



Town of Chester Newsletter

April- June

Spring 2022

www.chestervt.gov

Town Clerk

Please remember to register your dog at the Town Clerk's office. Registration was due April 1, 2022.

The Town Office would like to thank everyone for their patience during this year's mud season. The road crew has been working long, hard hours to improve the conditions of the roads. This year's mud season has been the worst we have seen here and around the entire state in many years. We can only hope next year's won't be as bad.

There will be two elections this year. The August Primary is Tuesday, August 9, 2022, and the General Election is Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Elections are held at the Town Hall (upstairs) from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can register to vote by visiting mvp.vermont.gov, or at the Town Office.



Town Manager's Message

Spring has arrived, but with that comes mud season. Our dirt roads have been the worst we have seen in a very long time. I would like to thank everyone for their patience during this time.

I would like to thank the voters for their support of this year's budget. With increased fuel prices and the continued rise in construction costs, we are all working hard to keep within the budget for 2022.

We would like to welcome some new employees to the Town of Chester staff. Preston Bristow is the town's Zoning Administrator and has been increased to a full-time position as Chester's Town Planner. Steve Vertefeulle has been hired as the town's Facilities Director. They both bring new energy and expertise to their positions, and we are very lucky to have them!

Our Emergency Services departments will be holding a community breakfast at the new Public Safety Building the first Sunday of each month starting Sunday, June 5, 2022, through September. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Please keep an eye out for further details.

The Chester Selectboard will be hosting an ARPA Community Forum on Monday May 9, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at town hall. This will be held as a brainstorming session to discuss potential uses for the Federal American Rescue Plan funds granted to Chester. We want to hear your ideas on how best to spend these one time funds on our community. There will be food provide. Please get involved.



WHITING LIBRARY

We love springtime at the library, and our upcoming programs will have you excited to get out of the house too! Already in full swing, the Stone Village Poetry Experience, co-sponsored with the First Universalist Parish of Chester, offers monthly poetry slams and poetry-writing workshops that are open to all. The slams, which are a place to share your poetry and hear local poets, will take place at the UU Church from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday April 14 and May 5. The poetry workshops are designed to help you hone your writing craft and will take place at the library from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 28 and May 19.

We love a good book club at the library so there are three to choose from now! The Red Clover Kid's Book Club is a monthly meetup for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. Kids can join Carrie to explore picture books and enjoy fun book club crafts. The Book Club for Kids aged 9 and up is also held monthly. Kids read, enjoy, and discuss books from this year's Vermont Golden Dome Book Award list. There is also a Book Club for adults which reads a wide variety of books and meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 3pm at the library and on Zoom. And don't forget pre-school Story Time at 11am every Friday!

This spring the Stone Village Art Guild will have works on display from nine local artists. Come enjoy some community art whenever the library is open. Come June we will be starting the Summer Reading Challenges for both kids and adults. The Nature Museum will be back again all summer for fun and engaging kids programs each week. Check the library website for more information about library happenings www.whitinglibrary.org or give us a call 875-2277.



Spring at the Chester Andover Family Center

Prom Shopping

The Chester Andover Family Center is very pleased to announce that our Prom Room is open for prom shopping until the end of MAY. If you did not make it to our Prom Shopping Open House on March 30, you can visit the CAFC Thrift Shop any Thursday, 1-4, Friday, 10-4 or Saturday 10-2. The suggested donation for a complete Prom outfit for girls and guys is \$20.

Board Recruitment

The CAFC Board of Directors is actively recruiting candidates to fill board positions. We are holding an Open House at the Family Center on Wednesday, April 13 from 5-7. This is a great opportunity to find out about our organization, how our board works and how you might be able to contribute to your community. No need to let us know in advance that you are coming. Board members will be on hand to give you a tour of our building and answer your questions. Drop in any time between 5 and 7.

The CAFC is a 501c3 charitable organization that serves our community through three programs: a Thrift Shop, a Food Shelf and Financial Assistance. We are a 100% volunteer organization, and our mission is to "Make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental nutritional food, affordable clothing and household goods".

You can also request information by sending an email to cafc302@gmail.com. A board member will contact you and answer your questions.

You can also check out our website at www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org

The Family Center is located at 908 VT Route 103 S in Chester. We are the yellow building with the green roof.



Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Academy Building. With good spring weather and a release from last year's Covid restrictions and scheduling problems, two major repairs should take place this year. The slate roof on the west side of the building will be replaced, and the plaster ceiling that had fallen in the stairway and upstairs hallway should be repaired.

Hearse House Museum. This seasonal museum, which features the Town's horse-drawn hearse and information about death and funeral customs, will be open for self-guided tours Memorial Day through Columbus Day.

Town Hall. Taking advantage of extra space as a result of the Police Department's move to the new EMT, Police, and Fire Department headquarters on Route 11, minor changes will continue on the first floor of Town Hall to allow for re-arrangement of offices, more storage space, and a new conference room where the Lister's Office is presently located.

Yosemite Fire House. Now that the Town has architectural concept plans in hand for the future museum's building and exterior landscape, including parking and the proposed new entrance, the Town can research and apply for grants for specific portions of the work and accomplish individual tasks, including those that the Town Public Works crew may be able to schedule, as funding and manpower are available.

