleased to re-connect with Chester friends and to engage in inquiry-based discussion during this series.

Registration is required for these programs. Call the library at 860-526-0018, or visit the library website at www.chesterct.org/library.php to register. Books will be available for loan at Chester Library.

CT Science Center coupons. Once again, the Connecticut Science Center has provided Chester Library with a limited number of reduced admission coupons. Offering 20% off the

general admission for up to four people, these coupons are valid until December 31, 2012. Call, or drop by the library to pick up one.

National Poetry Month Celebration. April is National Poetry month. Join us as the library celebrates with its second annual evening of poetry. Chester poets Jonathan Gillman, Tim Napier, Pamela Nomura, and Ravi Shankar have agreed to share their work with us on Monday, April 30 at the United Church of Chester. Check the library website for details as the date approaches, or email the library at chesterctlibrary@yahoo.com to get on the e-mail list for adult programs.

Friends of Chester Public Library Summer Book Sale. Mark your calendar for Friday, June 8. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the sale continues for two weeks during regular library hours. With most prices ranging from \$.25 to \$1.00, the sale is a bonanza of reading bargains for those lazy, hazy days of summer!

The library seeks donations of gently used books, recorded books, DVDs, and CDs, which may be dropped off at the library beginning the first of May. We ask that all items be in good, sellable condition. Textbooks published after 2006 may be donated for The American Friends of Kenya, but please, no encyclopedias. Thank you for your support; without your donations there would be no sale.

continued on page 9







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8

Sanitarian's Reminder to Homeowners

Septic Tank Pump Out

Chester residents are reminded that the Town ordinance requires septic tanks to be pumped out and inspected every five 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.

• Library continued from page 8 •

Are you interested in assisting with the sale, either with sorting or selling? Contact Book Sale Chair, Diane Lindsay at 860-526-2443.

You may have wondered what happens to books that are left over after the sale. Recently, Chester residents have taken remainder books to area cancer centers, the YMCA and other locations where a free book may provide a welcome distraction. Diane Lindsay sees to it that books are donated to a variety of groups that support literacy at home and abroad, including Reading Well for Kids, Big-Hearted Books, the York Correctional Facility and the previously mentioned American Friends of Kenya. If you know of an organization that would benefit from our book sale remainders, please let us know.

If you would like to receive email reminders of future book sales, send us a message at chesterctlibrary@yahoo.com to get on the list.

This summer, Dream big- READ! The dream begins when Horizon Wings visits Chester Library on Monday, July 2 at 5:30 p.m.. Our special guests, as we kick off the summer reading program, will include owls, raptors, "Beamer" (an eastern box turtle with a special way of getting around) and you! We'll even have owl cupcakes. The program is free, but space is limited and registration is required. Call the library at 860-526-0018 to sign up.

Readers of all ages are encouraged to dream away this summer at Chester Library. With a calendar full of programs for children and teens, inspiration is sure to abound. Of course, there will be a summer reading incentive program, as well. Registration for all summer programs will begin in early June. Check the library website for additional information as the time draws near.

Chester Library Website. Chester Library is open 24/7 at www.chesterct.org/library.php. The website provides access to the library catalog, information about library events and more. We hope you'll visit us online soon.

Library Hours. Monday, 10-8; Tuesday, 2-6; Wednesday, 10-6; Thursday, 2-8; Friday, 10-6; Saturday, 10-2.

GOODSPEED MUSICALS



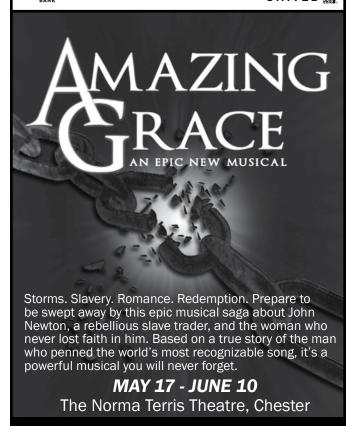
Come along for the madcap adventures of Auntie Mame and her adoring nephew. Surrounded by an eccentric cast of characters, she celebrates the Roaring 20s, overcomes tragedy and sails through life without missing a fad or a dance step.

APRIL 20 - JULY 1

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Middlesex Hospital Surgeon Treats Sleep Apnea with da Vinci Robotic Surgical System

According to Middlesex Hospital Ear, Nose and Throat physician, Mark D'Agostino, M.D., statistics for sleep apnea show that it affects 4 to 9 percent of women and 9 to 25 percent of males and a lot of it is under diagnosed. In post-menopausal women, the incidence tends to catch up with that of males. Sleep apnea can also lead to serious health problems, such as heart disease and stroke.

Sleep apnea is obviously a common problem. For some time, the standard treatment for sleep apnea has been use of a CPAP machine. But many people find the machine uncomfortable and do not tolerate it well.

Dr. D'Agostino has developed a revolutionary new technique to treat sleep apnea using da Vinci technology, called transoral robotic surgery, in which the base of the tongue is surgically "trimmed." Up until now, a typical surgical technique to treat sleep apnea was to trim the palate. The success rate of this type of procedure is about 45 percent. With transoral surgery the success rate goes up to about 70-80 percent and sometimes even higher. Although there is no guarantee with the success of sleep apnea surgery, transoral surgery has shown significantly positive results.

