



MAY 2021

# WATT'S NEW?



**TOWN OFFICES will be CLOSED  
on Monday, May 31st for Memorial Day**

**Remember**



**MAY 9th**

## ATTENTION CMELD CUSTOMERS

CMELD CAN NO LONGER RECEIVE CASH THROUGH THE BLACK BOX. PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE IN CASH BUT MUST BE MADE IN PERSON. CALL 413-354-7811 TO ARRANGE TO MEET WITH CMELD PERSONNEL  
THANK YOU

**The Chester High School Alumni Association** is accepting applications for scholarships. Applicants must be Chester graduate of Gateway High School. Applications are available online at: [chs-scholarship-application-2019.pdf](https://www.chs-scholarship-application-2019.pdf) or at the Guidance Office and must be submitted by June 1.

**Chester Historical Society:** Memorial Day- Whatever your plans are for the day please remember the meaning. Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union soldiers who had died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored the dead. After World War 1, it was extended to include all men and women who died in any war or military action. Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. The current name for the day did not come into use until after World War 11 . Decoration Day and then Memorial Day used to be held on May 10, regardless of the day of the week, on which it fell. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed as part of a move to use federal holidays to create a three-day weekend. This meant that, from 1971, Memorial Day holiday has been officially observed on the last Monday in May. However, it took a longer period for all American states to recognize the new date. No matter how we celebrate this year, please take time to remember those who have died to protect us and made it possible for this celebration. Poem written by the late Damon Bazzeghin who served in Vietnam and received two Purple Hearts. I must remember something about me- I stood up I showed up I stepped forward I raised my right hand I stood in the gap I walked in the fire I did not dodge I did not evade I did not hide I did not run consequently... I have nothing to prove no one to convince those who matter already know those who don't never will.

The Historical Society holds meeting the first Saturday of each month at the Chester History Museum at 9 AM. Please watch for notices of future days the Museum will be open during the summer months.

## Employment Ad:

Chester Transfer Station Alternate Attendant Position available for on call days Wednesdays 3pm to 6pm and Saturdays 9am to 1pm year round. Please send letter of interest by email to [Boardofhealth@townofchester.net](mailto:Boardofhealth@townofchester.net) or call 413-354-7781 text 413-519-3396 Position to be filled ASAP. Open to senior workshare program also.

## 2021 Chester High Reunion Postponed

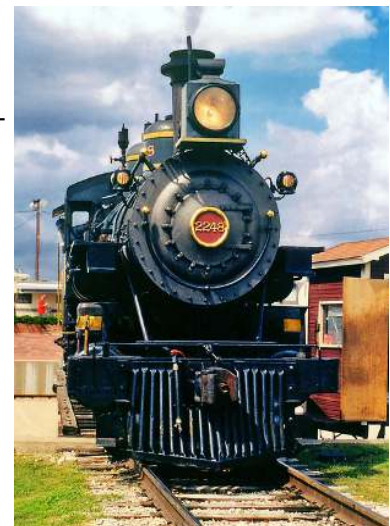
In the midst of uncertainty, one thing we are certain of is that the Annual Chester High School Reunion will **not** take place on the traditional last Saturday of June. After careful consideration and discussion with the Chester Foundation, the consensus was that "discretion is the better part of valor," particularly since there is some uncertainty regarding the status of COVID-19 and state guidelines for events.

The Association Officers and Board members are currently considering alternatives and options. One of those options is planning this 118th Reunion for August 28, 2021—the last Saturday in August at the train station in Chester. One of the many considerations is that we should still be looking at warm weather and good traveling!

Of course, the primary factor will be the state of the COVID-19 situation, and that's something we won't know for a while. Our goal is to decide whether or not to proceed (and how) by late June. But we wanted to communicate now so alumni can make tentative plans. Please save the date in August and plan to join us! We also need some help! Please consider getting involved in your Alumni Association—we definitely could use some board members and scholarship custodians. Neither are complicated positions but they are critical to our future as an organization. Contact either Walter Boomsma, president or Robert Goewey, Secretary/Treasurer for more information. Contact information is available on our website <https://chesterhigh.wordpress.com/> or you can leave a message on the Chester High Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chester-High-School/>. We'd love to hear from you!

## VIRTUAL CHESTER ON TRACK

will be held on Saturday, May 22 beginning at 9 AM and for at least 7 hours, probably longer, we'll have music sets by The Fortified Blues Band, The Pitoniak Brothers, Mark Franklin and more. We'll visit a massive local model railroad and talk to a pioneer of the hobby. Then take a tour of the Chester Roundhouse and a look back at the first Chester On Track 30 years ago, with a lot in between. It will stream on the Chester Railway Station Facebook page and You Tube/ Chester Station LIVE.



**From the Desk of the Town Clerk** Thank you for everyone that came out to vote on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to all that returned the second mailing of the annual street census. This is required by law that the town clerks mail the street census out each year. When ordering on-line please before you pay for the document you need call and see that I have it in the office. When ordering birth, death or marriage certificates there are two options that I have to look at place of residence or place of occurrence. If for example your parents are living in Chester but you are born in Springfield and they don't mark the resident box you have to get the document in Springfield. Just check first. When leaving a message please say your phone number twice as I don't at this time have caller id and sometimes the number is said quickly and I miss part of the number. I need name, date when looking up the info. Dog licenses are also available please make sure I have the necessary documentation. There again it is a state law that every dog in Massachusetts is registered in the town they live.

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

**VIRTUAL Zoom Classes: May 2021**

**All Courses are Free for Hilltown Residents**

Sign up online at [shaec.org](http://shaec.org)

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

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

**We are open!**

**In person One-on-one computer and phone assistance now available** at the village enterprise center: 26 Main street, Chester. **By appointment only.** Please call 413-354-1055 and leave a detailed message, and we will call you back to schedule a time for you. You may also email your request for an appointment to [southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com](mailto:southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com)

Please let us know in advance if you cannot wear a mask indoors for medical reasons, and we will gladly make accommodations for you.

**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

**Virtual Writers Workshop with Mimi Caban:**  
**A Workshop for Writers and Wannabe Writers**

Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm

**Facebooks basics for Business: With Robyn Miller of Morningbird Media** Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30pm **Manage your life with Free Gmail, Google Calendar, & Google Drive w/Heather** Thursdays May 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

**Plant Sale Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm** Friends of SHAEC is offering a [fundraising plant sale](#) on Saturday, May 8th, from 10am - 2pm, at the Village Enterprise Center, 26 main Street, Chester. We are offering plant starts of flowers, herbs, and vegetables, both annuals and perennials. Something for everyone. Stop by and see our selection.

**Look for our Summer Newsletter: Coming in the mail later this month.**

## When planting this spring, please use this guide to help you determine what and where you should plant

**Plant the right tree in the right place**  
Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

Tall trees, such as:  
• Maple • Oak  
• Spruce • Pine

40 ft height or less

25 ft height or less

20 ft

50 ft

Tree Pruning Zone

Medium trees, such as:  
• Washington hawthorn  
• Goldenrain tree

Small trees, such as:  
• Star magnolia  
• Crabapple

**Arbor Day Foundation™**  
[arborday.org](http://arborday.org)