



SEPTEMBER 2020

# WATT'S NEW?



## Board of Assessors Telephone (413) 354-6318 CHAPTER LAND APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 1, 2020

The Board of Assessors would like to remind classified Chapter 61A Agricultural and Chapter 61B Recreational land taxpayers that applications are due October 1, 2020. If you owned classified Chapter 61A or 61B land last year, an application will be mailed to you on or about the first week of September. Applications are also available online at: <https://townofchester.net/assessors/> under helpful links. Choose the appropriate Chapter Application and Acknowledgement form. Both forms need to be filled out and signed. The Assessors' Office is now closed to the public because of Covid-19, but we are in the office on Mondays. If you need any assistance or need to make an appointment, please call the office or email: [llafreniere@townofchester.net](mailto:llafreniere@townofchester.net)

## HOBO to GO

CHESTER RAILWAY STATION is planning this year's Hobo Harvest Dinner Fundraiser as a 'Grab & Go' event. It is scheduled a month earlier on Sat., Sept. 19, so it will be warmer and lighter. Patrons are asked to pay in advance and will be issued an ID document to print out with name and order information. Simply present this document upon arrival and your packaged take-out order will be given to you in your vehicle. There will be a limited number of socially distanced spaces on the granite benches for eating on the lawns if you prefer. There will be no indoor seating.

Prices are \$10 for those 12 and over, \$5 ages 5-12 and under 5 Free. These are lower than usual because no beverages will be available. This because only 2 volunteers can be in the small caboose kitchen at once. If planning to use the outdoor option, please bring your beverages of choice, or grab something at one of the fine establishments in Chester. No indoor seating will be available.

Menu is: Trackside Beef Stew, Corn Pudding (a recipe from the New Haven Railroad Cookbook)  
Rolls and butter, Homemade Apple or Pumpkin Pie.  
To place your order, and get payment details, please call 413-354-7878, or Email [dave@chesterrailwaystation.net](mailto:dave@chesterrailwaystation.net).



**September 8th  
is Grandparents Day**



**PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY**  
**SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION**



- September has three **birth flowers**: the forget-me-not, the morning glory and the aster. Forget-me-nots represent love and memories, asters represent love as well, and the morning glory represents unrequited love. These are all very passionate flowers.
- The **birth stone** for the month is the sapphire.
- In the northern hemisphere, the **Autumn Equinox** occurs and fall begins. This takes place on September 22nd or 23rd, depending on the year. 2017 Fall begins September 22
- September 9, 1776: The Continental Congress changed the name of the United Colonies to the United States.
- September 18, 1851: The New York Times published its first edition.
- September 24th, 1789: The US Supreme Court was established.
- September 1st, 1830: The poem "Mary had a Little Lamb" was published.
- September 2, 1666: The Great Fire of London occurred.
- September 5, 1774: The 1st Continental Congress was called to order.

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The Chester Board of Health would like to remind all traveling back to Chester that on July 24, 2020, the Governor, issued **COVID-19 Order No. 45** adopting a mandatory 14-day quarantine for travelers arriving in Massachusetts. **The effective date of the Order is August 1, 2020.** This binding guidance must be followed by all travelers entering Massachusetts, except those covered by the limited exemptions listed on the state website. <https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts>

The Order applies both to residents of Massachusetts returning from out-of-State travel and to residents of other States and any other persons who come to Massachusetts for personal or business travel. Students and families entering Massachusetts to begin the academic year at a college, university, or boarding school, or any other educational or academic program, like any other person entering Massachusetts beginning August 1, must comply with the travel rule and are required to quarantine for 14 days on arrival unless otherwise exempted as detailed in this guidance. Travelers who do not comply with these rules may be subject to a **civil fine of \$500 per day.**

Please call/text/email the Chester Board of Health with questions 413-354-7781 or 413-519-3396 [ChesterHealth@comcast.net](mailto:ChesterHealth@comcast.net).

