

Chester events

VOLUME 22 • QUARTER 2 • 2023



**National Vietnam War Veterans Day
Ceremony held April 1, 2023 at
the Chester War Memorial.**



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First Selectwoman's Corner



Charlene O. Janeczek
First Selectwoman

Spring is here after the winter that wasn't. We did have some bitter cold days and just enough snow to remind us that we live in New England. The town crew did an excellent job making sure we had no road issues from ice during the few events that we had.

TRACTOR PARADE

February saw the return of the tractor parade. It was a beautiful day to be in the Center eating chili, listening to good music and mingling with friends and neighbors. We had about 30 tractors parade into town and park so everyone could get close up to them and take pictures. Many of the young people climbed on them for a closer look.

BUDGET

The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance are busy working on next years budget. It is always a challenge to meet the needs of the town without burdening the tax payers. The Region 4 referendum will be the first Tuesday in May and the complete budget will be presented the end of April at a public meeting for citizen comments. The annual Town Meeting and vote will be the end of May. Both meetings will be posted on the website and on facebook and printed in the Valley Courier.

BE KIND TO THE EARTH

Earth Day celebrations will be happening around town on April 22. The theme will be "Be kind to the Earth." Main Street will be closed from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with the featured event being chalk drawings on Main Street. The Land Trust will also be doing the annual roadside clean up that morning. Come out and enjoy the day and celebrate the wonderful world we call home.

Enjoy the greening of our trees and awakening of the flowers that will be happening in the next few months. Soon it will be Memorial Day and the parade honoring our military and the picnics heralding the official start to summer.

Charlene O. Janeczek
First Selectwoman

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Book By Colin Escott

NOVEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 17, 2023

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 Photo by Richard Spearrin

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Chester Tax Office

Please be Helpful - Provide Change of Address

It is extremely important that you provide any change of address to both the Tax Collector or Tax Clerk and the Assessor or Assessor Clerk. The change could be as simple as going from a street address to a post office box. Or you could have used a post office box for years, but now you have gone back to using your street address. It could be that you have officially moved. For what ever reason, it is so helpful to us all in Town Hall, if you provide the updated information to each office.

One example of why this information is so important in the Tax Office is that the Tax Collector cannot easily get the new tax bills to you each June. We also can't get the rare delinquent statement to you, if by chance you miss a payment. This could cause you to owe extra because of interest that could accumulate if you don't receive the notifications on time. Also, in the near future, there will be a revaluation of properties coming up, and it might be necessary for the Assessor's Office to do some mailings. It just would give their office more work, if they do not have the correct mailing address for each parcel in town. The mail could be returned and it would cost each office more postage to try to resend

out the information. The Assessor's Office needs this information for real estate and personal property bills. The Tax Office needs it for real estate, personal property, motor vehicle, usage and the few parcels still with benefit assessment bills. This information would also be needed in the Town Clerk's office if you have a dog that needs to be registered yearly.

Thanks to our Assessor, there is a fillable address form on the new Town website and that form is acceptable and used by both offices. It is listed under both the Tax Collector and Assessor departments. You could mail or drop that same form off to them, if you don't want to fill it out on a computer. But, be sure to let each office know the new information!

Help us all get your bills and paperwork to you as efficiently as possible. Thanks and have a great spring... soon we will be enjoying Chester's beautiful azaleas, rhododendron and tulips. I can't wait.

Thanks!

Madaline Meyer, Tax Collector



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Planning & Zoning

The Chester Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC), along with several other Boards and Commissions in Chester, have been involved in discussions about **Affordable Housing** in the last year. Following the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes §8-30j, the Town of Chester prepared and adopted its first “Affordable Housing Plan” on May 25, 2022. This Plan sets forth goals and action steps to increase the diversity of housing opportunities in Chester over the next five years, with a focus on housing for those residents making less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). One of the recommendations of the plan is to seek to increase housing densities in well-established neighborhoods with access to public utilities. Every municipality in the State is required to prepare one of these plans at least every five years, and Chester will be working with a regional committee, including representatives from Deep River and Essex, on finding ways to grow the area’s housing stock.



The full plan can be found on the PZC web page: www.chesterct.org/planning-zoning-commission.

