



MAY 2018

WATT'S NEW?



TOWN OFFICES will be CLOSED on Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day

Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union soldiers who had died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. After World War I, it was extended to include all men and women who died in any war or military action. Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. The current name for this day did not come into use until after World War II. Decoration Day and then Memorial Day used to be held on May 30, regardless of the day of the week, on which it fell. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed as part of a move to use federal holidays to create three-day weekends. This meant that, from 1971, Memorial Day holiday has been officially observed on the last Monday in May. However, it took a longer period for all American states to recognize the new date.

Remember



MAY 13th

From the Town Clerk...

The **Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 5**. Polling hours at the **town hall are from 9 am - 5 pm**. **Absentee ballots are available until Friday, May 4, at 12 pm**. Call the Town Clerk if you need an absentee ballot (354-6603). Election results will be posted online, on the bulletin board (left) at the entrance to the town, at the Chester Post Office, the Chester Village Market, and the bulletin board outside the Old Schoolhouse on Skyline Trail. Results will also be sent to the Country Journal.

The **Annual Town Meeting will take place on Saturday, June 9, at 1 pm in the town hall**. The **last day to register to vote at Town Meeting is Monday, May 18**. Voter registration will be held from 2-4 pm, and 6-8 pm in the Town Clerk's office.

A reminder to those dog owners who have yet to register their dogs. **Dog licenses are required by state law. Between now and May 31, the late fee is \$10 per license. As of June 1 that fee increases to \$50. Late fees are in addition to licensing fees.** Licenses can be ordered online, by mail, or in person during regular office hours.

The **Chester Volunteer Firefighters Association will be holding their annual Duck Race at Chester on Track, May 19th**. **Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20. Tickets can be purchased from any firefighter or at our table day of Chester on Track.**



Cornerstone Christian Church Meet and Greet the new Pastor!

Cornerstone invites all in the community to an Open House and meet our new Pastor Mike Kunkle and his family on Saturday, May 12th from 4-7pm at the Cornerstone Café (Main St. entrance, lower level of the church). Come and play pool, foosball or a board game, if you'd like. Light refreshments will be served. (Maybe you'll get to meet that other new neighbor you have seen around town, as well!) Come and welcome Mike, Kim and Ivanna to this wonderful Gem of the Valley town we have! Regular Sunday services are held at 10:00am with children's church simultaneously midway through.

On **May 19, 2018** is the annual **Chester On Track**. Plan to see the massive parade; this year's joint Parade Marshalls will be Paul & Judy Young, Civil War, Blacksmith demos, and early Irish railroad re-enactors. Train show & craft fair, 1840 railroad station museum, in Historically Listed downtown. 'one-lung' steam & gas engine demos, Garden Tractor Pulls, Classic cars, State Police K-9 demos, Model 'T's, surrey rides with Maggie Sawhorse. Visits from Fantasy Princesses, The Tree Bus, Nicole the Railroad Clown, Fire Dept. Duck Race, petting zoo, bounce house, Steam Train Derby, live music, a number of 1920's-era freight cars, including wooden caboose, and 'Children's Box-car' on display, Live steam exhibit, Hike to the first American cluster of stone arch RR bridges on MA first *Wild & Scenic* River, tour archeological stone works, historic displays, food & more! FREE (donations accepted) More info: www.ChesterRailwayStation.net (413) 354-7878 or P O Box 743, Chester, MA 01011-0743. Like Chester Railway Station on Facebook!

Chester – Chester High School Alumni will be coming home to Chester this year for their 115th annual reunion and meeting on Saturday, June 30, 2017. This year's festivities begin with a social hour at 1:00 p.m. at the Chester Railroad Depot and continue informally throughout the entire weekend as "Blue Devils" and "Quarriers" wander around town visiting old friends and relatives. The Association's annual business meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. and Officers and Board Members will meet at 12:00 p.m. Association President Walter Boomsma noted this is the 115th Anniversary of the formal creation of the high school in 1902 and the fiftieth anniversary of the last class to graduate from Chester High in 1968. "It really is like a homecoming. Some can't resist sitting on the church corner for a while and many tour the area to visit the places that were an important part of their lives." Boomsma also reports that the Association enjoys the support of organizations like the Chester Foundation and Chester Historical Society. "The Historical Society has agreed to open the day of the reunion from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and again on Sunday for their regular summer hours. Alumni visiting the recently opened museum will be amazed at the amount of Chester High and Grammar School memorabilia on hand." Reunion invitations are mailed to Association Members in May. The reunion is not limited to graduates of Chester High. "Anyone with a connection to Chester is certainly welcomed to join us for socializing and reminiscing. This is really a town event." Anyone who does not receive an invitation may simply send a check (tickets are \$7.50 per person, payable to Chester High School Alumni Association) to Robert Goewey, 8 Aldrich Avenue, Huntington MA 01050. Please make reservations no later than June 16, 2018. Officers of the Association include Robert Goewey, Vice President/Secretary and George A. Morey, Treasurer. Board Members include Judith Olson of West Hatfield, Brenda Budreau of Huntington, Jackie Conklin and Edith Whitaker of Westfield, Jack Young of Hinsdale and Tino Cardarelli, Diane DeMoss, and Janice Brown, all of Chester. Any one of these people may be contacted for information or to volunteer some help. The Association maintains a blog at <http://chesterhigh.wordpress.com> and a Facebook page where alumni can gather information and post comments. [The Alumni Association also manages a significant scholarship fund and Gateway Seniors are encouraged to contact their guidance counselors for additional information. Scholarship Custodians include Duane C. Pease of Chester and Mary Burkholder and Ed Woodis of Westfield.](#)

