



# April 2021 *WATT'S NEW?*



**Monday, April 19th is Patriots Day  
All Town Hall Offices will be closed**



**From the Office of Board of Selectmen**  
Chester Select Board has announced that the  
Annual Town Meeting will be  
June 14, 2021 at 6:00pm at  
Chester Town Hall

**Chester Historical Society-** The Chester History Museum recently received from the Davenport family a donation of 3 large boxes of ledgers from the A and L Market. We wish to thank the family for these treasures. The A and L Market located on Main Street built c 1900 is a Greek revival structure with pegged timbers and wide planked floors. Owners through the years have been L.M. and A.C. Cook, Mr. Snow, Mr. Ely, George Pease, Charles Pease, Eric Ahlfors and Arthur Laro, Carl and Eugene Libardi, Carl Libardi, and Peter J. and Henrietta Davenport. In the first years the store was a grocery store in the front and the back part of the building was a grain store. Peter and Henrietta ran the store for more than 30 years until Peter's death in 2019. Again we wish to thank the Davenport family for their gift of the ledgers. The Society wishes to receive stories (published or unpublished), personal collections, bits and pieces of Historical information, pictures and objects that will help preserve the memory of Chester's most interesting past for us and future generations. Hopefully this month work will begin on the top floor of the History Museum and if you have not yet visited the Museum put it on your Spring "to do list". You may be surprised to see how much History is there for your viewing. Meetings for this Society and Commission are held the first Saturday of each month and with good weather these are being held at the Chester History Museum across from the Old Jail, Route 20.


**CHESTER ON TRACK**, as many may have suspected, will be in a virtual format one more time in 2021, as May 22 is just too close to the line to make a call. Good news is we have been upgrading our technology and have made some early connections that could lead to a top-notch presentation. Watch this space for updates and by all means send in any leads or ideas to enhance the program to [Dave@chesterrailwaystation.net](mailto:Dave@chesterrailwaystation.net) or 413 354 7878.

### TAX BILL NOTICE

Last year the Chester Assessors Department went through a software conversion for all properties. It was discovered in December that there were several discrepancies in converted property data, so Tax Bills going out the 1<sup>st</sup> of January were prepared with the prior year's tax rate and assessed values. In January and February this year, the Assessors Department reviewed Chester's property values and adjusted to correct errors and upgrade values to Fair Market Value. Most properties will now have higher values to be in compliance with state mandated fair market value requirements. Due to valuation adjustments, the Tax Rate came down by 21 cents per thousand. If your tax bill is higher, it should be noted it reflects the increase for the 1<sup>st</sup> three months of this year, added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> three months (since there was no increase in the January billing). If you feel your assessed property value is higher than fair market value, you can file for an abatement. The abatement period for Chester has been extended to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Taxes must be paid in full before your real estate abatement application can be accepted. Once your abatement request is received, the Assessors Department will schedule a visit to your property to re-evaluate the assessed value. If your property assessed value is adjusted downward, a refund check will be mailed to you. Abatements are to be filed with the Assessors office; forms can be found on the Assessors page on the Town Website. All abatement questions should be addressed to the Assessors office. Chester's Assessors Department thanks you for your patience during this software upgrade period. To reach Laura at the Assessors office: 413-354-6318 Mondays and Tuesdays 10am to 5pm or [llafreniere@townofchester.net](mailto:llafreniere@townofchester.net)



## Happy Easter - April 4

- What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at School? He was eggspelled!!!
- How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty basket? Only one, -after that it's not empty!!!
- Why did the Easter egg hide? Because he was a little chicken!!! 
- Where does the Easter Bunny go when he needs a new tail? To a re-tail store!!!
- How can you tell which rabbits are the oldest in the group? Just look for the gray hares!!!
- What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards? A receding hare-line!!!
- Where does the Easter Bunny like to eat? IHOP!!!
- Why won't Easter eggs go out at night? They don't want to get beat up!!!

