



# TOWN OF CHESTER

## NEWSLETTER

September-December

Fall 2020

[www.chestervt.gov](http://www.chestervt.gov)

### Town Clerk

The General Election is November 3, 2020. Ballots for this election were mailed to voters by the State of Vermont. Ballots can be returned to the Town Office through the drop box in the door on the porch to the right, brought into the office, or mailed.

The polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. the day of the election for those that wish to vote in person. Please remember to bring the ballot you received in the mail when you come to vote. An Affidavit of No Ballot Cast is required to be filled out and signed if you do not bring it with you. If you have any questions, please call (802) 875-2173.

The Town Offices will be closed on the following dates:

October 12- *Indigenous People's Day*

November 11- *Veteran's Day*

November 26 & 27- *Thanksgiving*

December 24 & 25- *Christmas*



### Town Manager's Message

Happy Fall everyone! This year's colors were beautiful. The foliage always seems to pass by so fast. Lots of activity in town.

Please see this update regarding the new Public Safety building: *"For those who have recently driven by the Pleasant Street site and wondered what was happening behind the big pile of dirt, building has begun. Concrete walls are currently being poured with the building's overall footprint established. In the next few weeks, you will see the building's utilities being installed, followed up by the concrete floor being poured. In about a month's time, the steel frame will begin to be installed and the size of the building fully realized. Exciting times are ahead!"*

We are working on a new marketing initiative geared towards the motto *Live Work Play*. Tourism is important to Chester, but we want to focus this marketing strategy on the Live and Work aspects of this slogan. This campaign will include print ads, will improve the town's digital marketing ads with social media and Google, as well as a video of Chester. In addition, the town was awarded a collaboration marketing grant that will allow us to work with the Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce and other neighboring towns to promote the region as well. These are 2 distinctly separate initiatives but will complement each other well.

The Select Board is working on the 2021 budget. Draft budgets will be on the town's website for review. The town has been awarded a few grants recently, which include a digitization grant, COVID reimbursement, and a Route 35 engineering grant. The digitization grant will allow the town to put our Land Records online going back 40 years. We will be reimbursed by the State for the money spent on COVID related items. The Route 35 grant money will be used to prepare pre-engineering design for the rest of the repairs to that road.

I wish you and your family the best during these difficult times. I hope you all stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

# Chester Historic Preservation Committee

**Route 103 Traffic Speed.** CHPC has asked that the vehicle speed be reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph from Main Street north through the Stone Village and past the tricky intersection of Route 103 with Trebo Road. That change would improve safety at Trebo and make a continuous loop of slower speed via Main Street, Church Street, and Route 103 – a popular walking route for residents and visitors that goes past the majority of the Town's historic buildings and attractions, including the train station and the future Yosemite Fire Museum.

**Hearse Museum.** This unique museum featuring the Town's handsome hearse and funeral customs is open in good weather through Columbus Day.

**Academy Building.** Bids and preservation approvals are being sought for the necessary plaster repair in the upstairs hallway. A grant application for repair to the west side of the slate roof should be submitted this fall to complete outside repairs to that historic building.

**Town Hall.** An improved sound system is the next aim for the renovated second-floor auditorium. Allocated funds and an anticipated grant application should move that project forward.

**Yosemite Fire House.** This past summer repairs were completed to the slate roof. Progress was also made on a revised museum layout that better answers the museum needs previously expressed by CHPC and that has preliminary support for individual improvements from State Preservation officials, although the sliding door on the south end still presents challenges regarding weather and rodent control and a proper fire exit. However, structural improvements to stabilize the building are due to be installed this fall, and they may present some leeway in design and also indicate how those improvements over the winter may affect the righting of the building. That stabilization will impact future window repair and is the next big step in the rehabilitation process to turn the historic firehouse into the Chester Fire Museum. The Committee continues to seek memorabilia and information to tell the story of the Chester Fire Department in that historic structure. Anyone with suggestions is encouraged to contact CHPC Chair Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340.

# Chester Townscape

## Glorious Fall!



Although the 2020 Chester Fall Festival was canceled because of the coronavirus, Chester Townscape will still hold its annual Bulb Sale this year, albeit in different ways and different locations. In-person sales of remaining supplies (and also the pick-up of bulbs pre-ordered by mail) will take place on Columbus Day Weekend at the Chester Post Office (Friday October 9, 12-4 PM), Smitty's Chester Market (Friday October 9, 5-7 PM, and Saturday October 10, 10 AM-4 PM), and Chester Helping Hands Produce Pick-Up at Chester-Andover Elementary School (Saturday October 10, 9-11 AM). This yearly fundraiser helps support Chester Townscape's many civic beautification projects.

