

Chester events

VOLUME 16 • QUARTER 1 • 2017



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First Selectwoman's Corner

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2017!

In the upcoming year I look forward to serving you and continuing to help keep Chester wonderful and thriving, while keeping you informed and involved in the process. Don't forget to sign up for the Chester email blast and like us on Facebook to help stay in touch. Last year at this time was my first article in the Chester Events, and we have gotten a lot done in that time - some of it visible and some behind the scenes. **Here are some highlights:**

We passed a conservative and responsible budget last year with your help, spending only what additional funds were needed to comply with state requirements and properly maintain our services and infrastructure, while planning for Chester's long term fiscal health.

The Main Street Bridge Project was completed by the state DOT, with help from Chester's Main Street Committee and the cooperation and positive attitudes of merchants and residents - on time and beautifully done.

West Main Street was repaved from the library to the Chester Ferry Landing.

A renewed Cedar Lake Advisory Committee was appointed and plans for education about the protections of our environment and local watershed are underway - look for more news in the spring.

We said goodbye to several town employees as they moved on to different adventures (Linda Fox, Sandy Trabucchi and Lynne

Jacques) and welcomed new additions (Stephanie Romano, Kristie Valentino and Jenny Watrous).

The Boards of Selectmen and Finance began work on a long term strategic plan to combine Chester's vision of itself for the future with the infrastructure needs and funding to accomplish that vision. This involves planning and zoning, economic development and a thorough review of existing buildings and roads, as well as the Plan of Conservation and Development.

We are actively seeking ways to make Chester more sustainable and less dependent on state money to pay our bills, including owning our streetlights and looking for new and different revenue sources.

A committee of knowledgeable volunteers headed by Susan Wright is working hard to evaluate our Chester Meeting House to determine its needs, structurally and for upkeep and maintenance.

In the meantime, with the help of theatrical consultant Marcus Abbott, we have repaired Meeting House safety items with regard to the electrical and lighting, painted backstage and replaced the stage floor (no more splinters). New fire retardant theater curtains are on order.

And many more...

continued on page 2



Lauren Gister,
First Selectwoman

An advertisement for Saybrook Country Barn. The background is a photograph of a living room with a white sofa, patterned pillows, and a yellow lamp. The text is overlaid on the image.

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**Anne Yurasek, winner of Events Magazines
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FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S CORNER... continued from page 1 2017-2018 BUDGET

It's that time of year again - BUDGET TIME! The Town Departments, Boards and Commissions are working on their budget submissions right now, both what it takes to operate on a daily basis and what projects and capital items need to be planned for and funded. The goal is to keep taxes stable and any increase as small as possible. Planning for long term fiscal health is vital to avoid "surprises" which will affect your taxes. A Public Budget Forum is scheduled for January 26th at Town Hall. Please come and weigh in on the issues affecting the budget, and let us know your questions and concerns about the process and our planning for the next fiscal year. This forum will be well publicized, but please spread the word – the more participation, the better the information we will have to work with. In addition to the Budget Forum, we will keep you informed throughout the process via email, regular mail, website and Facebook posts.

RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT

There are many new faces involved with our Boards, Commissions and Committees and we are actively seeking new ideas and looking for maximum involvement from residents. I know that it is difficult for many people to attend evening meetings. I am considering many options for getting people involved – please help us figure out what works best for you. This might include meeting at 5:30 or 6 pm so that you can attend on your way home from work, meeting on a weekend afternoon, or alternating meeting times on different days. Whether or not you are part of the official commission, please attend when you can, and read the minutes that are posted on our website. The goal is to keep you informed, answer your questions and hear your thoughts. And don't forget the Town Talks every couple of weeks at various locations and times around town.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency situation, we want to know how best to protect and provide for our residents. Our volunteer fire department, ambulance services, police and resident trooper, emergency management office, and public works personnel all work together to provide support in case of emergency. With winter upon us, it is important to look around and see what the needs might be and how to best be of help. Accordingly, in this issue you will find two relevant items:

First, a form to fill out if you, a loved one or neighbor might be in a position to need extra help in case of a power outage or winter storm. This could be a longstanding need, such as a resident with mobility issues due to wheelchair use, or simply a temporary one, such as someone recently home from the hospital who is on oxygen, dialysis, or simply not strong enough to get out of the

house without assistance due to illness. This form is meant to be torn out of the magazine and submitted to Jenny at my office so that we can develop a list of residents who may need some additional assistance in case of emergency. This information will be kept private and only released to necessary personnel who will be needed to help at that time. Please help us to keep you safe!

Second, you will see an announcement for volunteers for our emergency response team (CERT). These are residents who receive training to assist in emergency situations in various capacities. When it's all hands on deck, we need some hands! Please consider being a volunteer.

Best,
First Selectwoman Lauren Gister

News from Chester Merchants

The Chester Merchants group is always actively working to attract visitors to our picturesque Chester Center. We do this through our own businesses as well as organizing special events, such as First Fridays of each month, when the shops and galleries of Chester Center are open until late, with unique events. Stay informed through [Facebook.com/visitchesterct](https://www.facebook.com/visitchesterct).

You are welcome to attend our Chester Merchants monthly meetings on the first Wednesday morning of each month. You can sign up for our email list for notification of meetings and more by writing to chestermerchants@gmail.com.



Tamera "T.J." Jackson
Owner & Team Member



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Events Presents ~ Eddie's Auto Body Specialists



Eddie and Carol Lupinek approach every aspect of their business, Eddie's Auto Body Specialists, the same way. They want their East Haddam repair shop to provide you with the highest standard and quality of service. For example, at Eddie's, only Original Equipment Manufactured (OEM) parts are used in the repair process.

Eddie and Carol are also customer friendly – from providing a comfortable customer service area to a drive-in estimating bay utilizing an in-ground lift allowing you to walk completely around the vehicle, thereby providing a visual of all areas of your car in need of repair. Eddie's takes all of this seriously. After all, under Connecticut law, every insurance claimant has the right to choose the repair shop where the damage to the motor vehicle will be repaired.

The shop has been in existence since 1956. This means many years of experience and a lifelong understanding of the most efficient ways to provide quality repairs.

Eddie's detailing area uses a powerful yet environmentally friendly steam cleaning machine, with the ability to use less than 1 gallon of water with

no chemicals, to detail an entire car. The traditional method can use upwards of 40 gallons of water per vehicle. In the shop area, many innovations are in play - like a customized bumper rack that rises into the ceiling allowing the technicians a roomier area in which to complete repairs. A state-of-the-art spray booth was custom designed by Eddie. It utilizes a clean room above the booth that triple filters air and warms it along the way. Then, with the use of infrared catalytic drying units, drying time can be reduced to as little as 6 minutes. This process uses a mere 5 gallons of propane each month, resulting in a cost of just 30 cents per curing cycle, saving thousands of dollars in monthly expense.

Carol focuses on providing a customer-friendly front office and making sure there is a great work environment for the staff. Always looking forward, the Lupinek's strive to educate their clients and focus on a transparent repair process each time out. Seems this could be the reason they are so successful!

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From the Tax Collector

SHORT but IMPORTANT LIST of TAX INFORMATION for JANUARY!

