



Town of Chester

Newsletter

July-September Summer 2023

www.chestervt.gov

Town Clerk

The fee for a marriage license has increased as of July 1, 2023, to \$80 for the license and \$10 for the certified copy.

There are still several people that have not registered their dogs. Please do so at the Town Office as soon as possible. If you no longer have your dog, contact us at (802) 875-2173 to be removed from the list.

Tax bills have been mailed out. If you have not received your tax bill, please call (802) 875-2173 to be sure we have the correct mailing address.

Navigating FEMA Disaster Assistance

On July 14, President Biden approved Governor Scott's request for a major disaster declaration for Vermont to assist in recovery from a historic flood event of July 7-12, 2023. In the coming days and weeks, FEMA will be performing a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) to determine the State and County level of Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA). See the Damage Assessment Quick Guide attached for more information on the PDA process.

The determination depends, in part, on the level and extent of impact and damage sustained by the community. Residents and Businesses that have been impacted and incurred damage are asked to report to the State to assist in this effort through a resident or business form that can be found here: <https://vermont211.org/>. Your reporting is encouraged as it will aid in the disaster assessment and FEMA application process.

The Town of Andover participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which means that certain regulations must be followed after a flooding event in order to benefit from the FEMA assistance programs. Towns will be working directly with the Regional Planning Commissions, State and FEMA in conducting PDAs and determining needed Public Assistance for emergency storm and recovery repairs to public infrastructure.

The Individual Assistance program helps individuals impacted by the disaster seek reimbursement for necessary expenses and needs that cannot be met through insurance or other forms of assistance. Available funding for our county under the Individual Assistance Program is pending a Formal Damage Assessment. Counties included under this declaration will be determined following the PDA.

While assessments are underway, Individual/Residents, including those underinsured or noninsured, can begin to prepare for an application for Individual Assistance to cover uncovered expenses or unmet needs after insurance settlements. Please visit www.chestervt.gov/latest-news/navigating-fema-disaster-assistance for further guidance.

Damage assessments for Public Assistance and Individual Assistance are ongoing. If you have major damage to finished living spaces, electrical system, or personal property to report it to 211. The on-line form is preferable at vermont211.org, but if you don't have that ability, you can call 211's local number at 802-652-4636.



Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Yosemite Firehouse. Funds are in hand from a matching State of Vermont Preservation Grant to repair all the firehouse windows, add new wooden storm windows, and both repair the sliding vehicle doors and install new hinged doors at the southern entrance. Repair work will likely be done over the winter in late 2023 by Arcadia Restorations.

As people clean out their attics, CHPC hopes they will 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.



↑ Southern vehicle entrance to the Yosemite Firehouse

Celebrate Summer in Chester!

In late spring, Chester Townscape continued its campaign to make Chester beautiful and welcoming to residents and visitors. CT's early spring Tree and Shrub Sale encouraged landowners to purchase beautiful perennial plantings for their properties, and its Hanging Basket Sale lured additional people to brighten their homes and businesses. Meanwhile by the end of May, Chester Townscape's volunteers planted the many planters and barrels positioned in various public places around Town. The gardeners also spruced up the Village Green Gazebo area, Information Booth Garden, Brookside Cemetery wall garden, School Street Pocket Park, as well as the garden and fence at the Chester-Andover Family Center. Gardeners then added annuals and mulch. Lastly the 32 bridge boxes – whose plants had been grown, planted, and nurtured by John Harmer's students in the greenhouse at River Valley Technical Center in Springfield – were picked up and distributed to their sites at bridges around Town. CT volunteer waterers will keep the boxes and planters healthy and fertilized during the summer growing season to brighten the spirits of all who see them and to illustrate Chester's caring community spirit. CT's next project will be a Bulb Sale at the Chester Fall Festival to get people thinking about what they can add to their properties for enjoyment in spring 2024.

Chester Townscape thanks the many people and services that make its beautification of Chester possible: CT's many volunteers and daily waterers from the public who keep flowers beautiful throughout the summer and early fall; the Town of Chester for allowing CT to use a staging area near the Town Garage for filling planters; John Harmer's leadership and students at RVTC; and the many people and businesses that purchase CT's products and support its improvement efforts.

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. The School Street Pocket Park is a special side-step gem that is continually expanding its seasonal appeal. For information on volunteering or supporting CT and its community projects, please access <https://www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape.html>.



← School Street Pocket park entices walkers to the Swinging Bridge.



Summer Pig Roast

August 19

Friends and families are encouraged to celebrate the best of summer with an outdoor Pig Roast, which will be held on the back lawn of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main Street, Chester, VT, from 4-7 PM on Saturday August 19, with pick-up for take-out meals from 4-4:30 PM on event day. Master roaster/chef Henry Pixley will again cook the pig on location; and favorite foods will include barbecued pork with choice of sauces, homemade potato salad, cold slaw, baked beans, rolls, drinks, and dessert. Participants can enjoy summer fun, lawn games, good food, and lots of camaraderie, rain or shine. But please register early to ensure one's onsite or take-out meal. Last summer volunteers prepared to feed 100, but actually fed 120. People are already asking about the event, so plans are to prepare for at least 150 this year.