Chester does have a real-time example which illustrates how affordable housing proposals can operate.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Norwich (*a private property owner*) made a decision to sell their former parish center property at 47 Middlesex Avenue to a private real estate developer. A concept to construct approximately 40 affordable dwelling units was presented by the developer at a joint Board of Selectmen/Planning and Zoning Commission public meeting on January 31. Note that as of mid-March, the developers have not submitted any formal applications and this is not a pending matter before any Chester regulatory board.

The property in question is Zoned “R-1/2,” which means that it generally allows single-family dwellings on half-acre lots and does not ordinarily allow multi-family developments. Should this developer proceed, they will do so under the auspices of the Connecticut

Affordable Housing Appeals Act (CGS §8-30g,) which allows developers to bypass local Zoning Regulations in favor of a development that includes a minimum of 30% units that are restricted to be affordable to residents at 60% and 80% of the AMI. Public health and safety requirements still remain in place, including traffic, building, and fire codes, but towns which have less than 10% of their housing stock listed as “affordable” by the State Department of Housing cannot prevent such projects on the basis of zoning regulations alone. This statute has been in place since the late 1980s, and this would be the first application of this law to Chester.

Any applications submitted for this proposal or any other affordable housing proposal will be considered at a public meeting of the PZC.

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: zoningofficial@chesterct.org.

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Chester Fair Holding its 10th Annual Wine & Beer Tasting



The Chester Fair will be holding its 10th annual Wine & Beer Tasting on Saturday, June 3rd from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Chester Fairgrounds.

There will be wine and beer vendors, live entertainment by John Martorelli and friends, and various local restaurants will be selling food. Admission is CASH ONLY: \$25 and includes a tasting glass. Proceeds will go toward Chester Fair educational programming. The Chester Package Store will be sponsoring this event, which will be held rain or shine.

For More Information

Contact us by email at entertainment@chesterfair.org. Follow us on facebook for updates! Our web address is: www.chester-fair.org. If you would like to participate, contact Rob Miceli at: ert14@sbcglobal.net.

Below are frequent participants from the past, stay tuned for updates!

Two Roads Brewery
Thimble Island Brewery
Back East Brewing
Traveling Vineyards
Middlesex Malters (Club)

Mash (Club)
Ripe
Winebow
CDI (Conn. Distributors)
Goodman



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.

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BRAYCE Update



BRAYCE recently appointed Allison Insall as its new Administrative Coordinator. Insall has over twenty years of experience as a student and public affairs professional. She began with BRAYCE on March 1st, having most recently served as the Director of Education and Public Programs at the Connecticut River Museum in Essex. There, Insall focused on developing and delivering important programming to students, adults, and underserved populations from across the state. She also created the "CRM Cares" program, fostering and supporting partnership with area charitable organizations. Prior to that, Insall served as Director of the Graduate Studies Office/M.A. and Ph.D. programs at Wesleyan University. This position included her serving as Graduate International Student Advisor, Graduate Registrar, and Director of Graduate Housing. She brings with her a career devoted to instilling a love of learning in children of all ages, a commitment to the cultivation of constituent relationships, and the extensive development of collaborative community outreach programs.



Allison Insall, new BRAYCE Administrative Coordinator.

University as a graduate student, studying International Relations and Peace Studies. Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to increasing student involvement and enhancing student experiences by providing civic engagement and leadership program opportunities to American and International students.

Insall is thrilled to be working for BRAYCE and facilitating impactful life-altering cultural exchanges for students from the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. A parent with children who attended Camp Hazen, Insall deeply appreciates the incredible experiences

Camp Hazen offers to youth from all parts of world. She looks forward to working with BRAYCE and the administration and staff of Camp Hazen in welcoming this year's four BRAYCE's summer 2023 exchange students. The success of BRAYCE's initiative is evidenced in the positive impact its former participants have today as role models and leaders in the favela communities. "The more I learn about BRAYCE, the more impressed I am with the organization's commitment and ability to help young people discover a positive life-altering course to personal happiness, health, and achievement. I can't wait to get started!"

Insall attended Clark University as an undergraduate and Boston



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Cromwell Executive Center-75 Berlin Rd

July 4 - Save the Date!



The 45th annual **Chester Four-on the-Fourth** road race sponsored by the Chester Rotary Club will start at 9:00 am, Tuesday, July 4. The 4 mile race course loops through the village of Chester and is USATF sanctioned. Timing will be provided by Super Race Systems. Team and individual awards will be presented.

