



Town of Chester Newsletter

April-June

Spring 2021

www.chestervt.gov

Town Clerk

Dog registrations were due April 1, 2021. The fee to register your dog is \$9 if fixed and \$13 if not. This can be done at the Town Clerk's Office or by mail. A check can be mailed to Town of Chester, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143 along with a copy of the updated rabies certificate.

The Town Offices are open currently. Researchers are asked to please make an appointment to visit. Only one researcher is permitted at a time due to COVID. Our Land Records are now online back to 1999 with the hopes of having 40 years soon.

Happy Spring!!

Town Manager's Message

At long last Spring has arrived! There is a lot taking place at Town Hall as well as in town. The Public Safety Building is quickly reaching its completion, anticipated for June 15. Be looking for an Open House announcement in early July. Design work has begun for the renovations to the Highway Garage with construction anticipated to begin early July.

The Depot Street Sidewalk project is in the final phase of engineering. We are hopeful that we can begin construction this summer. The bridge and hiking trail behind the Brookside Cemetery will be constructed this summer! This will be a great addition to our village.

Looking to get involved? We are in need of individuals willing to help out with the completion of the town's Ash Tree Inventory. This Inventory is critical in our preparedness for the inevitable arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. This is a huge undertaking, but many hands make light work. So, if you are willing to inventory a section of the road you live on or live near, please reach out to me at town hall 875-2173 or Julie.hance@chestervt.gov. Similar to Green Up Day, if we all do a little bit, we can get the whole town done.

The Chester Fall Festival is under new management this year. This is a vital event to our community and our local businesses. There are lots of vendors committed and some new events being added. It will be a great fall event here in Chester! The committee is searching for individuals willing to donate a 4 hour block of time during the weekend of September 18-19. If you are available, please contact Scott Blair at (802) 579-6831. Please consider volunteering.

Update from the Architect

As you pass by the Public Services building, you will see that the building is now fully enclosed. You will now see that the exterior wall insulation and waterproofing are being added. The majority of the work however is occurring on the inside of the building! The walls have been framed and the floors have been poured. Now the difficult work of adding all of the mechanical, plumbing, and electrical infrastructure is occurring in force. For the next few weeks, this work will be continuing, along with interior finishes. The last item that you will see is the addition of the exterior siding.

*The building is almost three quarters done!
Exciting times.*

Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Academy Building. Repair of the plaster ceiling that had fallen in the stairway and upstairs hallway is scheduled for work in 2021. The Town is awaiting a signed grant agreement to replace the slate roof on the west side of the building...ideally in 2021.

Town Hall. To help reduce noise levels in the auditorium, acoustical shades are being purchased and acoustic panels added to the ceiling.

Yosemite Fire House. Structural improvements and temporary cribbing were installed in November to stabilize the south side of the building. A large steel beam was added above the sliding door. Beam supports were added at either end, and the steel beam was tied into the interior one that runs the length of the building. Additional studs were added to the wall on either side of the opening for the sliding doors. The external wall was sheathed in plywood to better tie the area together, and the wall around the doorway was clapboarded with new material and painted. The rusted door track was replaced by a new one, new rollers were attached to the sliding doors, and the doors were re-hung. All those efforts should stabilize the building's most problematic façade and prepare the way for next stages in repair and construction.

To move the museum project forward, in March Architect Geoff Metcalfe was directed to create plans both for the building – per a CHPC design concept that had been given preliminary support by State Historical Preservation contacts – and for Yosemite's exterior landscape, including parking and the proposed new entrance area. The engineered plans will be aimed at getting formal government approvals for the necessary improvements at the site and building and will provide construction plans for same so the Town can apply for grants for specific portions of the work and accomplish individual tasks as funding is available.

Meanwhile, 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.

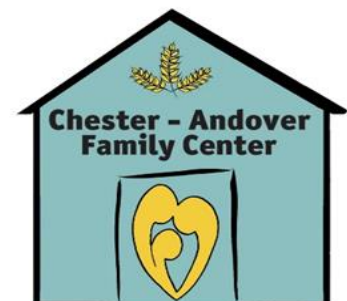


Chester-Andover Family Center

As we enter the new year, the Chester-Andover Family Center continues to fulfill its mission to make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental nutritional food, affordable clothing, and household goods. That we have been able to sustain our work, throughout the pandemic, meeting the needs of Chester and Andover residents who need our help, is a tribute to all those in the community and our friends from "away" who have supported us with donations. Your monetary gifts, food donations and thrift shop donations have made a difference. Our volunteers have been busy keeping our Thrift Shop, Food Shelf and Financial Assistance programs active and available to the community. We are ready for the new year and encourage you to keep us in mind if you or someone you know may need financial assistance, food or a warm coat.

To become a food shelf recipient, you only need to show proof of residence in Chester or Andover. Our Food Shelf provides supplemental nutritional shelf stable as well as fresh food including produce, fruit, meat, dairy and eggs. Food Shelf hours are Thursdays, 1-5 and Fridays, 10-2. To request financial assistance, call us at 802-875-3236 and leave a message. Your call will be returned. Thrift Shop hours are Fridays, 10-4 and Saturdays, 10-3.

