



Town of Chester Newsletter

July-September

Summer 2020

www.chestervt.gov

Town Clerk

The Presidential Primary will be August 11, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. If you would like an absentee ballot for this election please mail the postcard you received to the Town Office, call 875-2173, or visit mvp.vermont.gov to request one. Please follow all instruction carefully when returning the ballots.

The State of Vermont will be mailing all registered voters their ballots for the Presidential Election in November. The polls will still be open November 3, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. If you come to vote at the polls you will need to bring your unvoted ballot sent to you by the state, or fill out a form if you do not have it with you.

The Town of Chester will follow all COVID-19 guidelines during these two elections. Please be mindful of these guidelines when you come to vote. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Town Manager's Message

Good morning! The sun is shining, weather is gorgeous today, we live in a fabulous town in a wonderful State. We have much to be thankful for! Lots going on in town. The pocket park at the end of School Street is finally complete! The granite table is constructed from a slab from the sidewalk project and the base consists of parts from the old cell tower. Scott made a nice tribute to David Pisha by etching a chess table in the top. Stop by the Pie Shop and borrow a set of chess or checkers and enjoy a game. Thanks so much to Scott Wunderle from Terrigenous for all his work on this project and to David for his vision! Also, the contracts have been signed for the new Public Safety Building. Site work will begin in the next couple of weeks. The team has worked hard to design a building that fits the needs of the town but keeping the taxpayers in mind. We are confident that it will be a building the town can be proud of. Speaking of a town to be proud of, I wanted to thank all of those involved in so many ways with many different organizations for all your work. It really is what makes a Chester a community, a word that has a new meaning these days. I want to put in a word reminding us to support our local businesses to the greatest extent possible. Restaurants, shops, farm stands all need us. Outside dining on a summer evening in Chester is fabulous. Farm Stands in the summer are the best and are filling up with locally grown products. These businesses are our friends and family and what makes up our local economy.



Chester Townscape

Celebrates Summer with Flowers!

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Chester Townscape was able to successfully plant and deliver the flowers that bring summertime beauty to Chester – all the while adhering to social distancing and other precautions.

Spring brought a successful Tree & Shrub Sale that encouraged many residents in Chester and well beyond to purchase plants to enhance their properties. This year's offerings were Pagoda Dogwood, Winterberry, Aronia, and Little Quick Fire Hydrangea – all known for being hardy in Vermont and providing food for wildlife, lasting beauty, and multi-seasonal interest.

As in past years, pots planted with an array of beautiful flowers were offered for sale to businesses and private homeowners. Sunshine Acres provided workspace both inside and outside the greenhouse. There Chester Townscape volunteers planted the private and public pots, and barrels, as well as the bridge boxes – many of which were either newly made or rehabilitated and a number of which sport a newly created CT marker. This year Ben Whalen and family assisted with delivery, and the Chester Fire Department helped water the pots after delivery.

The gardens planted last year at the Information Booth and Village Green Gazebo are now well established but require regular seasonal maintenance. In addition, the fence at the Chester-Andover Family Center was given a makeover, and the other garden areas near the entrance were weeded and mulched.

Both returning and new watering recruits – Deb Aldrich, Jill Barger, Leigh Dakin, Diedra Doran, Colleen Garvey, Bev Groshens, Barbara Haas, Jean Hancock, Jim Houghton, Frank and Julie Kelley, Matt McCarthy, Melanie McGuirk, Kathy Smith, Diane Ulbrich, Barbara Windham, and Sarah Yake – are helping CT members in the annual, monumental watering task, which is especially important during this very dry summer.

Chester Townscape thanks all who help support CT's flower and garden projects. The physical and financial help from these supporters makes the summer beautification of Chester possible!



CT members social-distanced while planting annuals at the Brookside Cemetery wall after the spring daffodil display.

Whiting Library is planning a summer full of outdoor fun. Currently, the building is closed to the public, but each Saturday a selection of new and interesting books become available to browse on the front lawn in our pop-up library. We also bring out some of the book sale so you can buy books and support the library.

Summer means it's time for the Summer Reading Program. Kids of all ages can sign up to record their reading in order to win prizes. There is also a fun summer reading challenge for adults. Find out more information about both programs on our website, www.whitinglibrary.org, or give us a call at 875-2277.

The Nature Museum will offer a series of programs in the library's backyard this summer. On four consecutive Wednesdays, starting July 15th, Jay DeGregorio, Senior Environmental Educator from The Nature Museum, will introduce children to the wonders of the natural world through demonstration and crafts. Families will be able to set up at respectful, socially distant spots in our shady backyard or attend virtually on the Whiting Library Facebook page.

Whiting Library is currently checking out materials for front porch pick up. We miss seeing your faces inside the library but look forward to offering you quality outdoor programming all summer long!



Small groups of CT members safely potted plants outside at Sunshine Acres.