In the past, there had been no easy way to surgically address the tongue base for sleep apnea surgery. The da Vinci surgical system has offered a breakthrough in this particular surgical technique. The da Vinci allows surgeons to get down to the base of the tongue and shave it off going through the mouth, without making any incisions on the outside of the jaw. Dr. D'Agostino has pioneered this new type of surgery, along with only a handful of surgeon colleagues throughout the country.

As with any surgery, there are risks associated with transoral surgery and most patients have some problems swallowing immediately afterwards, which normally resolves itself. Overall, Dr. D'Agostino has seen positive results with the new surgical technique.

For further information about transoral robotic surgery using the da Vinci, you can contact Dr. D'Agostino directly:

Mark A. D'Agostino, M.D.

Southern New England Ear, Nose & Throat Group 51 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-344-0055

669 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT 06437

Phone: 203-458-6181

1 Long Wharf Drive, Suite 302, New Haven, CT 06511

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10

Diana Grzybowski Scholarship Sponsored by the Chester Ambulance Association

The Chester Ambulance Association is offering a \$1,000 scholarship in the memory of deceased Association founding member Diana Grzybowski. The scholarship is offered to any graduating student from Chester, Chester Hose Company member or child thereof, or any Chester resident entering an accredited school or continuing education program that prepares the person for professional practice in a health related field. Some career pursuits to be considered would include

nursing, therapy, paramedic, social work and health administration. 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, 2012. Questions may be emailed to caa07@att.net.

Music & More

Two remaining concerts of season four of Music & More at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, 55 East Kings Highway, Chester. Howard Fishman and his quartet, which plays jazz standards and Howard's own compositions, return to *Music & More* on Sunday, May 20, at 5 p.m. At 3 p.m. that day, Howard will host a free workshop for children. For concert tickets (\$25 for adults, \$10 for children), please call 860.526.8920, and speak to Wendy in the CBSRZ office.



Photo by Deborah Rutty

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As the oldest, largest, and best known fraternal organization in the world, Freemasonry opens its doors to all who endorse its teachings. A strong belief in family, community, pride in our country, and sound ethical and moral values are what distinguish the Masonic fraternity. Our strength lies in the unity of our conviction to these ideals. A Mason is taught to be a good citizen, to be of good character, to care for those less fortunate, and to give back to his community.

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Town Clerk News

Fishing and Dog License Notice. Fishing season begins Saturday, April 21st. Inland fishing licenses, required for anyone sixteen years of age or older who wants to fish in ponds, lakes, and streams, are available in the Town Clerk's Office. Also available are combination small game and fishing licenses. All licenses expire December 31st. Senior citizens age 65 and older may get licenses at no cost.

Help Wanted

Events Magazines is seeking a part-time sales representative. Full commission, flexible hours and friendly working conditions. Please fax your resume to Events Magazines at 860-767-0259 or email sxprinting@yahoo.com.

Dog licenses will be available starting June 1st in the Town Clerk's Office. A neutered or spayed dog will cost \$8, while an unneutered or unspayed dog is \$19.

Beginning July 1st, a \$1 penalty fee will be charged for every month a resident is late in registering a dog. Licenses can be mailed once proof of current rabies vaccination and a spaying certificate are mailed to the Town Clerk at 203 Middlesex Ave., 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 526-0013, Ext. 511. The office is open 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Tuesday the office is open until 7 p.m. and on Friday the office closes at noon.

Bulky Waste Transfer Stickers. Spring is here and it's time to clean the basement. If you need to get rid of bulky waste, you need to get a bulky waste transfer sticker prior to using the transfer station, which is located in Deep River on Route 80. Those stickers may be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office with proof of residency and the license plate number of the vehicle you plan to use for hauling the bulky waste.

— Debra Germini Calamari, Town Clerk



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The Meeting House Players Present...

The Meeting House Players are excited to present "Witty Bits: An Evening of One Act Comedies". The performance dates for this laugh out loud production are April 27 & 28 and May 4, 5, 11 & 12. The curtain will rise each evening at 8 p.m. at the Meeting House located at 4 Liberty Street in Chester.

The selected plays include "Finger Food" and "Lives of the Great Waitresses" by Nina Shengold, "Judgment Call" by Frederick Stroppel, "Ferris Wheel" by Mary Miller and "The Case Of The Tale Told By An Idiot: A Justin Thyme Mystery" by Bruce Kane. The comedies will be directed by Debbie Alldredge, Nancy Sumner & Steve Liskow and feature an ensemble cast of talented area actors.

The tickets will go on sale April 9. Ticket prices are \$15 for limited reserved seating and \$10 for open seating. Reservations are required for the limited reserved seating and are encouraged for open seating tickets. Reservations can be made by calling 860-526-3684. Available tickets can also be purchased at the door. Payment is cash or check only. No credit cards can be accepted. The box office opens prior to each evening's performance at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting House Players is a local, not-for-profit community theatre organization that has been presenting comedies and dramas on the Chester Meeting House stage since the 1970's. We pursue the theatre arts with the talents

and the interests of people throughout Connecticut. We are currently looking for an individual or individuals who would be interested in volunteering to assist with set design as well as overseeing the set construction. Please contact Debbie Alldredge at 860-526-3684 for more information. We invite area residents with an interest in theatre to join us and we encourage those who want to act to audition for us.

