



Town of Chester

Newsletter

April-June

Spring 2019

www.chestervt.gov

Town Clerk

Dog registrations were due April 1, 2019. If you have not registered your dog yet, please do so. The Town Meeting Minutes and Election results can be found on the town's website at www.chestervt.gov.

We would like to thank the road crew for their dedication and hard work. This Spring's thaw has been exceptionally hard on the dirt roads this year and the road crew is doing their best to keep up with it. Thank you for your patience with this matter. Happy Spring!!



Town Mangers Message

You may have been reading or have heard about the concerns related to Route 35. The Selectboard and I share those concerns. What I can tell you is that as soon as the asphalt plants begin to open in May, Chester will be taking bids from paving contractors to skim coat the entire length of road that lies within the boundaries of the Town. In addition, another 300 feet will be extensively upgraded. This latter section will have underdrains and a stacked stone wall installed along the riverbank.

The skim-coat should measurably improve drivability along the road for some time into the future. And the more detailed work on the 300-foot section should last even longer.

The problem Chester faces with doing such work involving underdrains and stacked stone walls is that it is very expensive. If the entire road were finished like that it would cost up to \$4.0 million dollars.

To put that in perspective, the entire Town's annual budget is \$3.0 million dollars. The Town needs to, and will continue to, search for other funding methods such as grants that can help pay part of the cost. The ultimate goal is to fix the road so that it remains in good shape for years to come. Finding the necessary money is the priority.

You may have heard the Town is developing a 'Pocket Park' at the end of School Street. Work started last fall and will be finished this spring. There is already a paved surface and benches. All that still needs to be done is to have a stone picnic table installed. Michael Alon is working on this item for families to enjoy for years into the future. The table will also have a checkerboard etched into the surface.

There is a change coming to the fireworks display this year. The American Legion will be taking over the responsibility of hosting the event. It will take place on July 5th, not Labor Day weekend as has been the customary date. The American Legion will also be celebrating their 100th anniversary this year as well.

I'm sure I can speak for everyone when I congratulate Pat Budnick on the fine job, she has done for many years to produce this event, from raising money to staging it for people to enjoy.

Chester Ambulance Corner

According to the American Heart Association, cardiac arrest is an electrical malfunction in the heart that causes an irregular heartbeat and disrupts the flow of blood.

Performing CPR within the first few minutes of cardiac arrest dramatically improves a person's chance of survival. The state of Vermont has adopted a protocol known as High Performance CPR, which vastly improves survival rates from cardiac arrest. The Chester Ambulance Service personnel attended an educational training on January 19, 2019 where we learned about High Performance CPR. The training was sponsored by The Vermont Alliance for Critical Heart Resuscitation (VTACHR), an ongoing collaboration to improve out of hospital cardiac arrest survival, Vermont State and District III EMS, the Initiative for Rural EMS, The University of Vermont Medical Center Emergency Department, HeartRescue and the Seattle Resuscitation Academy. Through the Resuscitation Academy, Certified Educator, Keith Hermiz, from Grafton Rescue held a 3.5-hour course for all Chester Ambulance Service Personnel. Members increased their knowledge and skills through this educational experience.

Chester Volunteer Rescue Squad was happy to work with Chester Community Cares to provide Emergency Kits to our community members. The kits included, but were not limited to flashlights, rescue blankets, socks, gloves, hats, small bottles of water, and more. These were distributed in February by the members of Community Cares. We look forward to working with Community Cares in future projects.

In January, the ambulance service was toned to 39 calls, in February 34 and as of March 19th there were 20 calls.

Thank you for your continued support of Chester Ambulance Service.



Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Town Hall. CHPC is collecting samples in its ongoing research for improvement components to the second floor.

Jeffrey Barn. Some suggestions for the building's potential uses have been received from the public, but CHPC would like more. For the Town to deliberate on repairs to the building, the Town must have a practical plan for the building and serious likely uses.

Yosemite Firehouse. CHPC is looking forward to Spring and being able to get inside the Yosemite Firehouse to further assess the building's restoration needs and to design an entrance and interior display space for the Town's future fire museum on time to meet the State of Vermont's October 1 deadline for a crucial grant. In the meantime, anyone with photos of the previous Fire Chiefs and information about them, as well as any other memorabilia and equipment that would be appropriate to honor the firemen who have protected and continue to protect the Town and its citizens, is asked to contact Committee Chair Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or at lbwillisct@comcast.net.

Chester Plant Sale at St. Luke's Church May 31-June 2

Last year's sale of predominantly perennial plants at St. Luke's Church, the gray church near the Village Green, was a huge success. A prodigious variety of large, healthy, hardy plants was offered at bargain prices. Plants from friends' properties were dug, re-potted, groomed, and labeled, then clearly organized by growing needs. In addition, experienced gardeners were on hand to give advice about planting and garden design. By popular request, this year's sale dates have been increased and will start on Friday May 31 and Saturday June 1 from 9 to 3; and continue through Sunday June 2 from 1 to 3. The later timing of the sale allows for larger and more attractive plants. If you have perennials on your property that you would like to share or if you need more information, contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.



Pots of yellow bearded iris were among the many perennials for sale last year.

Whiting Library

Several on-going programs have picked back up at Whiting Library with the return of a new Youth Services Librarian. If you can, please join us for the following programs happening every week!

