



AUGUST 2018

WATT'S NEW?



CMELD SERVICE RATE SCHEDULE

Return check fee	\$30.00
Request of Turn on & Turn off fee	\$25.00 each
Temporary Service fee	\$100.00
Relocation of Meter fee	\$100.00
Non-payment of Electric Bill will result in your electric service being shut-off. Reconnection will be done ONLY after payment of the full amount due plus a reconnect fee.	
Reconnect fee (normal business hours) 8:30 am – 2:30 pm Mon – Fri	\$50.00
Reconnect fee (after normal business hours)	\$200.00

PLEASE NOTE:

****AFTER HOUR POWER OUTAGES****

CALL 413-447-0268

How do you organize a Space party?

You planet!!!

What do you call a sleeping bull?

A bulldozer!!!

What has one head, one foot and four legs?

A bed!!!

Why did the cross eyed teacher lose her job?

Because she couldn't control her pupils!!!

Why did the birdie go to the hospital?

To get a tweetment!!!!

Did you hear about the hairdresser?

She dyed!!!



- The Romans gave this month its name in 8BC, after the first Roman Emperor Augustus who ruled from 27BC until his death in AD14.
- Before then, the month had been known as Sextilis, as it was the sixth of ten months in the Roman Calendar, which began with March.
- The Anglo-Saxon called August "Weodmonath" meaning "weed month".
- The birthstones for August are the peridot and the sardonyx and the flowers are the gladiolus and poppy.
- August was the 55th most common name given to a baby boy in Sweden in 2014

TAG SALE PERMITS

Residents are reminded that if you are planning on having a tag sale, you must obtain a permit from the Board of Selectmen's office.



Call Before You Dig!

If you are planning an outdoor project that includes digging, remember that there may be buried utility lines that you need to avoid. Water, sewer, telephone, and cable television may be located underground, in addition to electric lines. Damaging or disturbing the underground utilities could cause power outages or interruptions of other utility services. Even worse, you could be seriously hurt. So, before you dig, call **1-888-DIG-SAFE (1-888-344-7233)** to find out what you need to avoid underground. Visit the **DIG SAFE** website at www.digsafe.com

News from the Tax Collector

How often do I receive my tax bills?

The Town of Chester has a quarterly billing system for the Town real estate and personal property taxes. The first bill is mailed out June 30 with a due date of August 1. The second bill is mailed out September 30 with a due date of November 1. The third bill is mailed December 30 with a due date of February 1. The fourth bill is mailed March 30 with a due date of May 1.

What if I did not receive a tax bill?

Failure to receive your tax bill does not excuse you from payment of taxes, or from the interest and fees that accrue on the outstanding balance. A tax bill is generated and mailed for every parcel in the Town of Chester. It is the responsibility of the property owner to pay taxes regardless of receipt of a bill. The bill is mailed to owner as of January 1 of the previous year. New property owners will have their named added to the bill (indicated as a c/o) if the Assessors receive the new deed from the registry of deeds in a timely fashion.

How much interest can be waived?

Per Massachusetts General Law only \$15.00 in interest can be waived. All additional amounts will be collected.

Individual Tax Years.

Each bill sent to Tax Payers is an individual bill for the year the taxes are due. Balances from prior years that are due are not added onto the current year tax bill.

Mailing of Tax Bills:

Every time a tax bill is mailed from the Town of Chester, an Affidavit as to mailing is completed and stamped by the post office. Once it leaves the Tax Collector's office it is out of the control of the town. In the last year there has been an increased number of tax bills being returned for bad mailing address or residents in general stating they never received a bill. Some residents have stated they don't think their tax bills were ever mailed. The Tax Collectors office mails EVERYONE a bill as stated above once it leaves the office it is out of the Tax Collectors Control. **Once again, bills go out 4 times a year, if you don't get one please call the Tax Collectors office at 413-354-6357.**



Chester Alumni and Friends Come Home

As approximately 100 Chester High Alumni and friends gathered in town, there developed a picture of history, nostalgia, and community/school spirit. This year's meeting was held on June 30 at the restored Chester Train Station.

