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First Selectwoman's Corner

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We started with Halloween and all the ghosts and goblins who filled Main Street for fun and games and a walk through the spooky cemetery. Once again, the PTO from our elementary school did an outstanding job making Halloween fun and safe for children of all ages.

Veterans Day was celebrated with a small march from North Quarter Park to the Veterans Memorial. All the Chester Elementary School students joined in and several of the students gave speeches or read poems. Local dignitaries said a few words and the fife and drum corps played several selections. It was an opportunity for our young people to hear about what many of our veterans had to endure and why these men and women are so important to the freedoms we have as a nation.

The holiday season started with the Center once again becoming a starry affair. The many stars around town were officially lit on First Friday, December 2 along with the lights at the flagpole. The shops and restaurants were open with treats for all visitors. The Winter Farmers Market opened on the first Sunday and ran for the next four weeks.

The new year will again see the return of the tractor parade in February along with a chili cook off sponsored by the Chester Hose Company. Be prepared with cameras for all the special pictures of kids and adults with tractors.

This past year has seen many changes in town, foremost has been my taking over as First Selectman. We have a new assessor, a new inland wetlands officer, some new faces in the public works department and some new constables.

We are now able to have hybrid meetings so that more people can participate in seeing how the various boards and commissions work. Thanks to Ed Meehan, we have received a grant to repair North Main Street which will complete another phase of the Main Street Project.

Charlene O. Janecek,
First Selectwoman



Charlene O. Janecek
First Selectwoman



Recent Activity in Chester



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COVER PHOTO
 Chester Historical Society.
 By Sigrid Kun

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Chester Tax Office

Another Reason to Not Wait!

SUGGESTIONS FROM TAX COLLECTOR

For the past 12 years, I have recommended that you do NOT wait to pay taxes until the last minute.

My reasons have been that

- 1 **A bad storm** could arrive, and it could stop you from coming into the Tax Office, or to the Post Office.
- 2 **The power could go out** and payments won't be able to be processed or transfer money.
- 3 **You could get sick** and not be able to come to Tax Office.
- 4 Rarely, but sometimes there could be **a line to pay**, and you'd rather not wait.
- 5 **You might need the Assessor** and they don't work every day.
- 6 Or, the most common reason to not wait is that **you just plain forget** because of the busy world that we live in.

LATEST REASON TO NOT WAIT

The latest reason to not wait until the last minute is that the new online process through a company called Point & Pay could have issues.

July 31st, 2022, the company site was so bogged down with people all across the state trying to pay, that online payments were bouncing back and not being processed. This was occurring after all the info was typed into the system, and the taxpayer was trying to enter credit card information. I was getting calls after hours about this problem. Well, we can't control the internet or the online process, which meant the taxpayers were panicked & worried!

So, word to the wise...
DO NOT wait until
the last minute.

Thanks,
Madaline Meyer,
Tax Collector
& Susan Shrack,
Tax Clerk



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Planning & Zoning

The Planning & Zoning Commission, along with the Zoning Compliance Officer, seek to be a resource for current and future residents and businesses in the Town of Chester. It is their statutory responsibility to develop, interpret, and enforce the rules for development and use of property throughout the Town in a way that balances the individual rights of property owners and the greater good and need for orderly development and the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of Chester.

PLANNING & ZONING ONLINE

To help property owners and potential developers, the Planning & Zoning Commission offers a wide range of informational resources on the Commission's page on the Town website at: www.chesterct.org/town-government/planning-zoning-commission. This page has links to the Town Zoning Map (to understand what "district" your property is in,) the Zoning Regulations (the rules for development and what sort of uses are allowed,) and other useful links. One of the most important resources on this page is a link to the Town's updated GIS (geographic information systems) website, www.axisgis.com/chesterct/. This site is a wealth of information that includes property ownership, boundaries, topography, zoning, and many other data layers including unofficial wetland areas. Those who wish to view the official Chester

Wetlands map should email: InlandWetlands@chesterct.org.



RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

At its meeting on November 10, 2022, the Planning & Zoning Commission voted unanimously to prohibit the sales of recreational cannabis in Chester. While the State Legislature legalized the possession and use of cannabis for adults in

2021, it left the regulation of cultivation and retail sales to individual municipalities to manage. Following on its decision several years ago to prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries in Chester, the Commission, after weighing public input during commission meetings and an informal online survey, opted to prohibit cultivation and retail sales of the newly legal recreational cannabis.

The Chester PZC meets on the second Thursday of each month and is holding in-person meetings at Town Hall as well as a virtual option as needed. The Zoning Officer holds regular office hours at Town Hall on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings, and you can reach the office by emailing: zoning.official@chesterct.org.

Essex Winter Series Receives Supporting Arts Grant for 2023

The Connecticut Office of the Arts Supporting Arts Grant is given to many recipients each year to provide unrestricted funding for arts organizations to pursue their missions. This year, 219 recipients received funds totaling \$1,014,063. Essex Winter Series is grateful to once again be one of the organizations to benefit from this generous funding. Artistic Director Mihae Lee noted that "Essex Winter Series is proud of our history of presenting world-class artists in the Valley Shore area, but this grant ensures we can continue our commitment to bring the finest musicians to our community."

Essex Winter Series completed its 2022 season with the rescheduling of last January's cancelled concert, featuring the world-renowned Brentano String Quartet with Artistic Director and pianist Mihae Lee, appearing on December 18 at Valley Regional High School (VRHS.)



In 2023, the 46th EWS season begins with the spectacular New Haven Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Donato Cabrera and with Aya Kaminaguchi, marimba soloist. This concert takes place on Sunday, January 22, at VRHS in Deep River. Livening up February will be Jeff Barnhart & His Hot Jazz Collective on the 26th at John Winthrop Middle School (JWMS.) There will be some new faces, but also

popular greats like Vince Giordano and Jim Fryer. The season continues on March 12 with our Fenton Brown Emerging Artists concert at JWMS. Mihae Lee, piano, will join the ambassador string trio – Brian Hong (violin and viola), Stephanie Zyzak (violin) and Andrew Janss (cello) – from the in-the-news Project: Music Heals Us. On April 23, the series closes with Grammy-award

winning choral group Chanticleer appearing at VRHS.

All performances take place on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 pm and seating is general admission. To purchase tickets or learn more, visit us at: www.essexwinterseries.com or call us at: 860-272-4572.

Our Mission:

To bring the finest music, in live performance, to the Connecticut River Valley and Shoreline Region during the winter months and to cultivate its appreciation to the widest audience.

Essex Winter Series is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has provided quality arts presentations for the Connecticut River Valley and Shoreline communities since 1978.

FISH (Friends in Service Here)

FISH was founded locally in 1970 to provide free rides to medical appointments for residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester. The officers for 2022 are Henry May, President; Stuart Warner, Vice President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; Barbara Ryan, Treasurer and Jack Frost, Driver Recruitment. Dispatchers are John Heiser and Tony Carrano.

FISH restarted driving this April 2022 after not driving because of Covid in January through March 2022. Early rider volume was low, but has gradually increased to 35 to 40 rides per month, about half our pre Covid volume. FISH drivers and riders continue to be required to be vaccinated and to wear masks.

After not having FISH Annual Meetings in 2020 and 2021, FISH did have an Annual Meeting November 3, 2022. The modest FISH budget is funded by grants from the Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Essex Rotary Club, the Essex Savings Bank, the Deep River Community Health Committee, the Town of Chester, the Town of Essex, and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers, riders and friends. We did not ask for donations for 2021 and are asking for donations in 2022.

Henry May, Driver and President

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BRAYCE Cultural Exchange Program to Resume in 2023



How wonderful for my last Chester Events message in 2022 to end on a positive note!

