



January 2018

# WATT'S NEWS



**CMELD would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!**

**THE TOWN HALL WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15TH, IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**

**Please keep in mind:**

- When paying your CMELD and Water Bills it is important to enclose the "return portion" of your bill with payment in order to identify the proper account.
- When using online bill pay, personal check or money order, please indicate your entire customer number.
- If you are paying 2 or more bills with one check, indicate account numbers separately and the amount to be applied to each.
- Remember, if paying both electric and water bills at the same time they must be separate payments. Water payments should to be made to Chester Water Department.

**Why is the slippery ice like music?**

If you don't C sharp - you'll B flat!!!

**What vegetable was forbidden on the ships of Arctic explorers?**

Leeks!!!

**What do you get from sitting on the ice too long?**

Polaroids!!!



**Knock! Knock! Who's there? Ice! Ice who?**

**Ice the guy who builds da boats, and I'ce the guy who sails 'em!**

**Knock! Knock! Who's there? Ken! Ken who?**

**Ken I stay home from school today? It's too cold to go outside!**

**Knock! Knock! Who's there? Snow! Snow who?**

**Snow skating today - the ice is too thin!**

**Knock! Knock! Who's there? Eddy! Eddy who?**

**Eddy idea how I can cure this cold!**

**Fun Facts** The name, given to the month of 'January', is derived from the ancient Roman name 'Janus' who presided over the gate to the New Year. He was revered as the 'God of Gateways', 'of Doorways' and 'of the Journey.' Janus protected the 'Gate of Heaven', known as the 'Lord of Beginnings', is associated with the 'Goddess Juno-Janus', and often symbolized by an image of a face that looks forwards and backwards at the same time. This symbolism can easily be associated with the month known by many as the start of a new year which brings new opportunities. We cast out the old and welcome in the new. It is the time when many reflect on events of the previous year and often resolve to redress or improve some aspect of daily life or personal philosophy."

Birthstone: Garnet Flower: Carnation Capricorn: December 22 - January 19 / Aquarius: January 20 - February 18





**The Cornerstone Christian Church** We invite all to their 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 [TheChurchOn-TheCorner.Com](mailto:TheChurchOn-TheCorner.Com). or call and leave a message at 413-354-7832 . visit us on [www.wmchurches.org](http://www.wmchurches.org) , search for Chester MA


**From the Town Clerk**

The **Annual Street Listing** forms will be mailed in early January. Please look for this important piece of mail, and take a moment to complete and return it promptly. If someone listed as a member of your household has moved, please provide a mailing address if possible. This will help us to keep the voting list current. The Annual Street Listing is important for many reasons. One reason is that it provides a current population total for our town. This number is linked to funding opportunities from both the state and federal government. It is estimated that each person counted can translate into \$1,000/year in funding from the federal government alone. If even 18 people do not bother to return the form, the town could stand to lose \$180,000 over a ten year period. So please take a moment to correct, complete, and return your form as soon as it arrives. Let's all be counted!

Enclosed in the same envelope will be the **Annual Election Calendar**. Anyone interested in running for public office in the Town of Chester must make their intentions known to the town clerk and obtain nomination papers for their candidacy. The following town officers will be elected in May for 3 year terms: Selectman (1), School Committee member (1), Board of Assessors (1), Board of Health (1), Library Trustee (2), Electric Light Commissioner (1). The position of Town Clerk will also be on the ballot for a term of 1 year. Nomination papers will be available from January 31 - March 15. If you are interested in knowing more about these positions, or in how to run for public office, please see the town clerk.

**Dog Licenses for 2018** If you own a dog in Chester, you have a legal responsibility according to Massachusetts General Laws to license your dog in town. The good news is that the cost of licensing your dog has gone down this year AND you can apply and pay for the dog license online! We expect the license tags to be available in the middle of January. The licensing period will run through March 31, 2018. Late fines will be added to the cost of the license beginning April 1. License early! To order your dog license online, we must have a copy of your dog's current rabies certificate or a rabies titer on file. (If you licensed your dog last year, we have it!). Go to the town's website. Directly under the picture of the town hall on the front page, click on the link for Dog License. This will bring you to the encrypted payment page. Use your credit or debit card for payment.

The fee schedule is as follows:  Spayed/neutered dogs \$5.00 in person/by mail or \$6.00 online.  Intact dogs \$10.00 in person/by mail or \$11.00 online. Dog licenses are free to those 70 and older. Please stop in or call the town clerk to request your dog's license. Do not try to use the website to order.

