



Town of Chester

Newsletter

January-March

Winter 2022

www.chestervt.gov

TOWN CLERK

The Town Office will be closed January 16th, 17th, 18th, and 20th. The office will be open regular hours on January 19th to accept petitions submitted for articles to be included in the Town Meeting Warning.

There will be a rabies clinic and dog registration on March 11, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon at the Public Safety Building. The cost for the rabies shot is \$15 and a dog registration cost \$9 for a dog that is fixed and \$13 for one that is not. Please remember to register your dogs by April 1, 2023.

Town Meeting will be held March 6, 2023 at 6 p.m. with voting taking place March 7, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town Hall (upstairs). Absentee ballots must be requested.

Town Manager's Message

The holiday season came and went so quickly and we are now onto budgets and Town Meeting Day. I hope you all had a great holiday and enjoyed the many activities that took place in town. Thank you to all the individuals who were involved in decorating The Green this year. The lights were fabulous!

2022 has ended and the town wrapped up the year with a small surplus, \$5,434. The Selectboard has now set the 2023 town budget and, much like everywhere else, the bottom line is up. Our budget is showing an increase of approximately \$.05. Town staff and I have worked hard to keep this increase as low as possible. Unfortunately, with the dramatic inflation rates, the costs of materials have increased up to 3 times in many instances. There is simply no other way to counter these increases than to raise taxes. We are all feeling the pain from our current economy.

On a brighter note, Chief Richard Cloud retired from law enforcement after 30 years. We wish him all the very best in his retirement years. The Town has been very fortunate in the hiring of Chief Tom Williams as the new Chief of Police. Tom brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience to this position and has hit the ground running with many new upgrades and improvements to the department. Welcome aboard.

I hope to see you all at Town Meeting on March 6 at 6:00 p.m. as well as the polls on March 7 from 9:00-7:00. As always, please reach out if you have any questions or comments about what is happening in our community.

WHITING LIBRARY

LIVELY WINTER 2023 EVENTS

Reconnect with the Whiting Library this winter and renew your love of reading, learning, and community by celebrating Lunar New Year and Hobby Month throughout January.

Come meet our new Library Director, Pamela Johnson-Spurlock, and Library Assistant, Colleen Garvey.

It's a new chapter for the library and we can't wait to see you in the new year. Plus, there is a Hobby Month raffle prize drawing on January 31st. Library patrons may earn raffle prize tickets simply by checking out the library in January. Caregivers with young children are encouraged to come to the library for Story Hour with our Youth Services Librarian, Carrie Roy King, weekly on Fridays at 11 a.m. Come watch our indoor garden grow, sit for a spell and work on our community puzzle in the reading room, and check out the Lunar New Year and Hobby Month decorations, games and activities set up in the library.

By taking advantage of the long winter and spending some quality time reading library books with kids, you can set your children up for success. All ages can now pick up a January Reading Challenge Kit packed with fun goodies and reading incentives. Then find your favorite reading spot and snuggle up with a good book! Read books, e-books, graphic novels, or magazines, or listen to an audiobook - it all counts!

Whiting Library is looking forward to offering you quality programming all winter long! Find out more information about both children and adults on our website, www.whitinglibrary.org or by calling (802) 875-2277.



Chester-Andover Family Center

The Chester Andover family center has had a very busy and productive 2022. We held two successful fundraising events; Christmas Under the Tent and the Empty Bowl Dinner, raising \$6,000. Participation in our Food Shelf and Financial Assistance Programs has increased, and we look forward to meeting the needs of our community in 2023.

Our volunteer staff is expanding and thriving. Support for our mission to make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental nutritional food, affordable clothing, and household goods is strong.

November and December saw an increase in Chester and Andover residents seeking financial assistance and becoming Food Shelf participants. In November, seventy-one households representing one hundred sixty-two individuals shopped at our Food Shelf. Our Financial Assistance Program provided nearly \$4000 worth of assistance to residents for heat, electricity, rent and other essential needs.

To help families during the holiday season, we provided gift certificates to all Food Shelf participants. Each family received a \$25 gift certificate for each member of their household to spend in our Thrift Shop. These gift certificates were well received, and families used them to purchase both gifts and essential items that would help them enjoy the holiday season. It is joyful to be in the Thrift Shop when families are selecting their gifts, wrapping paper and cards.

In December we welcomed Gail Stewart as a new board member. Gail brings a wealth of business experience and knowledge of the community to our board. We look forward to working with her as we engage in new projects and maintain our ability to meet the needs of people in our community.

Our big news is that we are ready to move forward on a renovation/expansion project. Three years ago, a lightning strike to our building resulted in structural damage to our Thrift Shop storage area. We are now soliciting contractors to bid on this project at our building located at 908VT RT 103 in Chester. The project is to replace a storage area with an enclosed storage shed, approximately 12 x 27 feet, adjacent to the rear of our building. Detailed specs are available in our bidding package.