Debbie Alldredge



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Parks and Recreation

Zumba. Have fun while you exercise! Zumba is offered by Chester Parks and Recreation at the Chester Town Hall, with Instructor Rana Bananno-Bailey, on Mondays and/or Wednesdays, from 5:30 to 6:30pm. The fee is \$30 for 3 classes, \$35 for 4 classes, \$40 for 5, \$45 for 6, \$50 for 7, and \$55 for 8, per calendar month mix and match as many Mondays and Wednesday as you wish. The fee is \$12 for a single class.

Karate for Children. ANOTHER SESSION OF KARATE will be held in the multi-purpose room at Chester Elementary School by Valley Shore Martial Arts. Children who are in grades 1 through 6 will meet on Tuesdays, April 24, May 1, 15, and 22 to learn the Kempo style of Karate. There is no class on May 8. The cost of the program is \$20 for the four classes. Please make checks payable to "Valley Shore Martial Arts".

Children's Summer Program Day Camp! Our traditional camp program is better than ever! It is open to children entering grades 1 through 7 and the hours are from 8:30 am until 3:30pm, the weeks of July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6, and 13, at Chester Elementary School on Mondays and Thursdays and Cedar Lake on Tuesdays and Fridays. The children take field trips on Wednesdays. The fee is \$95 per child, per week, and payable at the time of registration.

If you have ever wanted to try summer camp, this half-day camp may be just right for you! Introduction to Day Camp for children ages 4-7 meets from 8:45 am until 12:15 pm, Mondays

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and Thursday at Chester Elementary School and Tuesdays and Fridays at Cedar Lake, the weeks of July 9, 16, 30, and August 6, with staff and programming designed specifically to meet the needs of younger children. Activities include games, sports, crafts, nature, swimming and story time. This camp does not meet on Wednesdays. The cost is \$55 for the 4-day week.

Please consider sending a Chester child to camp this summer. You can give a child in our Town the opportunity to spend part of their summer at the Chester Parks and Recreation Children's Summer Program Day Camp. Any amount you are able to donate will help children enjoy experiences in which they would not otherwise be able to participate. The Chester Elementary School Counselor assists families with these scholarships. Donations may be made payable to "Chester Parks and Recreation Scholarships" and sent to: Town of Chester, Parks and Recreation, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412.

Chester Parks and Recreation Swimming Lesson. Open to Chester residents and current park pass holders. Children must be at least three years of age and able to attend the classes independent of their parents. The small group classes meet for 6 lessons during session 1, on July 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, and 17 with July 19 and 20 as severe weather make-up days. Session 2 classes are held on July 30, 31, August 2, 3, 6, and 7 with severe weather make-up days on August 9 and 10. The fee is \$40 per session. The classes are scheduled for session 1 as follows: Nonswimmer 1:00-1:25, Swimmer 1:35-2:10, Nonswimmer 2:20-2:45, Nonswimmer 2:55-3:30, Swimmer 3:40-4:15. Advanced students are scheduled by appointment. A SEPARATE SWIMMING LESSON REGISTRATION FORM IS REOUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM.

Beach Schedule and Access. Beaches on Cedar Lake are scheduled to be open from June 16 through August 19, 10:30 am until 6:00 pm. Hours may vary according to staff availability, training, weather, or special programs. Access to the Town parks, including the beaches on Cedar Lake, is by permit only. Non-resident passes are available at Pelletier Park during operating hours. Chester residents may enter staffed facilities by showing a driver's license, or other proof of residency or taxpayer status with identification. Groups of 10 or more must make reservations in advance and provide a certificate of insurance.

The Town of Chester owns Cedar Lake and maintains two public beaches on its shores. The area of the lake is about 80 acres and is fed by two springs and two inlet streams with outflow into the Pattaconk Brook. The lake is about 60 feet deep in the middle. The Town owns approximately one third of the shore. Another third is owned by Camp Hazen YMCA. The remainder is private residences and State owned property, including a boat launch. Chester's main beach, on West Main Street, has a 50,000 square foot swimming area that is as deep as 20 feet in one corner during the spring. The park at the shore is named Robert H. Pelletier Park in memory of the Chester resident who was the Head Lifeguard for more than two decades. The area is 0.7 acres and includes seasonal

continued on page 15

Town Wide Tag Sale Sign Up

It's Time to Sign Up!

Spring's just around the corner and it's time to start cleaning out the basement, garage and closets. The Chester Republican Town Committee will once again organize the Chester Townwide Tag Sale on Saturday, May 26th, Memorial Day Weekend, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Each year the event attracts hundreds of visitors to Chester. Maps are available showing the location of all sales at individual residences and businesses throughout town. Maps are distributed at the Town Center on the day of the event for \$1.00. The event is "rain or shine."

To be listed on the map, send \$10 to the Chester RTC, 248 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412. Please include your name, address, phone number and email so we can confirm your listing and contact you, if necessary. You must be a Chester resident or business and your sale address must be

in Chester to be listed on the map. We had an overwhelming response last year resulting in a 20% increase in listings! Many said it was one of the biggest and best turnouts ever. There were more than 80 individual residences and businesses listed on the map and over 500 maps were distributed the day of the sale. We estimate that well over 1000 buyers came to town that day. "It's a great way to spend a day of fun and relaxation and affords professional dealers an efficient day of shopping to replenish their inventories," said Glenn Reyer, the event's past organizer, "and a great way to get all the tag sales over with on one day."

