



# Town of Chester

## Newsletter

October-December

Fall 2022

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

### Town Clerk

The General Election and Green Mountain Unified School District Bond Vote will take place November 8, 2022, at the Town Hall (upstairs) from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Absentee ballots for the General Election have been mailed to all registered voters in Vermont. If you have not received a ballot, please stop by, or call the Town Office at (802) 875-2173.

If you would like to vote the Green Mountain Unified School District Bond Vote by absentee ballot, please stop by, or call the Town Office at (802) 875-2173. These ballots are not being mailed to all registered voters and must be requested.

The Town Office will be closed:

- ❖ November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ December 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon
- ❖ December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ January 2<sup>nd</sup>



### Chester Planning Commission Citizens' Poll

As the Chester Planning Commission continues working to maximize citizen input related to quality-of-life priorities around planning Chester's future, we are requesting all renters, business people, resident and non-resident property owners to complete a poll as a vitally important tool in providing direction to the work being undertaken.

As many are aware, the Planning Commission is working on multiple facets of town planning all of which are likely to have significant impacts upon the look and feel of our community over both the short and longer term. This work includes focus on housing, business, property development, our environment, and the overall look and feel of our town.

Utilizing a poll to maximize public input will provide the Planning Commission and potentially other town government, with a much stronger sense of what you and the rest of our town desires for the future of Chester. As such, it is important for all affected to complete and submit this poll. This is an opportunity to easily have your voice heard without needing to attend meetings or go through other processes to provide feedback to assist in guiding your local government.

You will be receiving a post card in the mail with a QR code and link to complete this poll. Please take a few minutes to complete and submit this poll at your earliest opportunity. The Town of Chester thanks you!

Sincerely,  
Chester Planning Commission



# Chester Historic Preservation Committee

**Facilities Director.** This year the Town hired a Facilities Director to oversee all Town Buildings, including the historic ones. This new position should help ensure that regular maintenance needs are addressed. It is a welcome and positive step toward coordinating and scheduling repairs efficiently.

**Hearse Museum.** This unique, seasonal museum – featuring the Town’s handsome hearse and displays about funeral customs – is open in good weather through Columbus Day.

**Academy Building.** The west side of the slate roof was fixed earlier this year, but Covid effects on labor and supply chains continue to adversely impact attempts to secure workers for plaster repairs to the interior of the building.

**Whiting Library.** Small repairs to the heater and sprinkler system are being scheduled.

**Town Hall.** The Town is waiting for a quote for changes to the upstairs sound system that would include a proposed new wireless system.

**Yosemite Fire House.** With architectural design plans for the future museum and its adjacent parking lot in hand, plus a recent bid for repairs to the windows, the Town submitted a grant application on October 2 for a \$20,000 matching grant from the State of Vermont. Besides repair to the existing windows, the grant request would help cover new storm windows, renovation of the two sliding doors, and fabrication of double doors behind the sliders on the south side of the building. The proposed new door on the north side of the building and painting of the exterior need to be done to fully protect the shell of the building and to allow better access, but repair of the windows and the sliding-door complex will go a long way toward protecting the shell and advancing the museum plans.

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](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net) or at 802-875-1340.



## Chester Townscape Welcomes Fall!

Townscape’s flowering bridge boxes that welcome everyone to Chester may be gone, but the Town has been redecorated for a glorious Fall. Many thanks go to all the loyal waterers who nurtured the boxes and planters all summer long and also to those who patronized CT’s booth at the Fall Festival. Those bulb sales help Chester Townscape pay for its decorations in town, such as the fall pumpkins and the evergreen wreaths and swags that will decorate public places in December to welcome Christmas and the winter holiday season that visitors and ski enthusiasts adore.

One recent improvement to facilitate transportation for all the bridge boxes to and from their storage and display locations was the completion of a new Townscape Trailer, designed and modified by CT member Stu Stocker.

Chester Townscape is an all-volunteer committee of the non-profit Chester Community Alliance. For further information about Chester Townscape, its town projects, and different ways to volunteer and become part of CT’s beautification efforts, please visit [www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape](http://www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape).