First, and most importantly, I hope this finds everyone well and that Christmas and all the holidays were enjoyable and you were able to share wonderful days with your family and friends. Now with the New Year, I am wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year and peace for all both across our country and across the world!

Second, it is tax time, so second half Real Estate and Personal Property taxes and the new MV supplemental bills for MVs that either missed the October 2015 cutoff date, or were purchased after Oct 1st, 2015 and before Sept 1st, 2016, are all due anytime during January.

Third, when paying by check, please be sure to sign your check. We had a lot of checks last year that were not signed and also watch your postmark since it is taking longer for mail to get places this past year!

Fourth, if you want, try our tax look up on the town website. It is a neat and easy process and you can even print tax information for your federal taxes which will be due in a few short weeks.

Fifth, if you pay other bills using your bank online system, remember that you can use that same system to pay the Tax Collector. Just set up an account to pay, and process the payment. The bank will mail the payment to us, and that saves you time, stamps & envelopes.

Then, 24 hours after we have posted that payment, it will show up as paid on the online link. It helps you verify that we did indeed receive your payment and you can print or save a receipt for yourself.

Sixth and finally, be sure to enjoy the winter with or without snow and please remember to pay your taxes and don't accumulate interest or late fees or be subject to our delinquent statements! We will try to help anyone who calls, but most information is available online through the link in the Tax Collector's section of the town web site... www.chesterct.org Take care!

Madaline Meyer, Chester Tax Collector



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Winter Carnivale

FEBRUARY 19th BRINGS WINTER CARNIVALE

Mardi Gras beads, street performers, ice carvers, tractors, painted faces, chili... oh my! Does any town have as much wintertime fun as Chester?

Chester celebrates its 26th Winter Carnivale on Sunday, Feb. 19. Chester Center will be filled with people enjoying the annual ice carving demonstration, with professional and semiprofessional carvers; street performers and face painters; food vendors; store events – all culminating with the annual Chester Tractor Parade.

The day also includes the very popular Chili Cook Off, sponsored by the Chester Hose Company, where you can buy a ticket and enjoy tasting all the different chili's made by various chefs and restaurants.

Winter Carnivale runs from around 10 am to around 3 pm in snow, rain or shine. Main Street and part of Rte. 148 are closed to traffic for the day. Four shuttle buses will run all day from free parking lots on both sides of town. Watch for signage!

Chester Carnivale is a FREE community-sponsored event, and is only possible because of the generosity of local businesses and residents. We are very fortunate to have received some major sponsorships (as of Dec. 22, 2016).

Whelen Engineering is our "Grand Marshal Sponsor" this year, with a very generous donation of \$1500 to pay for the four shuttle buses.

This year, Old Saybrook Buick GMC is the "Parade Sponsor," with their \$1500 donation. In addition to their very generous donation, they will provide the car for the chosen Grand Marshal of the Tractor Parade to ride in style down Main Street!

"Entertainer Sponsors" are the Pattaconk 1850 Bar & Grille and Greenwald Industries, with their gifts of \$500 each, to help with the expense of the carnival beads and street performers.

"Balloon Sponsors" are Chester Woods, Purification Technologies and Wyeth Architects, giving \$250 each.

Anyone who wants to help can send a check, payable to Chester Winter Carnivale, to 33 King's Highway, Chester, CT 06412. Volunteers that day are especially welcomed to help greet people to town and more. Please email Carolyn Linn at chestercarnivale@gmail.com if you can give a couple of hours of assistance.

Information about Carnivale is available through [Facebook.com/ChesterCTWinterCarnivale](https://www.facebook.com/ChesterCTWinterCarnivale).

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Chester Historical Society

Today is Tomorrow's History -

What's New with Chester Historical Society

WINTER HAPPENINGS

It may be winter, but we never rest! For one thing, Diane Lindsay, our curator, and her team of volunteers work in our archives twice a week year-round. We're also developing new publications, transcribing oral histories and working on our exhibits. Want to get involved? Email us at chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Our Chester Museum at The Mill will be open during Chester Winter Carnivale on Sunday, Feb. 19. So feel free to drop in to enjoy some Chester history and hospitality.

We're also presenting a program on Sunday, Feb. 26 on the Silliman inkwells manufactured on Liberty Street in Chester in the 19th century. Our presenter will be Tom Marshall, who grew up in Chester and has amassed an amazing inkwell collection (you may have seen it at the Chester Fair last August). Did you know that Abraham Lincoln owned a Silliman inkwell? And Civil War soldiers were known to carry Silliman traveling inkwells so they could write letters home? This free program will be held in the Meeting House at 4:30 pm on Feb. 26 (snow date March 5).

FEBRUARY 26

The Silliman Company manufactured inkwells and inkstands in Chester in the 19th century. Learn why this was such an important contribution to Chester history at the Chester Historical Society's program on Feb. 26.

HELP PRESERVE CHESTER HISTORY

For 46 years, our all-volunteer organization, despite a very modest operating budget, has preserved, protected and interpreted Chester's rich history. We depend on your support through memberships, tax-deductible donations, and participation in our annual fundraisers. Our annual dues are just \$30 per family, \$20 per individual. Membership forms are on our website, chesterhistoricalsociety.org. Tax-deductible donations in any amount can be mailed at any time to: Chester Historical Society, PO Box 205, Chester 06412.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Information about Historical Society activities, as well as new gifts to our archives, is in our monthly e-newsletter. To receive the e-news (even if you're not a member of the Historical Society), please send your email address to chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com. All addresses are kept confidential. We are also on Facebook at [Facebook.com/chestercthistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/chestercthistoricalsociety) and frequently post old photos of Chester.

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DEPARTMENT	EXTENSION / NUMBER	CONTACT INFO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jenny Watrous	202	AdminAsst@chesterct.org
ANIMAL CONTROL Jae Wolf	860-388-7082	jwolf@essexct.gov
ASSESSOR Loreta Zdanys	512	Assessor@chesterct.org
ASSISTANT ASSESSOR Darlene Pollock	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 SELECTWOMAN Lauren Gister	202	FirstSelectman@chesterct.org
HUMAN SERVICES Rosie Bininger	213	HumanServices@chesterct.org
INFORMATION	202	Info@chesterct.org
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POLICE SERVICES Trooper Matt Ewing	860-526-3605	PoliceServices@chesterct.org
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS Tracey Ohaus & Leslie Holbrook	211	ChesterRegistrar@chesterct.org
SANITATION Lee Vito	206	Sanitarian@chesterct.org
TAX COLLECTOR Madaline Meyer	513	TaxCollector@chesterct.org
TAX CLERK Kristie Valentino	513	
TOWN CLERK Debra Germini Calamari	511	TownClerk@chesterct.org
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK Sharon Echtman	511	
TREASURER Elizabeth Netsch	214	Treasurer@chesterct.org
WPCA		wpca@chesterct.org

www.chesterct.org

BRAYCE

Updates from Brazilian American Youth Cultural Exchange (BRAYCE)

On November 6, 2016, BRAYCE attended the World's Faire at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Chester.