The race is a major fund raiser for the Chester Rotary. All proceeds are distributed to local charities and non-profit organizations.

Online registration will be available through: RunSignup.com. Link is: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Chester/ChesterRotarysFourontheFourth>.

For more information visit: www.chesterrotary.org as the date draws near.

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SPRING 2023

Chester Library Events

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Adult Events

Apr. 21 – Poetry Slam!

Celebrating National Poetry Month.

The Chester library will celebrate National Poetry Month by showcasing the works of local Poets and Writers. We will gather at the Chester Meeting House at 6:30 pm to listen to these talented artists.

Do you have a poem, haiku or short story that you would like to share, we would love to spot light you, please contact the Library Director at: librarydirector@chesterct.org to sign up. Light refreshments will be served.

May 3 – Ten Tips to Manage Stress

with Dr. Wendy Hurwitz.

Stress happens to all of us. Up to 90% of all doctor's visits are stress-related, according to Harvard. Stress can be considered as much a risk factor for disease as smoking. This presentation will provide 10 tips to manage and minimize stress and maximize vitality.

Out of respect for those with allergies we request audience members to refrain from wearing perfume or cologne if possible. This program will take place at the Town Hall, 11:30 am, refreshments will be served.



May 19 – Patriotic Music for Cello: Songs and stories to celebrate Memorial Day.

Randy Calistri-Yeh will be performing a solo cello concert of Sousa marches, official and unofficial national anthems, Armed Forces marches, and more – all on a cello! Randy will also give you the inside scoop on all the music with fascinating stories and little-known facts. This event will take place at the Chester Meeting House at 7:00 pm.

Kid Events

Apr. 17 - July 10 - Shell & Bee

will return with monthly craft workshops.

Library Hours:

Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am 3:00 pm

Sunday CLOSED

Apr. 22 - Earth Day.

After visiting the Chester Historical Society, make your way up the hill and check out our new StoryWalk® then come inside to make your own seed balls from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

May 13 - Squirrel Days.

Visit our table on main street and make your own duck beak or squirrel headband. Be sure to check out our StoryWalk® at the library.



June 21 - Ice Cream Social / Summer Reading Kickoff.

Visit the library to sign up for our “Find Your Voice” summer reading program and enjoy a free ice cream from Kit Kat Ice Cream while having fun with a variety of lawn games starting at 3:30 pm.

July 6 - Blank Page Writer's Workshop.

In collaboration with the Deep River Public Library, this workshop aims to provide children with a renewed confidence in their writing ability.

July 27 – Bryson Lange, Juggler / Comedian.

We have partnered with the Deep River and Ivoryton Library to bring kids (and caretakers) of all ages the comedic antics of Bryson Lang as he entertains us with his mind-blowing juggling skills. This event will take place at the Chester Meeting House, 4 pm.

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.



The library is experimenting with a seed library.

We are currently organizing the many seed packets received via donations and will store them in our old card catalog now residing back at the library. Further details to come.

Story time every Monday at 10:30 am.

Check out our website at:

chesterctlibrary.com for updates on events.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections & Paper Shredding Events



We have closed our permanent facility in Essex and will be holding HHW collections and shredding events at satellite locations throughout the region. All locations are open to all RiverCOG region residents.

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

for Chester residents will take place from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on the following Saturdays:

- April 22, 2023** - Clinton Public Works Garage,
117 Nod Rd., Clinton
- May 6, 2023** - East Hampton Water Pollution Control
Authority, 20 Gildersleeve Dr., E. Hampton
- June 17, 2023** - Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School,
49 Lyme St., Old Lyme
- July 22, 2023** - Woodside Intermediate School,
30 Woodside Rd., Cromwell
- August 19, 2023** - (old) HHW facility, 11 Dump Rd., Essex
- September 16, 2023** - Middlesex Community College,
100 Training Hill Rd., Middletown
- October 21, 2023** - Haddam Elementary School,
272 Saybrook Rd., Higganum

FREE PAPER SHREDDING EVENTS FOR CHESTER RESIDENTS

will take place from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on the following Saturdays:

- May 13, 2023** - East Hampton Water Pollution Control
Authority, 20 Gildersleeve Dr., E. Hampton
- June 24, 2023** - Westbrook Town Hall,
866 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook
- September 23, 2023** - Middlefield Community Center,
405 Main St., Middlefield
- October 14, 2023** - Chester Town Hall,
203 Middlesex Ave., Chester

To learn details and acceptable materials please visit:
www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste.



