



July 2020

WATT'S NEW?



****IMPORTANT**SAFETY MESSAGE****

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU COME ACROSS
FIRE OR SMOKE NEAR OR ON A UTILITY POLE
STAY AWAY**

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PUT THE FIRE OUT
KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE OF AT LEAST
100 FEET OR MORE TO AVOID INJURY OR DEATH
THEN CALL 911**

How do you make a tissue dance?

You put a little boogie in it!!!

What do you call a cow with two legs?

Lean Beef!!!

Did you hear about the painter who was hospitalized?

He had to many strokes!!!

Who can shave 10 times a day and still have a beard?

A barber!!!

Did you hear about the paddle sale at the boat store?

It was quite an oar deal!!!

What kind of shoes do spies wear?

Sneakers!!!

How do baseball players stay cool?

They sit next to their fans!!!



**Have a Happy
Fourth of July**



NEW FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR:

Once again we are coming to the end of the Fiscal Year. Please reach out to the Tax Collector's office to make sure your taxes are all paid up. Another round of Advertising will be in the Country Journal again in the upcoming month or so. Due to Covid 19 no cash is accepted at this time. If you would like a receipt for Your payment please send the entire bill, Check or money order and Self Addressed Stamped Envelope and you will have your stub mailed back. This applies to both Real Estate tax and Motor Vehicle Tax. As a reminder the due Dates on these bills are not suggestions. Please make every effort to pay on time To avoid late fees and interest. Thank you, Town Collector

Water Department Policy

The Water Commissioners policy regarding water leaks at vacant homes is the following. If a water user is going to be out of town for an extended period of time, and a leak develops at their residence that results in charges being billed, the homeowner is responsible for those charges. If the home is going to be left vacant please be responsible and have "healthy home checks" done.

CHESTER BOARD OF HEALTH

The Chester Board of Health would like to remind Bed and Breakfast operators and owners that a 2020 Hospitality-Leisure Lodging Permit must be filed in order to open in 2020. Please print a permit application found on www.TownofChester.net under the *Documents Tab* and mail in or drop in the black box in front of town hall. The fee is \$150.00 per calendar year and runs July to June. An inspection is required. Please call/text/email the Chester Board of Health with questions 413-354-7781 or 413-519-3396 ChesterHealth@comcast.net.

Chester High School Newsletter Available

In place of the traditional reunion, the Chester High School Alumni Association has produced a newsletter that will be mailed to all members in late June. The newsletter includes information typically provided at the in-person reunion, including class rosters for the fifty and twenty-five-year classes, scholarship account balances, etc. The newsletter also includes a special tribute to George A. Morey, Jr., who recently passed away. George served as treasurer of the Association since it first was formed in 1962, a 58-year term of office. The newsletter is also available on the Association's website, <http://chesterhigh.wordpress.com>. Graduates of Chester High and Chester residents graduating from Gateway Regional High School should make sure the Association has their current mailing address by visiting the website or contacting Robert Goewey, secretary at 1 Aldrich Avenue, Huntington MA 01050 or rgoewey1@comcast.net. The 118th Annual Reunion is already scheduled for Saturday, June 26, 2021, at the Chester Train Station.

From the Desk of the Town Clerk

I would like to thank everyone that has licensed their dog in Chester during the past three months. I realize it has been a challenge with the pandemic and all that we have been experiencing with the town hall being closed. The town hall is open by appointment so if you have a dog or two that needs to be licensed please call 354-6603 for an appointment so we can make sure all dogs are up to date on their rabies vaccinations. I have some rabies certificates that each vet sends but I need your help in completing an application and purchasing a Dog License. It is a Massachusetts state law that EVERY DOG and CAT have an up to date vaccination even if the animal never leaves your home. If you have 4 or more dogs and would like a kennel license please contact the Animal Control Officer and she can inspect your kennel.

Section 137. (a) The owner or keeper of a dog over the age of 6 months shall obtain a license for the dog. The registering, numbering, describing and licensing of a dog shall be conducted in the office of the licensing authority in the city or town in which the dog is kept.