Sponsored by the Global Collaborative of five local Rotary clubs, the objective of this endeavor was to support the concept of providing a forum for regional humanitarian organizations to showcase their mission and share information with the public. This proved to be an informative, enlightening experience for all and BRAYCE looks forward to participating in this event in the future.

BRAYCE was delighted to receive a generous annual donation check from the Chester Rotary which we appreciate as a vote of confidence in our work and the mutual commitment of our respective organizations to humanitarian causes.



Margot Calder (BRAYCE),
Ron Woodward and Cheryl Archer,
President of Chester Rotary

SAVE THE DATE

BRAYCE will hold its annual fundraising event to support its scholarship fund at The Ivoryton Playhouse on Wednesday, July 12th, 2017. We will be sponsoring a matinee performance of the iconic musical, West Side Story. Please mark your calendars and visit the BRAYCE Website www.brayce.org for further information about this event and to learn more about our work providing enriching educational opportunities for Brazilian and American youth.

Valley Shore CERT Community Emergency Response Team

WE WANT/NEED YOU

Statewide there are just over 7,000 trained CERT volunteers who are available to assist responders in times of emergencies, and in helping out at local events. The volunteers are divided up into local teams. Here in the Lower Connecticut River Valley our Team is called: VALLEY SHORE CERT. We have, over the years, trained 48 volunteers. Currently we are 25 strong. We have activated to assist with entrance to the site during the Kleen Energy explosion a few years ago, assisted in searches in East Haddam, and Orange, and were on standby to assist at the Calamari fire in

2016. Other activities include training with the CT State Animal Response Team and with the Durham Animal Response Team. We have also assisted in shelter activities during the disasters a couple of years ago.

If you are interested in joining the VSCERTeam contact me at jpseverance@snet.net.

Joel Severance
Chester Emergency Management Director

Shoreline Bus Fares to Increase

9 Town Transit will increase its fares on all services beginning January 2, 2017. The increase will up the regular cash fare to \$1.75 on bus routes and \$3.50 on the Dial-A-Ride services and off-route trips. 9 Town Transit officials say the increase is necessary to help offset a decrease in funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The fares were last increased in 2012.

The increase will be offset by the introduction of a senior and disabled fare. It will allow seniors 65 or over and people with disabilities to ride any bus route for \$.85, or \$31 for unlimited trips with a monthly pass. To qualify, a Medicare card or a Connecticut reduced fare ID must be shown on boarding. ID's can be obtained by visiting www.9towntransit.com.

Seniors 60 and over residing in the region will still be able to obtain and utilize 9 Town Transit Senior Fare Cards.

9 Town Transit provides four bus route services to the valley-shore region and Dial-A-Ride service to twelve towns. For more information or to purchase passes and tickets, visit www.9towntransit.com.



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Chester Development Office

Need a variance? Have wetlands on your property? Putting in a new bathroom? Opening a new business? In any of these situations, you may need to chat with the Chester Development Office. Here is an introduction to the faces and personalities who will be helping you with the process. Our development folks have many years of experience and look forward to helping residents through what can sometimes be a challenging and intimidating process. They are all part time employees, but can usually be found on Monday and Wednesday mornings on the second floor at Town Hall. Check the website for exact hours. Feel free to stop and say hello!



Judy Brown has been the Zoning Compliance Officer for over 10 years and has been involved with municipal land use boards and commissions for various local towns for 28 years. Living locally for over 40

years helps with her knowledge of the area. She truly enjoys helping people and she encourages anyone to come to her office to discuss their projects during the planning stages. She can also provide assistance in determining which permits are needed and assist in the permitting process. She has completed the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials course as well as CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Inland Wetlands Comprehensive Training. She is available Monday and Wednesdays between 8 am and noon or can be emailed at JudyBrown@chesterct.org.



Anna Sweeney is Chester's Inland Wetlands Compliance Officer. She has lived in Chester since 1984 and has been the Inland Wetlands Officer since 1989. Anna is certified through the Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Comprehensive Training Program at the CT DEEP. Her role is to assist

landowners in navigating Inland Wetland regulations and help to promote suitable land use. Her dog Ava can sometimes be found joining her on these endeavors. She is available Monday and Wednesdays between 10 am and noon or can be emailed at AnnaSweeney@chesterct.org. Anna shares a desk with Chester's Sanitarian, Lee Vito, not pictured here, who is happy to answer your questions about septic and sewer systems, as well as a whole host of other health related topics.

Ron Rose, Building Inspector is a well-known face and name here at the Chester Town Hall. With over 20 years of experience with the Town of Chester, he can answer any of your building related questions. Along with being a certified Building Inspector, he is also a certified Health and Food Inspector and a Registered Sanitarian. Ron enjoys spending his free time with his lovely wife Sarah, to whom he has been married for 51 years, and his 5 children. Of course we cannot forget to mention Ron's sidekick, Wes, a West Highland White Terrier. Wes is a staple here at the Town Hall and can often be found roaming over to the bank in search of dog treats.



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

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

LIBRARY

Chester Public Library (860) 526-0018

POST OFFICE

Chester Post Office (860) 526-2780

SCHOOLS

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Tri-Town Youth Services

Hello, Neighbor!

With every New Year, many of us experience the nostalgia of looking back over the previous year (or years) and the anticipation of looking forward to what is ahead. This year, for me, these feelings are intensified.

After a little over twenty-six years as Executive Director of Tri-Town Youth Services, I am retiring in mid-January of 2017. This, of course, marks a personal transition for me as well as a transition for our agency. I am confident that the agency and I will thrive!

Tri-Town's Parent Resource Coordinator, Allison Abramson, will continue that role while she also takes on the role of Executive Director. We have spent much time together in preparation for this moment. The agency will be in very capable hands.

As for me, personally, I grew up in Essex, attended local schools, and was graduated from Valley Regional High School (when it housed grades 7-12). Having strong roots here was part of the appeal when I applied for the position at Tri-Town. Hired in 1990, I was the agency's third ED in its six years of existence. My goals included staying on for a while to provide stability to the agency. I was also determined to ensure credibility and to always follow through with whatever we purported to do.

I feel honored to have had productive, trusting, collaborative relationships with many individuals and organizations in our three communities. I am grateful for the support of staff members, board members, local community members and colleagues from out of town over the years. I am proud that with such support, Tri-Town has grown and thrived over the years.

My personal transition involves letting go of much in the tri-town area, while embracing more unscheduled time and more time to share with family and friends.

With deep and heartfelt thanks, I bid you Adieu!
Gail E. Beck

Tri-Town Youth Services is offering the following programs this winter:

Parent/Child Play & Support Groups

Calling all toddlers! Tri-Town Youth Services offers parents an opportunity to connect with each other while the little ones play. We will help parents explore new themes each week, provide reading material and other resources and make time for brainstorming solutions to family challenges. Toddlers will enjoy free play, art and sensory exploration. Each session will include a lovely seasonal circle with songs, finger-plays or yoga, followed by a shared snack and story. Registration is limited.

continued on page 12

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TRI-TOWN YOUTH SERVICES... continued from page 11

Please call 860-526-3600 to register.