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Hon. Jeannine Lewis,
Judge of the Saybrook
District Probate Court,
Photo courtesy of Laura
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Probate Fees 101

The Probate Court becomes involved when a person dies in order to assist with transferring assets from the name of the deceased person to his or her heirs or beneficiaries under a Will.

In our court, which serves a population of approximately 62,000, we saw a rise in decedent's estate matters with the onset of the Covid pandemic, moving from 1,419 decedent's estates in 2019 to 1,523 in 2020 and eventually 2,371 in 2021.

There is much information and misinformation about what the cost is to invoke the assistance of the Probate Court in a decedent's estate matter. Calculating probate fees is very fact specific, but it is my hope that the guidelines below will assist court users in understanding how fees might be assessed for their own estates.

In a hypothetical scenario where the husband of a couple dies

first, and the couple owns a house valued at \$500,000, a joint bank account valued at \$100,000, a jointly owned car valued at \$20,000, and the husband has a retirement account valued at \$350,000, all of which pass to his surviving spouse, the probate fee would be calculated as follows: half of the value of the jointly owned assets are attributed to the husband's estate, namely house, bank account and car, or $(\$250,000 + \$50,000 + \$10,000 = \$310,000)$. The retirement account is solely owned, so its entire value of \$350,000 is added to the \$310,000 in joint assets = \$660,000. Since all property passes to the surviving spouse, the \$660,000 in value of the husband's assets is reduced by half, and becomes \$330,000. Using the table on this page, the probate fee is then calculated as follows: $(\$330,000 - \$10,000) \times 0.0035 = \$1,120.00 + \$150.00 = \$1,270.00$

Further information about fees associated with decedent's estates can be found in the Connecticut General Statutes, section 45a-107, and online at: www.ctprobate.gov/pages/probate-fees-and-expenses. The online calculator is useful, but calculating probate fees is most accurately done by

a skilled probate clerk at your local court.

The Saybrook District Court serves the 9 towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.



FOR ANYONE DYING ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2016, PROBATE FEES ARE ASSESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

Basis for Computation of Fees	Total Fee
0 to \$500	\$25
\$501 to \$1,000	\$50
\$1,000 to \$10,000	\$50, plus 1% of all in excess of \$1,000
\$10,000 to \$500,000	\$150, plus .35% of all in excess of \$10,000
\$500,000 to \$2,000,000	\$1,865, plus .25% of all in excess of \$500,000
\$2,000,000 to \$8,877,000	\$5,615, plus .5% of all in excess of \$2,000,000
\$8,877,000 and over	\$40,000

Any portion of the basis for fees that passes to the surviving spouse is reduced by fifty per cent.



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Chester Rotary's 45th Annual "Four on the Fourth" Road Race



At 9:00 am on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 the start horn will mark the 45th running of The Rotary Club of Chester's Four

on the Fourth road race! Measured and sanctioned by USTF, the scenic, rolling four-mile course runs through Chester's shaded neighborhoods, loops its way around the town and finishes in the quaint Village of Chester. This race is a Chester tradition that should not be missed!

Online registration for the event is open now at: <https://runsSignup.com/Race/CT/Chester/ChesterRotarysFourontheFourth>. For registration dates and fees, please see this website.

Registration by mail is possible but entrance forms must be postmarked



no later than June 12th. In addition to mail-in registration information, additional data, including any detour and parking details will be available at the club's website at: www.chesterrotary.org. Please note that Main Street in Chester will be closed at 8:00 am on race day. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged.

The Rotary Club of Chester is an all-volunteer, 501c (3) not-for-profit organization. Chester Rotarians are dedicated to providing funding and service to charitable and human service organizations in Chester, Middlesex County and the broader community. The proceeds raised by this event support these causes.

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Through partnerships with businesses who want to make a difference...

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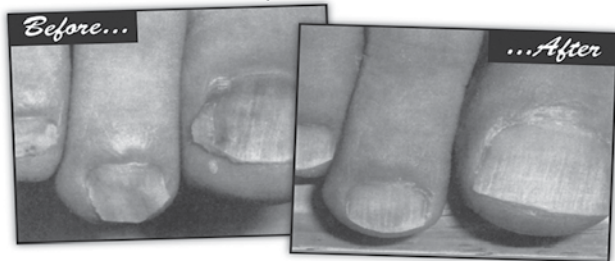


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Today is Tomorrow's History

News from the Chester Historical Society

Summer History Program for Children

This year's free Summer History Program for children will be June 29, 30 and July 6 and 7; from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Museum at the Mill.