After 3 years of dashed dreams and heartbreaking disappointments, BRAYCE is able to reassure its young Brazilian recruits that they will finally embark on their American adventure. Samuel will participate in the LEAdership Program as a first-year trainee; have the opportunity to embrace American culture; become fluent in English and learn valuable life and leadership skills. Unfortunately, Henrique and Izabely will attend camp only in a volunteer capacity as they have “aged out” of the LEAdership Program. BRAYCE Coordinator Diana Nijboer from Edumais, in Rio, is working to acquire a passport and visa for Taynara who is in the same school and class as Samuel. All told we hope to have four youngsters at Camp in 2023. We regret that the Homestay component of the Program will not be available in 2023. The COVID situation is just too tenuous.

One goal for 2023 is to resurrect BRAYCE Brazil. This would extend the current BRAYCE Program in the USA to function in Brazil. The BRAYCE Brazil Board would keep graduates on their radar and mentor kids to the next life-phase, college, internships, jobs etc. this would add continuity, and considerable value to the current Program

In the New Year, we look forward to hearing from Pauline Batista who has just taken up a position in Communications at The United Nations in NY, along with the many others who have been fortunate to benefit from participating in the BRAYCE Program and now pursuing their own lives.

BRAYCE provides opportunities for cultural exchange and leadership training for marginalized and underprivileged young people from the States of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. By selecting youngsters already in school and leadership training programs, this exchange further develops and enhances the skills necessary for them to return home and become role models, effective leaders and inspired members of their communities.

This goal is being realized by offering hands-on life and leadership skill training at Camp Hazen YMCA in Chester, Connecticut.

The vision for BRAYCE is to expand the youth cultural exchange model to facilitate similar programs elsewhere in Brazil. BRAYCE is the organizing and funding institution linking highly esteemed youth training centers in Brazil and the United States.

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Harbor Management Commission

The Harbor Management Commission (HMC) had a busy 2022 season and we already anticipate 2023 to be even busier. We identified several project priorities for 2023. Included in those priorities; is an enhancement of the Commission's online presence. This includes the content located on the Harbor Management Tab of the town's website and creation of a HMC Facebook page. We are also looking to automate components of the Mooring Permitting process and provide our boating community easy access to helpful links to boating resources.

The Commission is excited to announce that it is going to host 2 events this year. One, focused on Small Watercraft Safety Inspections and the other, a Marine Swap Meet. The HMC will notify the community once the dates are secured and the details finalized- stay tuned, as there is much more to come.

In 2022, the Commission identified the need to enhance the HMC's partnership with our Marinas and Yacht Clubs. We wanted the opportunity to further build our relation-

continued on page 10



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Harbor... *continued from page 9*

ship with these organizations and businesses, to help them with any questions, concerns, local regulations, local permitting etc., they may require.

On January 4th the HMC hosted its inaugural Chester Harbor Alliance roundtable. Attendees included Chester Harbor Management Commissioners, Chester Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master, representative/s from Chester Boat Basin, Chester Point Marina, Hays Haven Marina, Middlesex Yacht Club, Patticonk Yacht Club, Springfield Yacht Club and Chester's First Selectman.

RETIREMENT

The Chester Harbor Management Commission would like to take this time to extend its heartfelt gratitude to James "Jeb" Barrington who has chosen to retire from the Commission.

We thank him for his 30 years of volunteer service on the Commission. Jeb was one of the founding developers of the Chester Harbor Management Plan adopted in 1994. He worked with the commission members, state agencies, Chester's Selectman, and the fine residents of Chester to create the plan. The comprehensive document, utilized to this day, outlines water use plans, policies for water-access structures, rules regulating mooring and anchoring vessels, and boater specific rules and regulations, which are published annually in the CT Boater Guide.

He was routinely tasked with the evaluation and testing of the health of the Chester Creek waters. The Commission will miss his mild mannered approach and his scientific knowledge, which has been invaluable.

Please join us in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement.

The Chester Harbor Commission



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Chester Library Events

Feb. 4 – Take Your Child to the Library.

Children's librarian Miss Emma is currently planning fun and exciting things to do for this event so remember to keep checking our website for updates.

Feb. 13 – A Night at the Brewery with Mind Reader Keith Zalinger.