“Outstanding Ones”

(children up to 24 months)

Meet: Tuesdays February 2 - March 29

Time: 10:30 – 11:00 (30 minute session)

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

Tuition: \$45 tri-town residents

“Terrific Toddlers”

(children 2 & 3 years old)

Meet: Wednesdays February 3 - March 30

Time: 11:00 – 12:00 (60 minute session)

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

Tuition: \$60 tri-town residents

Mother/Daughter Night Out: “Getting Ready for the Change”

Have you ever wondered what to say about your daughter’s transition from childhood to maturity? Join Health Educator Patricia Cournoyer for a one-evening conversation designed specifically for fifth grade girls and their mothers. Together you will learn about what happens to girls’ bodies as they go through puberty. Limit 12 mother/daughter pairs, so please register early.

Call 860-526-3600 to register.

Date: Tuesday, March 28

Time: 6:30-8:30

Tuition: \$25 per mother/daughter pair

Private Parent Consultations

Is everyone in your family running in different directions? Are you feeling worn out or stressed out? Have you been aggravated with your kids lately? Sometimes we need a little help making changes at home. Tri-Town offers both parent coaching and confidential, short-term counseling to youth and families living in Chester, Deep River and Essex, with daytime and evening appointments available.

If you would like to discuss issues of concern to you, please contact our office at 860-526-3600 to schedule an appointment.

Chester Library Events

SPRING 2017

ADULT PROGRAMS

March 27, The Graduate – Movie Night and Talk with moderator Marsha Bansavage at the Town Hall; 6 to 8:30 pm. We will discuss why the 1967 American comedy-drama was and is unique and groundbreaking and much more.

April 24, Some Like It Hot - Movie Night and Talk with moderator Marsha Bansavage at the Town Hall; 6 to 8:30 pm. Let’s laugh and appreciate Billy Wilder’s 1959 romantic comedy.

April – Passport to Connecticut, residents are encouraged to stop by the library and pick up your “passport.” Visit participating libraries and get your passport stamped for your chance to win a grand prize.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Monday morning drop in Craft and Story hour. Story time begins at 10:30. Call Mrs. Applesauce at 526-0018 for additional information or check our website for fun-filled themes.

Family events: first Saturday stories and third Saturday crafts

from 10:30 to 12:00 pm. Check website for more details.

February 4, Take Your Child to the Library, Dog Whisperer

March 4 – Dr. Seuss’s Birthday, 10:30 -12 pm.

April 8 – Egg-cellent decorations from 10:30 - 12 pm.

This is a family event.

April 22 – Earth Day, 10:30 – 12 pm., make your own succulent container garden.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Advisory Group (TAG) – For grades 7-12, we want to stay current with teen trends and hot topics and need your help. Discussions will include but are not limited to book and media selections, library programs and activities at the library. Teens will meet the first Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The next meeting will take place January 12. Snacks will be provided.

January 16, TAG will participate with the Montessori School for a Martin Luther King celebration. This is a family event from 1-3 pm and is open to the public.

Friends of the Library Winter Happenings

This winter, the Chester Friends will receive a \$3200 grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County to purchase the Early Literacy Station (ELS) by AWE Learning, which is known for its literacy-focused digital learning solutions for young children in public libraries.

ELS was recommended by Library Director Stephanie Romano who saw personally how popular it was at the Old Lyme Library with children and their parents. The ELS is non-web-based, so there’s no Internet danger to kids, and it has 4,000+ learning

activities in 7 curricular areas. Although it’s produced for children ages 2-8, it has an appeal to older children as well.

We will add a child’s size computer table in the children’s room. Anne Nord, our Children’s Librarian, will be utilizing the programs on the ELS in her activities for kids and families. We fully expect this workstation to attract families to our library plus give children an opportunity to try out a wide range of digital learning activities.

We are so grateful to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for giving us this grant to help the library give Chester's children additional learning opportunities.

Winter Book Sale

The holidays are over and winter, with those long nights, stretches out ahead of us. It must be time to lay in a supply of great books and movies! Happily, the Friends annual winter book sale begins on Friday, Jan. 20. Anticipate a large collection of adult

and children's books available at prices that seem frozen in time (most are \$.25 - \$1). Non-fiction books are sorted by subject for easier shopping. Donations of books and movies in great condition will be happily accepted until Jan. 20.

When thinking about making a donation, remember that books that have spent time in basements and garages are often unfit for sale due to mustiness, water damage, etc. Volunteers interested in helping with the sale are encouraged to call Diane Lindsay at 860-526-2443.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Chester

Happy New Year to all of our Chester neighbors... take advantage of the new year and attend mass, participate in a bible study, join us for a Sunday social, or gather at the one of our upcoming events.

Upcoming Events

Family Mass and Sunday Social: Join us for the celebration of mass at 10:00 am. After mass, all are welcome to the Parish Center to chat, share a hot drink, and a sweet treat on January 8th, February 12th, March 12th, and April 9th.

Bible Study: Bible study will take place on January 11th and March 14th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Sorrows in Essex.

Youth Mission Trip Brunch scheduled for Sunday, January 22nd from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is a fundraising event for the trip to Norristown, PA, in June of 2017, in which 30 kids and 12 chaperones will partake in home repairs for the less fortunate.

Knights of Columbus Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, February 18th at the St. Joseph's Parish Center from 5 pm to 10 pm. Dinner begins at 5 pm and dancing at 7 pm. Dress will be casual. The cost per adult will be \$10 and child cost is \$5. Italian menu; pasta, meatballs, salad, desert, and drinks, coffee, tea, and soda. Babysitting services will be available at no

cost. Please pray for good weather.

Annual Lenten Fish Fry Dinners: Join us at the Parish Center for the highly acclaimed Fish Fry Lenten Dinners. The menu will include fish and chips, baked fish, clam chowder, macaroni and cheese, among other treats. Come hungry and invite a few friends! Dinners available from 4:00 to 7:00 pm each Friday throughout Lent: March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, and April 7th.

Have a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year from the St. Joseph's family.



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Wishing you a Happy New Year!

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Chester Hose Company

Happy New Year!

As the temperatures are expected to drop, we always remind you to check on your friends and neighbors. In the event of snow, did you know that YOU can be of assistance to the fire department? Around town we have hydrants which provide water when a fire occurs. We ask that if you have a hydrant near your house or driveway, assist us by keeping it clear. A simple clearance of 2 feet around each side will allow the firefighters to be able to locate the hydrant and hookup quicker in an emergency.

We are pleased to announce that with the return of the Chester Winter Carnivale, our annual Chili Cookoff will again take place. Join us from 11-1 on Sunday, February 19 at the firehouse to sample multiple chilis and cast your vote for the best tasting chili

among the fire company and local businesses. There is a \$5 charge at the door and beverages as well as popcorn will be available for sale. Additionally, check our Facebook page, signboard or our website www.chesterhoseco.org for other upcoming events, news and information.

As always we standby ready to serve and protect our neighbors and the Town of Chester! If you have had an interest in further serving your community, the firehouse is always seeking new members. Stop by on a Monday night at 7 pm or call 860-526-0019 for an application. No experience necessary!

