



December 2020

WATT'S NEWS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL



All Town Hall offices are closed on Friday December 25 in observance of Christmas Day and Friday, Jan 1, 2021 in observance of New Year's Day

FUN FACTS: The Winter Solstice, also known as Midwinter, occurs around December 21 or 22 each year in the Northern hemisphere, and June 20 or 21 in the Southern Hemisphere. It occurs on the shortest day or longest night of the year, sometimes said to astronomically mark the beginning or middle of a hemisphere's winter. The word solstice derives from Latin, Winter Solstice meaning Sun set still in winter. Worldwide, interpretation of the event varies from culture to culture, but most hold a recognition of rebirth, involving festivals, gatherings, rituals or other celebrations. Many cultures celebrate or celebrated a holiday near the winter solstice; examples of these include Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Years, Pongal, Yalda and many other festivals of light. The solstice itself may have remained a special moment of the annual cycle of the year since Neolithic times. This is attested by physical remains in the layouts of late Neolithic and Bronze Age archeological sites like Stonehenge and New Grange in the British Isles. The primary axes of both of these monuments seem to have been carefully aligned on a sight-line framing the winter solstice sunrise (New Grange) and the winter solstice sunset (Stonehenge). The winter solstice may have been immensely important because communities were not assured to live through the winter, and had to be prepared during the previous nine months.

Hamilton Memorial Library

Saturday December 5th and Sunday December 6th, the library will be having a family portrait weekend. All portraits are by donation only to the Friends of the Library and all proceeds will go towards purchasing new children's and teen's books. Please call the library at 354-7808 to reserve your spot. We will also be collecting letters to Santa from Dec. 1st through Dec. 13th. Parents, please include a return address. Our children's craft take home bags will be available every Tuesday and Wednesday in the month of December. The bags consist of a fun craft and 5 themed books. Come by or call to reserve your bags.

WATER METER REMINDER

To avoid a water meter freeze-up, potential failure or possible flooding of the area where the meter is located; keep the area near the meter above freezing.

NOTICE

CMELD CUSTOMERS MAY NOW SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING. TO SIGN UP PLEASE EMAIL YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, ACCOUNT NUMBER(S), PHONE NUMBER AND THE EMAIL ADDRESS YOU WISH TO RECEIVE YOUR BILL AT TO: cmeldadmin@townofchester.net ALL INFORMATION MUST BE INCLUDED IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE SIGN UP PROCESS

What do you call an elf who sings?

A wrapper!!!

Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?

Because it "soots" him!!!!

What does Santa call reindeer that don't work?

Dinner!!!

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has NOEL!!!

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

A rebel without a Claus!!!!



Confessions of a Store Santa

While I was working as a store Santa, a boy asked me for an electric train set. "If you get your train," I told him, "your dad is going to want to play with it too. Is that all right?" The boy became very quiet. So, moving the conversation along, I asked, "What else would you like Santa to bring you?" He promptly replied, "Another train."

Notice from the Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors would like to remind taxpayers that Real Estate Tax exemption applications are available for certain qualified individuals. These include persons over age 65 whose assets and income are below the eligibility amounts, veterans who have a 10% or greater service connected disability, veterans awarded purple hearts and certain service medals, and blind persons who have a certificate from the Commissioner for the Blind. The Commonwealth also allows towns to offer a Tax Deferral to persons over age 65 if they meet certain eligibility requirements, but must be repaid at 8% interest. Please call the Assessor's Office for details at (413) 354-6318. Applications are available on-line @ <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/taxpayer-forms-and-guides> then choose the appropriate form. OR leave a message at (413) 354-6318, Please leave your name, address, and the application form you are looking for. We will mail it to you.



Wishing you all a warm and peaceful season.

Have a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah or Joyous Kwanzaa or a Blessed Ramadan or a Good Winter Solstice a Festive Festivus,

and a Happy New Year!