Proceeds from listing fees, map sales, and advertising on the map are used to promote the event throughout Connecticut, to pay for extra police duty during the event, and to benefit the Chester RTC.

• Park & Rec continued from page 14 •

lifeguard coverage, picnic tables, a pavilion, grills, and a food concession. The concession was completely renovated and a deck for dining and boardwalk were added to the facility in 2011. The smaller beach is located on Cedar Lake Road. It is unstaffed and has no designated swimming area. The beaches require patrons to have a permit.

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Chester Fife and Drum Corps

Welcome to the summer of 2012. Here's hoping that this summer is really a summer and not a winter that wasn't. I would like to give you some history about our Corps and Corps in general. Chester Drum Corps was established in 1867 and was put on the road in 1868. This Corps has continuously been playing our music since the beginning with no time taken off for good behavior. We have gone through many uniform changes and are now in our fourth or fifth uniform in 144 years. We now sport a more easily manageable colonial white shirt, colonial vest and Tricorn with medallion on it. We play on wooden colonial drums and 6-hole fife in the key of B flat.

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

The Chester Fife and Drum Corps is enjoying growth like I have not seen in many years. Our drum line is surging, however our fife line needs more players, but if you do not want to play, we also need members in the Color Guard to carry our colors. We teach drum lessons, fife lessons and how to march in unison. We are still practicing at the Company of Fifers and Drummers in Ivoryton, CT for the time being until we can get a home back in Chester.

This summer is looking like we will be busy with participating in the following parades: Cheshire, Chester, North Haven,



Chester Fife and Drum Corps will have a busy schedule marching in many area parades this summer.

Columbia, Guilford, Moosup, New Haven and Wilmington, Vermont. We will also be participating in local musters in Milford, Deep River and Westbrook as well as Moodus in Oct.

We will also be providing a summer concert series that will be held at the Gazebo in Chester on the following dates: 6/28, 7/26, and 8/16.

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

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

We are neither a Junior nor Senior Corps; we are a family oriented organization.

Come on down and see what we are about. We practice from 6:30 till 8:00 p.m. Hope you have a most enjoyable summer, and to see you at a muster or parade.

— Frenchy Cordeau, Business Manager and Drum Major



Peter H. Charbonnier

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Memorial Day 2012

This is a personal invitation to all veterans and servicemen and women to be part of Chester's 2012 Memorial Day Parade. The history of Chester's Memorial Day Parade dates back to the 1930's when Chester's American Legion Post, their families, friends, the Chester Hose Company, and the Chester Fife and Drum Corp gathered to remember the soldiers who served and died in WWI. Following WWII, the parade expanded to include patriotic speeches, concerts by elementary school students, civic groups, school children, floats, and refreshments following the parade.

Each Memorial Day, Chester comes together as a community to recall the sacrifices of so many and respectfully grieve their loss. Chester is grateful for the personal sacrifices of our servicemen and women, from the first patriots who fought to give birth to our nation to today's heroic men and women who are serving our country around the world. We welcome all veterans and servicemen and women to be part of this tribute.

The event will be held on Monday, May 28. The parade will form at 8:30 am in St. Joseph's parking lot and step off at 9:00 am. Marchers will stop at the War Memorial and Chester Center Flag Pole for services of honor and end at the Chester Meeting House, where refreshments will be served. This is a town-wide event open to all organizations, clubs, and groups who would like to join Chester veterans as we celebrate the personal contributions made by every person who has served our country.

Individuals wishing to assist by donating sandwiches for the after parade festivities should contact Lynne Jacques at the Town Hall, 860-526-0013 ext. 202. We also request the use of any convertible cars to help out in the parade. Please contact Jerry LaMark, 860-304-0364.

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United Church of Chester Events

On Saturday, April 21st, the United Church of Chester will once again host its popular *Pot Roast Supper*. The menu includes tender, mouth-watering pot roast, real mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, tangy coleslaw, rolls, beverage and a delicious melt-in-your-mouth dessert. There will be two seatings, one at 5:00 and the second at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$14 for adults, \$3.50 for children, (little ones under five are free) and may be purchased in the church office or by calling 526-2697. The food is fabulous but space is limited, so get your tickets early!

On Saturday, May 26th, the church will hold a Rummage and Bake Sale from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Clothing, household goods, toys, cookware, small appliances, books and much more and will be on sale at bargain prices. Fabulously delicious, home-made baked goods (cakes, pies, candies, cookies, breads, etc.) will also be available.

Those wishing to donate items are welcome to bring them to the church on Sunday, May 20th through Thursday, May 24th. No items will be accepted after the 24th, and we do not accept large appliances, furniture, exercise equipment or computers at any time. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 526-2697 or check out our web site at chesterucc.org.



The United Church of Chester will once again host its popular pot roast supper again this year.

Please join us at the United Church of Chester for worship and church school every Sunday at 10:00 am.

Spring into Asset Building

In the natural world, spring is a time of new beginnings, when seedlings emerge and birds and other animals start raising their young.

In the human world, people can also make spring a time of new beginnings by planting some asset-building seeds and by putting energy into starting a new, positive relationship with a young person.