Our goal is to distribute the bidding package in January 2023. Contractors are invited to call the center at 802-875-4309 and leave a message or email us at cafc302@gmail.com att. Nena Nanfeldt, with inquiries regarding this project, to request a bidding package and schedule an on-site visit.

Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Academy Building. The Town is still seeking workers to repair the plaster ceiling that had fallen in the stairway and upstairs hallway. Labor and supply-chain problems continue to delay the work. Meanwhile snowguards will be installed on the Academy roof to help control the shedding snow.

Whiting Library. Small repairs to the heater and sprinkler system are still in the works, but the Town may have to replace the entire sprinkler system.

Town Hall. No quote has been received yet for changes to the upstairs sound system to include a proposed new wireless system. Other sources may have to be pursued.

Yosemite Fire House. This past December the Town was awarded a \$20,000 matching State grant to repair the windows, install new storm windows, repair the exterior sliding doors, and construct new interior doors behind them that would secure the building from weather and rodents. Town matching funds already earmarked for that purpose will come from the \$900,000 American Rescue Plan Act grant.

In Fall of 2022 a new nonprofit corporation – entitled Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum, Inc. – was formed to increase financial support and knowledge about the historic firehouse, its fire equipment, the history of firefighting, and the firefighters serving Chester. The new organization will create programs and raise funds to help move plans forward for the fire museum. First on the list of potential projects is fundraising to enable a new door to be cut into the north side of the building to provide the main public entrance for the future museum. Donors to that effort may send a check to Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum, c/o PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143.

Anyone with memorabilia and information to help tell the story of the Chester Fire Department in that historic structure is encouraged to contact CHPC Chair Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340.

Chester Townscape Celebrates Winter



Chester Townscape continued its beautification efforts in the progression from summer flowering bridge boxes and fall-themed barrels to multiple evergreen decorations in preparation for Christmas and the winter holiday season. Varied evergreens in wreaths, garlands, and barrel arrangements – many brightened with red bows – are merrily positioned in public places about the town to cheer and entice residents, visitors, and ski enthusiasts. In this effort, Townscape recognizes Sarah Yake of Saloon 2000 for her winter decorations at the Depot Gazebo and those businesses and homeowners that decorated their buildings to help make Chester a festive winter wonderland. In a few months, the beautification cycle will start anew as spring bulbs push through the snow to begin a new parade of floral delights. For more information on Chester Townscape and how to volunteer or support its efforts, please visit www.chestervt.gov/chester_townscape.html.

Town Health Officer Message

It is time to register your dog or dogs at the Chester Town Clerk's Office.

Any dog over the age of 6 months is required by law to be registered with the town it resides in on a yearly basis prior to April 1st. Please provide the dog's current rabies vaccination when registering.



2023 CHESTER WINTER CARNIVAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

10AM-2PM - KIDS SNOWMOBILE RIDES FROM THE CHESTER SNOWMOBILE CLUB 120S @ BUTTOWOOD FARMS (FIELD ACROSS FROM THE PINNACLE)

12PM - SLEDDING/ICE SHATING @ PINNACLE

12PM-3PM - HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES FROM SMOKESHIRE FARMS @ PINNACLE

3PM - ESHIMO ICE SCULPTURE DEMONSTRATION FROM ICE DESIGNS, NH. ACROSS FROM THE GREEN

4:30PM PINSHE WOOD SCULPTURE FIRE (BY THE ACADEMY BUILDING)

5PM GUIDED SNOWSHOE HIKE @ BROOKSIDE. CCC GUIDED. SNOWSHOES IF CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE, OR MICROSPIHES/YAH TRACHS REQUIRED IF LIMITED SNOW. ALSO HEADLAMP OR FLASHLIGHT REQUIRED. MEET BEHIND ACADEMY BUILDING AT 5PM.

6PM CORNHOLE @ THE OLD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON CHURCH ST.

\$10 PER PERSON

3 ROUND ROBIN INTO DOUBLE ELIMINATION

RANDOM DRAW FOR PARTNERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

9AM BROOMBALL @ PINNACLE. THIS YEAR ADULT AND A KIDS DIVISION (12 & UNDER)

SIGN UP FOR BROOMBALL BY EMAILING ME @ RECREATIONINCHESTER@YAHOO.COM

CHESTER SNOWMOBILE CLUB POLHA RIDE

PINNACLE GAZEBO

REGISTRATION AT 9:00AM

FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY SNOWMOBILE CLUB FOR RIDERS AND THE BROOMBALL EVENT APPROX. 10:00 - 1:00 AT THE GAZEBO ON LOVERS LANE

[HTTPS://VTVAST.ORG/CHESTER-SNOWMOBILE-CLUB.HTML](https://vtvast.org/chester-snowmobile-club.html) FOR MDRE INFORMATION

