



Town of Chester Newsletter

July-September

Summer 2022

www.chestervt.gov

Town Manager's Message

Town Clerk

The August Primary will be held August 9, 2022, at the Town Hall (upstairs). Absentee ballots can be requested at the Town Office, by calling (802) 875-2173, or by visiting mvp.vermont.gov.

For the Primary, you will receive three ballots. Please only vote on one. All three ballots must be returned in the correct envelope for your vote to count. The envelope with the voted ballot must be signed and dated. There will be instructions included on the return envelopes. Please read these instructions carefully before returning your ballots.

The Town Office will be closed Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day and Monday, September 5th for Labor Day.



I would like to thank all the many, many volunteers who work to make Chester a better community. All too often these groups go unnoticed and unappreciated for their efforts. The backbone of many communities are their volunteers. I would like you all to know how thankful I am for your contributions to our town.

The Brookside Trail/Bridge will be picking up construction in July. The town's Facility Director will be working with a local contractor to complete the boardwalk construction. We will plan to have a small ceremony to officially open the trail. Stay tuned.

The bridge in Popple Dungeon is finally under full construction causing the road to be closed just past Ethan Allen Road. This will remain closed likely until August 21.

The Depot Street Sidewalk Project is wrapping up the Right of Way clearance with VTrans. Due to rising costs in materials and labor, I have applied for additional funding in the amount of \$846,000. If awarded, I anticipate bidding over the winter with construction in spring 2023.

We learned that Chester was awarded a Downtown Transportation Grant in the amount of \$212,000 to construct and install the new signage for Chester. We will be finalizing permitting with plans to start installing signage early summer 2023.

In the Recreation Department you will see long overdue repairs to the tennis courts. These repairs include fixing the large crack in the center of the courts as well as a complete resurfacing/repainting of the entire court. In addition to tennis court uplifts, you will also see a few new pieces installed and a few old pieces removed at the skateboard park. This will also include removing the old chain link fence. As you may recall, the skate park improvements were grant funded in 2021.

These are just the highlights of recent activities. Thank you to all town employees for your hard work and dedication.

Enjoy the summer!!

Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Academy Building. Replacement of the slate roof on the west side of the building has been completed. This long-awaited project not only means better protection for the interior of the building, but also allows the Town to take a step toward being able to apply for future State historic restoration grants.

Yosemite Fire House. The Town is awaiting bids on repair of the windows on the historic fire house. Having previously shored up the back addition with new piers, repaired the slate roof, and stabilized the south face with new structural supports and beams at the sliding-door entrance, the Town's next task is to repair all the windows. Their repair is now the most important and labor-intensive task to seal the shell of the building from the weather. Supply-chain problems stemming from Covid, and the ensuing shortage of available skilled labor and necessary building materials, has made the process take much longer than anticipated, but the Town has been in touch with the workman who repaired the Academy Building windows and is expecting a bid by early July.

As people clean out their attics, please remember that CHPC continues to seek memorabilia and information to tell the story of the Chester Fire Department in that historic structure. Anyone with pertinent material is encouraged to contact CHPC Chair Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340.



This south-facing window is one of many needing repair to seal the exterior of the historic fire house from weather, now that the building has been stabilized.

Chester Is Blooming!

Chester Townscape performed a small miracle this spring. The glorious pots and bridge boxes in public places around town that brighten the spirits of all who see them attest to the determination, imagination, and cooperation of those involved in making Chester Townscape's summer displays possible this year.

Because CT's long-time plant partner – John McAweeney's Sunshine Acres Nursery – was on the market and unavailable, CT had to find a new flower supplier and a new location in which to plant their 40 pots and 40 bridge boxes, as well as a place to protect and care for the containers physically while the new plants took hold and flourished. Townscape contracted with Allen Brothers Nursery in Westminster, VT, as the new flower supplier, but a place of action still needed securing. To the rescue came John Harmer, Program Instructor of Horticulture and Natural Resources at River Valley Technical Center (RVTC) in Springfield, adjacent to the High School. The Townscape Flower Committee ordered the necessary 1200 plants, and interested students and CT volunteers planted the containers and moved them into the school's greenhouse for students to care and water them for three weeks in May until they could be transported and delivered to Chester.

Chester Townscape is very grateful to John Harmer and his students at RVTC – many of whom intend to pursue careers in Forestry, Landscape Construction, Nursery Operation, Greenhouse Management and Production, Property Management, Natural Resources Management, and Tree Care Service. CT is grateful to its volunteers and Town of Chester staff who transported the planters – especially the heavy bridge boxes. CT also thanks the many wonderful volunteers from Townscape and the public who water and maintain the planters, barrels, and bridge boxes throughout the summer and early fall to make Chester such a beautiful place in which to live, work, and visit.

