



FEBRUARY 2018

# WATT'S NEWS?



**Monday, February 19th is Presidents Day  
All town offices will be closed**

**HAPPY VALENTINES' DAY**

**DON'T FORGET YOUR SWEETIE ON FEBRUARY 14TH**



**Town of Chester  
15 Middlefield Rd, Chester MA 01011**

**Board of Assessors**

**Telephone (413) 354-6318 Fax (413) 354-2268**

**NOTICE TO BUSINESSES DBA'S (doing business as)  
and SECOND HOME OWNERS**

To All Individuals, Partnerships, Trusts and Corporations:  
Mass General Laws Chapter 59 Section 29 requires that the Board of Assessors give notice to all persons subject to taxation in their respective town regarding personal property. Businesses must file State Tax Form 2. If you own a second home located in Chester, the furniture and fixtures are taxable, and owners must file State Tax Form 2HF annually, unless it's a rental property. Applications are available on-line at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov), or at the Assessors Office Monday – Wednesday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. These lists must be filed on or before March 1st of each year. Failure to submit this list may remove certain rights of appeal for the taxpayer.

**From the Desk of the Town Clerk**

The forms for the Annual Street Listing were mailed in January. If you have moved into town in the last year, and/or your household has not received a form, please contact the Town Clerk's office for one. We want all households to be counted in the town's population, as this can translate into extra funding for our town. Thank you to all the citizens who have already returned their forms. If you haven't yet, take a moment now to complete it and return it. Second mailings add an additional unnecessary expense to the town budget, and everyone's cooperation is needed to avoid unnecessary expenditures of taxpayer dollars.

**Dog license** applications are now being accepted. The tags will arrive during the week of February 16. Tags will be mailed to those who submit applications before then. Fees have been decreased this year and are free to those age 70 or older; you can also order the license online. Take a moment to do it now while it's on your mind. We are striving to make this as easy as possible for all. Nomination papers are now available in the Town Clerk's office for those who want to run for public office in town this year. The May 6 ballot will include one candidate for each of the following offices: Selectman, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, Electric Light Commission, Town Clerk, School Committee, and two Library Trustees. All are for three year terms, except for the Town Clerk, which is a one year term. If you are interested, yet, have questions, please arrange to meet informally with the Town Clerk, Sue Kucharski. She can guide you with what you need to know before deciding to throw your hat in the ring.

**Chester Board of Health**

The Chester Board of Health is still accepting applications for a vacancy on the Board of Health. This is a part time stipend paying position, good until the next Town Election, which will be May 12, 2018. Please submit your name and letter of interest to Chester Board of Health, 15 Middlefield Rd., Chester, MA 01011, or call 354-7781 with questions.

**Chester Historical Society** will be meeting March 3 at 9 AM at the Old Jail and all are welcome to attend. All meetings are open to the public. The 2018 Historical Calendar is still available at Chester Electric, Pease Store, Chester Village Market or by calling Janice at 354-7778 or Fay 354-7820. Photos include Collage of Chester History, Museum opening from Sept, 30, 2017, Class of 1993 Chester Gateway Graduates and Miss Hazel Vanwert's second grade class of June 1948, the Chester Garden Club, Hultman House and more. Calendars sell for \$15 and are one of the yearly fundraisers for the Society.

**Bits and pieces** – Did you know that the Class of 1968 was the last class to graduate from Chester High School and that this year will be the 115th year anniversary of the first graduating class of 1903? Did you know that Chester has seventeen Cemeteries documented – Bell, Campbell, Chester Center, Dunbar, Eastman, Fisk, Chester Factory, Ingell, Kinnebrook, Lyman, Moor, North Chester, Pine Hill, Quigley, Smith, Webster, Wright ? If the answer is NO, you can read all about these cemeteries and learn where they are and information on who is buried in each by purchasing Gravestone Inscriptions for Chester by Francis O'Leary at the Old Jail for \$25.00 and is 110 pages of interest. Also for sale is a Gravestone Inscriptions for Huntington for the same price.

**Why did the belt get arrested?**

He held up a pair of pants!!!

**What did DELAWARE?**

A NEW JERSEY!!!

**What did the grape do when it got stepped on?**

It let out a little wine!!!

**What did one penny say to the other penny?**

We make perfect cents!!!

**Why did the boy sprinkle sugar on his pillow before he went to sleep?**

So he could have sweet dreams!!!



**The Village Enterprise Center** is seeking several volunteers for the upcoming spring and summer tourist season to operate our Welcome Center 1 or 2 days per week, including Saturday or Sunday is a must, plus fill in dates. Apply in person at the Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main St.