Chester Historical Society

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT THE CHESTER TOWN HALL MONDAY MAY 28 AT 10 AM – RAIN OR SHINE: This day is set aside to remember those who have served our country and for all of us – men, women and children to show our respect for their sacrifices. The sun will be shining and our wish is for all veterans and those still serving to join us. Let's turn out in large numbers and show in Chester we DO care. Plans are ongoing by members of the Chester Firemen's Association and Chester Historical Society. Anyone wishing to join us watch local newspapers or contact Kathy Engwer, Janice Brown or Fay Piergiovanni. The Gateway Band will be joining us, Jackson Harding will be playing taps at the Chester Factory Cemetery and school children will be participating in essay/poem writings and posters. Prizes will be awarded by the Firemen's Association. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be attending and placing wreaths on the veteran's monuments. Children are invited to decorate their bicycles or as little girls did years ago decorate their doll carriages and march to the cemetery. After services at the Town Hall, all will proceed to the Route 20 Factory Village Cemetery marching down Main Street, Maple Street to Route 20. After cemetery service all are invited to the fire department for refreshments.

Society President John Hultman states "We are gathering information and budget figures for our next phase in the Chester History Museum restoration project, which includes a handicap accessible restroom, second floor electrical, insulation and sheathing, drainage and an exterior accessible to the upper level." All members of the Society thank John for his hard work and dedication to this project. Please stop by and view the progress. The Museum will be open during C.O.T. on May 21 and open on request. The recent Penny Social was held as one of our fundraisers for the museum. We thank everyone who contributed to this and a fun family night was had by all who attended. Items auctioned off were of excellent quality and even the children were delighted with their many items won.

The monthly meeting will be held May 5 at 9 AM at the Chester History Museum. Anyone is more than welcome to attend these meetings. We continue to look for new members young and old. We especially would like to see more of our young people visit, join and learn more about the history of Chester. We also appreciate any old pictures, stories or artifacts you may wish to donate. Pictures can be copied and originals returned if we are requested to do so.

AGAIN- MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES MAY 28 @ 10 AM AT THE CHESTER TOWN HALL

Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center May 2018

All Courses are Free for Hilltown Residents www.SHAEC.org

To register for a class, call **413-685-1052** or email **Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com**

GED/ HiSet: English Language Arts with Free on-site childcare, 9 Russell Rd, Huntington Wednesdays, May 2, 9, 16 10am - Noon
GED/HiSet Test Prep: Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester call for appointment

Computer Classes

Beginner Computer Classes: Safe Internet Surfing w/Elaine Gilmore VEC: 26 Main Street, Chester Weds 10am- noon
Open Computer Lab Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester Weekly: Tuesdays 10am to 12pm
Craigslist Taught by Heather Morgan, Room 152 GRHS, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington Tues and Wed, April 24th and 25th, 6-8pm

Support for Small Businesses

Biztro: Drop-in small business support Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester Mondays, May 7 & 21, 4-7:00pm
Marketing your Business Or Product Led by Jeanne LeClair, VEC: 26 Main Street, Chester, Wednesdays: May 9, 16, 6-8pm **Jacobs Ladder Business Association (JLBA) Monthly Meeting** Chester VEC 26a Main Street Thursday, May 17th, 6:00-8:00pm

Sustainability and Special Interest Classes

Gardening in Raised Beds Countryside Community Garden 665 Huntington Rd Russell Tuesday, April 10th, 4:00-6:00pm
Essential Oils Play day Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield Thursday, May 3rd, 6:00-8:00pm
Blue Zone Group: Middlefield, Public Library, Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA Tuesday May 15th, 9:30-10:30am
All Natural Pest Control Countryside Community Garden 665 Huntington Rd Russell Friday, May 24th, 4:00-6:00pm
Fly Fishing and Casting workshop, All ages welcome- no limit, Meet at VEC, 26 Main Chester Thursday, May 31, 6:00-8pm

Hikes & other outdoor events

Hike the Stevens Property, Huntington Park at Norwich Camp, Pisgah rd Sat. May 26st 10:am – 12pm

For more information on our classes, please visit our website: www.SHAEC.org Email: Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com Call: 413-685-1052

When planting this spring, please use this guide to help you determine what and where you should plant.

