



March 2021  
**WATT'S NEW?**



**WELCOME SPRING, MARCH 20**



- **March's** flower is the daffodil, which represents hope.
- The birthstone of **March** is the aquamarine, which symbolizes courage and bravery.
- **March** comes from the name of the Roman god of war, Mars.
- The Zodiac signs are Pisces (until **March 20**) and Aries (**March 21** onwards).
- There is a famous quote about this month which states “**March** comes in a like a Lion and goes out like a Lamb”, which means that winter is ending and spring has started.
- One more name is given to this month which is “Hlyda” which means “loud” because of winds blow in this month.

**CHESTER MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC  
LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

**From time to time, we need to personally contact customers by telephone. We are finding lately that many of the phone numbers on file are no longer working numbers. Please provide us with your current phone numbers. The easiest way to do this would be to note it on the payment portion of your bill, or you can call the office at 354-7811. Thank you!!**

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY—MARCH 17**



**Rabies Clinic**



All Hilltown dogs and cats are welcome to the Middlefield/Chester Rabies Clinic. There will be a Rabies Clinic, Saturday, March 20th from 1:00-3:00 at the Middlefield Town Hall on Skyline Trail in Middlefield. Dr Sherry Holt, will be the veterinarian. Please bring your current rabies certificate if possible. Shots will be \$20.00 per pet. Please bring a self addressed stamped envelope and the new rabies certificate will be mailed to you. Middlefield dog licenses will also be available. This will be held outside as a drive up event. Everyone will remain in their cars until directed otherwise. Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced. Any questions, please call Chester Animal Control at 413-354-0975



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS  
MARCH 14th**

***Don't forget to SPRING your clocks ahead!!!***

What do you get when you cross a four-leaf clover with poison ivy?  
A rash of good luck on St. Patrick's Day!!!

Why shouldn't you iron a four-leaf clover?  
You might press your luck!!!

What did the leprechaun say on March 17?  
“Irish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!”

Which crime fighter likes March the most?  
Robin!!!

Why is March the most popular month to use a trampoline?  
It's spring-time!!!

Which type of bow can't be tied in March?  
A rainbow!!!

What falls during March but never gets hurt?  
The rain!!!



**From the Desk of the Town Collector**

#1) Please **DO NOT STAPLE** checks to invoices. Some of them tear the checks when removed and it enables the check to get stuck in the scanner. A paper clip or loose is fine.

#2) Please send your stub when paying a bill. This ensures it is applied to your bill correctly.

#3) The 1<sup>st</sup> round of Motor vehicle Excise bills has gone out for 2021. The Deputy Collector who issues these bills used the garaging address instead of the mailing address when printing. While the error was caught, some of the bills did get out with the wrong address on them. We attempted to correct them prior to mailing with some success but others have been coming back. If you did not get a bill for 2021 on a vehicle you had for quite some time, please contact the tax collector at the number below.

#4) Real Estate and Personal Property 4<sup>th</sup> quarter bills will be going out on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The tax rate and values will be set and approved by the Department of Revenue and should be reflected on this bill. There will be information on the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter valuation attached to the bills.

#5) Due to COVID-19 and health reasons the Town Collector is not accepting cash currently. You will be notified when this process begins again. We are sorry for the inconvenience. No Exceptions.

Mary Ann Pease: Town Collector 413-354-6357 Hours Monday – Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please leave a message if you would like a call back.

**Library News**

Starting March 7th, we will be open to the public! Our Spring hours will be; Sundays 1-4, Mondays 1-6, Tuesdays CLOSED, Wednesday 1-6, Thursdays 10-2, Fridays and Saturdays CLOSED. Curbside will still be available for those still needing contactless service. Just give us a call to set up a pick up time or if you are a homebound senior and in need of delivery, we will be happy to bring you materials. Please call us at 354-7808.