Little House and the Chester Public Library are proud to present a night at the brewery with mind reader, Keith Zalinger. Keith Zalinger is an award-winning hypnotist, thought-reader, and paranormal entertainer. He divines the thoughts of audience members, answers their questions (previously unknown to him) and predicts their actions.

Space is limited, tickets are \$20 and must be purchased in ad-

continued on page 12

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As we celebrate, we look forward to another 25 years of helping our local communities thrive. Contact us at (860)347-0025 or visit us at MiddlesexCountyCF.org.

Library... *continued from page 11*

vanced. This is a 21+ event and minors must be accompanied by their legal guardian. Tickets include the first drink for the evening. Other drinks may be purchased throughout the night. Show runs from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Mar. 4 – Lotus Flower Lantern Workshop.

Members of The Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project will be on hand to help attendees make lovely traditional lotus flower lanterns using colored paper and wire frames. Following the craft will be a short documentary film on the Korean culture. This program is free and suitable for ages 10+, registration is required so that enough kits are ordered. This event will take place at the Town Hall at 11:00 am.

Apr. 21 – Celebrating National Poetry Month.

The Chester library will celebrate National Poetry Month by showcasing the works of local Poets and Writers. We'll be gathering at the Chester Meeting House to listen to these talented artists, refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in sharing their works with the community are encouraged to contact the library to sign up.

****Check out our website for Teen Night** starting late

January. Teens and Tweens will have fun with librarian Emily while playing games and noshing on pizza.

****Shell and Bee Studios** will be returning to the library in the new year for children and adult craft events – stay tuned!

DID YOU KNOW?

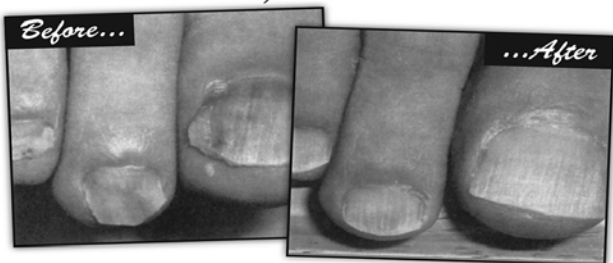
The library is more than a place to check out books and DVD's. The Chester library now offers our Library of Things, a collection of equipment, and supplies for patrons to borrow. We are slowly adding to our library and donations are welcome. Let us know what types of items you are interested in borrowing.

Available resources through our website, all you need is your library card:

- **ResearchIt** - researchIT CT is part of the Connecticut Education Network. It provides all students, faculty, and residents with online access to essential library and information resources and is administered by the Connecticut State Library. Patrons have access to popular magazines, newspapers, databases, genealogy resources and more.

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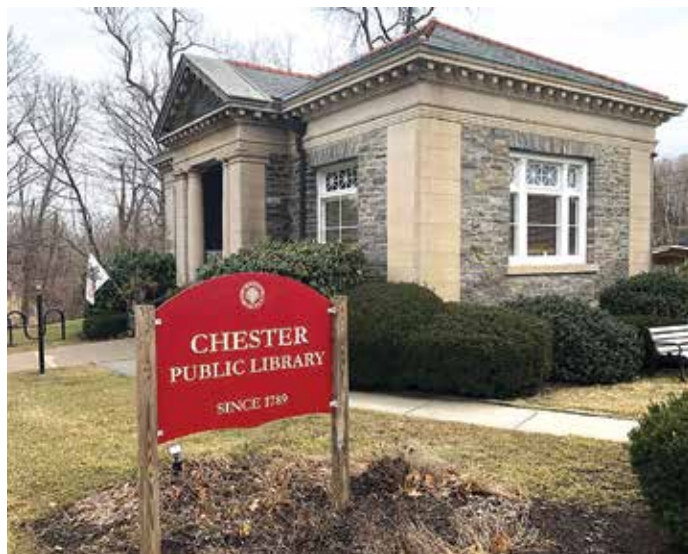
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Story time every Monday at 10:30 am.