**Fall begins September 22**



## Chester Historical Society

Continued from July edition of Watts New with information from the 1979 Highland Valley Highlights. Chester seniors now have the use of the door to door Hilltown Transportation mini-bus service. This enables many of them to get to doctor's appointments, go shopping or take advantage of the Highland Valley Elder Services meal site in Huntington. Through its connection with the Area Agency of Aging (Highland Valley) they now have also secured limited Homemaker and Home Health services for some of the seniors. The present appointed members of the Council are Tauno and Grace Kempainen, Marion Tossavainen, Margaret Salvini, Ruth Salvini, Jennie Morrissey, Winifred Besancon, Caroline Ryan, and Wanda Cooney. Tauno Kempainen represents the Chester Council on Aging on the Highland Valley Elder Services Board of Directors, and keeps the council member abreast of the regional scene, as well as State and Federal legislation. Chester also regularly sends representatives to the Western Mass. Association on Councils on Aging. In order to reflect the feelings of the persons who participate in Council on Aging activities, some Chester Senior Citizens were interviewed by a Highland Valley representative. Guy and Helen Carrington who are both very involved in the activities were interviewed. Helen has lived in Chester since she was nine, and Guy was born there almost 80 years ago. Guy worked on the railroad for 48 years and retired when he was 70. Helen worked for several years caring for an elderly lady and was employed before then. The couple enjoy their eight grandchildren, but most of all enjoy the trips and activities of the Council. They both feel that it is a fun group to be with and say the activities are the "highlight" of our existence". They also like to go to the Highland Valley Elder Services meal site in Huntington. They see people they have not seen in a while and enjoy talking about the past. The Carrington's know that the Council is there for their pleasure, but also know they could bring any problems to the Council and the Council would find the resources to deal with them. They summed it up by saying, "Life would be dull without the Council on Aging, it gives us lots of things to look forward to." There is so much more to read about the work of the Chester Council on Aging through the years that can be read at the Chester Historical Society archives at the Old Jail on Rt. 20. Maybe you can recognize some of the names that have helped make the C.O.A. in Chester a success over the years beginning in 1974 with Robert Bliss as Chairman with members Marion Tonnavaainen, Grace Kempainen, Jennie Morrissey, and Ruth Salvini. Wanda Cooney, Carline Ryan, Tauno Kempainen, Winifred Besancon, Hazel Pease, Margaret Sakaske, Rachel Meher, Jean McCaul, Helen Wellspeak, Ethel Rice, Mary McNamara, Rosina Piergiiovanni, Barbara Jamison, Sue Kucharski, Marge Laurie, Gene Watters, Joan Stacup, Ellen Colson, Bob and Ann Daley, John and Wilma Foley and the present Chairman Margaret ( Peggy ) Graveline. There are many more that have served over the years and are presently working up front and behind the scenes to keep this great organization working for all seniors. During the COVID-19 shut down the Council continues to work checking on seniors, Grab and Go lunches and put out over 900 take-out meals from Highland Valley. This involves a lot of work by Chairman Peggy Graveline and her volunteer helpers. We thank them for their dedication to the senior community. Chester Historical Society meets the first Saturday on the month at 9 AM. These meetings are open and anyone may attend. The water problems have been corrected and we now have a beautiful long awaited restroom facility.

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### NEW FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR:

As demand bills have been mailed and people are not responding to these bills, a page is set up on the town web site showing those who are delinquent and the amount due. Please check to see if your name is on there. Please make every effort to get your account caught up before the property is taken by the town for unpaid taxes. At this time payments are still to be made either through the mail or placed in the large black box in front of town hall. Only checks and money orders are accepted at this time. Thank you for your patience. The Tax Collector's office will be closed on the following dates: 9/2, 9/3, 9/8 through 9/10 and 9/14 through 9/17. This is a total of 9 working days that the office will be closed. Please plan accordingly. Tax Collector 413-354-6357

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### From the Desk of the Town Clerk

Thank you to everyone that voted in the primary! Next up is our November 3rd election. According to my information the state will be sending out postcards again to all voters that have not requested early voting by mail for this election. If you didn't receive a post card in July maybe it is time to make sure I have your proper mailing address in the state computer. Ex. Do you receive your mail via Huntington or do you have a post office box- we need to update that info in the computer, please either email me you drop note in the black box "Town of Chester" with correct information. You can also print an application online "Early Voting Ballots Request" and mail it in or drop it in the black box. Any questions please call. I will be available for I believe 15 days in October on the steps of the town hall those times and dates will be in the watts news and on the town web site once they are finalize. The town hall will be open on Nov 3 from 7AM -8PM for in person voting. The annual street census will be mailed out in January please make sure we have your correct mailing address everyone that isn't correct is .55 cents mailing the first time and then I have to track your address and another .55 cents to remail your census. This is different than the 2020 census from the government. The town street census is every year the government's is every ten years. Both are very important. I realize that some the vets are way out in booking appointments. Rabies vaccinations are essential, and they will make time for this matter. All dogs that are not properly licensed by December 1, I am turning the list over to Terry Donovan the animal control officer and from paperwork that I have found in the office from several years ago a \$10.00 late fee per dog will added to each license. This gives everyone three months notice. Thank you