



Town of Chester Newsletter

January-March

Winter 2020

www.chestervt.gov

Town Manager's Message

TOWN CLERK

The Annual Town Meeting will be held March 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall (upstairs). The Election for Town Meeting and the Presidential Primary will be held March 3, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall (upstairs). The available Elective Offices can be found at www.chestervt.gov. Petitions for the Elective Offices should have 25-30 signatures and are due back to the Town Office on or before January 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Petitions to have an article on the Town Meeting Warning should have 120-130 signatures and are due back to the Town Office on or before January 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Absentee ballots for the Presidential Primary will be available January 18, 2020, and Town Meeting absentee ballots will be available February 12, 2020. To request an absentee ballot, call the office at 875-2173 or stop by.

Please remember to register your dog with the town before April 1, 2020. The dog registration and rabies clinic will be held March 14, 2020 10:30-Noon at the Town Garage.

Looking Forward

The New Year is shaping up to be one of some interesting projects. The hope, at this time, is that the site for the new Emergency Services building will start in April. As soon as that work is complete, the foundation will be put in place and right after that, construction will start on the facility. It is anticipated that this work will not be finished until the spring or summer of 2021. And as the departments move out of the Town Garage into their new home, work on that building will commence.

The Town Garage has been reviewed and the interior structure was deemed to be fine. What will be happening is a complete replacement of the outer shell; i.e., the roof and wall panels. The inside of the garage will also see improvements. Space now used by either the Fire or Ambulance departments will be converted to use for Public Works. A special welding area will be created. A very important aspect for both facilities will be that the departments will be able to move all their equipment indoors and out of the weather. Protecting this important equipment will prove to be vital to the long-term life of these items.

A grant was received to build a bridge over the Lover's Lane Brook at the rear of the Academy Building. The bridge will connect the village area to an in-town hiking trail across the brook that the Chester Conservation Committee will be constructing. This development is another project stemming from the Master Plan.

The sidewalk project that will upgrade the current sidewalk from Town Hall to Bargfrede Road should have its plans finalized in 2020 and construction should start in 2021. The Town received a grant for 80% of the costs.

I am sure by now you have heard of my retirement that will happen after Town Meeting. My wife and I have been in Chester for 11 ½ years and have truly enjoyed the time we have spent here. We have not decided on what our future holds, but Chester certainly is a top consideration.

Some of the reasons we have come to love Chester is because it is a small town and a person can get to know their neighbors. Getting around is easy and most services are easily reached.

All the citizens have been very kind to us during my tenure and the Town staff have been wonderful to work with on a daily basis. If we decide to move closer to our daughter in Washington DC, Chester will still be in our thoughts.

Ambulance Corner

Every second counts in an emergency. Emergency personnel can be slowed down because they have trouble finding the right address. Emergency personnel cannot provide emergency services to you efficiently without clearly posted house numbers.

Take a look outside your home. Can your house number easily be seen from the street? Can it be found at night? If not, please consider updating the number on your house. As time passes, numbers may fall off, shrubs may cover the numbers, etc. Make sure your mailbox has numbers on both sides but do not use your mailbox as the only identifier.

Here are a few suggestions for updating the numbers on your home:

- Numbers that will contrast the color of your home
- Large numbers
- Reflective numbers
- Post visible from both directions

Winter is here! Please try to keep access to your home clear if possible. Be safe when taking care of snow. Make sure you do not exert yourself too much, take breaks, wear appropriate attire and stay hydrated.

Chester Ambulance Service would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve this community. We look forward to being of service to you in 2020.

Have a happy and healthy New Year!



Whiting Library

on Main Street in Chester, Vermont is honored to be selected as recipient of The Children's Book Project Grant awarded from The Pilcrow Foundation. The Pilcrow Foundation's Children's Book Project collection celebrates diversity of culture and recognizes unique achievements. To receive this grant, we are indebted to the generosity of The Rotary Club of Chester, without which we would not have qualified. Whiting Library and Chester Rotary are now able to offer 72 new children's books. The Pilcrow Foundation also awarded an additional 23 math and science books through a donation from Hal Berenson and Laura Ackerman of Colorado. In all, over \$1,600.00 worth of new books will be added to the children's collection!

The Rotary Club of Chester, a vibrant and generous community organization, agreed to donate \$400 as a pledge to the Children's Book Project Grant. Member Ed Grossman, who is also on the library trustee board, secured this pledge. The Rotary Club and Whiting Library remain committed to the children of Chester and to early literacy.

Whiting Library staff and board of trustees heartily thanks Chester Rotary and the Pilcrow Foundation, and their sponsors on behalf of the children. Please join us for an open house unveiling of this collection on January 8th at 11 am.

Whiting Library is very pleased to welcome Carrie King as the *new* Youth Services Librarian. Carrie brings a wonderful sense of community, a love of literature, and a career of service.

Carrie says, "My adoration of reading, libraries and the natural world became evident as a very young child. As the new Youth Services Librarian, I am excited to integrate these appetites into the Whiting Library. Though a native of Ohio, I have lived in a few different parts of the country before settling in Chester to raise my family in 2004".

Carrie received her B.S. in Liberal Studies with concentrations in Peace Studies and Human Services from SUNY Binghamton before moving to Washington, D.C. One of her favorite jobs there was working in the Archives Library of National Public Radio cataloging radio shows. She loved advancing the search for information and making new discoveries and enjoyed helping her community excel and thrive.

Since arriving in Vermont, Carrie originated the Grateful Garden, a school and community garden at Chester Andover Elementary School, served as a Whiting Library Trustee, coached The Skillet Takes, an award winning GMUHS Jr. Iron Chef team, and worked as Executive Director of The Nature Museum in Grafton.