Chester Library Information

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librarydirector@chesterct.org
library@chesterct.org

Library Hours:

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Sat 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
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Today is Tomorrow's History

News from the Chester Historical Society

SPRINGTIME PROGRAMS & AUCTION

We hope to present two terrific programs in the spring. One would be by architect Leonard ("Trip") Wyeth, about his Passive House-in-

spired deep energy retrofit of the 1740s colonial at 4-6 Maple Street. The other will be by brother and sister, Bill and Fran Bertelli, about the moving of their family home (the "Pratt House") in 1966 from Middlesex Avenue to its present location on Pratt Street. We're excited about showcasing both these PowerPoint presentations in the Meeting House (dates TBD).

We also plan to present another **Art & Antiques Virtual Auction**. We'll be seeking your donations or consignments during the winter. Stay tuned!

Do You Own an Old House?

Many of you may be familiar with "*The Houses & History of Chester*" book, which we published in 1984. The book contained nearly 180 brief bios of residential and non-residential buildings built by 1875. Now we've begun work on an updated edition, one that includes houses built up to 1900. It's a large project, but one well worth the effort.

Our immediate need is to have email addresses for all owners of 18th or 19th century houses so we can easily contact you for information about your house. This edition will have a new format, with additional information and photos about each house. Unlike the last edition, the current homeowners' names will not be included.

To start the process, please email us soon at: chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com with your name and the street address of your house. If you have any questions, call Cary Hull at 860-558-4701 or Rob Miceli at 860-526-9245.

New Book by Nathan Jacobson

Nathan Jacobson, a Chester native, retired civil engineer and 1972 founder of Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates in Chester, has written a new book to be published this spring by the Society. Titled "*The Streams, Mill Dams and Mills of Chester*," it is – in Nate's words – "The story of how a small new England town came to be and how its early years were greatly influenced by the several streams that flowed through it and the numerous dams and water-powered mills that were built along them." Nate's knowledge of our streams, mills and dams has been invaluable to the Society over the years. He helped us explore the history of the millstones that now reside in front of the Museum. He wrote the book "*The Waterhouse Grist Mill Saga*" that we published in 2017. And he crafted the intricate model of that grist mill, which has a permanent place in our Museum.

Chester Films for Watching at Home

The YouTube page on our website (chesterhistoricalsociety.org) keeps growing. This fall we added a film related to the Flood of 1982 and another with five former Chester restaurant owners. We hope you enjoy the opportunity to watch Chester history at home.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Time: Want to help on a committee, such as for planning

CHESTER COMMUNITY LISTINGS

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Chester Land Trust..... info@chesterlandtrust.org
Chester Fair (860) 526-5947
Chester Democratic Town Committee (860) 510-6899
..... ErikAndersonCDTC@gmail.com
Chester Republican Town Committee (860) 398-0690
Chester Garden Club (860) 526-2998
Chester Historical Society..... (860) 526-5781
Chester Merchants Association..... www.visitchester.com
Lions Club..... deepriverchesterct.lionwap.org
Deep River and Chester VFW..... (860) 526-3521
Tri Town Youth Services Bureau (860) 526-3600
Chester Meeting House..... (860) 526-0013
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LIBRARY

Chester Public Library (860) 526-0018

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

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

programs or researching documents about old Chester homes? We want and need you! Send us an email at chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Chester Items: We love gifts of Chester memorabilia to add to our archives. If you don't want to donate something outright, we can make a scan (such as with photos) and return the original to you. And they don't have to be "old" history. Class photos from last year are now history, and so are items from recent Chester businesses. Please talk to Diane Lindsay at: 860-526-2443 or email us at: chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

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

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

HOW TO FIND US

Website: chesterhistoricalsociety.org
Facebook: facebook.com/ChesterCTHistoricalSociety
Email: chestercthistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Phone: 860-558-4701 (Cary Hull, president) or
 860-526-2443 (Diane Lindsay, curator)