Volunteer waterers from Chester Townscape and the community made the town of Chester a floral bright spot this past drought- and covid-plagued summer. When a few frigid days in September annihilated those flowers, CT did an immediate switch over to autumnal decorations seen at public locations around town (Town Hall, the Library, Post Office, Information Booth and gazebo on the Village Green, Hearse House Museum and Public Tomb, and the Chester Railroad Station). Many of those locations will later be enhanced by evergreens and red bows to welcome Christmas and the winter holiday season.

Chester Townscape is an all-volunteer committee of the non-profit Chester Community Alliance. For further information about Chester Townscape, its town projects, and contacts for them, please visit [www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape](http://www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape).

Using a mechanized lift for access, individual slates were replaced on the roof of the Yosemite fire house in July 2020.



## Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops

November 19 through 21

This year, more than ever, people need a lot of joy. For many the Wreath Workshops at St. Luke's Church at 313 Main Street are an annual tradition that gives them a delightful start on the holidays. This year, because of the coronavirus, the number of workshops will be expanded, but the number of participants at each session will be cut in half to allow for social distancing. All participants will need to register early to be assured of a place and will need to wear masks. The workshops, scheduled for a variety of times on November 19 through 21, will provide participants with everything they need to decorate a beautiful evergreen wreath. To learn more and reserve a wreath, contact Lillian Willis at 875-1340 or [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net).



## Christmas Market: Culinary Classics & Crafts to Go!

December 5, 10 am -2 pm

Instead of its traditional, leisurely craft sale and sit-down Christmas Tea, St. Luke's Church is trying something new this year to allow people safe, speedy shopping for frozen and wrapped culinary delights and for handmade creations and evergreen decorations. Masks and social distancing will be required, and traffic flow designed for safety. In addition, people may pre-order certain foods and products and take advantage of a special pick-up time at 9:30 on December 5, before the start of the Market. The public will be able to choose from a vast array of popular frozen soups and meals, jams, homemade candy in designer tins, and baked goods – as well as some popular and one-of-a-kind presents and Christmas decorations. Pet treats and gifts will also be available. The public is encouraged to check [www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org/special-events](http://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org/special-events) closer to the date for a list of offerings and to place an order in advance by contacting Eileen Widger at 802-875-4604, [twidger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:twidger@sbcglobal.net) or Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340, [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net).

# Chester Ambulance

Chester Ambulance Service is please to serve this wonderful community and thank you for your continued support. The Emergency Service Building has broken ground! For updates on its progress, please visit the Town of Chester's website or Facebook pages.

Fall is a wonderful time to get out of our homes and enjoy the cooler weather. There is no better time to explore, walk or bike in Vermont! Please remember to wear bright clothing when going out in the evenings or early mornings. Be aware of your fluid intake. In colder weather your body can lose as much fluid as it may in hot climates due to the high rate of energy used when temperatures decrease. Also, water will help your immunity!

We are growing! CAS welcomed two new members in the last month! We have members who recently completed their Emergency Medical Responder and Emergency Medical Technician education and are now preparing for their National Registry Examinations. Two members are currently enrolled in the Advance Emergency Medical Technician Course. Our two new members are enrolled in hybrid EMT courses that will start late fall and will be completing their Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Course and driver training. Please inquire about being part of our service. Contact us at [ambulance@chestervt.gov](mailto:ambulance@chestervt.gov) or 875-2160.



# Whiting Library News

The Whiting Library is excited to announce that as of October 5th, 2020 we are back to our regular opening hours for front porch pickup of library items and have greatly extended our appointment schedule. You can request books to pick up on the front porch of the library on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 10am-6pm and on Saturdays between 10am-2pm. We will also have half hour appointment slots from 10:30am to 5:30pm those weekdays and between 10:30am -1:30pm on Saturdays. Please give us a call at 875-2277 to make an appointment. If you would prefer front porch pick up, you can also email us at [whitinglibrary1@gmail.com](mailto:whitinglibrary1@gmail.com).

Did you know that your library card gives you access to much more than just the physical materials in the library building? You can also loan items from libraries all over Vermont through interlibrary loan and download an incredible selection of audiobooks and ebooks straight to your device through ListenUp VT. Library cards are free to all residents of Chester and Andover, and \$15 for nonresidents for the year. You can find lots more great information about upcoming (virtual) events at the library on our website, [www.whitinglibrary.org](http://www.whitinglibrary.org). Sign up for the library newsletter or follow us on Instagram or Facebook to keep up with all the latest news!