Carrie will be hosting Friday morning story time to help children develop early literacy skills, and a love of language through music, movement, books, poetry and art. There is also a drop-in LEGO club after school. She is here to help youth "navigate and discover the endless paths to knowledge and through this, to better understand themselves".

Please come by and welcome Carrie, introduce yourselves and see what the library has for you.

Chester Townscape

Chester Celebrates Winter



Chester Townscape volunteers replaced fall decorations in planters around town with the seasonal wreaths, garlands, and other greenery that foretold the joyous Christmas season and that continues to cheerfully celebrate Winter in Vermont through the snowy months. Chester Townscape also contributed \$400 to once again help fund the holiday Lights on the Green. Special thanks go to Chris Meyer for organizing the lights, to Nancy Rugg of the Fullerton Inn for decorating the Gazebo on the Chester Green, and to Sarah Yake of Salon 2000 for decorating the Depot Gazebo. Amazingly, in a few months it will be time to keep an eye out for springtime daffodils blooming along the Brookside Cemetery wall.



CHESTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Chester Historic Preservation Committee (CHPC) is continuing its efforts to repair and improve the Town's historic buildings to make those structures more attractive, functional, and accessible.

UPDATES. Academy Building. Repairs are needed to the slate roof on the west side of the building, to one lavatory, and to the fallen ceiling over the stairway to the second floor. More investigation needs to be done to determine the cause of the fallen plaster, any potential link to the leaking roof, and repair options. **Town Hall.** The new maple floor on the second floor has been laid and is being sanded and sealed to protect its surface for anticipated multiple uses for the benefit of Town residents for years to come. **Yosemite Fire House.** Just in time to meet the October 7 deadline for the Town's application for a State of Vermont restoration grant, Sarah Weingarten – owner of the field to the north of the firehouse – emailed to the Town her legal commitment to give the land necessary for parking for the future fire museum. The deed for that land gift is being prepared. In November we also received the Town-funded Feasibility Study report from the consulting architect that was crucial for the Fire Marshal to consider renovations. Recently we learned that we did not receive that important grant this time around because of competing projects which were further along and already open to the public. However, we are applying for another grant in January and are working on ways to make more improvements through both grants and some easier and less expensive projects that could allow us to open the building on a regular, but limited, basis in good weather. In the meantime, the proposed nomination of Fire District No. 2 Firehouse (aka Yosemite) for acceptance onto the National Register of Historic Places has been completed and will be presented on January 23 to the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. CHPC continues to ask of the public any information on history and memorabilia and photos pertinent to Yosemite. Please contact Committee Chair Lillian Willis at 875-1340 or at lwillisct@comcast.net.

LEGO Alert

2020 LEGO Contest Is March 14; Pre-Registration Deadline Is March 6

The annual Chester LEGO Contest – the ninth year for this popular event – will be 9 to 1 on Saturday March 14 at the NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main Street. The event is open to the public. Early Bird pre-registration, which is requested, is \$15 by March 6. After then, an entry goes to \$20.

LEGOmaniacs Pre-K through Grade 8 are invited to display their original creations (no kits allowed). Entries should be constructed at home and brought to NewsBank from 9 to 10 AM on Contest day. Entries will be judged in different grade categories from 10 AM to noon for originality, imagination, and presentation. There is also a separate family class. LEGO prizes will be awarded to winners and runners-up in the grade and family divisions, with awards for Best in Show and Most Vermont. The Creators' Choice Award will be chosen by the contestants themselves.

Part of the proceeds will go to the Whiting Library's Children's Section. For additional information or the required entry form, contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lwillisct@comcast.net. Paper entry forms will be available shortly at the Whiting Library and Chester-Andover Elementary School, as well as online at www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

Chester Recreation

Winter Carnival

February 15th:

10am-12pm: Troy Wunderle's Big Top Adventure Workshop at CAES

10am-2pm: The Chester Snowmobile Club will be hosting demo rides on 120 snowmobiles for children 11 and under. This will take place at the American Legion Field off Rt. 103

12pm: Sledding at the Pinnacle

12pm-3pm: Sleigh Rides with Smokeshire Farm at the Pinnacle

12pm-4pm: Southern Pie Company Pie Tasting at 287 Main St. \$5.00 per plate. Proceeds donated to the Chester Recreation Dept. Free Face painting

5pm-8pm: Southern Pie Company with coffee, hot chocolate and pieces of pie for sale at the Pinnacle

6pm-8pm: Bonfire/Music/Skating Party at the Pinnacle

February 16th:

10am: Broom hockey at the Pinnacle



CAFC Thanks the Andover Snow Riders

Every year, the Andover Snow Riders hold a Pancake Breakfast to raise funds and collect food for the Chester-Andover Family Center. This event is always well attended thanks to Nick Baker and his team of snow-rider chefs. This year's breakfast was delicious and plentiful, raising \$480 and collecting 110 pounds of food.

The Chester-Andover Family Center depends on independent, fundraising community events to keep our mission alive. The Andover Snow Rider's Breakfast helps us make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental, nutritional food, affordable clothing and household goods.

The CAFC Board thanks the Andover Snow riders for their contribution to our community.

Stephanie Mahoney
CAFC Board President



Above: The Baker Family delivers proceeds from the Andover Snow Riders Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.

Lister Information

2020 Reappraisal

The reappraisal for the Town of Chester is winding down and new values for 2020 will be available late this Spring. Change in Appraisal notices will be going out in May in the form of a pamphlet with the new assessment for all properties in Chester. Instructions for grievance will be part of this pamphlet. There will be a pre-grievance that will be more for answering questions or problems with quick fixes. Then, there will be a regular grievance day for any issues that the property owner has. The dates and times will be part of the information included on the Change in Appraisal pamphlet.