May 2017 be a safe, happy and healthy year for you all!
Chief James Schaefer
Chester Hose Company

CHESTER HOSE COMPANY AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Chester Hose Company Auxiliary will again be offering a scholarship to a well deserving child 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 have 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, or Vinal High schools. All applications and supporting

documentation are due by April 30th. 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

Estuary Council Regional Senior Center

220 Main Street, Old Saybrook
(860) 388-1611

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. is a community center for the region's residents over 50 years old providing meals, transportation, health services, educational classes, exercise programs, and socialization activities. We have been promoting healthy and active lifestyles through quality programs and services in the nine-town Estuary region for over 40 years. Please visit us at www.ecsenior.org for additional information or call us at 860.388.1611.

BINGO AT THE ESTUARY

Our Thursday night Bingo is hibernating until spring! Watch for our announcements for its return in April.

ESTUARY GYM IS SILVER SNEAKERS APPROVED

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

THE MARSHVIEW FITNESS CENTER

The Estuary has a gym – and it's affordable! Stay healthy and strong by working out in our gym. Membership Options: \$50 for 3 months, \$90 for 6 months, \$150 for a year. Includes: Mandatory fitness assessment, three training sessions on each piece of equipment, and a one-hour individualized program consultation with our certified fitness trainer. Stop by the Office for a tour and learn how to become a gym member.

THE ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP

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

CHESTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM

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

If you, or know of someone who, may be in need of transportation or any other assistance during an emergency, please fill out this special needs form and return the form to CHESTER TOWN HALL OFFICE of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, 203 MIDDLESEX AVE, CHESTER CT 06412.

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

This information is voluntary and will remain confidential.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ APT # _____

TOWN: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION OF A RELATIVE, CAREGIVER OR FRIEND.

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME:

PLEASE CHECK ANY OF ITEMS WHICH MAY ADDRESS YOUR NEEDS

I am hearing impaired I use a TDD/TT device

I am oxygen dependent I have impaired vision

I depend upon electrically powered life sustaining medical equipment

Respirator equipment In-home dialysis Other _____

I have mobility concerns and rely on the use of a:

Wheelchair Walker Cane Other _____

I have a service animal, guide dog or pet I have special dietary needs

I rely on In-home health care assistance I have special prescription needs

I would require special transportation in the event I had to evacuate my home

I understand that this information is voluntary and will remain confidential.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Chester Parks and Recreation

Celebrating Community through People, Parks and Programs!
860-526-0013 extension 223, parkrec@chesterct.org
Visit our website for program information and registration forms:
http://chesterct.org/?page_id=7810

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL US FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

REGISTER FOR THE "HOT SHOT" competition! Friday, January 13, 1:00-4:30 pm. It's a half day of school! The high scorers in the ages 9 through 15 categories are eligible to compete in the State competition. Children in grades K through age 8 are welcome to attend and participate in our own local program. \$10. The Hotshot program is held in conjunction with our SPORTS CLINICS AND CAMP ACTIVITIES following the early dismissal on January 13. We also offer this program on February 17 and March 9, 1:00 pm-4:30 pm, \$10, at Chester Elementary School and on March 10, 8:45 am-3:45 pm, \$20. These programs are open to students in grades K through 6.

The Chester Youth Basketball season culminates with March Madness for Rookies through grade 6, on Sunday, March 5, from 2:00-6:00 pm at Chester Elementary School. Play basketball against your parents & coaches and enjoy pizza with your teammates. To access registration forms, or view the schedule for March Madness and the Youth Basketball games at Chester, Deep River, and Essex Elementary Schools open the link on our web page at http://chesterct.org/?page_id=7810.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER'S TRAINING classes are held Thursday and Friday, March 23 & 24, 1:15 pm-4:45 pm following the elementary school early dismissal. For grades 5 through age 15 at the Chester Town Hall. \$45. School bus transportation is available.

COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING program meets Thursdays and Fridays, April 20, 21, 27, 28, May 4, and 5 for grades 7 and 8, 2:45 pm-5:00 pm at the Chester Town Hall. \$95 (includes 8 days of summer camp registration). School bus transportation is available.

YOGA meets at the Chester Town Hall on Tuesdays from 5:45 pm-6:45 pm, through May 23. Participate on any Tuesday. \$10 drop-in fee.

AMERICAN RED CROSS PEDIATRIC & ADULT CPR/AED and/or **FIRST AID** certification classes are offered on Thursday and Friday March 30 & 31, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm at the Chester Town Hall. \$35 for one class, \$45 for both.

ADULT RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL is held November 15 through April 6, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:45 pm-9:30 pm. \$10 for Chester residents, \$15 for nonresidents.

SUBSTITUTE LIFEGUARD AND CAMP

COUNSELOR POSITION - Chester Parks and Recreation is accepting letters of interest for the position of Substitute Lifeguard and Camp Counselor for the summer of 2017. Applicants must hold current Lifeguard Training certification or be completing the training by June, 2017. Successful applicants will perform duties as a Lifeguard and a Camp Counselor, based on the needs of the Department. Substitute employees will be considered first if a full-time seasonal position becomes available. The rate of pay starts at \$11.00 per hour and increases with experience. Call 526-0013, extension 223 or e-mail parkrec@chesterct.org for a specific job description, pay rate, or with any questions. Please send a letter of interest regarding the positions above by February 10, 2017, including previous experience and availability from June 15 through August 20, by March 4, 2017 to: Town of Chester, Parks and Recreation, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412 or e-mail to parkrec@chesterct.org

MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER! 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, team building, and more, but unlike many camps, children choose most of what they wish to participate in throughout the day from a variety of programmed activities. 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 26, July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, August 7, and August 14, at Chester Elementary School on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and severe weather days, and Cedar Lake on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

If the camp meets at the school on Tuesday or Wednesday due to weather, Thursday camp will be held at the lake that week. The children take field trips on Fridays. The fee is \$130 per child, per week, and payable at the time of registration. The weeks of July 10 and July 24 (SEE KINDER-CAMP BELOW) are open to children entering Kindergarten, too! The weeks of July 10, 17, 24, and 31 include optional swimming lessons the days the program meets at Cedar Lake.

All Kinder-Camp children participate in swimming lessons.

KINDER-CAMP for children ENTERING KINDERGARTEN has staff and programming designed specifically to meet the needs of younger children. Activities include games, sports, crafts, nature, teacher led swimming and story time. The children have their own teachers, lunch time, and activities in their own group of 6 to 8 campers, running concurrently with our grades 1 through 7 camp, at the same location the weeks of July 10

and July 24. Our camp fee includes all program and field trip expenses, except lunch. Children do not need to be Chester residents to attend; our programs are open to residents of all area towns.

ACCORDING TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE 19a-77 WE ARE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE THAT TOWN OF CHESTER PROGRAMS ARE NOT LICENSED BY THE STATE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

Middlesex Hospital Breast Surgeon Performs New Technique

RECONSTRUCTION DURING LUMPECTOMY PRESERVES NATURAL LOOK OF TISSUE

Patients who undergo breast surgery are naturally concerned about the cosmetic changes that come with it. Leah Bassin, M.D., a breast surgery specialist at the Middlesex Hospital Surgical Alliance, is now helping women who undergo lumpectomies feel more comfortable about it.

