



WATT'S NEW?



July 2017

****IMPORTANT****
****SAFETY MESSAGE****

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU COME ACROSS
FIRE OR SMOKE NEAR OR ON A UTILITY POLE
STAY AWAY**

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PUT THE FIRE OUT

**KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE OF AT LEAST
100 FEET OR MORE
TO AVOID INJURY OR DEATH
CALL THE EMERGENCY LINE 413-447-0268
OR 911 AND REPORT IT**

What do you call a very religious person that sleep walks?
A Roman Catholic!!!
What goes through towns, up & over hills, but doesn't move?
The road!!!
Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can
of soda?
He was lucky it was a soft drink!!!
What's the difference between bird flu and swine flu?
If you have bird flu, you need tweet-ment and with swine flu,
you need oink-ment!!!
What has four wheels and flies?
A garbage truck!!!
Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?
Because then it would be a foot!!!



Water Department Policy

The Water Commissioners policy regarding water leaks at vacant homes is the following. If a water user is going to be out of town for an extended period of time, and a leak develops at their residence that results in charges being billed, the homeowner is responsible for those charges. If the home is going to be left vacant please be responsible and have "healthy home checks" done.

NOTICE

Due to the July 4th holiday the CMELD office will be closed on Monday July, 3rd and Tuesday July 4th.



LITTLEVILLE FAIR

Littleville Fair will be held August 4-5-6, 2017. Come enjoy a fun filled weekend with ox and horse pulls, truck pulls, music, garden tractor pulls, games, entertainment all week end with plenty of good food.

Town Clerk News

Starting July 5, the Town Clerk's hours will be 10:30 AM - 3 PM each Wednesday, 6-8 PM on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, and by appointment.

The following is a brief summary of the major actions voted at the annual Town Meeting in June.

- Voters approved the annual Town budget totaling \$1,400,000, and the use of \$100,000 of free cash to lower the tax rate to \$19.00+
- After a lengthy discussion, the Gateway school budget was defeated. Chester was the third Town to vote down the budget, forcing the school system to present another budget within 30 days.
- Voters adopted the "stretch energy code", which is an addition to the Town's building code. It affects only new home construction, and requires more energy efficient construction. It also makes available to the town at least \$135,000 in grant money to improve the energy efficiency of town buildings, and designates Chester as a "green community".
- A new dog by-law was passed. The by-law spells out the regulations regarding the owner's responsibility to keep the dog under control at all times. It defines a nuisance dog, and it creates a list of fines for failing to adhere to the law. Copies of this by-law are available from the Town Clerk upon request. It is in effect as of July 1, 2017.
- Voters approved special articles that would rescind the annual town caucus, dedicate money to improve the town's website, and begin a vital records preservation project.
- A citizen petition proposing that the Town undertake a feasibility study for the sale of CMELD was unanimously defeated.

The complete minutes of the Annual Town Meeting are available on the town's website. Click on the "Town Meeting" button on the right side of the home page, then click on the link to the minutes.

CHESTER THEATRE COMPANY

Did you know Chester residents only pay \$10 a ticket at Chester Theatre Company? All you have to do is call the theatre at 354-7771. This is CTC's 28th season of producing world-class professional theatre in Chester. We love being part of this community and hope to see our neighbors at the theatre in the Town Hall this summer. You can find more information about the plays, schedule, and after-show events at www.chestertheatre.org.



Chester Historical Society

WANTED – Chester High School year books, class pictures, sports pictures, any school and/or Chester related memorabilia. We are also looking for mannequins for the Chester Historic Museum.

Anyone looking for gifts for friends interested in the History of Chester the Society continues to have for sale the following books, A History of Chester, Memories of the B and A Railroad, Chester Gravestone Inscriptions, Huntington Gravestone Inscriptions and Chester Folks. Books sell for \$ 25.00 and can be obtained by calling 354-7820, 354-7778, 354-6514. Gem of the Valley T shirts make great gifts or to wear showing your pride in your Town. These are also available at the Chester Electric office and sell for \$22. All sales benefit the Chester Historic Museum.

Bits and pieces – 100 years ago – 1917 – Board of Assessors Report: Value of Assessed Real Estate \$ 698,151.00, Value of Assessed Personal Estate \$ 207,919.00. Total Valuation \$ 906,070.00. Tax assessed on Valuation \$ 190,26.87. Tax on 386 polls \$ 772.00 for a total of \$ 19,798.87. Town Tax \$ 16,164.38 , County Tax 993.49, State Tax \$ 2310.00, State Highway Tax \$331.00. Rate of Taxation \$ 21.00 per \$ 1000.00

Number of residents assessed on property 302, Number of non-residents assessed on property 122. Number of residents on Poll Tax only 115, Number of dwellings assessed 364, Number of horses assessed 159, Number if cows assessed 267, Number of sheep assessed 197, Number of cattle other than cows assessed 200, Number of swine assessed 31 and number of fowls assessed 1004.

Chester High School Class of 1917 Graduation held at the Chester Town Hall on June 14. Address was given by Prof. George H. Haynes A.B.P.R.D. , Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Presentation of Diplomas W. H. Sanderson, Supt. of Schools. Eight graduates were Anna Marguerite Battles, Ernest Leon Boyer, Gladys Louise Bromson, Amy Marie Gibbs, John Harte, Aarne Matti Piispanen, Mary Shannon, and Sarah Alice Terry. Faculty – Beulah S. Loomis, Principal, Ruth Shaffer, Anna H. Cowles, Ruth C. Burnham, Bertha J. Boutelle.

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Fun Facts about July

- It is the second summer month after June.
- There are many countries which have their Independence Day during the month of July. These include the United States, Belarus, Venezuela, Argentina, Belgium, the Bahamas, and the Maldives. The national days for France and Canada occur in July as well.
- July is the warmest month in the Northern Hemisphere on average. It is similar to January in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Sometimes the hot, long days of July are called the "dog days of summer".
- It is sometimes called the Hay month because the grass dries out due to a lack of rain and can be made into hay.
- July's birthstone, the ruby, is often associated with contentment, love, passion, and integrity.



KEEP YOUR COOL AND SAVE MONEY TOO!

Setting the air conditioner just a few degrees higher, saves both energy and money. You can save 6 to 8 percent of cooling costs for each degree set above 78, and still be comfortable. A programmable thermostat is a smart way to control the temperature. Set the thermostat to 78 degrees when the house is occupied and turn the cooling system off when you are away.

FLAG FUND



Thank you to all the residents who contributed to the Chester Flag Fund. Donations are always accepted, make your check payable to Chester Flag Fund and drop it off at the CMELD office, include it in with your payment or use the drop box in front of Town Hall.

