



Town of Chester Newsletter

April-June

Spring 2023

www.chestervt.gov

Town Clerk

Please remember to register your dog. Registration was due April 1, 2023. Stop by the Town Office Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (closed for lunch from Noon-1 p.m.)

Chester Plant Sale May 26-28

The annual Chester Plant Sale at St. Luke's Church, the gray church at 313 Main Street near the Village Green in Chester, Vermont, is 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 26 and Saturday May 27, 9-3 both days; and on Sunday May 28, 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.

Art by Penelope D., 5th Grade

GREEN UP VERMONT

GREEN UP DAY
Saturday May 6, 2023

2023 Challenge: Help Your Town
What's Your Impact

greenupvermont.org
#togetherwecan #greenupvt

SUBARU OF NEW ENGLAND, VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, Greenbacker CAPITAL, casella, VSECU, Lawson's Finest Liquids, CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES, VCS, hogan, shaws, Efficiency Vermont, American Chemistry Council, CABOT, SKI VERMONT, Sheehey Furlong & Stebbins, GREEN LIGHT REAL ESTATE, GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER, med ASSOCIATES INC, VERMONT WHOLESALE HERBAGE ASSOCIATION, VERMONT MUTUAL INSURANCE GROUP, DARN TOUGH, FARRELL DISTRIBUTING, VELCO, UNION MUTUAL, National Life Group

Available on the App Store and Google Play. Social media icons for Facebook and Instagram.

Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Academy Building. Solutions to repair of the fallen plaster ceiling in the stairway and upstairs hallway are still being sought.

Hearse House Museum. The seasonal museum – featuring the Town’s horse-drawn hearse and information about death and funeral customs – will be open for self-guided tours from Memorial Day through Columbus Day.

Town Hall. Progress is being made on minor changes to the first floor of Town Hall to allow for re-arrangement of offices, more storage space, and completion of the new conference room where the Lister’s Office was located.

Yosemite Firehouse. Early in 2023 the Town received \$20,000 in funds as a matching preservation grant from the State of Vermont to repair the firehouse windows and sliding doors and to install storm windows. That work is out for bids, and is expected to be accomplished over the winter months in late 2023 and early 2024.

In addition, a change in the due date for an application for a larger grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont meant that the Town of Chester qualified to apply for that grant, whose application met the March 31, 2023, deadline. Hopefully the State’s new financial support will increase the chances of this important grant from the Preservation Trust – which primarily will address a new entrance, with handicapped ramp, on the north side of the building. The aim of both grants is to increase practical access to the building and protection of its shell to continue the process of rehabilitating the building into the Chester Fire Museum. For more information, contact CHPC Chair Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340.



On the north side of the Yosemite Firehouse, a new door – with handicapped ramp entrance – will be cut on the first floor to the left of the existing window, which looks into the hose tower.

Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum

Formed in late 2022, Friends of Yosemite Firehouse Museum, Inc., is a new, charitable, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is “To preserve and enhance the historic Yosemite Firehouse Museum of Fire District No. 2 by working with public and private partners to protect Yosemite’s equipment, records, and memorabilia and to educate the public about fire safety, the evolving history of firefighting, and the dedicated volunteer and professional firefighters who serve Chester and its surrounding communities.”

To increase awareness of this new organization and its ability to accept tax-exempt contributions toward the museum and to promote details of the progress on the repair and rehabilitation of the historic Yosemite Firehouse, the Friends group is planning its first public program that is scheduled for Saturday June 17. That program will feature slides and the history of selected Chester fires as recalled by Arnold P. Stoddard, the last Fire Chief working out of Yosemite, who donated his albums of fire photographs and news clippings to the new museum. Further details of the event will be publicized closer to the date.

Members of the Friends Board are Shawn Cunningham, Arnold P. Stoddard, Margaret Straub, Malcolm Summers, Mark Verespy, Ben Whalen, and Lillian Willis. Tax-exempt contributions may be sent to Friends of Yosemite, c/o Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. For further information regarding contributions or donations of pertinent equipment or memorabilia, please contact Lillian Willis, President, at lbwillisct@comcast.net or at 802-875-1340.



Arnold P. Stoddard, last Chief at the Yosemite Firehouse, will be the featured speaker at the June Friends’ program about historic fires in Chester.

Spring News at The Chester-Andover Family Center

We make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental nutritional food, affordable clothing, and household goods.

Spring at the CAFC means Thrift Shop Special Sales, Prom Shopping and planning for summer produce at the Food Shelf.

As the Thrift Shop begins to change over from winter clothing to spring and summer items, shoppers should keep an eye out for special sales. We advertise sales on the Chester Telegraph Calendar, in the Vermont Journal and send out Constant Contact announcements to our email subscribers.