To enjoy more of Chester, take a walking tour of Main Street or the Depot/Stone Village area with one of CT's two walk brochures, which are available at a host of locations around town, or check out the other public places that CT plants and maintains: Village Green Gazebo, Information Booth on Main Street and Cemetery Wall, School Street Pocket Park, and Chester-Andover Family Center. For information on volunteering or supporting CT and its community projects, please access www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.



This is one of Chester Townscape's beautiful bridge boxes that has drivers call out their appreciation to watering volunteers as they care for their plants.

Whiting Library

The theme for the 2022 Summer Reading Program at Whiting Library is Oceans of Possibilities. Kids of all ages can sign up for the program, which includes recording their reading progress, a free book of their choice from the library book sale room, and the chance to win raffle tickets for great prizes.

The Nature Museum will offer a series of exceptional programs in the library's backyard beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays from June 22 through Aug. 3. An environmental educator will introduce children of all ages to the wonders of the natural world through demonstrations, games and crafts. There will be programs on beavers, bats, black bears, owls, pollinators, animal migration and, of course, building fairy houses.

The Whiting Library Book Club has moved its meeting time to the second Wednesday of the month at 6pm. The book for the August 10th discussion is *The Old Maid* by Edith Wharton. All are welcome to join the book club for one discussion or every month.

September is our annual book sale fundraiser and we need your donated books to make it great! We are looking for clean, recently published books for the sale. Please read our donations page on the library website to find out what we don't take before bringing books by during our open hours. Donations for the book sale will be accepted until the first week of September. If you'd like to volunteer at the sale, get in touch with the library at whitinglibrary1@gmail.com or 875-2277. Happy Summer!

The CAFC Welcomes Summer, Fresh Produce & New Board Members

Vermonters Feeding Vermonters

The Chester Andover Family Center has received a Vermonters Feeding Vermonters grant. All grant VFV funds will be used to provide fresh, local, seasonal food for our food shelf recipients, July through October. The grant stipulates that we work with local farms to purchase seasonal food products at fair market prices. We are pleased to announce that last years' farmers and one newcomer will be participating in the 2022 VFV Program.

Jeffrey and Kaarina Knisley of Abundance Acres provide an "abundance" of weekly produce June through October. Later in the summer, Donna and Peter Hudkins will be bringing us delicious blueberries from their Smokeshire Hilltop Farm. Joe Polio of Springhill Farm will supply fruit from his orchards and his famous Maple Syrup. Linda Friedman of Wellwood Orchards always pulls together the best of what they are picking each week; this week it is strawberries. Our new participants, Thom Simmons and Dan Tyrell of Dungeon Dragon Farm supply us with farm fresh eggs.

We encourage the community to frequent these farms and acknowledge their participation in this wonderful program. When we can provide food shelf recipients with local fresh food every week while supporting local farmers, we are bringing the best of our community together.

New Board Members

The family Center is pleased to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors; Stephen Rubino, Ruth Walker, Charmaine Wesley-Hartman. Each brings unique skills and talents to our organization, and we look forward to working with them in the service of our mission, "to make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental nutritional food, affordable clothing and household goods;"

Christmas Under the Tent Saturday October 8, 2022

We know it is July, but we are already busy planning and preparing for our famous "Tent" Sale. So, mark your calendars and save the date.

Empty Bowl Community Dinner

Coming up in November at the Legion. Date TBD. Stay tuned.

Family Summer Pig Roast August 20, 2022

By Master Roaster Jessie Pixley

Summer food fare will include:
homemade potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans,
rolls, drinks, and dessert

Plans are for music and lots of summer joy and camaraderie.

4 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main Street
www.stlukeepiscopalvt.org

CHESTER EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

First Sunday of the month
June-September

\$10 adult \$5 student
Under 4 free

Note Date Change from July 3 to July 10

POOL HOURS

CLOSED ON MONDAY

TUESDAY- FRIDAY

12-5PM & 6-8PM OPEN SWIM
5-6PM ADULT SWIM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

12-5PM OPEN SWIM
5-6PM ADULT SWIM

If you have any questions,
please call (802) 875-3603

*Subject to change due to
weather and staffing*



— CHESTER — SUMMER MUSIC

Academy Building
Lawn, Chester Vt



5 Thursdays,
6:30-8:00 pm

Sponsored by the Chester Rotary Club



July 14- Luminous Crush

July 21- Yankee Chank

July 28- The Larkspurs

August 4- Blue Grass Pioneers

August 11- The Better Days Band

6:30-8:00 p.m.

On the lawn at the Academy Building



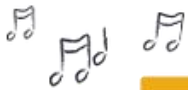
POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**Tuesday
August 2, 2022**

6:00 p.m.

**At the
Public Safety
Building**

*National Night Out is an
annual community-building
campaign that promotes
police-community
partnerships and
neighborhood camaraderie.*



CHESTER FESTIVAL

ON THE GREEN

A celebration of Vermont culture, fine art, and authentic craftsmanship.

September 17 & 18, 2022

www.chesterfestival.org