Lego Club: All ages are welcome to come join us downstairs in the community room Monday afternoons after school, from 3pm to 4:30pm, for some Lego fun! Kids are welcome to head over to the library after school, or to be brought with their parents/guardians, to build, create, and have fun with our Lego collection! Any on-going projects can also be saved!

Story time: Kids ages birth through kindergarten can join Stephanie on Friday mornings, 10:30am to 11:30am for story time! Every week we'll read two books together following a theme and do a craft or activity on-theme, with snacks to boot! All parents and guardians are welcome to bring their kids for this fun activity. Please let Stephanie know if your child has any food allergies or restrictions ahead of time.

Questions, comments, concerns? Call Stephanie at the library at (802) 875-2277 for more information or email her directly at whitinglibrary3@gmail.com.

Whiting Library is pleased to be offering another summer full of reading with the Summer Reading Program! Signups will begin June 10th and the full Program will run July 9th through August 20th. Join us for a summer full of space-themed reading, special programs, and, of course, prizes! Information on prizes and programs can be found at the library, or call (802) 875-2277 for more information.



Think Spring!

There are several opportunities to plan ahead for that glorious time of the year when the earth reawakens from winter slumber, and delicate blossoms appear to give joy and beauty to our lives.

Chester Townscape's Flower Offers



CT Tree and Shrub Sale

The deadline for pre-ordering two special plants chosen by Chester Townscape gardeners for their white blossoms and multi-season interest has been extended to April 5. Both the bush (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight') and the small Shadbush tree (*Amelancier Canadensis* 'Autumn Brilliance') are very hardy and adaptable to soil and light conditions. Good-size plants are being offered at below regular retail prices. Detailed information and an order form may be found through a link on the Town's website at www.chestervt.gov/chester_townscape.html or interested buyers may contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillistct@comcast.net.

CT Annual Flower Pot Orders

In April many previous supporters of Chester Townscape's famous large flower pots with pre-planted annuals will receive the annual order form. People may choose to have their previous private pots replanted, new ones purchased, or ones re-planted in the many public places that CT has decorated over the years. These floral pots, bridge boxes, and bulbs and flowers along the Brookside Cemetery wall make a reliable beautiful display well into the fall and welcome residents and visitors to Chester's public spaces. For a 2019 Planter Contribution and Order Form, please contact Lynn Russell at 203-875-2702 or jrussell02@att.net.



CT Gazebo and Town Info Booth Makeover

Other special efforts this growing season will involve improvements and landscaping around the gazebo at the Town Green and at the Town's Info Booth across the way. Tax-deductible donations to support those efforts and seasonal decorations around town may be sent to Chester Community Alliance at PO Box 561, Chester, VT 05143 with Chester Townscape marked in the memo line.

Calendar

- April 6th:** Dance Away Cancer at the Chester American Legion 7pm-11pm
- April 13th:** Easter Egg Hunt at CAES 8:45am
- June 29th:** Music in the Meadow at the Motel In the Meadow 12pm-8pm
- July 5th:** American Legion 100th Year Celebration.
- American Legion Band
 - SAL Pig Roast
 - Fireworks on the lawn at dark
- July 6th:** American Legion 100th Year Celebration
- Horse Pulls
 - SAL Chicken BBQ
 - Live Music
 - Children's Activities
 - Chester Snowmobile Club serving food
- July 18th-20th:** Iron Adventure Rally 2019 held at Okemo Mountain Resort
- August 17th:** 6 Hours on Lovers Lane Trail Run starting at the Pinnacle 9am
- September 21st-22nd:** Chester Fall Festival
- October 4th-6th:** Wheels in the Field a Porsche and BMW Motorrad Event

RECREATION

Summer Camp Information:

Chester Rec. summer camp sign-ups will start on Monday, May 6th. Camps that are included this year; Art & Dance Camp, Basketball, Baseball, Soccer and many others. Also, be on the lookout for pool information as well. This includes hours and swim lesson information.

Matthew A. McCarthy, Recreation Director
Town of Chester, VT
(802) 875-2173
www.chestervt.gov/recreation
Join us on Facebook: Chester, VT Recreation Dept.

Village Center Beautification Program

The new Chester Development Fund Policy allows for assistance to property owners located in the Village Center Designated Area with improvements to their properties. Property owners who live in this area may apply for either a mini loan, grant or a combination thereof for assistance in conducting a variety of improvements to their property. These include, but are not limited to, façade improvements, painting or tree planting and maintenance.

Grants will be considered for up to \$500 each and loans are available for up to \$1,000 each. Total funds available are limited and applications will be reviewed upon receipt.

Further information, along with an application is available at the Town Hall or on the town's website at www.chestervt.gov.

Okemo Valley Chamber Member of the Month

Six Loose Ladies

Suellen Slater of SIX LOOSE LADIES of Chester was recently selected as the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (OVRCC) March 2019 *Member of the Month*. Six Loose Ladies is a cooperative shop run and staffed entirely by volunteers. Since they are an eclectic crew, they have a wide range of fibers and tools for knitters, crocheters, spinners, weavers, and felters. They also carry all their own personal favorite brands of yarn as well as many produced by local fiber farmers, spinners, and dyers.



Above: Chamber Director Carol Lighthall presenting Member of the Month Certificate to Suellen Slater and some of the other Loose Ladies including Nancy Kelly & Perry Hudkins, with "Benjamin" the greeter dog. Thank you to Images by Donald Dill for the photo.