Children who will be entering first grade through finishing sixth grade are welcome. They will learn about Chester's history through fun, interactive activities and projects. The program is free, but registration is required. Space is limited, so register early. For more information, questions, or to request a registration form, email: dcalamari15@gmail.com.

Touch, Explore and Discover

We're excited! Why? A new visitor experience is in the works at Chester Museum at The Mill. Our plan is for visitors to touch a large wall monitor to explore and discover the diversity of products that were once manufactured along the twin streams of the Pattaconk Brook.

Using waterpower, nearly 90 businesses formed, closed or persevered at nearly 20 sites along the two streams that ran west-to-east, joining at the Town Center. Visitors will discover some unusual Chester products such as woven wire beds, anchors, waffle irons, calling cards, baseball bats, and corkscrews, along with learning about the more well-known knitting needles, brushes, augers, bits and hooks.

Titled **The Pattaconk & Its Mills**, the project kicked off with a substantial donation from Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates on its 50th Anniversary as a tribute to founder Nate Jacobson for his longtime interest in and contributions to Chester history. We will also be drawing on the Society's Education Fund to help cover expenses.

It's a bit early to pinpoint an opening for this exhibit—there's a lot of ground (and water) yet to cover. If possible, we would love to at least launch a version featuring some selected manufacturers and products as early as this summer. Much like the former streamside industries, it's a work in progress. Stay tuned.

Springtime Programs

We are participating in the town's celebration of Earth Day (Saturday, April 22) with a small exhibit, **"Celebrating Chester's Natural Beauty Through Time,"** showcasing historical images of Chester that highlight our town's natural beauty.



WHAT IS 2-1-1?

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

Visit the website for more information:

<http://www.211.org/#>

At the same time, the Youth Education Committee will offer kids and their families free Earth Day-oriented activities to do. So do plan to stop in at the Chester Museum at The Mill between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on Earth Day.

On Sunday, June 4 in the Meeting House, Fran & Bill Bertelli will give a program with PowerPoint regarding the move of the Dr. Ambrose Pratt house (built 1820) by their father in March 1966 from Middlesex Avenue to its current location on Pratt Street (LeWitt house).

Do You Own an Old House?

This year Chester Historical Society is updating its book, *The Houses & History of Chester*. The last edition included the history of 180 houses built up to the year 1875. The new book will include all those homes, with updates and photos, as well as houses built up to and during 1900.

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. If you have already contacted us, thank you. We know who you are. This is a huge endeavor that is requiring a lot of time.

Chester Films for Watching at Home

The YouTube page on our website (chesterhistoricalsociety.org) keeps growing. This winter we added a short film by historian Donald Perreault about the hair wreath in our museum. We hope you take the opportunity to watch Chester history at home.



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)
Address: 9 West Main Street
Chester, CT 06412

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YOGA

Yoga at the Chester Meeting House with Annette returns on Tuesdays from 6:30 until 7:30 pm, which began March 21. There is a \$10 drop-in fee, per class, payable to the instructor for each class you attend. Students under 14 may attend with a registered adult.

BOATING SAFETY CLASS

A boating safety class will be offered, free of charge, with instructor Tom Brelsford at the Chester Fire Department, Saturdays, March 25, and April 1, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

This course is recommended for ages 12 through adults. Upon successful completion students will qualify for a certificate in motorboat/personal watercraft with a water-skiing endorsement for a onetime \$50

purchase fee on the DEEP website link at: <https://forms.office.com/g/mUJinpBNpHFlyer>.

EARLY BIRD RUNNING CLUB

Chester Elementary School students in grades Kindergarten through grade 6 are invited to join coordinator Paul McAndrew at 7:30 am on Thursday mornings before school, April 20 through June 8, weather permitting, at the school for the Early Bird Running Club. There is no fee for this program.