Here are some tips for making a new beginning with asset building:

- It's the simplest idea of all yet one of the most effective: start saying hello to a neighborhood young person and showing interest in her or his life, ideas, and opinions. (Take a second. Make a difference!)
- Get together with one or more of the young people you know and consider ways to celebrate National Youth Service Day or Earth Day (both are in April).
- If you belong to an interesting organization (garden club, hiking group, hot-rod club), ask around and find a young person who would like to attend a meeting with you.
- Find out about mentoring programs in your community and give mentoring a try. If you're a young person, consider mentoring a younger child.
- Strike up a conversation with the next young person you happen to meet – maybe it will be the customer behind you in the checkout line or the counter person at your favorite fast-food restaurant. Ask about school or compliment their job performance.



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Tri-Town Youth Services

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Square Roots Lead to Creativity

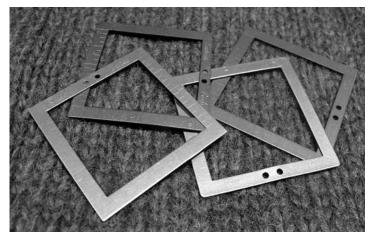
Dipping back into Chester's roots as a manufacturing town, the Chester Historical Society has created a unique and fun challenge for area artists, sculptors, photographers, engineers, and all others with a creative mind. The event, titled "Square Roots," uses a simple 2-inch square knitting gauge from the 1950 C.J. Bates & Son product line as a starting point for imagination.

This spring, those accepting the challenge are using the simple aluminum squares as a component to create finished pieces of art, jewelry, sculptures, etc. These will be exhibited and sold by silent auction at the Historical Society's Square Roots Champagne Reception on Saturday, May 19, at the Meetinghouse.

The Society staged a similar challenge in 2004 – its very popular "Brooks for Hooks," which used hooks and screw eyes manufactured by M.S. Brooks & Sons, Inc. Much like that event, the simplicity of the Susan Bates knitting gauge opens the door to many creative options and interpretations.

"It was fascinating to see the variety of work using the hooks as a source," recalled Society President Skip Hubbard, "It was a reminder of the innovative and resourceful minds that exist just beyond the normal. If Brooks for Hooks was an indicator, we expect to see a number of entries titled with variations of the word 'square.'"

The May 19th Square Roots Champagne Reception and Silent Auction will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at the



These 2-inch aluminum knitting gauges were made at the C.J. Bates & Son factory in 1950.

Meetinghouse. Hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants and kitchens will be served. Tickets for the evening are just \$25 and will be limited. They can be purchased at Chester Gallery and Ceramica. All the proceeds from the event will benefit the Chester Historical Society and its programs, including Chester Museum at The Mill. Information is available on the Society website www.chesterhistoricalsociety.org.





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Chester Rotary's Upcoming Events

The Rotary Club of Chester invites you to join us for our 35th Annual Four on the Fourth Road Race on July 4. This year's event will once again make use of state of the art chip timing. The scenic, rolling course that loops its way around and through Chester Village is USATF sanctioned and measured. The start time is 9:00 a.m. As in past years, food and soft drinks for participants and spectators will be available from the Chester Hose Company. Beer will be available at the Rotary sponsored beer tent. Entry forms, the link to on-line pre-entry through www. Active.com and race information for this year's event are available at the club's website, www.chesterrotary.org.

Mark your calendars for the 42nd Annual Lobster Festival to be held at the Chester Fair Grounds on September 8. The event is highlighted by classic double entree dinners featuring Twin Lobster, Twin Steak, or Surf and Turf. The bands Bittersweet Harmony, Flying Blind & Second Chance return to entertain with classic tunes throughout the evening. Access to the Lobster Festival will be restricted to dinner ticket holders and the seating is limited. Additional information for this event will soon be available on the Chester Rotary website, www. ChesterRotary.org. This event has been a sell out in past years so be sure to get your tickets early!

The Rotary Club of Chester is looking forward to participating in this year's 2nd Annual Chester Land and Air Festival. The Chester Air and Land Festival is a celebration of Airplanes,

Antique/Classic Cars and Tractors. The festival will be held on the grounds of the Chester, CT airport (KSNC) and will feature airplanes, helicopters, antique cars & classis cars as well as antique tractors. Save the date for this event that will be held on September 15. Additional details for the festival will soon be available on the Chester Rotary website, www. ChesterRotary.org.

The Rotary Club of Chester is a 501c(3) not for profit organization. Chester Rotarians are dedicated to providing funding and service to local, national and international charitable organizations including The Chester Community Fund, Camp Hazen, Tri-Town Youth Services, Shoreline Soup Kitchen, Bikes for Kids, Chester Park & Recreation, Chester Boy Scouts, Chester Winter Carnivale, Chester Early Childhood Program, Annual Chester Elementary School Dictionary Presentation and The Citizenship Scholarship Program as well as taking part in providing resources for a variety of international philanthropic ventures including water projects in Niger, Africa and programs to eradicate polio worldwide. Our proceeds from these events support these causes. Chester Rotary is always looking for new members. We encourage you to visit our website at www.chesterrotary.org for more information regarding our club and it's fund raising efforts, updates for our upcoming events and links to Rotary International.