To register, contact David or Marjorie Carey at 802-875-4235 or by emailing them at davidcareyvermont@gmail.com to secure a place. Reservations for onsite or take-out orders that are received and paid for by Monday August 14 will earn an early-bird discount with adults @ \$18, youths 6-12 @ \$8, and family of 5 @ \$45. Reservations received after August 14, or walk-ins on the day of the event, will be priced at adults @ \$20, youths 6-12 @ \$10, and a family of 5 @ \$50. Details will be listed on <https://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org/>, but please mark the date on the calendar now and reserve early to take advantage of this special



Chester Pig Roast offers early-bird discount with reservations by August 14

News from the Chester Andover Family Center

The Chester Andover Family Center is excited to share news and initiatives as we enjoy the last of summer and welcome fall.

We are excited to introduce “**Project Next Steps**”. As a nonprofit, the Chester Andover Family Center faces the on-going challenge of meeting the growing needs of families encountering financial and food insecurity. In the current climate of diminishing resources, we know that business as usual will not get the job done. The Chester Andover Family Center Board takes seriously and is committed to our mission to *Make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental nutritional food, affordable clothing and household goods.*

Project Next Steps is how we plan to meet the growing needs of our community. The main revenue source of the Chester Andover Family Center that supports our food shelf and financial assistance programs and keeps our building running is our thrift shop. This is the heart of **Next Steps**. The rear Thrift Shop corner of our building was damaged in a lightning strike and while we made essential repairs, that end of our building is slowly sinking. It is time to provide a permanent fix. At the same time, we need to expand our ability for the thrift shop to accept more donations, keep those donations available for retail and provide a safe secure environment for volunteers to make this happen.

The price tag for this next step is close to \$100,000. The project involves construction to repair our building and provide a safe, secure space to accept and store donations that support our ability to buy food for the food shelf and pay bills for Chester and Andover's most vulnerable citizens.

Thanks to the on-going generosity of our community, donors and organizations, the Family Center is financially stable and in a position to undertake this project. As we begin this work, we welcome the support of the community and are confident that we will reach our first “**Next Steps**” goal.

At our June board meeting, we welcomed Anne Lamb to our board of directors and said goodbye to Stephanie Whitney Payne who is retiring from our board. Stephanie's creativity will be missed but we will surely call on her to assist with special events. Anne returned to Chester in June after living for nine years in Colorado. Before moving to Colorado with her family, Anne was active in the Chester community in a variety of capacities. When her family made the decision to return home to Chester, she knew she wanted to commit her volunteer energy to an organization that was central to our town. The CAFC Board looks forward to working with her.

A Vermonters Feeding Vermonters grant has allowed us to partner with local farms to provide fresh produce, dairy, fruit, and vegetables for our food shelf recipients. Our partners; Abundance Acres, Dungeon Dragon Farm, Wellwood Orchards, Morton 1623, Smokeshire Hilltop Farm and Springhill Farm have kept our food shelf well stocked. We are very pleased to work with these local farmers and our food shelf recipients appreciate the large variety of nutritional food.

— CHESTER —
SUMMER MUSIC
 SERIES
 2023

Academy Building
Lawn, Chester Vt

5 Thursdays,
6:30-8:00 pm

Sponsored by
the Chester
Rotary Club



August 3rd Dave Keller Band August 10th Frydaddy

August 16th Green Sisters (rescheduled)

CHESTER, VT 2023 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**FOOD
GAMES
FUN
MUSIC
DUNK TANK
BOUNCE
HOUSE**



**FIRE DEPT
DEMOS
K9 DEMO
COMMUNITY
RESOURCES**

**AUGUST 1ST, 2023 6PM-9PM AT THE CHESTER PUBLIC
SAFETY BUILDING - 130 PLEASANT STREET, CHESTER VT**



August 12, 2023

8 a.m. at the Pinnacle

Lover's Lane 6 / 12 trail run is for runners of ALL abilities. Come run/walk one lap, two, or as many as you can, in six or twelve hours. Prizes for our top finishers. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/6hoursonloverslane.



September 16th & 17th, 2023

- Live Animal Exhibits
- Farm Games
- Local Vendors
- Face Painting
- Photo Booth
- Food
- Mechanical Cow
- Shopping
- Sheep Dog Herding Demo
- Live Music

www.chesterfestival.org
www.facebook.com/ChesterFestivalontheGreen

Please visit www.chestervt.gov/calendar for meeting and event dates.