



Town of Chester Newsletter

April-June

2024 Spring

www.chestervt.gov

TOWN CLERK

The Green Mountain Unified School District re-vote will take place Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at the Town Hall (second floor) from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

An informational meeting will be held at Green Mountain Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

If you would like an absentee ballot, please stop by the office or call (802) 875-2173.

Please remember to license your dog at the Town Office. Dog licenses were due April 1, 2024.

We hope everyone enjoys Spring and has a great Summer!

SAMPLE

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Green Mountain Unified School District
APRIL 23, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS: If you favor the Article, make a cross (X) in the YES square. If you oppose the Article, make a cross in the NO square.

ARTICLE 1

Shall the voters of Green Mountain Unified School District approve the School Board of Directors to expend \$17,007,468.00 which is the amount the school board of directors has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that the proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$12,719.49 per Long Term Weighted (LTW) equalized pupil.

YES, I approve of the Article

NO, I do not approve of the Article

SAMPLE



Chester-Andover Family Center

Spring

Spring brings much to celebrate at the Chester-Andover Family Center. We have opened our new expanded space to receive and process Thrift Shop donations and have expanded Thrift Shop hours. The new Thrift Shop hours are Thursday, 10-7, Friday, 10-4 and Saturday, 9-4. We are taking donations during open hours. Visit our website, www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org/thrift-shop-donations to see a list of acceptable donations. You can also call us at 802-875-3236 to inquire about acceptable donation items. Residents and visitors are welcome to stop by to meet Mike Antonowicz, our new Thrift Shop Manager. Mike is available to receive Thrift Shop Donations and help you with your Thrift Shop purchases.

We are ready for Prom and Wedding season with the makeover of our Formal-Wear Boutique on the second floor. Just let Mike know you would like to visit the Boutique and he will ask a volunteer to escort you upstairs. We have retained our “affordable” pricing, \$20 for a complete outfit.

Our Food Shelf is always welcoming new recipients who would like to receive supplemental nutritional food. All residents of Chester and Andover are eligible to receive a week’s worth of food once a month, which includes fresh produce, dairy, bread, meat, eggs, and frozen items as well as non-perishable, shelf stable foods. Participating residents may also visit the Food Shelf every week for fresh produce and bread. Stop by the Food Shelf on Thursday, 1-4 or Friday, 10-2 to enroll. You only need to bring proof of residency.

As always, we welcome new volunteers to the Thrift Shop and the Food Shelf. We will happily give you a task you will enjoy for as many or as few hours that work for your schedule. Just ask for an application. We will do the rest.

Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Hearse House Museum. The seasonal museum – featuring the Town’s horse-drawn hearse and information about death and funeral customs – will be open for self-guided tours from Memorial Day through Columbus Day.

Town Hall. Progress is being made on changes to the first floor of Town Hall to allow for re-arrangement of offices, more storage space, and completion of the new conference room where the Lister’s Office was located.

Yosemite Firehouse. For most of the snowy winter, the majority of windows on the second floor of the historic firehouse were boarded up while they were being repaired off site. Shortly, the remaining windows should also be removed while they enjoy a similar renovation. This effort is the first part of a \$20,000 matching preservation grant awarded by the State of Vermont to the Town of Chester to repair the firehouse windows and sliding doors and to install storm windows in 2024 – all part of the essential task of

of rehabilitating the building into the Chester Fire Museum. For more information on the project, contact CHPC Chair Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340.



Chester Townscape Welcomes Spring!

Daffodils along the Brookside Cemetery wall in the center of town trumpet Chester’s awakening from a strangely long winter. The flowers are the first in a series of seasonal floral displays by Chester Townscape that make Chester a beautiful place in which to live, work, and visit. Volunteers and additional community waterers keep the flowers fertilized, watered, weeded, and looking their best. Anyone who would like to become involved in Townscape’s community projects is invited to contact Lynn Russell at 802-875-2707 or at chestertownscape@gmail.com to learn more.

Meanwhile, those who hurry can still order a CT hanging basket for their home or business by placing their orders by Wednesday April 24. Download a detailed order form www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.html. All proceeds from the sale help fund CT’s seasonal displays at public locations around town.

Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum

While the Town is working on protecting the firehouse building, Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum, Inc., are quietly working to research and collect memorabilia that could be used in public programs for the future museum. A recent happenstance is a personal gift to Lillian Willis from a cousin of a painting she created of the historic firehouse from a photo she took during a family reunion in Chester about five years ago. Barbara Stough's eye was caught by the iconic building, and she sent her painting of Yosemite to Lillian. When the firehouse museum is created, the Friends group hopes that other artists will want to display their interpretations of the building that entices so many passing visitors to pause along Route 103 to take a photo of the firehouse. If this project interests you or if you have artwork, equipment, or memorabilia pertinent to the firehouse, please contact Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340. Tax-exempt contributions toward the future museum may be sent to Friends of Yosemite, c/o Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.



*Painting of the
Yosemite Firehouse
by Barbara Stough*



Plant Sale

Chester Plant Sale June 1 and 2

The annual Chester Plant Sale at St. Luke's Church, the gray church at 313 Main Street near the Village Green in Chester, Vermont, is a marvelous opportunity for the public to purchase an impressive selection of proven, large, healthy, hardy plants at bargain prices. Well-groomed plants with helpful labels make garden additions easy, and experienced gardeners will be on hand to give advice about planting and garden design.

The sale is scheduled to run on Friday June 1 and Saturday June 2, 9-3 both days; and on Sunday June 3, noon-3. The later timing of this annual event allows for larger and more attractive plants – all organized by kind and growing needs on the side lawn of the church. People who have perennials to contribute in advance or plants to suggest or who need more information are encouraged to contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.

Whiting Library News

Each year, Whiting Library buys more than 1,000 new books, movies, and CDs. To help you know about these new offerings, we are proud to now offer you weekly email alerts showing you the newest books, DVDs, CDs, and audio books that we purchase each week and recommended titles both new and older titles which you may have missed. We hope you'll enjoy hearing about the many exciting bestsellers, movies, music, and recorded books almost the very moment they arrive at the library.

Whenever you spot something of interest, you'll be able to click instantly, reserve it, and check it out at your convenience. To check out titles, you will need a library card. If you don't have one, call the library at 802-875-2277. To reserve titles online, you need your library card number and a password. You can call the library to reserve books and for help with a password. And of course, like everything else in the library, this service is free!

To sign up for an email, visit www.whitinglibrary.org/sign-up or follow the QR code. You can quit the weekly emails any time you wish. Our library is excited to offer this new service. We hope you will enjoy it and the library's many new books, movies, and music.



Upstairs at Town Hall, presents the Convergence Quartet on April 18th at 7 PM in the Town Hall Theater, 556 Elm Street, Chester VT.



Admission is by donation, and all are welcome.

Band leader Eugene Uman, pianist, and Director of the *Vermont Jazz Center*, collaborates with a group of world-class musicians to present his original compositions, many of which were inspired by his years living in Colombia, South America. “The intention when writing these pieces was to combine the vocabulary and swing of jazz with the edge of rock and funk and the inspiration of Colombian folkloric rhythms such as *pasillo*, *cumbia* and *currulao*” says Uman.

This performance will include vocalist, Wanda Houston, as well as David Picchi on electric bass and Jon Fisher on drums. When Houston joins the group, the vibe and repertoire embraces her penchant for singing soul and gospel music, as well as classic jazz standards.

Doors open at 6:30 PM, seating is limited.

For more information: upstairsattownhall@gmail.com.

Ongoing Free Whiting Library Programs

- ❖ *Playgroup for Wee Littles (0-5) & Caregivers.* Weekly on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
 - ❖ *YA Games.* Weekly on Tuesdays at 3 p.m.
- ❖ *Storytime for Young Children and Caregivers.* Weekly on Wednesday at 10 a.m.
- ❖ *Adult Crafternoon: Cookies, Crafts, and Conversation.* Weekly on Fridays from 1 to 2 p.m.
 - ❖ *Games Group for School-Aged Kids.* Weekly on Fridays at 3 p.m.
 - ❖ *Book Club.* Monthly on the second Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.
 - ❖ *Silent Book Club.* Monthly on the third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
 - ❖ *Board Game Cafe.* Monthly on the second Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
- ❖ *Page to Screen Film Series.* Monthly on the third Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Warm Hands Warm Hearts Coat and Warm Clothing Drive 2024

Gentle reminder that there will be a coat drive this year in October at the Chester Baptist Church, Chester Vt., and when you're sorting through your Fall/Winter wear, please remember us for this worthy community cause. We haven't any early storage, perhaps you could save a tote for us till Sept. Thank you all for your donations and see you in the fall.

Carla Rumrill Chair please contact me at 1-802-375-4822 or fae12rae@gmail.com if you have any questions.