



March 2018
WATT'S NEW?



WELCOME SPRING, MARCH 20



FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN CLERK

Thank you to all who have returned their household's **Annual Street Listing form**. The importance of returning this form cannot be understated. Second notices will be sent at the beginning of this month to those who still have not returned their form. If you still have not returned your Street Listing form, please take a moment to do that now, and return it. Repeated mailings are costly to the Town in time postage and supplies.

Anyone who plans to run for office or re-election in the Town of Chester's **Annual Election** on May 5 must get Nomination papers from the Town Clerk. After declaring their candidacy for the specific office(s), candidates must then gather at least 20 signatures of registered voters in Chester who support their name being placed on the ballot. Once the signatures are collected, the candidate returns the Nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office and the signatures are validated against the voter list. The last day to get Nomination papers is Thursday, March 15, at 5 pm. The last day to submit them to the Board of Registrars (at the Town Clerk's Office) for validation is Monday, March 19 at 5 pm. These deadlines are set by laws that govern elections in Massachusetts and are adhered to strictly.

The **offices that will be on the ballot this May** for three year terms are: Selectman (1); School Committee (1); Board of Assessors (1); Board of Health (1); Electric Light Commissioner (1); Library Trustee (2) Treasurer (1). The Town Clerk and a Board of Health position is also on the ballot for a term of one year. Anyone interested in any of these positions who needs more information about them before making a decision should contact the Town Clerk at 354-6603, or at chestertownclerk@comcast.net.

Dog Licenses are now available. The cost is \$5 for a neutered or spayed dog, and \$10 for an intact dog. You can order them online from the Town's website (townofchester.net) for \$6/\$11 and they will be mailed to you if we have your dog's current rabies vaccination on file. Licenses are free to those who are age 70 or older by April 1, 2018. Kennel owners must have their kennels inspected by the Animal Control Officer (354-0975, or Middlefieldchesteraco@gmail.com) before requesting a kennel license. Fines will be assessed starting April 15 for those who have not licensed their dog by that time. The fine is \$10 from April 15 to May 31. It goes up to \$50 starting on June 1.

Thank you to those who participated in the survey question on the dog license application. The results have been overwhelming in favor of making the change to a 3 year dog license that would be tied to the date of the dog's rabies vaccination. The next step will be to bring this change to a vote at Town Meeting on June 9. The Town's dog by-law needs to be revised before the transition can begin. If the revision passes, Chester will be only the third town in the Commonwealth to adopt a 3 year dog license. There would be a transitional licensing year in 2019, and the 3 year license would go into full effect in 2020.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
MARCH 11th**



Don't forget to SPRING your clocks ahead!!!

Chester Historical Society

Save the date- Annual Penny Social will take place Saturday April 14 at the Chester Town Hall with doors opening at 5:30 and bidding beginning promptly at 6:30. A 50/50 raffle will take place and refreshments will be on sale. The event is a fun family night with great prizes. Donations of prizes are welcome. Proceeds benefit the Chester History Museum. Watch for more news of this event in April Watts New.

Bits and pieces – By-laws For Town – approved some years ago and re-printed in the 1968 Town Report. Section # 4 – Any person owning or residing at or abutting any improved walk shall within 24 hours after the storm ceases shall remove any snow or ice from same.

Section # 5 – Every owner or occupant of any building in the town shall keep such building and yard belonging hereto free from all filth and substances liable to produce offensive odors. Section # 6 – No person shall deposit or permit to be deposited by anyone occupying his premises, any house of brine, bones, dead animals or any other rubbish in any stream, catch basin, street, ally, or public ground of the Town. Section # 7 – No person shall drive any carriage or other vehicle upon or over any hose, pipe, or hose in use when placed in any street by order of the Chief Engineer, or other officer of the Fire Department. Signed by Board of Selectmen Thomas F. Haley, John E. Cooney, Leon J. Kelso.

Chester Historical Society meets every first Saturday of the month and anyone is welcome to attend. Watch April Watts New for news of future plans for the Chester History Museum. We hope all who haven't visited this Historical Building to view the exhibits will visit in the coming months.

We wish to again thank the Chester Electric for Watts New which has become a must for posting on all residents refrigerators along with COA bulletins keeping all residents aware of events going on in Chester. This has been a courtesy of the Electric Company since at least 1996 and maybe before.

What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover?

A rash of good luck!!!