**Chester Ambulance** personnel have had a busy summer. We kicked it off the with a monthly breakfast starting in June and ending in September with Chester Police and Fire Departments. In July we trained with Chester FD on the extrication of entrapped patients in vehicles. The EMT class that was held in Chester came to an end with everyone passing the psychomotor exam. Now each student is off to take the cognitive exam as soon as they can. We have had two students recently take their exams and are now certified EMT’s. We also participated in Chester PD’s National Night Out which was a delightful family event held at the Public Safety Building. We were also seen at the Artisan on the Green on Sundays, the Alumni Parade, the Music in the Meadow, and the Fall Festival. Chester Ambulance Auxiliary will be fundraising to host community education for CPR training, Stop the Bleed, and Car Seat Safety. We will post these events as they happen on the Chester Ambulance Facebook Page, please share! From our families to yours, we wish you a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season!!



## Fall News at the Chester Andover Family Center

**Empty Bowl Dinner – November 12, 2022:** Bring your family, friends and neighbors to our fourth annual Empty Bowl Dinner at the American Legion Hall, 635 VT RT 103 in Chester. Doors open at 4:30 and we will be serving signature soups and desserts donated by local chefs until 7PM. Dinner is by donation and includes a hand painted bowl.

Plan to spend the evening listening to live music by guest folk singer, Vinnie Dibernardo, bid on our Silent Auction items and take a chance on our famous Raffle Baskets. New this year is a fashion show featuring your friends and perhaps your neighbor “rocking” CAFC Thrift Shop Apparel. You do not want to miss this.

We want to thank our sponsors, M&T Bank, Chester American Legion, and Endless Creations Pottery.

**Consider Volunteering:** Fall is a great time to engage in a new activity. We would like to recommend volunteering at the Center. It is a way to meet new people, keep busy and support your community. The Center is an all-volunteer, charitable, non-profit organization whose mission is to “make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental nutritional food, affordable clothing and household goods.” Our Food Shelf, Thrift Shop and Financial Assistance Programs offer a variety of volunteer opportunities. Our building, just like your home or place of business, is always in need of attention. We like to say, “there is something for everyone” at the Family Center.

If you have two or three hours a month and your interest is piqued, call us at 802-875-3236 and leave a message. You can also visit our website at [www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org](http://www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org), or email us at [cafc302@gmail.com](mailto:cafc302@gmail.com)

We would be happy to give you a tour, share information about our mission, volunteer opportunities, and answer your questions.

## Whiting Library

**Will Wilcox, Circulation Assistant at Whiting Library**  
**A true Bibliophile!**

These words from Deirdre Doran, encompass what we all feel about Will: “I think the thing that most people liked about Will was his enthusiastic “Hello!” when they entered the library. He remembered everyone's name and was genuinely interested in how they were doing and what they needed. He loved talking about the library, the town, the book industry; the book sales he would go to and the books he bought, and of course the weather.

Will was always up for helping people and finding what people were looking for. Everyone always asked after him when he took a day off and loved coming in to tell him they saw him out walking on the days the library was closed. He was great at supervising the volunteers and I think many came in to “help” just so they could hang out with him. He worked at the library for over eleven years and every year on his evaluation would say, “I love my job and just hope I can keep doing it as long as possible.”

Unfortunately, Will recently had to leave his position for health reasons. We will all miss his bright smile and beautiful nature. We hope he'll be back to visit us in the library soon.