“Breast tissue does not grow back,” says Dr. Bassin. “When a tumor is removed during a lumpectomy procedure, it leaves an empty space in the breast that can change the look of the breast.”

Oncoplastics essentially involves filling any “gaps” in the breast left by the removal of the tumor by reshaping the surrounding tissue, preserving a natural look.

“With the oncoplastic technique, my goal is to leave the breast looking like it did before surgery,” explains Dr. Bassin, “with as small a scar as possible.”

Dr. Bassin performs both the lumpectomy and the oncoplasty at the same time, which can also be a big plus for the patient. The entire procedure usually takes only about an hour.

In addition to the oncoplasty procedure, Dr. Bassin provides patients with complete breast care, including:

High-risk patients

Atypia (presence of abnormal cells in breast tissue)

Consultation for abnormal breast imaging

Breast cancer

Benign breast disease

Breast pain

Breast infections

Dr. Bassin also collaborates with Middlesex Hospital breast surgeon, Dr. Andrea Malon, as part of the Surgical Alliance - along with local plastic surgeons.

“Providing patient-centered care is extremely important to me,” adds Dr. Bassin. “I am with my patients every step of the way.”

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National Glaucoma Awareness Month

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month. Glaucoma affects 60 million people worldwide and more than 3 million people in the United States. Glaucoma is often called the “thief of sight” since often there are no symptoms and glaucoma-related vision loss is permanent. As much as 40% of vision can be lost without a person noticing. If not diagnosed and treated, 1 in 10 people go blind from glaucoma. Glaucoma affects people of all ages, even infants.

There are two main types of glaucoma: Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma and Angle-Closure Glaucoma.

Open-angle glaucoma is dangerous because most of the time a person affected will not notice any symptoms until vision is severely damaged. The vision loss isn't noticed because it often starts with your peripheral vision and the brain makes up for what you don't see. The inner eye pressure (IOP- intraocular pressure) rises because the correct amount of fluid can't drain out of the eye. This occurs usually deep into the drainage canals.

Closed-angle glaucoma occurs when the drainage canals get blocked or covered. Angle-closure glaucoma is dangerous

because, while there are often symptoms of pain including headaches, nausea, and eye pain, they happen rapidly and without warning.

It is very important to get an annual dilated eye exam. As you age or if you have a family history of glaucoma you may have the visual field test performed. This test checks your peripheral vision and the loss of your side vision is one of the first signs of glaucoma.

If you are diagnosed with glaucoma there are ways to manage it. In the early stages you might be prescribed eye drops or have laser surgery performed. Other ways to manage glaucoma are done by performing filtering surgery or a drainage implant.

Dr. Mascarenhas at Middlesex Eye Physicians is our Glaucoma Specialist. She is a Yale educated specialist and trained in Trabectome glaucoma surgery.

Middlesex Eye Physicians



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Circle of Friends

Fifth Annual MLK Day of Peace Celebration

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." - Martin Luther King, Jr.



Are you and your little ones looking for a way to honor Martin Luther King, Jr and his dedication to love, peace, and acceptance for all people this January 16th, 2017? Would you like to help our region's youngest citizens to have a grasp on what this day means to us as members of a global community? Then join Circle of Friends Montessori and the Chester Public Library's teen action group for our fifth annual MLK Day Celebration. Young and old alike will have the opportunity to come together to sing, create art, role-play and more, as we spread Martin Luther King, Jr's message of equality and fairness across all divides. As past participant Kristin Dean notes: "It gives meaning to the day and helps connect the past to the present in a fun and celebratory way." The event is geared towards ages three through nine, but older and younger siblings are welcome, too! "I appreciate that the children engage in activities that help even the smallest of learners begin to understand the philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr," says Chester mom Beth Nischan, who first attended with her son when he was just two years old. In addition to activities led by teachers from Circle of Friends, teen volunteers will help attendees to decorate sugar cookies with messages of peace. This free event will begin at the United Church of Chester, 29 West Main Street, at 1:00 pm. A sing-along with Frank Natter, Jr. from Face Arts Music will bring the event to a close at 2:45 pm. For more information or to register, contact Dawn Niles, Director of Circle of Friends Montessori, at dawn@montessoricof.org, or call the school at (860) 526-9995. While pre-registration is helpful, walk-ins are certainly welcome!

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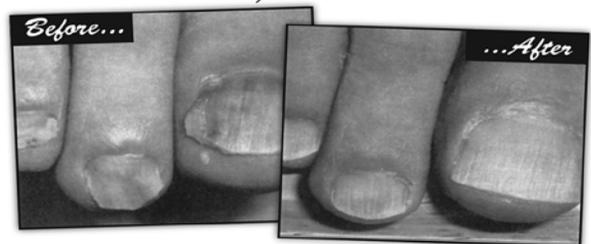
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The United Church of Chester

A Big Outreach Thank You!

Thank you to our generous community, the employees at Whelen Engineering, and our resident State Trooper and staff for the wonderful toy donations to the Stuff-A-Cruiser event, as well as our annual Holiday Gift Giving Project, from the United Church of Chester Outreach Committee!

We were able to brighten Christmas morning for over 40 local children, as well as providing gifts for many Middletown adolescent s through our Covenant to Care program. None of this would have been possible without your caring support!



UCC Outreach Team left to right: Karla Tessitore, Brenda Johnson, chairperson, Santa, Jane Zanardi, Tom Thayer, Ed Sypher



Santa and the Troopers

Looking Ahead to 2017



The climax of an exciting 2016 for the United Church of Chester came in November with our 75th Anniversary Celebration that included making a Time

Capsule to be opened in 25 years. Looking ahead to 2017, we invite you to join us for these events:

January is a time to reflect on all the blessings of life and donate during our stewardship drive to continue our commitment to serve our community.

February is a month of celebrating YOU, and the day you were born! Join us for the Unbirthday Party on Sunday, February 12th, for a birthday cake for each month of the year.

March brings the season of Lent with these special services:

- Ash Wednesday, March 1: 6 pm Pot Luck Supper; 7 pm worship service shared with Deep River Congregational.
- March 5: first Sunday in Lent; communion Sunday service, 10 am.
- March 19: Family Sunday - children participate during service. Donations welcome for "Food on the Third."

April continues with these services:

- April 9: Palm/Passion Sunday: 10 am service.
- April 13: Maundy Thursday service: 6 pm Pot Luck dinner in Fellowship Hall, followed by a Tenebrae service at 7 pm, recreating the Last Supper.
- April 14: Good Friday: 12-3 pm, drop-in service "The Seven Last Words of Christ" in 20-minute segments with quiet meditation.
- April 16: Easter Sunday Services: 10 am with choir and accompaniment.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Time Capsule

Little Stella Rogan hammers the last nail into the time capsule box before the UCC kids hid it within the United Church of Chester walls on November 20, 2016, to commemorate the 75 years as "United" Church of Chester. The time capsule will be reopened in November 2041 in 25 years. Will you remember it's there?



