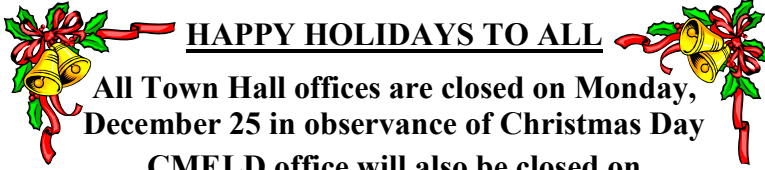




December 2017

WATT'S NEWS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

All Town Hall offices are closed on Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas Day

CMELD office will also be closed on Tuesday December 26 due to the Holiday

All Town Hall offices are closed on Monday, Jan 1, 2018 in observance of New Year's Day

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Santa will be spending a big weekend in Chester this December. On the 9th he will tour the town in the Chester fire truck, then visit Chester Railway Station on Sunday, the 10th. He will ride the parade fire truck down Main St at 2:30 PM to the railroad station, as our usual horse & wagon will be out of commission this year. As customary, there will be a wide variety of goodies, favors for the kiddies and vintage toy trains around the tree. The Railway Museum announced visiting hours for the 2018 season. Weekends from June to Sept., the station will be open from 11AM to 3 PM. Other visiting times will be available by appointment, as always.



The Jacob's Ladder Business Association is sponsoring a Holiday Shopping Spree the weekend of December 8-10 at various Hilltown businesses. On Saturday, December 9, 10-4, the JLBA Holiday Market will be held at the Chester Railway Station hosting local businesses and crafters. Make a purchase at any of these businesses to get a stamp on your Spree Card (available at each business or from JLBA events). Collect 5 stamps and receive a free gift from wherever you get your 5th stamp. Then, stick a stamp right on the card and drop it in the mail for a chance to win \$100 gift card to a member business of your choice!

The Cornerstone Christian Church—We invite all to our weekly service Sunday service 10 a.m which we are studying Acts. Children church starts at 10.30. Ladies night on Tuesday at 6:30 PM. We just start studying, "Having a Mary Spirit". Come joining us. Please email us at TheChurchOnTheCorner.Com. or call and leave a message at 413-354-7832. Visit us on www.wmchurches.org, search for Chester MA

Remember, Christmas isn't about how

big the tree is, or what's under it.

It's about who's around it!



WATER METER REMINDER

To avoid a water meter freeze-up, potential failure or possible flooding of the area where the meter is located; keep the area near the meter above freezing.

What do you call an elf who sings?

A wrapper!!!

Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?

Because it "soots" him!!!!

What does Santa call reindeer that don't work?

Dinner!!!

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has NOEL!!!

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

A rebel without a Claus!!!!



Notice from the Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors would like to remind taxpayers that real estate tax exemption applications are available for certain qualified individuals. These include persons over age 65 whose assets and income are below the eligibility amounts, veterans who have a 10% or greater service connected disability, veterans awarded purple hearts and certain service medals, and blind persons who have a certificate from the Commissioner for the Blind. The Commonwealth also allows towns to offer a Tax Deferral to persons over age 65 if they meet certain eligibility requirements, but must be repaid at 8% interest. Please call the Assessors Office for details at (413) 354-6318. Applications are available in the Assessors Office, 15 Middlefield Rd, Mon – Wed 9 am to 1 pm, or the 2nd and 4th Monday evening between 6-8 pm, or on-line @ <http://www.mass.gov/dor/local-officials/municipal-finance-law/forms-and-brochures.html>, then choose the appropriate form.

Become a VITA Volunteer!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program

The Hilltown CDC has partnered with the Berkshire County United Way to bring Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) to the Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts. This program provides free tax preparation for households that make \$54,000 or less. But to make this work we need volunteers to work at our Chester site. No experience is necessary, as all volunteers will be fully trained. Do you have a few hours per week to give back to your community? If so, please contact VITA coordinator Michele Kenney at the Hilltown CDC at 413-296-4536, extension 100, or email at Michel-eK@hilltownCDC.org

THE YEAR END BRINGS NO GREATER PLEASURE THAN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO YOU SEASON'S GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES. MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS AND NEW YEAR BE FILLED WITH JOY.



THE TOWN OF CHESTER SELECTMEN & THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONERS



GED/HiSet prep

GED/ HiSet: Science & History

Mondays and Wednesdays, December 4th - December 20th 3:30-5:30pm

SHAEC's Gateway classroom Room 152 GRHS, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington

Bryan Farr will be teaching skills to prepare you to take the HiSet Science and Social Studies tests. Small, individualized classes.