While CHPC continues to seek memorabilia and information to tell the story of the Chester Fire Department in that historic structure, two important donations were received in 2021. The first gifts were prints of line drawings of Yosemite, its tower details, and the 1849 Hunneman hand pumper created by Isaac J. Nichols and donated by his granddaughter Kim Leonard. The second group of gifts included two personal photo albums of fires and firefighters, framed photos, and newspaper articles donated to the Fire Museum by Arnold P. Stoddard, the last Fire Chief at the Yosemite Firehouse. The albums have been digitized by NewsBank through a generous contribution by Rich Deyermond, COO of NewsBank. In addition, a new charitable corporation, entitled Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum, has been formed to enable tax-exempt contributions for the museum to be accepted by sending a check to Friends of Yosemite, c/o Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

Anyone desiring to give pertinent equipment or memorabilia or to make a tax-exempt donation is encouraged to contact CHPC Chair Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340.

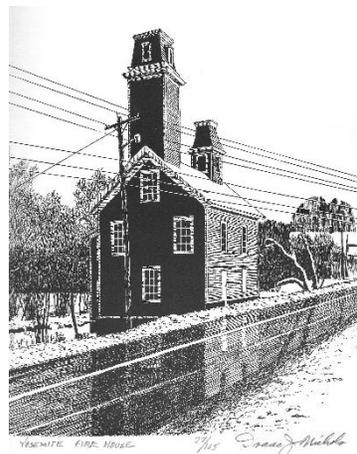


Chester Plant Sale

May 27-29

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 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 27 and Saturday May 28, 9-3 both days; and on Sunday May 29, noon-3. The later timing of this annual event allows for larger and more attractive plants – all organized by kind and growing needs on the side lawn of the church. People who have perennials to contribute in advance or plants to suggest or who need more information are encouraged to contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.



Above: Line Drawing by Isaac J. Nichols AND
Arnold P. Stoddard, Yosemite Fire Chief

Chester Townscape's

Spring Enhancements



New white allium bulbs, donated by Julian Sottovia and planted by CT volunteers last fall, will soon complement the burst of sunshine from daffodils along the Brookside Cemetery Wall. The many spring bulbs appearing there and on Main Street at the Info Booth and Village Green Gazebo, will remind everyone of the welcoming burst of flowers that will also appear at bridge boxes and barrels and at other public gardens in locations around town, as well as at the grey planter pots that CT creates for individuals and business customers. This year Church Street will see new bridge boxes, and Chester Townscape will partner with John Harmer's horticulture department at River Valley Technical Center in Springfield to plant the bridge boxes and pots. CT is grateful for the school's support and use of its facility and looks forward to working with the students.

New CT Brochure: "Take A Walk Through Chester Depot to Historic Stone Village." This walking tour complements Townscape's first, very popular "Take A Walk Along Main Street in Historic Chester Village." Both tour brochures are available, free, at Town Hall, local restaurants, inns, and businesses and reveal some of the history of Chester through its historic buildings.

At each of the 13 buildings on this new tour people can read about architecture and local history. Starting at the railroad station, which features distinctive Italianate details, walk toward the imposing brick Town Hall at the edge of the Depot Green and then north along Route 103 to view the dual towers of the iconic 1879 Yosemite Firehouse. Continue west into the Stone Village's cluster of nine houses and a church that were built in the 1830s and 1840s by local masons from stone quarried on nearby Mount Flamstead. The distinctive "snecked-ashlar" style of the buildings has long captured the public's imagination and enticed many a visitor to Chester.

Hanging Basket Fundraiser. New this year are 10" baskets at \$35 each, designed by Allen Brothers Nursery, which feature mixed flowers that will do well in various conditions and complement any color scheme. Pre-orders must be received by Thursday April 21 for pick-up on Saturday May 28 from 10-4 at the Info Booth near the Chester Village Green. Please access the pre-order form at <https://www.chestervt.gov/chester-towncape.html>.

Chester Townscape is looking forward to providing another year of flowers to enhance the beauty of the town. Anyone interested in helping CT with its projects or in assisting with watering is encouraged to contact Lynn Russell at 802-875-2707 or at chestertownscape@gmail.com.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Friday, April 8, 2022

At the Pinnacle by the pavilion

Ages 5 and under: 5-5:30 p.m.

Ages 6-8: 5:35-6:10 p.m.

Ages 9 +: 6:15 p.m.

FREE FOR ALL AGES



DOES YOUR CHESTER PROPERTY HAVE AN ALARM SYSTEM?

CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEEDS YOUR MOST CURRENT ALARM INFORMATION

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

YOUR 911 ADDRESS (Property/House Number)
SHOULD BE EASILY READ BY
EMERGENCY PERSONNEL
(FIRE, POLICE, AMBULANCE)

INFORM YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
OF ANY CHANGE WITH YOUR
ALARM SYSTEM REGISTRATION.



REGISTER (or UPDATE) YOUR ALARM SYSTEM.

Registration forms found on Town Of Chester website

www.chestervt.gov

CONTACT CHESTER POLICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

TOWN OF CHESTER

PO Box 370 (130 Pleasant Street)
Chester, VT 05143
CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tel. 802-875-2035
Fax 802-875-2036
Emergency 802-875-2233 or 911