Pictured are Margie Warner, Cheryl Archer-Indorf, Sophia Abramson, Stella Rogan, Mae, Grace and Emma Carpenter. (photo courtesy of Margie Warner)

UNICEF

Teachers and Students at United Church of Chester learned about UNICEF in October. Thanks to the community, and the Chester Rotary, they raised \$250.00 during their "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" project!



Pictured here are Grace Carpenter, Margie Warner, Jennifer Carpenter, Emma Carpenter, and Allison Abramson. (photo courtesy of Margie Warner)

LYME CENTER FOR ARTS PROGRAMMING

BRIDGING THE ARTS

Curated Film Series at the Kate

JAN 24 | Picasso and Braque: Pioneering Cubism

FEB 28 | Aaron Siskind and Harry Callahan
Double Feature: Two Masters of American Photography

MAR 21 | Sol LeWitt: Wall Drawings

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. | the Kate | 300 Main Street | Old Saybrook
Curated film series co-sponsored by Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts and the Kate, which feature films by Checkerboard Film Foundation, Inc.
Purchase tickets in advance: katharinehepburntheater.org/events-tickets.

UPCOMING LECTURES

FEB 16 | Lecture by Dr. Kevin J.F. Murphy
Director, Tuscan Campus, University of New Haven

MAR 2 | Artist Lecture by Vanessa Hoheb

Please note new times:
Reception at 5 p.m. Lecture at 6 p.m. | \$15
Limited Seating. Reservations Required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
www.lymeacademy.edu

Center for Arts Programming
University of New Haven

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

For 27 years The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP) has been feeding the hungry along the shoreline in 11 towns, including Chester. Food is provided through 8 meal sites and 5 pantries, all located and hosted by communities of faith. Last year with a small staff and over 900 dedicated volunteers, we distributed food to over 8,000 shoreline neighbors in need.

CHESTER SUNDAY DINNER: SSKP serves a family-style hot dinner prepared fresh by volunteers every Sunday from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the United Church of Chester, 29 Main Street in Chester. All are welcome for food and fellowship.

FOOD PANTRY EVERY WEEK FOR CHESTER RESIDENTS: Any resident of Chester may attend 1 of SSKP's 5 food pantries each week, located in Westbrook, Clinton, Old Saybrook, Old Lyme and East Lyme. The pantries provide fresh and non-perishable food for those in need. Chester residents will receive enough food from the pantry for three meals a day for three days for all those in their household. Guests are reminded to bring bags. Visit www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org for a full listing of SSKP's pantry and meal locations or call (860) 388-1988.

SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED IN CHESTER: With your support, we can continue providing food to all needing help in Chester and on the shoreline. Donations (payable to Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries) can be mailed to P.O. Box 804, Essex CT 06426 or visit our website to donate online.



Don't let this sign disappear...

HELP NEEDED TO KEEP CHESTER MEAL SITE OPEN

Jim & Marie Ready of Chester have been the meal site coordinators for the Chester site of Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP) for the past 10 years. They are stepping down in January and need someone to step up! The meal site coordinator is responsible for facilitating the operation of the meal site by scheduling teams to provide a meal each Sunday evening at the United Church of Chester. He/she also communicates site needs and statistics to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens, including quarterly supply orders and new needs that the site may have. The coordinator does not need to be a member of the United Church of Chester.

Basic qualifications include a sensitivity to the varied needs of the guests served by SSKP, the ability to work independently and prioritize tasks, good organizational skills, and effective oral & written communication with the various faith communities that support this program. This volunteer post takes about 1-1/2 hours per week and Jim and Marie are ready to train their replacement. The Chester site has been active for 25 years. There are currently 12 teams made up of people from different backgrounds and faiths who volunteer about four times each year.

If this is something you feel would be rewarding, please contact Jeff Ward at SSKP 860-388-1988 or the United Church office at 860-526-2697.

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The Williams School Fall Athletic Wrap-up

The 2016 fall season has come to a close and all who can proclaim, "I am a member of the Williams School community" should be proud, as this season's participating student athletes were really quite exceptional.

Varsity Cross Country

Our Cross Country team, under the tutelage of Mr. Bowerman, Ms. Barth, Ms. Sakorski, and led by captain Will Jarrett '18, showed great dedication from the start of the season, and only got better with each meet! The family-like atmosphere created by the team and coaching staff translated into a wonderful support system that pushed each other during training sessions. Come race day, the Blues were always prepared—mentally and physically - and dominated a great many of the races they took part in.

Top runners this season included:

- Will Jarrett '18 finished the season with ten top 10 finishes and two 1st place finishes. Will finished 8th out of 198 runners in the 2016 NEPSTA Division IV Cross Country Championship race.
- Catherine Shannon '21 finished the season with three 1st place finishes and four 2nd place finishes. Catherine finished 2nd out of 114 varsity girl runners at the NEPSTA Division IV Championship race.
- Mary Madaus '21 placed 4th out of 114 varsity girl runners at the NEPSTA Division IV Championship race.
- Grace Cassineri '22 finished 20th out of 114 varsity girl runners at the NEPSTA Division IV Championship race.

Williams hosted the SENE Cross Country Championship race this year, and what a beautiful day it was. The sun was shining brightly on that early November day, with a crisp breeze and an air of anticipation, as 200 plus runners took to our home course. Proudly, the Blues performed as they had all season - with strength and confidence; third-place team finishes for both boys and girls was the result! Earning SENE honors: Will Jarrett '18, Catherine Shannon '21, Mary Madaus '21, and Grace Cassineri '22.

Earning All New England Honors for the Blues: Mary Madaus '21, Catherine Shannon '21, Grace Cassineri '22, and Will Jarrett '18. All four student athletes qualified to compete in the New England Preparatory Schools Track Association All Star Cross Country Meet at St. Marks School in Southborough, MA.

Boys Varsity Soccer

The boys varsity soccer team, coached by Joe Langton, showed marked improvement from start to finish and earned them a spot in the SENE Tournament. The team came ready to practice hard as Coach Joe put them through their paces - well organized drills that forced skills to improve and team unity to



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strengthen - each and every day! This attitude and grit transferred to game time and led to many positive outcomes and losses by very small margins.

Keeper, Alexander Bowdler '18, did a wonderful job in goal all season in conjunction with his teammates holding down the defensive positions. On the offensive end, the Blues were led by Nicholas Chirillo '18 and Oliver Falla '17. Also, earning a spot in the scorer's column: Fehme Braish '18, Kevin Masson '19, Harrison Anselmi '20, George Sun '18 and Jacob Marchesi '18.

Post-season honors included:

- Fehme Braish '18 - Boys SENE All League Team
- Andrew Little '18 - WNEPSSA Class C/D Select Team
- Nicholas Chirillo '18 - honorable mention for the WNEPSSA Class C/D Select Team

Girls Varsity Soccer

The girls varsity soccer team, coached by Andrew Capewell, complimented the boys varsity team effort, as far as hard work, dedication, well organized practices that enhanced all skills and enthusiasm for team and success. The end result was the team earning a spot in the SENE Tournament.

In the keeper position, several key players deserve the spotlight: Deriyana Carter '17, Victoria Hersant '17 and with the JV call up, Olivia Guinan '22. Each girl in front of their keeper worked hard on the defensive side of the ball. No matter the opponent, the Blues made a consistent effort to challenge every attempt and to make the opposition truly earn their goals.