Computer Classes:

Technology Q & A :

Tuesday December, 5' 10:30am-12:00pm

Russell Senior Center, Russell Town Hall, Second Floor, 65 Main Street Russell

Beginner Graphic Design

Tuesday December, 19, 10:30am-12:00pm

Russell Senior Center, Russell Town Hall, Second Floor, 65 Main Street Russell

Classes for Small Businesses

Etsy Part 3: Photographing your products to sell Online

Wednesday, December, 13 6 – 8pm

SHAEC classroom, Room 152, in the Gateway Regional High School, 12 Littleville Rd, Huntington

JLBA Holiday Shopping Spree: See JLBA.org for Details

Friday December 8 – Sunday December 10th

JLBA Hilltown Holiday Marketplace Chester Train Station Museum 10 Prospect Street,

Saturday, December 9, 10am-4pm

Jacobs Ladder Business Association (JLBA) Pot Luck & Annual Meeting Stanton Hall, Hunt.

Thursday, December 14th, 6-9pm

Sustainability Classes

Essential Oils for emotional Support

Taught by Erin and Kay Judge, CA.

Thursday December 7, 6-8pm

Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield. . A materials fee of \$15.00 will be collected.

Hikes:

Hike the Chesterfield Gorge, Chesterfield, Meet at the trail head parking lot on River Rd.

Saturday, December 9, 10:30am

We will hike for approximately 90 minutes. Will reschedule if there is heavy rain or snow. No preregistration is necessary

Painting Fundraiser

Holiday Drink and Paint Fundraiser for Friends of SHAEC

Sunday, December 3, 1-3pm

At the Chester Common Table: 30 Main Street, Chester, MA

Merry Christmas from all of us at the Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center!

Chester Winter Parking Ban

Pursuant to the provisions and authority given the Police Department for the Town of Chester under M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 22D, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following regulations regarding the Winter Parking Ban:

During the period beginning on November 15 and ending on April 15 of each year the Chief of Police, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and/or Highway Superintendent may declare a Winter Parking Ban on all ways within the town for the purposes of snow and ice removal. The Declaration of a Snow Emergency and subsequent Parking Ban will be effective at the onset of any inclement weather and will remain in effect for the 12 hours following the storm. The Police Department may have any motor vehicle parked in violation of the Winter Parking Ban removed/towed at the owner's expense. The vehicle owner will be responsible for all towing and storage fees that may be incurred. Further penalties for violation of the Winter Parking Ban may apply. This may include, but not limited to, non-criminal disposition as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 40 Section 21D. Public Ways will have snow removal conducted on any thru street, or will be opened to the point of the last established residence determined by Certificate of Occupancy records. No shoveling snow into or across the street.

Any questions regarding these regulations please contact the Chester Police Department or Board of Selectmen.

TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Snow and Ice Mailbox Replacement Policy

Mailboxes installed in the Town right of way are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the town. The Town does not replace mailboxes if damaged by snow or ice being discharged by the snowplow. The town only assumes responsibility if a town plow comes into contact with the mailbox or post. The town will not be responsible for damage to any mailbox or post if the front of the box extends past the curb line or is within 6 inches from the curb line. The town will only replace mailboxes if the town's plow came in contact with a well-maintained mailbox or post. A claim should be submitted to the highway Superintendent **within 24 hours** following the storm so that they can witness the damage and make their determination. Late claims are difficult to verify and will likely be denied since the Highway Superintendent may not be able to adequately determine the cause of the damage. A Homeowner will be reimbursed only one mailbox and post per winter season. Text of the full policy is available on the Town of Chester website or from the Town Administrator or Highway Department.

Chester Historical Society

We would like to thank all who supported our very successful Annual Snowflake Holiday Crafts Fair.. The money raised goes toward our ongoing restoration of the Chester History Museum. We hosted a Veteran's Day open house at the museum. Visitors were able to research Chester veterans and view our Veterans displays as well the many other Chester displays. Thanks to Ed Carrington for donating a World War II field phonograph. A nice addition. We will be holding our "first Saturday of the month" meetings at the old jail instead of in the museum for the winter months. We meet from 9:00 until around 10:30 AM. "Gem of the Valley" shirts as well as 2018 Historic Calendars are for sale by contacting Society members, or you can purchase them at the CMELD office.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and to wish all a Happy Holiday season.