(b) A licensing authority shall not grant a license for a dog unless the owner of the dog provides the licensing authority with a veterinarian's certification that the dog has been vaccinated in accordance with section 145B, certification that such dog is exempt from the vaccination requirement under said section 145B or a notarized letter from a veterinarian that either of these certifications was issued relative to such dog.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SELECTMEN

Under the direction of Chester's Board of Selectmen the Town Hall will reopen on June 29, 2020 by appointment only. Please call the appropriate town office to set up your appointment. When you arrive at Town hall you will be met at the door by the employee you have set up the appointment with. You are required to wear a mask upon entrance to town hall and we ask you keep it on the entire time. You will conduct your business with that office either in the foyer of Town hall or in the auditorium. When your business is complete that employee will escort you to the door. For everyone's knowledge the Town Hall is wiped down daily and after every appointment the entrance area will be wiped down again. Please cancel your appointment if you feel ill or have a fever of over 100.0. Everyone will be mandated to sign in, to be able to trace any possible exposure. Meetings can be held again with the premise of the committee holding the in-house meeting will take the responsibility to wipe down all chairs and tables that are used. They will be required to have all attendees sign the log and all will be asked to wear masks. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions 354-7760 or kwarden@townofchester.net

Chester Historical Society

No decision has been made as to when the History Museum will be open this summer due to COVID -19. No dates have been set for the Penny Social which had to be postponed. **Bits and pieces:** Former Dam And Mill Sites Along The Middle Branch of the Westfield River. This information was from article by Miss Marion Miller, a long time resident of North Chester and the daughter of George Miller who had the Miller Dam. Marion was born in 1888 and passed away in 1976. She attended North Adams Teachers College and taught for many years before her retirement to the farm on East River Road in North Chester with her sisters Mildred and Margaret. She compiled this list for the records of the First Congregational Church. WEST WORTHINGTON – ½ mile from four corners, near Parish Place owned by Henry Benton – dam and saw mill – sawed out rough lumber. Fishing for pickerel and bullheads in Mill Pond. Near Eben Shaw's place – Dam and Mill made whip butts. MIDDLEFIELD – WORTHINGTON BRIDGE – The Miller Dam (later Schuster dam) sawmill and wood working mill, rough and planed lumber, whip butts, rolling pins, tool handles, and more. The bridge here was constantly used to carry loads of lumber across from the mill on the Worthington side of the river to the Huntington road on the Middlefield side. One day as two teams were taking loads of lumber across, the first team made it safely, the second team went through the flooring, taking driver, team and load down the river below. The man was seriously injured and one horse hurt so badly it had to be destroyed. A new bridge was of course required, but Middlefield and Worthington could not agree on what type of bridge to build. The former insisted on the same old wooden bridge as before, while Worthington wanted to put in a new iron and steel structure. The two towns could not get together on the matter and finally each one put his half on as he wished. So here stood the new bridge wooden from the Middlefield side to the middle of the river and iron from the Worthington side. It was a ridiculous squabble and an equally strange looking result, but it stood and served its purpose for years until finally washed out in 1938 by a flood and never was replaced. NORTH CHESTER – At the Howe Place – Dam and Mill – made bedsteads. AT North Chester Bridge – dam and mill – thread-cotton goods. Below North Chester – near Brown home, (now John Pfeiler place) Dam and Mill – curtains, textiles. Above old Gamble Place – Dam and Mill – made chairs. DAYVILLE – Just above Arthur Pierce home (now Cohill home) Dam – small mill – made pegs and ground grist. On Swift flowing river – Brush Mill – Black Birch distilled to make wintergreen – witch hazel distilled brush distilled for Witch Hazel Above Wharfield Bridge (Arthur Pease Mill) Dam and Sawmill made whip butts and lumber. LITTLEVILLE – Above Littleville Bridge – Eastman's Mill and Dam – sawed rough lumber, wooden bowls and Ground Grist. Just above Huntington Town Line – about where Littleville Dam is now large Hutchinson Mills – made quantities of wooden bowls and doll carriages. HUNTINGTON – About opposite Moltenbrey's Market (Electric Power Station) Dam and Ellsworth Stanton's Mill – Dam – Old Chester Paper Mill (burned circa 1920)

KEEP YOUR COOL AND SAVE MONEY TOO!



Setting the air conditioner just a few degrees higher, saves both energy and money. You can save 6 to 8 percent of cooling costs for each degree set above 78, and still be comfortable. A programmable thermostat is a smart way to control the temperature. Set the thermostat to 78 degrees when the house is occupied and turn the cooling system off when you are away.

FLAG FUND



Thank you to all the residents who contributed to the Chester Flag Fund. Donations are always accepted, make your check payable to Chester Flag Fund and drop it off at the CMELD office, include it in with your payment or use the drop box in front of Town Hall.