– Debbie Alldredge, Chester Rotarian



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Planning for the Future... A Look at Senior Living

Seniors who have an independent lifestyle and want to keep it should take a look at senior living communities. Gone are the days of your grandmother's rest home. Modern communities no longer even call themselves "retirement communities" because it gives the image of a "retiring lifestyle." Therefore, we have Senior Living Communities where the emphasis is on life.

Senior living communities provide opportunities to look ahead and enjoy an engaging lifestyle. The burdens of home maintenance disappear allowing time to pursue other interests. Residents live in attractive houses, or apartments. Amenities include dining, housekeeping, fitness center, swimming pool, comfortable community space, and scheduled transportation for those who need it. There is an array of educational opportunities both on and off site. On-site health care is available.

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> - Marian Bairstow, Marketing Director, Chester Village West

Chester Town Hall

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Ph: 860-526-0013 • Fx: 860-526-0004

Town Hall Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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As we approach the end of 2011 and look forward to what will come in 2012, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our clients over the past 12 years who have let us help them buy, sell, rent and starting this year -- build their homes. We appreciate the confidence and trust you put in us when we all work together. We really feel that TeamJermainne isn't just Brian and Leslie, but each client becomes a member of the team that is needed to get the job done.



The market certainly has changed over the past few years, and we're pretty sure it will continue to change in the future. We'll keep on top of it, so we understand what is going on out there, and how it will affect all our clients. Our motto for the future is "Keep It Simple". We want to make sure that we understand the needs of each client and that each client understands their options and their transaction fully and simply. We're sure it will be another interesting year, and we hope to see you!

> Brian Jermainne, ABR, ASR, CRS, ePRO, GRI, SRES, SRS Brian@TeamJermainne.com

Leslie Jermainne, ePRO Leslie@Team.lermainne.com



860-662-0230

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Estuary Council

Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. has been Serving Seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 35 years. Call us to receive our *Gazette Newsletter* or go to www.ecsenior.org for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more.

Donate Your Car or Boat to the Estuary Council. Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling 1-800-716-5868. Vehicle does not have to run. Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide in the nine town Estuary Region.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL! - Be the first to know what is happening by getting our newsletter emailed to you. No more postal delays, winter address changes, or trying to find the newsletter to confirm a date for the great free class or seminar. Go to www.ecsenior.org and click on the newsletter icon to follow the link and sign up. Then email us to remove you from the mailing list.

PAINTED CHAIR AUCTION: Sunday, June 3rd, 5 – 8 pm. The Painted Chair Auction will feature chairs painted by local artists, which will have been on display at businesses in the nine town Estuary region during the month of May. This event will include wonderful hors d'oeuvres, wine and live music. If you are interested in painting a chair or in adopting a chair for display at your place of business, please call Sandy at 860-388-1611. All proceeds benefit the Meals on Wheels program.

STAN GREIMANN ESTUARY MEDICAL OUTPATIENT TRANSPORTATION For medical appointments, to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Call Judy at

388-1611. Suggested donation of \$35.

CAFÉ MEAL SITES - Chester, Clinton, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, & Westbrook. Reservations required by calling 860-388-1611 by 11 a.m., 24 hours in advance.

CHOLESTEROL SCREENING – Chester. Third Wednesdays at 11 am at the United Church of Chester.

SATURDAY FAMILY BREAKFAST at the Old Saybrook Café, 8 am - Noon. Join us on Saturdays for made to order breakfast - just \$5 per person! Menu choices include the Estuary Omelet, Pancakes, Oatmeal, or Eggs-any style. All served with home fries and bacon or sausage, juice or fruit, coffee and milk.

MEALS ON WHEELS – hot meals delivered to your home. Call Diane at 388-1611. A \$3.00 donation request for those aged 60+; otherwise cost is \$11.25. Meals are supported by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES: Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Exercise Classes, Mah Jongg, Wii, Tai Chi, Cribbage, Writer's Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Dominoes, Needlecrafters, Hand and Foot, and more.

ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP: Hours are from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mon. – Fri. and 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, crafts, and more available! Donations are accepted and volunteers always needed.

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



portions of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook & Westbrook

Connections to SouthEast Area Transit buses in Niantic, DATTCO S Route in Madison, Middletown Transit and CT Transit Hartford in Middletown

SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL – NO AGE RESTRICTIONS

Call 860.510.0429 www.estuarytransit.org

Nine Town Transit is Operated by the Estuary Transit District



A photo from last year's beautiful evening for the annual A Klez Act free concert, and community picnic. This year's event will be Monday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from sale of food items (kosher hotdogs and drinks, etc.) will go to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. (Photo by Deborah Rutty)

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CHESTER NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

Welcome to Chester!

On behalf of *Events Magazines*, welcome to Chester. Whether you are new to Connecticut or just new to Chester you will find wonderful people and places to visit in town. From the Winter Carnival to the Chester Fair, Chester has something for everyone. Below are important phone numbers. Please tear out this page and keep it for future reference. We at *Events Magazines* and Essex Printing support local businesses.

Please use this guide and "Buy Local" - we do!

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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CHESTER FAIR (860) 526-5947	FIRST NIAGARA	OR VISIT www.middlesexhospital.org
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COMMITTEEWWW.CHESTERCTDEMS.COM	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR	INSURANCE
CHESTER GARDEN CLUB (860) 526-3459	MARK REEVES (860) 388-3825	ARCHAMBAULT INSURANCE (860) 526-9587
CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY (860) 526-5781	RED CONSTRUCTION (860) 526-8948	
CHESTER MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION		OIL COMPANY
	CAMPS	MORONI & SON OIL (860) 388-2298
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LIBRARY	HIGGANUM DENTAL ASSOCIATES (000) 343-4336	CENTER PODIATRY (1-800) 676-3668
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Want to be listed on the Newcomers' page?