As always, we welcome new volunteers. If you have three hours a month or three hours a week to volunteer, we will provide training for a retail experience, food shelf support or building and grounds maintenance. You will find a volunteer application on our website. www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org.



Chester Townscape's Spring Enhancements

Daffodils, allium, crocus, and other spring bulbs are poking their heads through the soil to herald long-awaited Spring. Now on view on Main Street at the Info Booth and Village Green Gazebo, they remind everyone of the flowers to come there, along the Brookside Cemetery wall, and at the welcoming bridge boxes and flowerpots in public locations around town. New this year will be pots at the Depot Gazebo, six new bridge boxes on the lower Church Street bridge in June, and a new metal railing to replace the wooden one at the Village Green Gazebo. Chester Townscape is working with Payne Junker to design and install that new railing after the Village Green Gazebo is painted.

Colorful crocus blossoms poking through the soil promise the future floral displays provided every year by Chester Townscape volunteers at public landmarks around town.



Chester Plant Sale May 28-30



The annual Chester Plant Sale at St. Luke's Church, the gray church at 313 Main Street near the Village Green in Chester, Vermont, has become 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 will 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 May 28 and Saturday May 29, 9-3 both days; and on Sunday May 30, 9-1. The later timing of the annual event allows for larger and more attractive plants – all organized by kind and growing needs on the side lawn of the church. If you have perennials on your property that you would like to contribute or if you have plants to suggest or need more information, please contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.

Chester Health Officer

Spring has arrived. Chester has already experienced heavy rains and wind. Unfortunately, we have had multiple complaints pertaining to household trash blowing onto neighboring properties and overflowing dumpsters which have attracted wildlife. Be respectful of your community and take care of household waste, recycling, and food scraps appropriately.

Please remember to register your dogs. As a reminder, from the Ordinance for the Control of Dogs and Wolf-Hybrids: Section E. Running at large means that a dog is not:

1. On a leash
2. In a vehicle
3. On owners premises
4. On the premises of another person with that person's permission
5. Clearly under the verbal or non-verbal control of the owner
6. Hunting with the owner

Have a safe and healthy Spring 2021!

Chester Ambulance Service

We would like to send out friendly reminders about being safe this spring. Drivers need to be attentive to children out playing, sun glare, potholes, motorcyclists, bicyclists, and wildlife activity. It is very important to wear all appropriate safety equipment and bright clothing when walking, biking, and riding motorized vehicles. When venturing out for a hike, do so in pairs and remember to let someone know where you are going and when you will be returning. Pack appropriate gear and nutrition for your day. Get out and enjoy!



Whiting Library



Spring is in the air at Whiting Library, and we are looking forward to many exciting happenings. First off, April 4-10th is National Library Week! As a thank you to all our patrons, we will be giving away a coupon for a free book from our book sale for every check out request for Front Porch Pick Up that week. The library building is still closed to the public, so we will be bringing the book sale out to you on Saturday, May 1st for our annual Green Up/Seed Down event on the front lawn. This event promotes Vermont Green Up Day, and you'll be able to pick up a green bag to collect roadside trash. There will also be a seed planting demonstration and activity area, where you can plant your own seeds or simply take home seedlings, we have sprouted for you. The outdoor book sale on May 1st will be by donation and include lots of fiction and non-fiction for children and adults. Our book sale room is overflowing so please come support the library by shopping!

Whiting Library has many ongoing programs that you can jump into at any time. The Book Club is in full swing, with a lively monthly discussion taking place on Zoom on each third Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Virtual Pre-school Storytime happens each Friday at 11am on Zoom. The Golden Dome Book Club for 9 to 12-year-olds meets virtually each Wednesday at 12pm. The monthly Kids Arts & Craft Club provides a bag with directions, templates, and supplies to make craft projects at home and meets monthly on Zoom for show and tell. Staff are in the library during all opening hours to check items out, print, scan, and copy documents, answer reference questions, and make recommendations on what to read next. Give us a call at 875-2277 or send an email at whitinglibrary1@gmail.com any time!

Next up- Summer Reading Programs are right around the corner and we are preparing fun programs for both youth and adult library patrons. Look for more details to come as June approaches!

You can keep in touch with Whiting Library news on our website, www.whitinglibrary.org, by signing up for our monthly e-newsletter, or on our Facebook or Instagram pages.

CHESTER RECREATION

Chester Town Pool

The town pool will be open this summer daily starting mid-June. We will have open swim hours and adult hours. Keep an eye out for more information.

Chester Summer Activities

Information will be out in May regarding our summer activities and weekly camps. This includes baseball & basketball camps; dance camp; soccer camp; strength and agility; and field hockey clinic.

Zumba starts May 1st at Cobleigh Field at 9:15 a.m.

For information on any of our programs please email me at recreationinchester@yahoo.com

