



MAY 2020

WATT'S NEW?



**TOWN OFFICES will be CLOSED
on Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day**

Remember



MAY 10th

News from the Town Clerk....

The Annual Town Election has been moved to Saturday, June 13, 2020 due to the declared State of Emergency related to the coronavirus pandemic. Here is what you need to know:

All voters are encouraged to vote by mail to ensure public safety in this pandemic.

Ballots are available by mail beginning May 2. Please use the form on the back side of this page to request your ballot. You may make copies of this application as needed for any other voters in your household.

Each voter must request his/her own ballot in writing, individually. Requests can be made using the application on the back side, or simply in writing on plain paper. Requests **MUST be legible and include your printed name, address, and telephone number, AND the voter's signature.** Requests are not considered valid unless signed. All voters in a household can return their requests in one envelope if that is more convenient.

Voters can return their applications by either dropping them in the black locked mailbox outside the town hall (no postage required) or by mailing them to: Town Clerk, 15 Middlefield Rd., Chester, MA 01011. Once the Town Clerk receives your application, she will mail you a ballot.

All ballots must be returned by 12 noon on Friday, June 12, 2020. This is a strict deadline. Postmarks do not count. Ballots must be in the clerk's office by this deadline.

On Election Day the polls will be still be open from 10 am – 2 pm for those who still want to vote in person.

If you are not sure you are registered to vote, you can check online at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/> or by calling the town clerk's office at 354-6603.

The ballot this year is uncontested. All candidates are running for 3-year terms. Candidates running for re-election are as follows: John Baldasaro, Board of Selectman; Elizabeth Mas-sa, Board of Health; Teresa Donovan and Mary Ann Pease, Library Trustees; Duane C. Pease, Electric Light Commissioner. Besides these, the following offices are also on the ballot: 3 seats on the Board of Assessors for 1, 2, and 3 year terms, respectively; 1 seat on the Board of Health, for a 1 year term, School Committee for three year term

Anyone planning to run as a write-in candidate should notify the Town Clerk.

If you have any questions about any of this information, please call the Town Clerk at 354-6603.

Chester On Track - May 16 Nearly 30 years ago Chester On Track brought an annual tradition to Chester. Now, in light of present circumstances, and not wanting to disappoint, Chester Station will present a Virtual Chester On Track streaming live on U Tube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFMTHJOFyLA> as well as the Chester Railway Station Facebook page. The event planners hope that a touch of joy in peoples' homes is just what's needed in this cloistered time.

So far we will be presenting musical acts by The Oakes Family, The Pitoniak Brothers, The Electric Trains, Mark Franklin, and Tommy Filliault, interspersed with locally made videos, drone rides, highlights of local trails like the Keystone Arches, Huntington Dance Center performing on a Keystone Arch, and clips from the documentary, 'Railroad to the Moon' about building the Western RR through Chester and over the Berkshires. Highlights of Chester On Tracks' past are sure to bring a smile; take a look at some of the most interesting artifacts in the Chester Station Museum, and tour our wooden caboose glamping facility among other surprises.

At the U Tube link above, you'll find a 24 hour webcam to monitor rail traffic past Chester Station; just visit there or Chester Railway Station on Facebook on May 16. The event will be interactive, so you will be able to write in with comments and questions. You can also buy the 2020 COT T-shirts online, and the COT Special Postal Cancellation will be the default cancellation at the Chester Post Office till noon on that date. Both designs honor 3,000 of the first American immigrants who built the precedent-shattering railroad through Chester in 1840.

Anyone who would like to contribute G-rated content to the Virtual Chester On Track please contact Dave@chesterrailwaystation.net or call 413-354-7752.

Visit www.chesterrailwaystation.net or Chester Railway Station on Facebook for more .

Hamilton Memorial Library

Hello to our amazing community. During these difficult times, I would like you to know that we are working hard to improve our on-line services and making temporary changes to our policy to increase safe handling of our materials. As many of you can understand, these necessary changes are uncharted territory. These are challenging times for everyone but I can truly say that it is a privilege and an honor to be a part of the Community of Chester. Thank you for your continued support and I will be posting a complete update on openings and procedures on our Facebook page and the town website after we are informed of the official opening date for the state. Take care of each other and I look forward to seeing your smiling faces soon.

-Angelique Toroni, Director



Chester Historical Society

As Memorial Day approaches we find ourselves observing the day as we have never in the past. Let us take a few moments to remember those who have given their lives to protect us.

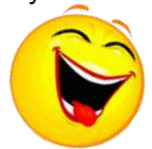
Activities at the Old Jail and Chester History Museum have been put on hold for the month of May. However work continues on the restoration of the Museum and repairs at the Old Jail. Bits and pieces: Taken and copied from 1986 – Building Inventory. “ School house – fire station – meeting house. The school house was made to occupy the land adjacent to the grave-yard, cutting into one corner of it. It has often been questioned why it was put into such a cramped quarters, when other land was available. In the diary of David Shepard Jr. we find where he taught school there starting May 16, 1796. There was a box stove in the center of the room. Water was brought by pails from the Bascom house across the way. Pitch pine benches were the seats. They did have a map case, a thermometer to be kept at not less than 58 degrees or not more than 62 degrees. David Shepard Jr. was the son of the first physician in the town. He studied Greek and Latin under the Rev. Bascom, entered the first class of Williams College, but because of finances did not complete the college course. He was born 1777 and died in 1828. In the early 1930's Sate Law required two exits to all public buildings so a door was cut in the north end of the building. In the 1950's the town decided to use it as a fire station and cut an overhead door in the west side. On June 29, 1976 the Historical Commission started restoration on the building, being asked by he Selectmen. Much was done at the time until the Building Inspector insisted it must be re-modeled according to Code and not restored. Th work was stopped and nothing further has been done. We hope some day to have a Building Inspector in our town that appreciates restoration of these old buildings.” NOTE: Building was eventually turned over to the Chester Hill Association who continued restoration and continue to use the building for meetings and events including the Open House during the Chester Hill Maple Fest in March of each year. More information on this and other buildings may be found with the Historical Society.

PLEASE NOTE:

Dog Licenses are available -Call Town Clerk's Office to make sure all paperwork to purchase Dog Tag is up-to-date 413 -354-6603 Thank you!



What did the Mountain Climber name his son? Cliff!!!
What do you call security guards working outside Samsung shops?
Guardians of the Galaxy!!!
What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? It gets toad away.
A horse walks into a bar...The bartender says, "Hey."
The horse replies, "Sure."
What do you call two monkeys that share an Amazon account?
Prime mates!!!
Why did the physics teacher break up with the biology teacher?
There was no chemistry!!!
Police officer talks to a driver: Your tail light is broken, your tires must be exchanged and your bumper hangs halfway down.
That will be 300 dollars.
Driver: Alright, go ahead. They want twice as much as that at the garage!!!



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

Tall trees, such as:

- Maple • Oak
- Spruce • Pine

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