Call Betty Martelle at 860-333-7117

Water Pollution Control Authority

The past year has been fairly uneventful for Chester's Water Pollution Control Authority. The entire system was cleaned and inspected, regular maintenance was performed, and the system has survived the wettest year on record, and storms in August and October without major incident. The use of our generator during tropical storm Irene made us aware of the need to complete safety upgrades to the pump station, so we now have a catwalk added to the platform for access to the generator area.

Chester restaurant operators have been responsive to our requests for more careful maintenance of grease recovery units. This should help us to reduce our cleaning costs over



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the next year. All users of the sewer system need to remember that they can actually help reduce their usage fees by following a few guidelines:

- Wipe your dishes and cooking utensils before washing them. Domestic grease clogs pipes and causes our pumps to work harder to move waste water.
- Be sure that sump pumps and roof drains are NOT attached to the sewer. It is illegal, and it costs us money to send groundwater through the system.
- Garbage disposals cause problems to our system and can cause clogs and backups. Please don't use them.
- Don't flush or dump anything into the sewer other than wastewater. Wipes, towelettes, bandages, chemicals or sanitary napkins cause major problems and end up costing everyone money.

Finally, as the new Chairman of the Chester WPCA, I'd like to give a "tip of the Ed Norton Fedora" to all the Commission members, to retired Chairman Ed Ward and retired member John King for years of unselfish dedication to the needs of the Town of Chester and to Pete Lewis, John Ely and Ken Hebert of Deep River for literally keeping everything flowing on a day-to-day basis.

- Bert Armington, Chairman, Chester WPCA

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El Gato

Each early morn, as cold as winter's breath, my neighbor's Persian cat appears on our garage roof, as if gravity were not, selects a rhomboid of sunlight and curls next to the house chimney. It wears the world well, this quiddity of cat with bold blue eyes. How I envy its finding easily a centered place, perhaps tomorrow the tranquil light before the front door. It evokes the luxury of sensual life: Like a water flower opening to touch, it circles your leg. Mostly the cast is in a stasis that won't endunless el gato wants to, with grace in quickness, vanishing like the Cheshire, Its lesson: halcyon stillness, self-containment.

- Gerard Feeney

24

Tri-Town Youth Services

Tri-Town Youth Services has many programs and events planned for Spring. All programs are held at Tri-Town, 56 High Street in Deep River, unless otherwise noted. Please join us whenever you can! Call 860-526-3600 to sign up.

"Outstanding Ones" Wednesdays, April 18-June 20, 11:00-11:30 a.m. Tuition is \$45 for tri-town residents and \$55 for non-residents.

"Terrific Twos" Wednesdays, April 18-June 20, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuition is \$60 for tri-town residents and \$70 non-residents.

American Red Cross Babysitter Training

Learn how to become a safe and responsible babysitter. This American Red Cross program includes basic childcare, first aid for breathing and bleeding emergencies, and injury prevention, as well as topics to prepare young adults (11-14) for babysitting. This class is an excellent opportunity to help students build self-confidence as well as leadership and decision-making skills. Completion of this course is a plus on your Job Bank application. The \$70 fee includes book, course, and certificate.

The spring session will be offered on Wednesday evenings, April 25, May 2, and May 9 from 6-8:15 p.m. The summer session will be held on July 16, 17, and 19, also 6-8:15 p.m.

High on Life!

High on Life week will be held April 29 - May 5. Posters and brochures with activities and events will be out soon.



Gail Onofrio, Executive Director of Tri-Town Youth Services, and Cate Bourke, Tri-Town's Prevention Coordinator, are holding a sign that bears an important message: Prevention Pays Dividends. The photo was taken recently when they attended the CADC (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) Conference just outside Washington, D.C.

Times May Be Tough, Getting Help is Not

Dial 2-1-1 to deal with a problem or crisis, get information, or discover options

Every hour of every day, Connecticut residents can dial 2-1-1 and be connected to essential health and human services resources in their town. A caller to 2-1-1 will speak with a highly trained, degreed call specialist who will help them prioritize their needs and make referrals to appropriate services. The call is completely free of charge. In addition to dialing 2-1-1, the database can be accessed online at www.211ct.org.

2-1-1 has a comprehensive database of services and programs that is continually updated. The database contains information on basic needs resources, child care services, programs for youth and seniors, substance abuse treatment resources, and much more. 2-1-1 also handles suicide and crisis calls and is fully accredited by the American Association of Suicidology.

In 2011, United Way 2-1-1 received 14,027 calls from Middlesex County which resulted in 18,714 requests for service. This marks a 17% increase in calls over the previous year. Of those calls, 223 were generated from Chester.

Across the entire state, 2-1-1 received 390,000 calls resulting in more than 525,000 requests for service. The service

requests are higher because one caller may have multiple needs.