How is a best friend like a 4-leaf clover?

Because they are hard to find and lucky to have!!!

How did the Irish Jig get started?

Too much to drink and not enough restrooms!!!

What do you call a bunny with fleas?

Bugs Bunny!!!

What kind of jewelry does the Easter Bunny wear?

14 carrot gold!!!

Where does the Easter Bunny get his eggs?

From an egg plant!!



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY—MARCH 17



RABIES CLINIC

All Hilltown dogs and cats are welcome to the Chester Rabies Clinic

There will be a Rabies Clinic, Saturday, March 24th from 1:00—3:00 at the Chester Fire Station on Route 20 in Chester.

Dr. Sharon Lynch, from the Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic will be the veterinarian. Please bring your current rabies certificate if possible.



Shots will be \$15.00 per pet.

In addition, the Chester Town Clerk will be available for licensing your dogs.

Any questions, please call Chester Animal Control at 413-354-0975



Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center March 2018

All Courses are Free for Hilltown Residents

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

See Full Class Descriptions at: www.SHAEC.org

GED/HiSet prep

GED/ HiSet: English Language Arts with Free on-site childcare

Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21 10am - Noon

[Hilltown Social Service Building, 9 Russell Rd, Huntington](#)

Walk in GED/HiSet Test Prep: Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester

Daily 9:00am -4:00pm

Computer Classes

Free Microsoft Office Online The Village Enterprise Center 26 Main Street, Chester

Monday, March 5th, 10:00am - Noon

Beginner Computer Classes: Safe Internet Surfing Taught by Elaine Gilmore

Wednesdays 10:00am- noon

Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester

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

Weekly: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am to 2pm

Tech Savvy Tips and Tricks Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester

Monday, March 19 10:00am- noon

Using the Web to Get Things Done Village Enterprise Center | 26 Main St, Chester

Monday, March 26 10:00am- noon

Microsoft Publisher Workshop Taught By Heather Morgan

Wed & Thurs, March 28th and 29th, 6:00-8:00pm

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

Classes for Small Businesses

Biztro: Drop-in small business support Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester

Mondays, March 12 & 26, 4-7:00pm

Led by Economic Development Director Jeanne LeClair

Smart Photography & Editing for Business and Social Media Taught By Bryan Farr

Tuesday, March 6, 6:00-8:00pm

Village Enterprise Center, 26 Main Street, Chester

JLBA Annual Solar Swim: Solar house tour and Solar Swim

Saturday, March 10, 2:30-4:00pm

Alpine Solar Heat and Hot Water: 189 North St Windsor: call for details: 413-684-3950

Jacobs Ladder Business Association (JLBA) Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 15th, 6:00-8:00pm

Village Enterprise Center, 26a Main Street, Chester

Sustainability and Special interest Classes

Personality and Relational Prosperity: An Empathic Approach: wkshp led by Maya Greene

Fridays, March 2, 16, 30, 6pm –8pm

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

Growing plans from Seed The Village Enterprise Center 26 Main Street, Chester

Monday, March 7th, 4:00-7:00pm

Taught by Master Gardener Ken Conway

Essential Oils for Special Populations Middlefield Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield

Thursday, March 8th, 6:00-8:00pm

Taught by Kay Judge, Certified Aromatherapist. Material fee of \$15 will be collected

Blue Zone Group: Middlefield, Public Library, Skyline Trail, Middlefield, MA

Tuesday March 13th, 9:30-10:30am

Learn about Debt Shredder: tips on reducing debt: led by Christina Beeke

Monday, March 12th, Noon-1:30pm

The Village Enterprise Center 26 Main Street, Chester

Monday, March 19th, 6-7:30pm

Fly Tying: Dry Flies, The Village Enterprise Center 26 Main Street, Chester

Wednesday, March 21, 6pm-8:00pm

Taught by Tim Vogel, of Takoa Mountain Outdoors. All materials provided

VITA Free tax prep and e-filing: Thursdays 1-4pm: Huntington Food Pantry

Fridays 9:30am -12:30 Village Ent, Center, Chester

Call for appointment: 413-296-4536 x 100 Household income \$54K or less

Hikes & other outdoor events

Hike the Knittel Conservation Area in Blandford

Sat. March 17th 10:30am – 12:30pm

Meet at the Trailhead on 26 Herrick Road in the parking lot.



April 1st

