



# TOWN OF CHESTER NEWSLETTER

April-June 2018

Spring

[www.chestervt.gov](http://www.chestervt.gov)

## Town Managers Message

Since the publication of the last newsletter there has been a tremendous amount of work and energy taking place in Chester.

A Zoning Audit is underway. Up to now, changes to the Town's zoning regulations have taken place in a patchwork fashion. This is the first time since the 70's that a complete review is underway. The Planning Commission has taken this review very seriously and has been deeply involved in discussions about what is best for Chester. I would urge any citizen that has an interest in this work to attend their meetings and make your voice heard.

Bids for the Depot Street sidewalk project are due April 4<sup>th</sup> and the engineering of the project should begin soon. When finished a new sidewalk will reach all the way to Town Hall.

The Canopy Plan that outlines tree planting and maintenance ideas is now on the website. Take a few moments to look it over. Your comments are welcome.

An Emergency Services/Public Works Building Committee has been formed. All meetings will be advertised, members of the public are welcome to attend and express their opinion and minutes of those meetings will be available to anyone that is interested.

Wayfinding, or the proper placement of signage directing citizens and visitors alike, will soon begin to be installed. It is anticipated that the gateway signs at the entrance points of Chester will be installed first. Sign design options have been on display at Town Hall for some time now, but it is not too late to vote on which is your favorite. Stop in at your earliest convenience.

The creation of the pocket park at the end of School Street will begin this spring. It is being designed as a relaxing place to sit as well as adding to the walkability of Chester in general.

### TOWN CLERK

**The Green Mountain Unified School District budget did not pass as proposed to the voters on March 6, 2018. There will be a different budget proposal submitted by the board at a later date. This will require a new vote and will be Warned to the voters when it has been decided.**

**The Town Office now has a drop box that was installed in the door on the porch to the right. Please feel free to drop payments by the office at any time. We would like to thank Don Health and Son Builders for the installation.**

Happy  
Spring



# Chester Fire

Chester Fire Department has been very busy the last few months with multiple fires both in Chester and providing mutual aid to other towns. At one point we responded to 5 Structure Fires in a weeks' time. Notably and most talked about within town was the Chester House fire. When crews arrived, fire was coming through the roof. Crews went into the building with zero visibility because of the smoke but were able to locate the fire. They then made a stop containing the fire to one area of the large structure on the 1st and 2nd floors.

Training has been a high priority, and with State Resources being hours away for a technical rescue of any sort, Chester Fire, Springfield Fire, and Windsor Fire have teamed up to provide a quicker service to our 3 communities. The three towns have been doing joint trainings and are each providing instructors, so we can lower cost to train everyone.

Chester Fire Department's new truck is close to being finished with the final touches being completed. We should have the new truck in service and providing protection to the town by the end of the first week of April.

The Town of Chester is in need of a new facility to house our EMS, Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments. Claudio Veliz Architect, PLLC was hired in 2017 to conduct a Feasibility Study to assist the Town in addressing the issues surrounding the idea of this new facility. There are many aspects to consider when such a big project is involved. After researching the items impacting the study, Claudio Veliz Architect, PLLC has presented its findings to the town in a document that can be found on the home page of the town's website at [www.chestervt.gov](http://www.chestervt.gov). This facility will be a huge benefit to the Town of Chester with many things to consider before the implementation processes can begin.



**Safety Tip:** Remember, the time change just happened, which means it's time to change those batteries in your Smoke and Co detectors. These do save lives.

## Whiting Library News

### "Dreaming of Spring"

The beautiful oil paintings by Amy Mosher featuring colorful scenes of small farms in Vermont will be on display through April at the Whiting Library. Amy's work captures the individual characteristics and personalities of farm animals and the rural nature of farm life.

### "What is click bait?"

Given by Cathy Hasbrouck, this presentation will be a look into "pop-ups" on computers and will express the nature of these annoying little things. Starting at 11am on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and 4:30pm on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Library.

### "Monthly Book Club"

Whiting Library holds monthly book discussions every second Wednesday of the month at 3pm. Books are available to borrow before discussions take place.

### "Backyard Composting"

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm, Southern Windsor/Windham Solid Waste Management will present ways to help comply with the many new rules being implemented in the coming years. Come see what you can do with your kitchen and garden scraps to help eliminate landfill waste and be part of the change.

### "Learn to Crochet"

The team from Six Loose Ladies Fiber Shop will be at the Library on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am teaching how to crochet. Please sign up by calling 875-2277 or emailing [whitinglibrary1@gmail.com](mailto:whitinglibrary1@gmail.com).

### "Seed Give-Away"

May is the month for the Library's annual seed give-away. The Library will have several flower and vegetable varieties available during the month of May and encourage people to bring in seeds to share with others.

## Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Chester Historic Preservation Committee (CHPC) provides advice and support to the Town of Chester to preserve and renovate public historic structures and resources for their appropriate time period and uses. CHPC sources expert historical and architectural assessments to prioritize repairs and maintenance and to increase public access. By improving displays and stimulating interest and support, CHPC capitalizes on the valuable assets and important landmarks of Chester's cultural, artistic, historic and architectural heritage. CHPC works with public and private entities to coordinate improvements and to pursue financial assistance for Chester's historic preservation projects and programs.