On the offensive end, the team was led strongly by Camryn Werbinski '18 and Audrey Matson '20. Both Camryn and Audrey scored more than 10 goals each over the course of the season. The Blues leading scorers were not alone in their effort: Katerina Bourganos '18, Mia Taylor '18, Morgan Pill '20, Kayla Capano '19 and Grace Powell '19, also found the back of the net.

Post-season honors included:

- Katia Bourganos '18 - Girls SENE All League Team
- Mia Taylor '18 - Girls SENE All League Team
- Audrey Matson '20 - Girls SENE All League Team
- Isabella Nucci - honorable mention for her defensive play this year in the SENE

The dedication and discipline displayed by the Williams School fall season student-athletes was a wonderful extension of their leadership and excellence in the classroom. The Williams School prides itself on being a small school that makes a big difference, and these all-around student-athletes exemplified Williams' hopes, accomplishments, and mission statement beautifully!

Thank you to all coaches and athletes - we are so very proud of each and every one of you! Go Blues!



The Williams School

Small School • Big Impact

Congratulations to our students on their recent accomplishments!



Winterfest 2016 featured our amazing performing artists in the Harkness Chapel at Connecticut College.



The Student Service Committee helped a plethora of families in need.



All students conquered a distinctive array of end-of-term assessment models.

Read about these students and more at williamsschool.org

Information Session

Sunday, January 22, 2017 • 1-3PM

Independent College Prep Day School • Grades 6-12

On the campus of Connecticut College • New London, CT

Chester Fife and Drum Corps

149th Year

As we start the year 2017, it is with great pleasure that I report that the Chester Fife and Drum Corps had a great year. We enjoyed the camaraderie of each other as we marched pretty much all over New England. It looks like 2017 will be just as busy.

We had our annual meeting in November and elected new officers and members. Currently on our roster, we start out the year with 9 Fifers, 7 Snares, and 5 Bases, plus 9 in our Color Guard and our official Corps Photographer. Of course we are always looking for new members. Remember that we teach all of our instruments and provide uniforms, free of charge. Currently, we are teaching 3 new fifers. Speaking of uniforms, we have Chester's new old look and started wearing the uniforms early last year. We are about 80% outfitted and hoping to debut the complete new uniform by the beginning of 2018, our 150th Anniversary.



We currently have 5 veterans (2 Army, 2 Navy, and 1 Air Force) marching in our corps. We also have one on active duty in the Army and one member's son on active duty in the Navy. We are indebted to those who served and those who are serving for allowing us the opportunity to do what we love to do every year. Thank You. As this article is coming out, we are on winter shutdown until Feb. of 2017. We will return to the Chester Elementary School to get ready for the upcoming year. If you are interested in becoming part of our Corps and its long history, please feel free to call me at 860-691-1735.

Follow us on our Facebook page (Chester Drum Corps) or contact us at chester1868@gmail.com. Just as a reminder, we are neither a Junior nor Senior Corps. We are a family oriented organization and intend to remain so. Better yet, come on down and meet the Corps. We practice from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. Stay warm and come on down. Hope to see you at a muster or at a parade.

Frenchy Cordeau
Business Manager and Drum Major



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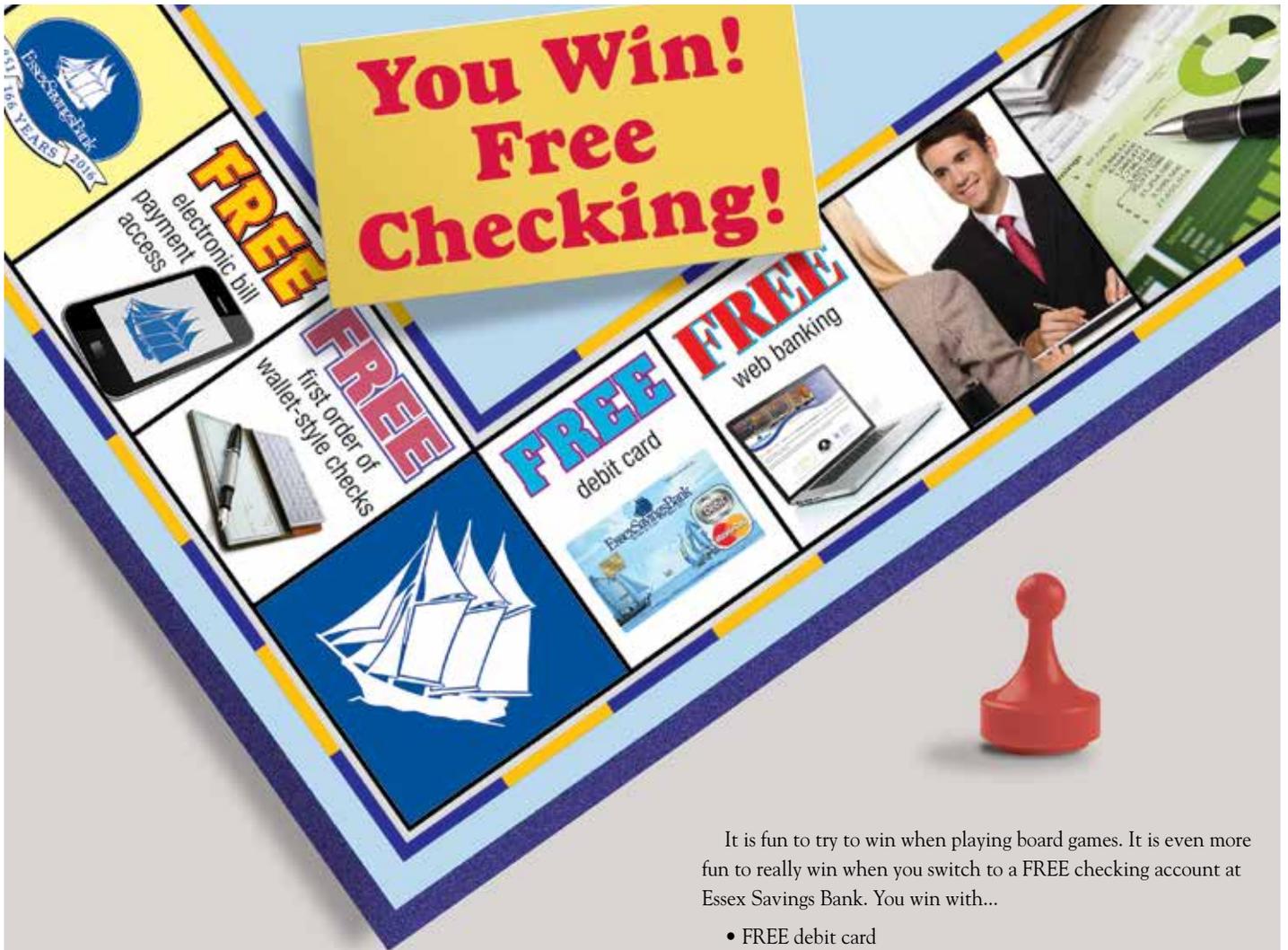
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