Stone Bench in Memory of Suzy Henry Forlie

A stone bench in memory of Suzy Henry Forlie, who died on April 16, 2020, was installed beside the Public Tomb on June 2 by Scott and Tuck Wunderle. It is a fitting tribute to the life-long Chester resident, former local business owner, and contributing member to Chester Townscape, other organizations, and local affairs. Suzy and Lillian Willis were co-chairs of the CT subcommittee that undertook the rehabilitation of the Hearse House into a mini museum, located mere feet away from the new bench. Of enduring granite, the bench is a symbol of the lasting impact one person made on a community and also a symbol of the public/private partnership and extensive cooperation and generosity of time, skill, and materials that made the project possible. Chester Townscape thanks Julie Hance for her facilitation of the project; the Select Board for its approval of the concept, bench location, and gift of stone slabs; Kirby Putnam and Town crew for moving materials; and, most of all, Scott Wunderle of Terrigenous for his immediate support and skill in the preparation, installation, and coordination of materials and workers.



The town crew moves the base support stone from the Willis property to the Hearse House/Public Tomb area.



Tuck and Scott Wunderle with the finished bench



The bench will have a sandblasted inscription honoring Suzy.

Thank you to all who supported this appropriate tribute to Suzy and welcoming addition to the Hearse House Museum, Public Tomb, Brookside Cemetery, and Civil War Monument area.

Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Now that businesses are trying to return to a new normal in Vermont, skilled professionals are beginning to meet with clients and schedule work.

Central High School, aka Academy Building. Investigation is ongoing to determine the most appropriate and affordable repair for the plaster ceiling that collapsed on the stairway and second-floor landing.

Fire Engine No. 2, aka Yosemite Firehouse. Repair of the slate roof is being scheduled for this summer, and a deposit for 50% of the bid has been sent to secure positioning. Estimates for structural repairs to adjust the building's stabilization and alignment are in discussion for possible work this summer. Those repairs may affect the draft design of the future fire museum that the Town, CHPC, the architect, and State experts are trying to refine in order to proceed with local and State permissions. Please contact Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or 802-875-1340 with firehouse information or memorabilia.

Hearse House Museum Is Open

This unique small museum is a white, clapboarded building across from the Town Green and located next to the entrance to the Brookside Cemetery and the Public Tomb. The museum features the Town's handsome house-drawn hearse, associated photographs, and information about death and funeral customs. It is open for self-guided tours daily in dry weather from Memorial Day through Columbus Day.



Chester Ambulance appreciates the support from Chester and Andover community members. We wish you all a happy and healthy summer!

Guidance provided by the National Safety Council:

- **Pedestrian safety** – Walk with bright, light weight clothing. Use sidewalks and crosswalks whenever available. Be cautious of drivers; do not trust they see you, make eye contact. When near driveways or roads, be alert of vehicles entering and exiting.
- **Prevent Bug Bites**– Use insect/tick repellent when outdoors. Wear permethrin-treated clothing when appropriate. Check your clothing and body daily for ticks. Eliminate brush piles, leaf litter, wood piles and tall grass as ticks prefer these types of environments. Also remove items from your yard that collect standing water, such as buckets, tires or toys as these provide the perfect breeding grounds for mosquitos.
- **Beat the Heat** – Stay hydrated. Avoid drinking caffeinated and alcoholic beverages that cause you to lose fluid. Wear clothing that is light colored, light weight and loose fitting. Stay in air-conditioned buildings as much as possible and avoid direct sunlight during extreme heat.
- **Be Food Safe** – Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. When grilling use a meat thermometer to ensure that meat and poultry is fully cooked. Store perishable foods in a cooler filled with ice or freezer packs. Refrigerate leftover foods promptly to prevent bacteria growth. Always wash hands before and after handling foods. Sanitize surfaces that come in contact with food.
- **Swim Safely** – Always supervise young children around water. Always swim with a buddy. Wear lifejackets when swimming and participating in recreational activities. Prevent the spread of waterborne illness by taking the following actions: not swimming if you have diarrhea, washing your hands after changing a diaper or using a toilet, taking a shower before and after swimming.
- **Sparklers** – Sparklers burn at about 2000 degrees- hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing. Consider alternatives such as glow sticks or coloured streamers.

Chester Recreation

Swim lessons for Chester/Andover residents are available at the town pool. A 25-minute session is \$30 per child with a \$5 discount for additional children. Please have children dressed in swimwear when they arrive. Temperatures will be checked, and COVID-19 questions will be asked. Children must leave directly after the lesson. Please call Erika Knockenhauer at 875-3603 for available time slots.

Fall soccer sign-ups for Kindergarten through 6th grade will start in August. Dates and times for soccer are to be announced.

The Recreation Department will offer field hockey this year thanks to a grant awarded to the town by the USA Field Hockey's FUNdamental Field Hockey program. The grant money will be used to buy equipment needed to start the program. Field hockey will be available to k-6th grades. Sign-ups will start in August with dates and times to be announced.