We will miss you!  
-Deirdre Doran  
-Carrie King  
-Whiting Library  
Board of Trustees



## Town Health Officer's Message

2022 has been a busy year for Dogs Running at Large, Potentially Vicious Dogs, and Nuisance Dogs. To protect the health and safety of the residents of Chester, please make sure your dog is always secured on your property. Some information from the TOC Dog Ordinance are as follows:

- Potentially Vicious Dog means a dog running at large that inflicts minor injuries on a person not necessitating medical attention: chases, threatens to attack or attack another domestic pet or animal, chases a person, or causes any person to reasonably fear attack or bodily injury from such dog.
- Running at Large is when the dog is NOT:
  - on a leash, in a vehicle, on the owner's premises, on the premises of another person with permission, clearly under the verbal or non-verbal control of the owner
- Dogs over 4 months of age are to be registered by April 1<sup>st</sup> every year

Please visit the town's website for the entire ordinance:

<https://www.chestervt.gov/uploads/5/0/4/4/50449173/dog-ordinance.pdf>

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

**December 3, 2022 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

The annual Christmas Market at St. Luke's Church (313 Main Street, Chester, VT) features speedy shopping for a wide variety of desirable items – from one-of-a-kind presents, various homemade creations, and evergreen, Christmas, or craft decorations to treasures from Grandma Attic and homemade edibles. Culinary classics include hearty frozen soups and entrees, desserts and other baked goods, savorys, preserves, and homemade candy in designer tins. There are even homemade treats for pets and toys in the Pet Corner.

To save time and be assured of securing favorite products, people may pre-order certain foods and craft items and take advantage of a special pick-up time for pre-orders at 9:30 on December 3, before the start of the Market. The public is encouraged to check [www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org/special-events](http://www.stlukeseiscopalvt.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, [lbwillict@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillict@comcast.net).



## Holiday Wreath-Decorating Workshops November 17 through 19



Wreath Workshops at St. Luke's Church at 313 Main Street are an annual tradition that gives participants a joyful way to prepare for the holidays. The number of wreaths and workshop sessions are always limited, so participants **must** register early to be assured of a wreath and their preferred workshop session. The workshops, scheduled for a variety of times on November 17 through 19, will provide participants with everything they need to decorate a beautiful, pre-made evergreen wreath with an amazing array of natural embellishments, as well as choice of bow. To learn more and to reserve a wreath, contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or [lbwillict@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillict@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

## *The First Universalist Parish of Chester Presents:*

### ***Big Woods Voices: Poetry in Harmony***



**Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

**Admission is a sliding scale, \$10-\$25 at the door.**

**The First Universalist Parish is in Chester's Historical Stone Village at 211 North Street.**

**\*\*\*Masks will be required indoors\*\*\***

## Chester Andover Family Center Holiday Food Drive

Last year, the Chester-Andover Family Center asked the community to help us provide over one hundred Food Shelf recipients with all the fixings for a Holiday meal. The positive response was truly an inspiration, and we were able to fill all Food Shelf recipient requests.

This year finds food prices higher than ever and many in our community are struggling to keep food on the table. We believe that everyone deserves a bountiful holiday meal to share with family. The CAFC is determined to fulfill this belief. Please help us in two ways; with food or cash donations and by telling friends or neighbors about our Food Shelf.

Our Food Shelf provides supplemental nutritional food to Chester and Andover residents. The only requirement is proof of residency. So please spread the word that we are here to help people get through the month without worrying about how they will feed their family. All it takes is a visit to the food shelf during business hours and a volunteer will assist you in completing an application.

While cash donations are always welcome, turkeys, turkey breasts and shelf stable food items are needed. Here is a list of items. Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing Mix, Mushroom Soup, Pie Crust Mix, Canned Pie Filling, Brown Sugar, and Cinnamon.

We would also welcome Turkey Roaster Pans and Pie Plates.

Holidays are especially challenging for families on a tight budget as it comes at the end of the month. Many who never imagined facing reduced income or a limited ability to get out and shop, need us now. That is why we need your help more than ever.

Food donations may be dropped off on Thursdays from 10-4 and Fridays between 10 and 2. If you would like to arrange an alternate drop off time, please call the Center at 802-875-3236

Cash donations may be made via paypal or mail a check made out to CAFC/HolidayFood to CAFC, PO Box 302 Chester, VT 05143.

For information regarding Food Shelf participation, call the Center at 802-875-3236 or email us at [cafc302@gmail.com](mailto:cafc302@gmail.com)