Prom Shopping is in full swing with many shoppers taking advantage of our Formal Attire Boutique. A complete Formal Attire outfit, including shoes and accessories is just \$20. New items are coming in every week, so if you didn't see your "dream" outfit last week, stop in again. Remember, we have formal wear for girls and guys of all ages.

We are very excited to announce that the Family Center has been awarded a Vermonters Feeding Vermonters mini grant. Funding from this grant allows us to purchase fresh produce, dairy and eggs from local farmers at fair market prices. We are looking forward to connecting with last year's VFV partners; Wellwood Orchards, Springhill Farm, Smokeshire Hilltop Farm, Abundance Acres and Dungeon Dragon Farm, for another season of fresh food for our Food Shelf recipients. This spring we are happy to welcome Morton 1623, a Hydroponic Farm in Grafton as a VFV partner. Other local farms who may be interested in being a VFV partner with the Family Center should contact Nena at cafc302@gmail.com.



Chester Welcomes Flowers!

Chester Townscape is ready for Spring and beyond. Bulbs planted in the fall are starting to pop through the ground at various locations around town. The first will be seen at Main Street's Information Booth, Gazebo, and Brookside Cemetery Wall, where daffodils and then allium bulbs present a staged profusion of blossoms before annuals take over the welcome sights. Next will come the flowering bridge boxes, pots, and barrels. Chester Townscape is again partnering with John Harmer's horticulture department at River Valley Technical Center in Springfield to plant the bridge boxes.

CT's two walking brochures covering Main Street and Chester Depot to Historic Stone Village continue to be provided free, at Town Hall, local restaurants, inns, and businesses and reveal some of the history of Chester through its historic buildings. Line drawings capture most of the historic building along the two different routes and give architectural facts and local history that make the structures and their local importance come alive.

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.

Whiting Library

Weekly Events

- ❖ Free Play Group for children and their caregivers every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10-11:30 AM.
- ❖ Children's Story Hour every Friday at 10:30 AM.
 - ❖ Gaming Club every Tuesday at 3 PM.
 - ❖ Pokémon Club every Friday from 3-5 PM.

Monthly Events

- ❖ The Whiting Library Book Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5 PM. For book selection, please call the library at 802-875-2277 or visit whitinglibrary.org

Whiting Library

April

Art Exhibition: Student art from Chester- Andover Elementary and Green Mountain Union High School will be on display in the Suzy Forlie Memorial Reading Room and throughout the library. Come see these wonderful works of art from our talented students!

Penny University: April 14 and 28 from 4:30 - 6 PM.

On April 14, local poet Susan Bourne will help us celebrate Poetry Month by creating found poetry.

On April 28, the Chester Conservation Committee will be here to share how you may get involved and gear up for the 54th annual Vermont Green Up Day.

SOVERA Astronomy Series- Telescope Basics + Using the Whiting Telescope April 14 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

SoVerA members will review basic optics, how to choose a telescope, and how to enjoy the Whiting telescope, which is available to Library members to check out and use. This will be a hands-on demonstration and discussion open to anyone.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK - April 23-29, 2023

Come into the library for National Library Week and put your name into a raffle to win a puzzle for book lovers!

Fill-a-Bag Book Sale- The library trustees are holding a Fill-a-bag Book Sale Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29 in the Book Sale room. Fill a provided grocery bag from Smitty's Chester Market for only \$5!

May

Art Exhibition: The Stone Village Art Guild will be showcasing their work in the Suzy Forlie Memorial Reading Room for the month of May.

54th Green Up Day Vermont- Saturday, May 6- Come into the library for your Green Up Day bags thanks to the Chester Conservation Commission! The library will be holding a raffle for a kitchen counter compost bin. Come pick up your Green Up Bag and enter for the raffle.

Penny University: May 12 and 19 from 4:30 - 6 PM. Come learn, enjoy a cup of coffee and tea, and connect with your community!

On May 12, local resident Karen "Ren: Antonowicz will be here to share about her Fashion Era presentations.

On May 19, WOOL (91.5 FM, "Black Sheep Radio") will be at the library! Black Sheep Radio is a radio station broadcasting a Freeform music and talk format.

June Summer Reading Sign Ups!

Come to the library during the month of June to sign up for Summer Reading! This year's theme is "All Together Now" and a great way to connect with your community. Summer Reading programming with the Nature Museum and library will be held in July and August. Adults can join in on the fun this year as well with a Summer Reading BINGO challenge and a chance to win some prizes. For more information, check out the library's website closer to time.

Alumni Weekend Spring Book Sale on the Front Lawn. The library trustees are holding a Book Sale on the front lawn of the library on the Saturday of Alumni Weekend.