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DEPARTMENT	EXTENSION / NUMBER	CONTACT INFO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jenny Watrous	202	AdminAsst@chesterct.org
ANIMAL CONTROL	860-767-4340 x160	
ASSESSOR	512	Assessor@chesterct.org
ASSISTANT ASSESSOR Joy O'Brien	512	
BUILDING OFFICIAL Richard Leighton	207	BldgOfficial@chesterct.org
CHESTER ROTARY		ChesterRotary.org
FINANCE Peter Evankow	215	Finance@chesterct.org
ACCOUNTS CLERK Sharon Echtman	216	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Ray Guasp	202	EmergencyServices@chesterct.org
FIRE MARSHAL Richard Leighton	212	FireMarshal@chesterct.org
FIRST SELECTMAN	202	FirstSelectman@chesterct.org
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION	chesterharbormanagementcomm@gmail.com	
HUMAN SERVICES Rosie Bininger	213	HumanServices@chesterct.org
INFORMATION	202	Info@chesterct.org
INLAND WETLANDS	210	InlandWetlands@chesterct.org
PARKS AND RECREATION Elizabeth Netsch	223	ParkRec@chesterct.org
PLANNING AND ZONING	208	ZoningOfficial@chesterct.org
POLICE SERVICES Trooper Matt Warren	860-526-3605	PoliceServices@chesterct.org
PUBLIC LIBRARY Stephanie Romano, Library Director	227	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT John Divis, Foreman	860-526-0020	DPW@chesterct.org
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS Tracey Ohaus & Leslie Holbrook	211	ChesterRegistrar@chesterct.org
SANITATION Ryan Grenon	206	Sanitarian@chesterct.org
TAX COLLECTOR Madaline Meyer	513	TaxCollector@chesterct.org
TAX CLERK Susan Shrack	513	TaxClerk@chesterct.org
TOWN CLERK Kathryn Hair	510	TownClerk@chesterct.org
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK Sharon Echtman	510	
TREASURER Joe Cohen	230	Treasurer@chesterct.org
WPCA		wPCA@chesterct.org

www.chesterct.org

The Lower Connecticut River 19 Town Trail Challenge



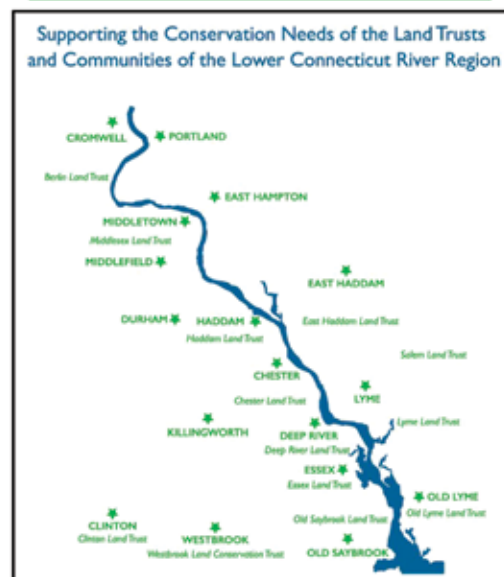
The Lower Connecticut River Land Trust, in partnership with local land trusts and towns, challenges you to hike as many trails as you can in the Lower Connecticut River Region that are in or pass through our towns and preserves from November 1, 2022 to December 31st 2023. Visit us at: www.lcrlt.org to learn more.

IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE CHALLENGE:

Take as many hikes as you can, but we challenge you to take at least one hike in each community. Save or print out the list of towns and land trusts from www.lcrlt.org/trailchallenge and check them off as you complete each hike. Visit the web links in the list for each land trust and town to get information and maps for their trails. When on your adventure we encourage you to take a picture of the large maps posted at most trailheads with your cellphone before you hike.

When you have completed your adventure return to www.lcrlt.org/trailchallenge and fill out our online form. Everyone who registers will be placed on the Wall of Champions. Participants can choose to receive challenge themed apparel depending on their level of donation. Follow along and post your photos in the Trail Challenge Group found at: www.facebook.com/lcrlt.

The Lower Connecticut River Land Trust supports the conservation needs of the land trusts and communities of the Lower Connecticut River Region.