There are seven historic buildings owned by the Town of Chester that fall under the purview of CHPC:

**Hearse House.** Renovations were completed in 2017, and the Hearse House Museum opened to the public on October 28.

**Public Tomb.** The granite structure had necessary maintenance performed to it through the work of Chester Townscape.

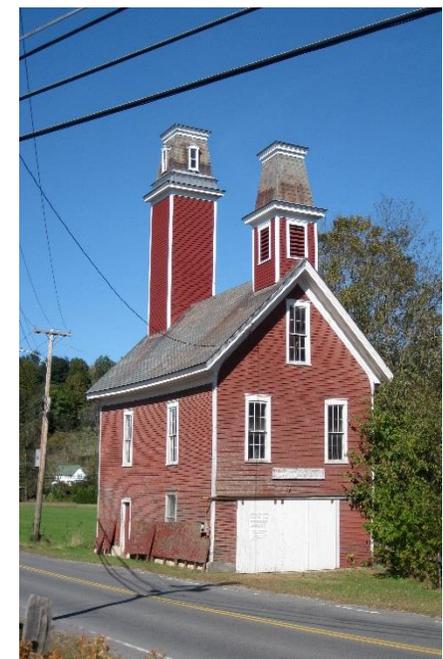
**Town Hall.** CHPC was asked to present needs and ideas for the exterior of Town Hall and its second floor. CHPC presented to the Select Board its concept of a renovated look, amenities, and uses for the second floor. The Board agreed, and CHPC's ideas and requests were sent to an architect so he could help supply additional information and estimated costs for a USDA grant that was written at the end of 2017 to repair and renovate the exterior and second floor.

**Yosemite Fire House.** In preparation for the court's likely favorable decision on Town ownership, the Town recently internally covered over slipped or broken windows, fixed the lock in the side door, and is looking into what needs to be done to ensure stabilization of the structure. CHPC is seriously investigating the idea of a Vermont Firefighter's Museum in this unique structure since the first floor already has a good deal of impressive machinery. We are looking for public and private support for this venture, as well as vehicles, objects, photographs, and information that pertain to Yosemite and/or the Chester Fire Department. Contributors are urged to contact Lillian Willis at 875-1340 or [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net).

**Jeffrey Barn.** Two committee members finally met in December with a barn expert from the Preservation Trust of Vermont at the Jeffrey Barn on Route 103. CHPC was assured by the representative from the Preservation Trust of Vermont that he would endorse the Trust's grant of a Barn Assessment, which only requires a match of \$250 from the Town. The assessment will be invaluable in determining how to proceed with this resource. While any future use is completely premature at the moment, anyone with ideas about its past history and potential future use is encouraged to contact CHPC.

The Committee has started a comprehensive check of each of the structures inside and out to see if additional improvements were necessary beyond those listed in the Condition Assessments already obtained for all but the Jeffrey Barn. Since most of the buildings have slate roofs that should have regular inspection and may require annual maintenance, one of the first things the Committee asked of the Town Manager was to contract for a qualified roofer to examine the buildings yearly. That professional is in place. Chester Historic Preservation Committee-

Kelly Arrison, Frank Bidwell, John DesLauriers, Suzy Forlie, Hugh Henry, Cynthia Prairie, Tory Spater, Doug Somerville, Margie Straub, Lillian Willis





# Recreation

The Town Pool will be opening mid-June for the season. Town Pool hours and more information will be posted on the Recreation page at [www.chestervt.gov/recreation](http://www.chestervt.gov/recreation) when available. Swim lesson sign-ups are happening now. The sign-up forms and available lessons can be found at the Chester Town Office.

## BLACK FLY BASEBALL and GM SOFTBALL CLINICS:

We will run baseball and softball clinics for hitting, fielding, and pitching skills over April vacation on Tuesday, April 17th, Thursday, April 19th and Friday, April 20th at the Little League fields on Lovers Lane. The clinic will be for grades 2-6 from 12-2PM. Cost is \$5 per day. We need a minimum of 10 for each, so please sign up by Wed. April 11th.

LACROSS CLINIC: A Lacrosse Clinic will be held for grades 4-6 girls and boys on April 22 and April 29 from 12-2PM. Cost is \$20 for each participant and includes both weekend clinics. A minimum of 10 participants to run this program is required **\*\*EVERY PARTICIPANT MUST HAVE A MOUTH GUARD!**

The Town of Chester would like to thank the road crew for their hard work and dedication to the town over this past winter. The road crew worked very hard through the many storms we encountered during this past winter season putting in long hours on holidays, nights, and weekends. Thank you again!



## April 7<sup>th</sup>:

- What is Click Bait? with Cathy Hasbrouck at Whiting Library at 11am

## April 11<sup>th</sup>:

- What is Click Bait? with Cathy Hasbrouck at Whiting Library at 4:30pm

## April 21<sup>st</sup>:

- Patsy Cline Show at the American Legion Contact Angie Peterson (802)592-9080 or Judy Henning (802) 875-2195 to purchase tickets in advance or purchase tickets at the door 8pm-10pm

## April 28<sup>th</sup>:

- Sip and Paint at the American Legion To benefit Team Green Mountain Contact Melissa at (603) 558-2512 5pm

## May 3<sup>rd</sup>:

- Backyard Composting workshop at Whiting Library at 6pm

## May 12<sup>th</sup>:

- Learn to Crochet with Six Loose Ladies at Whiting Library at 10:30am. Please sign up