LACROSSE CLINIC

Girls and Boys in grades 2 through 6 may register, free of charge, to participate in a lacrosse clinic with Valley Regional coaches and players, at Chester Elementary School, following the early 1:00 pm dismissal until 3:00 pm. All levels are welcome. Equipment will be provided, or students may bring their own.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons are available for all levels and all ages at Cedar Lake. The session will consist of 6, 45-minute classes on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesday's on the half hour from 12:30 - 5:30 pm, the weeks of July 24 and 31. Thursdays and Fridays will be weather make-up days. The class session is open to Chester residents, and 2023 / 2024 nonresident park pass holders, for \$30 per student.

SUMMER CAMP

Our children's summer camp program is currently full but contact us if you would like to be on a waiting list.

PARK PASSES FOR NONRESIDENTS

Park Passes will be available from the lifeguards on duty at Cedar Lake, daily, 10:00 am until 6:30 pm, weather permitting.

An Open and Affirming Church United Church of Christ

29 West Main Street | Chester CT 06412 | 860-526-2697
website: uccchester.org | email: unitedchester@uccchester.org

Join our worship service every Sunday at 10:00 am either in-person or online via our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchOfChester>.

Also, on our website there is information about groups that meet at the church (including Chester Garden Club, Irish Dance and Scout groups); about community services offered by the church during the year (including a weekly soup kitchen dinner, a Backpack Program providing food for children over the week-end, and special Thanksgiving and Christmas donations to those in need); and other activities.

Save the Date! April 29: Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. It's Rummage & Bake Sale Time! Clothing, home goods, books, baked goods. Church office is open for donations 9:00 am - 3:00 pm from April 22nd to April 27th. Please call the church office for more information. The UCC office is open 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Tuesday - Friday.



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Chester Conservation Commission

EARTH DAY

Pollinators and Healing the Earth Locally

This issue of Chester Events reaches you on or near the 53rd celebration of Earth Day. For some perspective, the first Earth Day event (1970) was as much a protest of an ailing planet as a celebration. In 1962, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* sounded the alarm of unregulated pesticide use. That time period saw massive fish kills from water pollution, deaths attributed to air pollution and Cleveland's Cuyahoga River bursting into flames of dumped chemicals. There were no effective laws to regulate environmental toxins or limit industrial and municipal pollution. Many of these problems have since been addressed, but today we face environmental issues that are just as serious and often feel overwhelming.

"THINK GLOBALLY - ACT LOCALLY" is still a good strategy!

In a local effort to restore a bit of health to our corner of the planet, the Chester Conservation Commission and Chester Rotary have partnered to promote and celebrate native plants and pollinators for Earth Day 2023. On that day, we will showcase the Town's pollinator garden and a new interpretive sign at the Water Street parking lot, give away native pollinator plants, and provide educational materials and activities for children... all of this following the annual Chester Land Trust town-wide cleanup. Thank you Chester Rotary and Rotary District for your generous funding of the pollinator sign and plant giveaway!

POLLINATOR PATHWAY

The Water Street pollinator garden was planted by two



Coreopsis and mountain mint with bumblebee, Water Street parking lot pollinator garden. Photo by Felise Cressman.

industrious citizens in 2019 with over 500 seedlings from 20 different native species. The garden was planned to have some flowers in bloom all through the growing season and to provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife throughout the year. In 2021, this garden officially became part of a regional Pollinator Pathway.

Pollinators are more than just pretty visitors to the garden. Carrying pollen from the male parts of flowers to the female parts, they are essential for reproduction for most plants including over 80 percent of those used by people. The act of

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
Chester Rotary rotaryclubchester@gmail.com

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

pollination is somewhat of a fortunate accident for plants and us! Pollinators transfer pollen in the process collecting it for food or while feeding on flower nectar. Our local pollinators include many bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies and even hummingbirds.

Today, much of the landscape that formerly provided habitat for pollinators and wildlife has been degraded or fragmented by development, extensive lawns and invasion by non-native plants. When patches of native plants are too far apart, populations of pollinators become isolated and eventually die out. Conservation-minded people are working to establish “pathways” where native plant patches are close together allowing pollinators and wildlife to move between them and thrive... thus the Pollinator Pathway.

Pollinator gardens may look a little untidy at times. It's important not to cut back plants or rake up all of the leaves in the fall because many pollinators over-winter in hollow plant stems, leaf litter and soil. Seed heads provide food for birds and wildlife in winter, and the plants provide cover. When the air temperature warms in spring and pollinators have safely emerged, gardens can be cleaned up for the next growing season.