Invasive Plant Species in Chester

Common Name:

Mile-A-Minute, Devil's Tail, Asiatic tearthumb

Scientific Name: *Persicaria perfoliata*

Origin: East Asia

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mile-a-minute was introduced to the US in the 1930s unintentionally. As mile-a-minute's name implies it can spread rapidly! This vine can grow six inches a day and can reach over 25 feet in height during the growing season. Its seeds can be viable for five years in soil and are easily spread by animals or sometimes water. Local specimens can be found on Bokum Road in Chester.

THREATS

This aggressive vine can smother and topple native plants and trees. Its early germination and rapid growth rate can easily overpower natives. Mile-a-minute is usually seen along stream banks, roadsides and rights-of-way, but it will also invade orchards and natural forests. Recreational and wildlife uses can be greatly impacted because of the thorny nature of the vine and the dense mat it can create.

IDENTIFICATION

Mile-a-minute has distinctive triangle-shaped leaves. The vine has small barbs that can be present on the leaf petioles (leaf stems). The fruits are a stunning green to blue. Additionally, mile-a-minute has saucer shaped leaves at nodes and leaf branches.

CONTROL

Small populations can be limited by hand pulling or mowing. Hand pulling is most effective in the early



Barbed mile-a-minute vine with triangular leaves and berries.
Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut.

stages of the plant's growth. Regrowth in subsequent years is due to seeds and not the existence of the roots. If mowing is an option it is best done May to June. Be sure to clean the mower after each contact with mile-a-minute. Large established populations of mile-a-minute are best managed by using a specialist weevil or a specialized herbicide.



Saucer-shaped leaves at nodules and barbs on leaf stems.
Photo by Lisa Hayward..

REFERENCES

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/fnr/fnr-481-w.pdf>;

<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/plants/mile-minute-weed#cit>;

<https://mam.uconn.edu/species-identification/#>.



**Visit Chester's website at:
www.chesterct.org**

We hope you will find our website to be a useful tool to find updated information and explore our wonderful community.

Chester Conservation Commission

Town of Chester
203 Middlesex Avenue
Chester, CT 06412

Telephone: 860-526-0013
Facsimile: 860-526-0004
www.chesterct.org

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News from the United Church of Chester

At the United Church, the music and fellowship continue even after the busy holiday season. We welcome you to come meet our minister - either on Sunday - or on Friday mornings at the Villager or Simon's where Rev. Alan holds his popular "Coffee hours!" The choir presents inspiring music each Sunday morning at 10:00 am; you may have heard them at their annual Christmas Cantata in December.

Here are some special events for the coming months.

January is a time to reflect on all the blessings of life and renew our commitment to serve our community.

February brings the season of Lent with these special services:

- **February TBD:** Unbirthday Party celebrating you, with a tasty treat for each month of the year.
- **Ash Wednesday, February 22:** Pot Luck Supper at 6:00 pm;

7:00 pm worship service shared with Deep River Congregational.

- **February 26:** First Sunday in Lent; Sunday service, 10:00 am. March Lent continues towards Easter:
- **April 2:** Palm/Passion Sunday: 10:00 am service.
- **April 6:** Maundy Thursday service: Pot Luck dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm, followed by a Tenebrae service at 7:00 pm, recreating the Last Supper.
- **April 7: Good Friday:** "The Seven Last Words of Christ," 12:00 - 3:00 pm, drop-in service in 20-minute segments with quiet meditation.
- **April 9:** Easter Sunday Services: 10:00 am with choir and accompaniment.

Please call or email church office to confirm dates and times.

Office hours: Tues-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, **phone:** 860-526-2697, **email:** unitedchester@sbcglobal.net.



Connecticut Cancer Foundation 35th Annual Celebrity Dinner & Memorabilia Auction

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ABOUT CONNECTICUT CANCER FOUNDATION (CCF)

CCF was founded in 1987 by Connecticut native John Ellis, a former catcher for the New York Yankees and cancer survivor, to financially assist cancer patients and their families and fund cancer research.