# April Showers Bring May Flowers



## Chester 2021 Easter Egg Hunt

The Chester Recreation Committee and the Chester Hill Association are co-sponsoring the 2021 Easter Egg Hunt for local children at the Emery Sports Complex in Chester. The event will be on Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm. In case of rain or inclement weather the event will be held the following Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Children should bring their own Easter basket or bag for their eggs. We ask that masks always be worn by adults and children while attending this event. Everyone is expected to social distance as much as possible. We will also space the Easter eggs out as much possible to allow the children to follow social distancing guidelines. Light prepackaged refreshments will be served. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance!!!!!!



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### Just a couple reminders from CMELD:

- \* Bills are always mailed the first week of every month.
- \* Payments must be received on or before the discount due date in order to be eligible for the discount. Think of the discount like a coupon, once it expires it is no longer valid.
- \* Paperless billing is now available, email [cmeldadmin@townofchester.net](mailto:cmeldadmin@townofchester.net) requesting paperless billing, include the email address you wish to receive your bill at, your account number, property address and a valid phone number.
- \* Payments received during the last week of the month may not be reflected on your new bill.
- \* Payments can be dropped 24/7 in the black lock box on the Town Hall steps.
- \* Payments can be made on line by following the links on the WWW.TOWNOFCHESTER.NET website.
- \* CMELD will work with customers to develop budget or payment plans.
- \* Past due and shut off notices are based on the number of days of non-payment, not account balance.
- \* Springfield Partners for Community Action can help fuel assistance eligible customers with weatherization evaluations and upgrades.
- \* Energy New England provides residential home energy assessments for CMELD consumers, services are paid for by Chester Municipal Electric.

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### Chester Residents eligible: Hilltown Food Bucks stretch your food dollars at local markets:

Hilltown CDC has partnered with local retailers to create the **Hilltown Food Bucks**, a local effort to help Hilltown residents stretch their food dollars while supporting our critical local food businesses in a difficult time of social and economic stress. Eligible participants can receive between \$100-\$125 food coupons per month for five months to be used at participating local stores and farms. The coupons double your spending power when you make a purchase, as you can use the Hilltown Food Bucks to pay for up to half of your food purchase. Interested parties can fill out the one page application at <https://www.hilltowncdc.org/news/2020/9/25/hilltown-food-bucks> or call **Kate Bavelock, Director of Community Programs**, at [kateb@hilltowncdc.org](mailto:kateb@hilltowncdc.org) or **413-296-4536 x 116**

Food Bucks can be redeemed at the following Southern Hilltowns markets: Chester Village Market, Moltenbrays in Huntington, Cream of the Crop Farm in Russell, and The Blandford Country Store.

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### FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S DESK

Still several street census have not been returned. On April 15 you and your whole family will have inactive voter status. This means you will be required to fill out more paperwork when you vote. If you aren't sure if you signed the form and returned the paper you probably haven't. You can go to the town website and download a copy of the form and drop it off in the large black box or mail it to the Town Clerk 15 Middlefield Rd Chester, MA 01011. These forms have to be completed EVERY year. Make sure you have correct names, birthdates, and mailing and street addresses on the form. Make sure you sign your name. Dog licenses are available please call to make sure I have the necessary forms like a copy of the rabies certificate. If you purchased a two or three year license last year you are all set. The town election will be held on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>. If anyone would like to be a poll worker email me at [rdalesandro@townofchester.net](mailto:rdalesandro@townofchester.net). I would need your phone number and name so I can call you back. When leaving a message on the answering machine PLEASE state your name and phone number twice. If you are looking for a birth certificate I need to have your date of birth along with your name.



**4/18/2021**

**Thank your Lineman**

**#thankalineman**

**National Lineman Appreciation Day is a time to express our utmost appreciation to the great men and women that work so hard for us every day. It's our honor to celebrate the hard work, innovation, and dedication of Electrical Lineworkers.**