Chester Winter Parking Ban

Pursuant to the provisions and authority given the Police Department for the Town of Chester under M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 22D, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following regulations regarding the Winter Parking Ban: During the period beginning on November 15 and ending on April 15 of each year the Chief of Police, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and/or Highway Superintendent may declare a Winter Parking Ban on all ways within the town for the purposes of snow and ice removal. The Declaration of a Snow Emergency and subsequent Parking Ban will be effective at the onset of any inclement weather and will remain in effect for the 12 hours following the storm. The Police Department may have any motor vehicle parked in violation of the Winter Parking Ban removed/towed at the owner's expense. The vehicle owner will be responsible for all towing and storage fees that may be incurred. Further penalties for violation of the Winter Parking Ban may apply. This may include, but not limited to, non-criminal disposition as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 40 Section 21D. Public Ways will have snow removal conducted on any thru street, or will be opened to the point of the last established residence determined by Certificate of Occupancy records. No shoveling snow into or across the street.

Any questions regarding these regulations please contact the Chester Police Department or Board of Selectmen.

TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN **Snow and Ice Mailbox Replacement Policy**

Mailboxes installed in the Town right of way are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the town. The Town does not replace mailboxes if damaged by snow or ice being discharged by the snowplow. The town only assumes responsibility if a town plow comes into contact with the mailbox or post. The town will not be responsible for damage to any mailbox or post if the front of the box extends past the curb line or is within 6 inches from the curb line. The town will only replace mailboxes if the town's plow came in contact with a well-maintained mailbox or post. A claim should be submitted to the highway Superintendent **within 24 hours** following the storm so that they can witness the damage and make their determination. Late claims are difficult to verify and will likely be denied since the Highway Superintendent may not be able to adequately determine the cause of the damage. A Homeowner will be reimbursed only one mailbox and post per winter season. Text of the full policy is available on the Town of Chester website or from the Town Administrator or Highway Department.

Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center & Hilltown CDC **VIRTUAL Zoom Classes: December 2020** **All Courses are Free for Hilltown Residents**

Sign up online at <https://shaec.org/registration-form/>
Questions? call 413-354-1055 or email Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com
Learn more at www.SHAEC.org

GED/HiSet

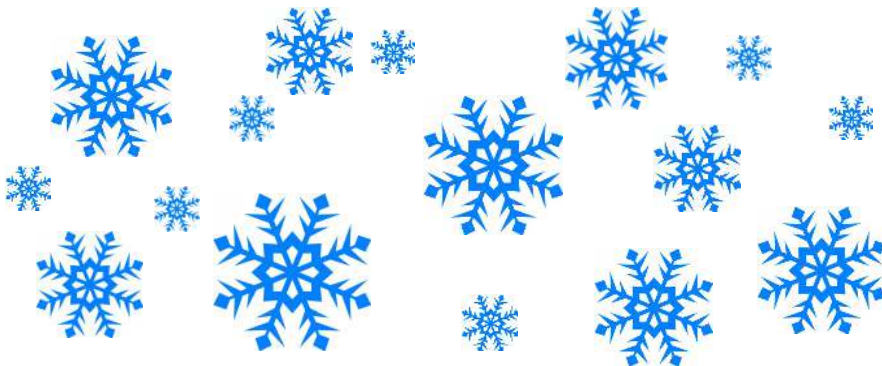
In Person GED/HiSet Writing Test Prep Tutoring: at the Russell Public Library 162 Main St Russell
Virtual GED/HiSet tutoring/ testing and study skills Work at your own pace- online
Selling on eBay w/ [Heather Morgan](#)

Small Business Support

Business Accounting: Setting up your system w/ Dorine Lasky
Common Sense SEO- Search Engine Optimization w/ Paul Stallman of Alias Solutions
Tax Planning Opportunities for Small Business Owners w/ CPA Caleb Harris CPA

Call or email to schedule
Call or email for more information
Thursday, December 10th, 6-7:30pm

Thursday, December 3rd, 6, 6-7:30pm
Monday December 7th, 6-7:30pm
Wednesday, December 9th, 6- 8pm



The year end brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to express to you season's greetings and good wishes. May your holidays and new year be filled with joy.



The Town of Chester Selectmen & The Electric Light Commissioners