**April 4th**

**Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center & Hilltown CDC**

**VIRTUAL Zoom Classes: February 2021**

**All Courses are Free for Hilltown Residents**

Sign up online at <https://shaec.org/registration-form/>

Questions? call **413-354-1055** or email [Southernhilltownsacc@gmail.com](mailto:Southernhilltownsacc@gmail.com)

Learn more at [www.SHAEC.org](http://www.SHAEC.org)

**GED/ HiSet**

**In Person GED/HiSet Writing Test Prep Tutoring:** Russell Public Library 162 Main St Russell Call or email to schedule  
**Virtual GED/HiSet tutoring/ testing and study skills** Work at your own pace- online. Call or email for more information

**Computer**

**Email with Gmail; Getting Started**

Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> 10:30am-12pm

**Selling on Ebay**

Thursday March 11<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm

**Free Group chat options, from Zoom and beyond**

Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

**Using Google Docs and Sheets**

Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

**Business assistance:**

**Common Sense SEO: Search Engine Optimization**, with Paul Stallman of Alias Solutions

Wed, March 10, 6-8pm

**Grant writing** with Dave Christopolis,

Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30pm

**Organically Growing your Following on Facebook**, w/ Robyn Miller of Morningbird Media

Wed, April 7, 6-7:30pm

**Staying healthy resources on our SHAEC website,  
and new educational options for those seeking to enter the health care field.**

Go to [www.SHAEC.org](http://www.SHAEC.org) for more information.

To sign up for classes, please register at <https://shaec.org/registration-form/>

You may put more than one class in the class/ date area if you would like to sign up for multiple classes.

**GED/HiSet classes now have both in person and online, self- paced options.**

Please email for more information to learn more about our flexible High School Equivalency programs.

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**From the office of the Town Clerk**

We still have several street census that have not been returned. If in doubt you probably didn't send one back. You can find a blank one on the town web site which you can download fill in all information and send back to the Town Clerk. Please make sure you LIST all residents of your household including children. After April 15th if not returned you will be made an inactive voter. The following paragraphs have been taken from the [MASS.GOV](http://MASS.GOV) website. This will explain what will happen when you come to vote the next time. It is a state law to do the street census. The first mailing cost around \$350.00 for postage. Everyone that is made inactive in April will get another mailing stating they are inactive. This will cost the town more money.

**Inactive Voters**

On Election Day, some voters may find that their names have been placed on the list of inactive voters. The inactive voters list is made up of registered voters who have not responded to the annual street list or subsequent confirmation notice. Inactive voters may still vote, but will first be asked to show identification and will be required to fill out an affirmation of current and continuous residence.

**The Annual Street List**

Under state law, every city and town is required to communicate with each household and compile an annual street list – also known as a city or town census. Most cities and towns choose to communicate with residents by mail.

If a voter fails to respond to the annual street list, they will be placed on the inactive voters list and their local election official will send out a confirmation notice, which the voter is asked to sign and return. The confirmation notice is meant to confirm that the voter continues to reside at the address at which he or she is registered, or if the voter has moved, update the address on file.

Voters who fail to return confirmation notices will remain on the inactive voters list.

**Voting**

If you are an inactive voter, it will be indicated on the list of voters when you check-in at your polling place. Before you may vote, you will be required to complete an affirmation of current and continuous residence. On this form, you must affirm that you continue to reside at the address at which you are registered, have moved within the same town, or have moved from one municipality to another Massachusetts municipality within six months of a state election.

You will also be asked to present identification which shows your name and the address at which you are registered to vote. It is not required that you present photo identification. Acceptable forms of identification include: a driver's license, state-issued ID card, recent utility bill, rent receipt, lease, a copy of a voter registration affidavit, or any other printed identification which contains your name and address. As soon as you have completed the affirmation of current and continuous residence, you will be restored to the active voters list.

**Removal from the List of Inactive Voters**

Inactive voters remain registered to vote until they fail to vote in two consecutive biennial state elections. Inactive voters are restored to the active voters list any time they complete an affirmation of current and continuous residence, fill out a new voter registration form, or submit anything to their local election official which is signed under penalty of perjury and confirms the voter's address.