**NOTICE**

Free Income tax preparation is available for low income Hilltown residents, with household income of \$54,000 or less. Tax preparation will be done by appointment only, and is offered in Chester on select Friday Mornings at the Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street; and on Thursday afternoons at the Huntington Food Pantry. Sponsored by the Berkshire United way, and the Hilltown CDC. For an appointment, call Michele Kenney at 413-296-4536 x 100. Standard 1040 and 1040EZ only. We will not be doing business taxes or itemized deductions.

**\*\*\*TO RECEIVE TOWN NEWS & POWER OUTAGE UPDATES\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY\*\*\*\*\***

**PLEASE SIGN UP SO YOU WILL RECEIVE EMERGENCY  
AND OUTREACH NOTIFICATIONS**

The Police Department is currently responsible for providing Emergency and Outreach notifications through the Blackboard Notification System. To help ensure you are included in future notifications and announcements, please go to the Town of Chester website ( [townofchester.net](http://townofchester.net) ) and click on the Emergency Alert System Sign-up. You will be prompted to enter your contact information. If already signed-up and want to update information, click on the Manage Account button. We use the system for emergency information and items of Town interest. **If you have difficulty with internet access, you may contact the Police Department where you can get help in adding your contact information. Please help us reach you for these important communications.**

**Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center      February 2017**  
**All Courses are Free for Hilltown Residents**      **[www.SHAEC.org](http://www.SHAEC.org)**

To register for a class, please call **413-685-1052** or email **[Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com](mailto:Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com)**

**GED/HiSet prep**

**GED/HiSet: Science** Taught by Bryan Farr      Mondays and Wednesdays, February 5<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:30pm  
[SHAEC's Gateway classroom Room 152 GRHS, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington](#)

**Walk in GED/HiSet Test Prep:** Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester      Daily 9:00am -4:00pm

**Beginner Computer Classes: Email/ basic and Advanced** Taught by Elaine Gilmore      Wednesdays Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 10:00am- noon  
Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester

**Open Computer Lab** [Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester](#)      Weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am to 2:00pm

**Using the Web to Get Things Done** Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester      Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am- noon

**So you got a New Digital Camera?** Village Enterprise Center 26 Main St, Chester      Tuesday, February 20 6:00-8:00pm

Taught by Westfield News Photographer Marc StOnge  
**Computer Troubleshooting** Taught By Heather Morgan      Wednesday, February 28th, 6:00-8:00pm  
SHAEC's Gateway classroom Room 152 GRHS, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington

**Classes for Small Businesses**

**Website Workshop:** Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester      Mon Feb 12, 6:00-8:00pm  
Taught by Economic Development Director Jeanne LeClair

**Biztro: Drop-in small business support** Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester      Mondays, February 12 & 26, 4:00-7:00pm

**20 Rules for Successful Tourism** Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester      Tuesday, February 6, 6:30-8:00pm

Taught By Bryan Farr      Snow date: Tuesday, February 27 6:30-8:00pm

**Jacobs Ladder Business Association (JLBA) Monthly Meeting**      Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm  
14 Olin Ave, Chester 01011

**The Artist's Way at Work: Twelve Week to Creative Freedom**      Sundays February 4th-25th, 4:00pm-5:30pm  
The Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main St. Chester. Class is limited to 10 people.

**Sustainability Classes**

**10 Essentials for outdoor survival.** [The Village Enterprise Center 26 Main Street, Chester](#)      Thursday, February 1, 6:00pm -8:00pm  
Taught by Tim Vogel of Takoa Mountain Outdoors

**Essential Oils in the Home** Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield      Thursday, February 8th, 6:00-8:00pm  
Taught By Kay Judge, Certified Aromatherapist. Material fee of \$15 will be collected

**Blue Zone Group: Okinawa, Japan** Middlefield, Public Library, Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA      Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-10:30am

**Winter Sowing** The Village Enterprise Center 26 Main Street, Chester      Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-6:00pm  
Taught by Master Gardener Ken Conway

**Fly Tying: Woolly Buggers, Streamers,** The Village Enterprise Center 26 Main Street, Chester      Wednesday, February 21, 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Taught by Tim Vogel, of Takoa Mountain Outdoors

**Hikes**

**Hike the Keystone Arch Bridge:** Carpool from the Chester Elementary parking lot, Meet at the Trailhead      Sat. February 17th 10:30am - noon

**Snowshoeing** at the Horace A Moses Scout Reservation, 310 Birch Hill Road, Russell      Sunday, February 18, 2018 Noon-2:00pm

Snowshoes available to use for free: please preregister