The top five requests for service last year were for: housing/shelter; utilities/heat; disaster services; outpatient mental health; and financial assistance. Typical calls to 2-1-1 are:

- A single mother who is worried about the gas shutoff notice she just received;
- A mother looking for child care and after school activities;
- A young woman with a disability inquires about available transportation;
- A caller seeking information about eligibility for SNAP (food stamps); and
- A caller looking for volunteer opportunities and where to donate items.

United Way 2-1-1 is a partnership between the State of Connecticut and all local Connecticut United Ways, including Middlesex United Way. The program began in 1976 and by the mid-eighties, gained national recognition as a model system. In 1999, Connecticut became the first state in the country to use 2-1-1 statewide. Currently, about 86% of the U.S. population has access to a 2-1-1 service. In many communities, 2-1-1 has been used in the aftermath of a disaster or crisis,

continued on page 27

New Safe Harbor Memory Care Neighborhood Opens

After months of planning, designing, preparation and construction, The Saybrook at Haddam assisted living retirement community is thrilled to open our new Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood. This warm and inviting neighborhood "village" is located in a one-story wing of The Saybrook at Haddam, and was created specifically for individuals suffering from Alzheimerís, dementia, or other memory-related disorders.

We designed the Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood to be a beautiful, open and engaging environment – taking advantage of the building's existing high ceilings, oversized windows, wonderful lighting, and open floor plan. Our common-area living room is very home-like with comfortable chairs and couches, a large television, games, and books. Residents enjoy family-style meals each day in our large, open dining area – which always has room for "one more." Both of these rooms are available for use anytime throughout the day for visits with family and friends, for conversation, or enjoying our many social activities designed specifically for individuals with memory disorders. These areas are bright and airy, and overlook our new outdoor walking garden and patio.

Each private or shared studio apartment is also light and open, and some featuring seating areas, a small kitchenette, and a spacious bathroom. This space is perfect for quiet time or private visits with family and friends. Residents are encouraged

2012

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June 23

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October 27

For Household Residents in the Estuary Region:

Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook

Paper Shredding Event

Saturday, September 29th 9:00am to 1:00pm

At the Household Hazardous Waste Facility-exit 4 off Rte. 9 North

For more information visit CRERPA at www.crerpa.org or email info@crerpa.org or call 860-388-3497

No fee to Participate!!



The Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood is designed to be a beautiful, open and engaging environment.

to decorate their apartments with their own personal items, photos, and artwork to truly make Safe Harbor their home.

Entering Safe Harbor is like walking down the main street of a little village. As you stroll along the path, you pass a park and "café" setting with table, chairs and striped awnings, where you can stop for conversation or rest. You then pass a "neighbor's house" (which is a large, engaging mural of a lovely yellow house), and finally make your way to the beach and boardwalk (another oversized mural). The doorways are decorated with wreaths and many other home-like details. Additionally, our secure entries and exits blend into the surroundings, and do not take away from the neighborhood setting.



Entering Safe Harbor is like walking down the main street of a little village.

The philosophy at Safe Harbor is that life is made up of many little touches, events, and small happenings every day, and it is our job to use these little opportunities to create happy moments. Everyone at Safe Harbor works in a kind, respectful and caring way towards each resident to bring out the essence of who they are as individuals – so they can live

continued on page 27

• Safe Harbor continued from page 26 •

with dignity and as much independence as possible. Our team works closely with doctors and families to provide a personalized memory care plan for each resident – so they can be their best at every moment of the day.

It is exciting to see this vision come to life, and be able to bring this valuable living option to our region. We were able to show off Safe Harbor during a "preview" open house in December, when we invited professionals and the community to tour this newly completed specialized memory care neighborhood. Many guests told us the open spaces, inviting layout, and warm environment was ideal for anyone living with a memory-related disorder. Families and individuals are welcome to schedule their own private tour of Safe Harbor (or to request an application for residence) anytime by calling 860-345-3779.

We know many families struggle to care for a loved one who suffers from Alzheimer's, dementia, or other memoryloss disorder, which can take a toll on everyone. We hope our Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood provides an exceptional solution for them.

Kathy Ryan, Executive Director,
 The Saybrook at Haddam

Kathy Ryan is executive director of The Saybrook at Haddam, (www.thesaybrookathaddam.com), a 74-apartment assisted living retirement community located in the heart of the Connecticut River Valley region. The community provides independent retirement living services as well as assisted living services (provided by its state-licensed Agency).

• Times May Be Tough continued from page 25 •

becoming a critical communications center that residents can contact for up-to-date information on where to get help.

Middlesex United Way is advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on education, income, health and housing – the building blocks for a good quality of life. United Way recruits people and organizations that bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. You are invited to be part of the change by giving, advocating and volunteering. That's what it means to Live United.

Middlesex United Way is a locally-based organization serving the towns of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook.

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Now open! Call today for a tour!



Mom's journey in life deserves a "Safe Harbor."

For those suffering from Alzheimer's and other memoryrelated disorders, life should still be as fulfilling and active as
possible. That is why The Saybrook at Haddam created Safe
Harbor, a new specialized memory care neighborhood, located
within our gracious assisted and retirement living community.

Our compassionate and professional staff works tirelessly to
give you peace of mind knowing your
loved one is getting the care they need

and the respect they deserve.

For a personal tour of Safe Harbor, call The Saybrook at Haddam today at 860-345-3779.

A Memory Care Neighborhood 1556 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT

www.thesaybrookathaddam.com

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