Once you have paid for the license online, we receive a notice from the bank, and will mail you the dog's license. 

**Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center January 2018**

**All Courses are Free for Hilltown Residents**

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

[www.SHAEC.org](http://www.SHAEC.org)

**GED/HiSet prep**

**GED/ HiSet: Science** Taught by Bryan Farr

**Mondays and Wednesdays, January 8<sup>th</sup> - February 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Beginner Computer Classes: Getting to know your Computer** Taught by Elaine Gilmore

**Wednesdays Jan 17, 24, and 31. 10:00am- noon**

Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester

**Open Computer Lab** Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, Beginning Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00am to 2:00pm**

**Snow Fooling: Hot Tips for Winter Photography** Taught by Marc St Onge

**Tuesday, January 16, follow up on Jan 30 6:00pm-8:00pm**

[Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester](#)

**Craigslist tips – How to find and buy items on Craigslist**

**Wednesday, January 31st, 6:00-8:00pm**

[SHAEC's Gateway classroom Room 152 GRHS, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington](#)

**Classes for Small Businesses**

**Adobe InDesign Workshop**

**Wednesday and Thursday, January 24 and 25, 6:00-8:00pm**

Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester

**Biztro: Drop-in small business support**

**Monday, January 15 & 29, 4:00-7:00pm**

Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester

**Economic Development: What it Means for You**

**Wednesday, January 10, 6:00pm-8:00pm**

[Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester](#)

**Jacobs Ladder Business Association (JLBA) Monthly Meeting and Strategy Session**

**Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm**

Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester

**The Artist's Way at Work: Twelve Week to Creative Freedom**

**Sundays Beginning January 21, 4:00pm-5:30pm**

The Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main St. Chester. Class is limited to 10 people.

**Sustainability Classes**

**Blue Zone Group: Middlefield**

**Tuesdays Jan. 9th through May 29, starting at 9:30am**

Middlefield, Public Library, 188 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA

**Fly Tying: Mickey Finn Fly**, Taught by Tim Vogel, of Takoa Mountain Outdoors

**Wednesday, January 17, 6:00pm-8:00pm**

The Village Enterprise Center 26 Main Street, Chester

**Weight Loss Tips**: Taught by Christina Beeke

**Monday, January 15, 12:00– 1:30pm and Monday, January 22, 6:00-7:30pm**

Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main St, Chester

**Hikes**

**High Trail at Chester Blandford State Forest**: Meet at the Trailhead on State Rd in the parking lot

**Saturday. January 20th 10:30am**

Take Rt 20 to Blandford Rd, turn left onto Round Hill Rd, left at the cemetery, see entrance on your right.

**Other**

**Grand Opening: The Village Enterprise Center Thursday, January 11: Open house | 12:00pm to 6:00pm Ribbon-cutting | 6:00 pm to 6:30pm**

Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester

**Notes from Chester Highway Department**

Residents should be aware that given the steep contours of some of our dirt roads and the icy conditions of winter, we highly recommend if you have a 4-wheel drive that you have good snow tires. If you have a 2-wheel drive you should have studded (aggressive) snow tires.

**Power Outages & Downed Power Lines**

**Call 413-447-0268**

**First step: Report the outage**

When your lights go out, let us know as soon as possible. When you speak to a representative, it's helpful if you can provide any of the following information: Are your lights dim or out? Did you check your fuse or breaker box for blown fuses or tripped circuits? Are your neighbors' lights out? Is a power line down? Did a tree limb fall on a power line? Is there any damage to the utility pole? Are the streetlights out? Did you hear a noise?

**Next steps for your home**

Turn off all electrical equipment, including your water heater, electric furnace or heaters, stove, washer and dryer, stereo and TV, to help prevent overloading the system when power is restored. (Major appliances can be turned off at the breaker box.) Do however, turn on a porch light and one inside light so you and CMELD's crew will know when service is restored.

If you see any downed utility line, stay far back and call CMELD: 413-447-0268. Keep children and pets away, too. A downed line doesn't have to spark to be dangerous. And a wire can be dangerous even if you're not touching it; water, metal, tree branches, concrete or other materials touching the wire can conduct electricity from a wire to you.

If your neighbor's power comes back on but yours does not, call CMELD again.