Monarch caterpillar on milkweed, Water Street parking lot pollinator garden

Photo by Lisa Wahle.

YOU CAN HELP POLLINATORS TOO.

Plant native species and try to minimize non-native plants in your yard. Reduce or stop using herbicides and pesticides that can kill desirable plants and pollinators. Leave some leaves in places in your yard. Learn more about pollinators – look up pollinator pathway and pollinators online. Visit the Chester Conservation Commission's website at: <https://www.chesterct.org/conservation-commission>, to learn more about plants in Chester.

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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
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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

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The Lower Connecticut River 19 Town Trail Challenge



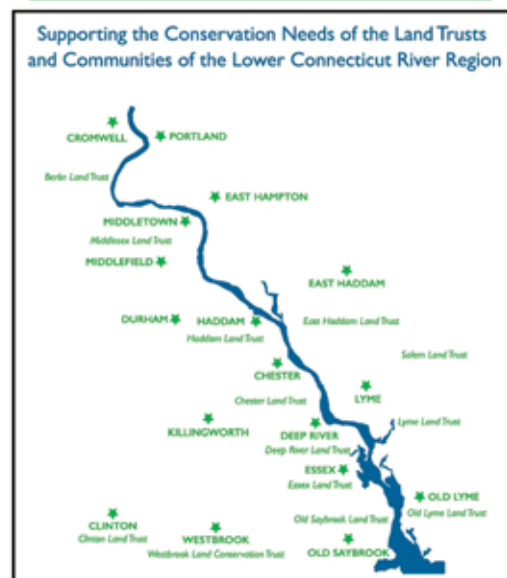
The Lower Connecticut River Land Trust, in partnership with local land trusts and towns, challenges you to hike as many trails as you can in the Lower Connecticut River Region that are in or pass through our towns and preserves from November 1, 2022 to December 31st 2023. Visit us at: www.lcrlt.org to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



Chester Land Trust

Japanese Knotweed Mitigation Program

Chester Land Trust (CLT) initiated a Japanese Knotweed (JK) mitigation program at the Carini Preserve in the fall of 2022 and plans to begin planting native grasses and shrubs in selected areas where JK was cut and cleared this winter. Plantings should begin sometime in April 2023.

The Carini Preserve (entrance at 30 Water Street) is a beautiful 6.5 acre CLT property that lies at the confluence of Great Brook and Pataconk Brook where they run into Chester Creek. Unfortunately, a serious invasion of JK is present all along the banks of Great Brook and Chester Creek, overtaking native vegetation throughout the property and threatening the structural integrity of the gazebo at the Preserve.



Japanese Knotweed at Great Brook Bridge (July 2022)

Take a stroll through Carini Preserve (which is easy to access and open to the public.) If you visit early in April, you will see numerous reddish JK sprouts emerging. These sprouts will grow 3-5 inches a day later in April. If left uncut, they'll probably be 3-4 feet high by Earth Day, April 22, 2023. Be aware that JK is a highly invasive non-native herbaceous perennial that is notoriously difficult to get rid of.

Recognizing this difficulty, CLT intends to utilize several JK control methods at Carini Preserve over the course of 3-5 years. During your visit, take a look at the education poster that CLT created and mounted on the back of the sign at the Preserve entrance. It shows what JK looks like

continued on page 22




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Land Trust... *continued from page 21*

in various stages of development and briefly describes methods to control it.

If you are interested in participating in CLT's JK mitigation program, contact the Steward of the Carini Preserve at: mdcressman@hotmail.com. We are grateful to all of our CLT donors, members and to the Town of Chester, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and the Rockfall Foundation for providing funds to support this critically important project.

2023 Chester Land Trust Properties

Carini Preserve	Gateway Preserve
Scudder Preserve	Constance Baker Motley Preserve
Burr Brook Preserve	Lakeview Avenue Preserve
Duck Pond Preserve	The Old Tannery Preserve
Piquet Preserve	Melillo Preserve
Wood Preserve	The Pines Easement
Chester Creek Preserve	Brooks Lane, Liberty
Waterhouse Brook Preserve	Ridge Easement
Rayner Preserve	Bush Conservation Easement



Inset: Japanese Knotweed near the gazebo, July 2022.
Gazebo after cutting and clearing, February 2023.



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