For the past 35 years, through its *CT Cancer Patient Assistance Program*, CCF has granted over \$5 million to more than 6,000 Connecticut families

dealing with the financial hardship that often follows a cancer diagnosis. In addition, CCF has donated more than \$2 million to support ongoing cancer research at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

CCF is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization.

For more information, please visit us at: www.ctcancerfoundation.org.

Install Wi-Fi thermostats



You can save up to \$145 per year on your heating and cooling costs with a properly programmed Wi-Fi thermostat.

Dry two or more loads in a row



Your dryer has already generated a wealth of heat during your first load, so take advantage of that heat to lower energy use.

Use the locks on your windows and doors



Locking windows and external doors will ensure they seal shut and keep out drafts.

Top Recommended Products & Programs for Winter Energy Savings

Cold temperatures, chilling winds, and blustery days can lead to cozy evenings at home. These winter conditions usually mean your heating system is working hard. Other parts of your house – holiday lights, drafty doorways, hardwood floors – can also all result in your home using more energy this time of year compared to other seasons. Below, we've outlined some of the resources that you can leverage this winter and beyond, including no- and low-cost ways to use less energy. Here are some of our top recommendations for keeping energy use down and staying comfortable throughout the season.

ELIMINATE AIR-LEAKS AND DRAFTS near doors, windows, attics, and basements by weatherstripping and air sealing.

A leaky home is less comfortable and uses more energy, especially in the winter. A home weatherization project is one of the most effective ways to improve your comfort and reduce energy use year-round. Properly insulating your home can help you reduce heating and cooling costs by an average of 20%.

INSTALL WI-FI THERMOSTATS.

Wi-Fi thermostats allow you to control your home temperature settings from your smartphone or tablet, so you can adjust and save energy whenever, and wherever, works best for you. Smart thermostats offer various energy-saving features such as automatically adjusting the temperature based on whether you are present or away, based on the weather forecast, or with a schedule customized by you. You can save up to \$145 per year on your heating and cooling costs with a properly programmed Wi-Fi thermostat.

DRY TWO OR MORE LOADS IN A ROW to take advantage of the heat from your dryer.

Get more done with less energy by throwing in a second load of laundry right after the first. Your dryer has already generated a wealth of heat during your first load, so take advantage of that heat.

REVERSE YOUR CEILING FANS.

Normally, ceiling fans spin counterclockwise, allowing you to feel cooler in the warmer months. However, most ceiling fans have a reverse switch that will force them to turn clockwise, producing a downdraft and moving the warm air that collects near your ceiling down into the rest of the room.

BUNDLE UP AND HEAD OUTSIDE!

Although we tend to curl up inside during the winter months, spending a few hours outside with family and friends can reduce stress on your overall

household. Consider unplugging those electronics (if you don't have an advanced power strip) and spending quality time together building a snowman or trying a seasonal sport such as snowshoeing.

MAKE SURE YOUR HOME DEVICES ARE SET to save power.

Check your computer, monitor, TV, and other electronics to make sure they are set to conserve energy. If you are looking for a new device, check for the ENERGY STAR® logo.

LAY DOWN RUGS ON HARDWOOD FLOORS.

Add an extra layer of insulation to your home and save money and energy. Rugs help trap cold air underneath and keep it from circulating around the room.

HAVE A HEAT PUMP? Set it and forget it.

Turning your heat pump on and off, or constantly adjusting its temperature settings, may use more energy and cause comfort issues. Generally, it's advised to find a temperature that's comfortable and leave it there.

THIS ALL SOUNDS GREAT – where do I start?

Eversource, a Sponsor of Energize ConnecticutSM, offers on-the-spot air sealing through Home Energy SolutionsSM and up to 75% off approved insulation projects. This is one of the best ways to get started and knock some items off the list above. If you meet income eligibility requirements, you may receive the initial visit at no cost and up to 100% off an approved insulation project and incentives for additional energy-saving upgrades. Visit the URL, give us a call, or scan the code at right to get started.

Learn more at eversource.com/home-energy-solutions or call us at 1-877-WISE-USE.



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