Chester High School Alumni Association President Walter Boomsma pointed out several additions to this year's celebration. "We did some research and included a brief history of Chester High School in an expanded program book. Also, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Allen Williams of the Chester Granite Company, we were able to allow alumni to 'take home a piece of home' in the form of a small block of granite."

The Association has already started planning for the meeting scheduled for June 29, 2019. Those in some way connected with Chester and/or Chester High School are encouraged provide their current mailing information by contacting Robert Gowey, Association Secretary, 1 Aldrich Street, Huntington MA 01050. The Association also maintains an informational website at <http://chesterhigh.wordpress.com> and a Facebook page.

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Chester Historical Society

Sunday openings continue at the Chester History Museum 1 - 3 through August with visits also continuing at the Old Jail. Coming soon - Historical Map and Brochure featuring a walk through downtown Chester. Plans are also under way for the Society's Annual Historical Calendar and Snowflake Holiday Fair on November 3. All proceeds from both the calendar and fair go to the Museum. **Bits and Pieces:** Taken from Hampden County Improvement League Report - 1928 -" Chester- The boys and girls 4-H club had an enrollment of 109 with members in all four communities. The Club agents were ably assisted by local leaders in conducting this work. Leaders are: Mrs. Guy Clark, Mrs. S.J. Donnelly, Mrs. Percy Myer, Miss Hortense Clark, Miss Rosalie Salvini, Miss Margaret Sturgeon and Henry Springer in Chester Village, Mrs. Florence Blanchard in Chester Hill and Mrs. S.A. Brewster Jr., in Littleville and North Chester. Club members won \$146 in prize money at the Eastern States Exposition besides numerous prizes at Blandford, Chester Junior Fair, Littleville, Middlefield and Northampton. The Chester Junior Fair ranks high as a community project that is well supported by the citizens. The Littleville Fair has rapidly become one of the prominent fairs of the county and makes 4-H Club work one of its outstanding features. Messrs. M.W. Terrill, Leon Kelso and A.E. Pease are town directors. We respectfully request a continuation of the appropriation and the cooperation of the citizens of Chester for the year 1929. Signed - The Trustees For County Aid to Agriculture." 1996 - Taken from June Watts New Chester Municipal Electric Light Newsletter -" Recently Virginia Morrissey and Marie Morrissey worked to get the town decorated with American flags. They solicited funds from many residents and businesses to sponsor the flags. So far, seventy-seven flags have been placed on utility poles by the Highway and Electric Light Departments. More flags will be purchased once the vendor's supply is replenished. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a flag, the cost is \$17.45. Please contact Virginia Morrissey at 354-7850 to make arrangements." This has been continued by Electric and Highway and donations can be made to the Electric Light. Weather makes it necessary to keep replacing flags. More information can be obtained from Chester Electric along with a " Thank You".

****PLEASE**NOTE****

Remember if you plant Follow the chart below Thank you, CMELD

Plant the right tree in the right place
Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

Tall trees, such as:
• Maple • Oak
• Spruce • Pine

40 ft height or less

25 ft height or less

Tree Pruning Zone

20 ft

50 ft

Arbor Day Foundation
arborday.org

Medium trees, such as:
• Washington hawthorn
• Goldenrain tree

Small trees, such as:
• Star magnolia
• Crabapple

The diagram illustrates a house on the left with a utility pole on the right. A dashed line indicates a 'Tree Pruning Zone' around the utility pole. Three trees are shown: a tall tree (40 ft or less) behind the house, a medium tree (25 ft or less) in front of the house, and a small tree (20 ft or less) near the utility pole. A person is shown for scale near the small tree. A 50 ft distance is marked from the house to the utility pole.