



AUGUST 2021

WATT'S NEW?



CHSAA Newsletter and Reunion Invitation Released

The Chester High School Alumni Association's annual newsletter and reunion invitation has been mailed and is available on the Association Website (<http://chesterhigh.wordpress.com>). Those who have not received a copy may also contact Secretary/Treasurer Robert Goewey at 413 667-3354 or President Walter Boomsma at 207 343-1842. This year's reunion is scheduled for Saturday, August 28, 2021, at the Chester Train Station. The deadline for reservations is August 20, 2021.

The reunion draws a large group of people associated with the former Chester High School, including Chester Residents who graduated from Gateway after Chester High School closed in the late 1960s. This year's festivities begin with a social hour at 1:00 p.m. at the Chester Railroad Depot and continue informally throughout the entire weekend as "Blue Devils" and "Quarriers" wander around town visiting old friends and relatives. The Association's annual business meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m., and Officers and Board Members will meet at 12:00 p.m.

The newsletter includes information regarding by-law changes that will clarify membership eligibility and eliminate annual dues. Boomsma also explains, "Elections may seem a bit confusing... since last year's meeting was not held due to COVID. We always need people to help keep the Association and Reunions happening. Anyone interested in serving on the board or assisting with the scholarship program is encouraged to contact Bob or me before the reunion. You do not have to be present to be elected!"

The Association also maintains a Facebook presence (@ChesterMassachusettsSchools).

Tree and Brush Removal

Chester Municipal Light Department recognizes and appreciates that trees and some brush are valuable assets to our landscape and to the quality of our life in our area. However, this must be balanced with the constant threat to the reliability of the ratepayer's electric service, line worker's and public safety, and the health of Chester's roadside trees. To do that we must keep trees and brush that are located near power lines pruned and trimmed on a regular basis and in some cases removal of the tree and drastic mowing of brush. It must be noted that trees and tree branches are the most frequent causes of service outages and interruptions to our electric distribution system. Many outages are caused by tree limbs which fall into power lines causing damage to wires, short circuits and other problems. Trees adjacent to CMELD's rights-of way must be kept pruned and clear of the power lines according to this policy. This helps us provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our ratepayers. Here at Chester Municipal Electric Light Department we strive to bring our customers reliable electrical service. Therefore, we would like to notify you that Chester Municipal Electric Light Department will be trimming branches and mowing brush in the near future.

Please contact Chester Municipal Electric Light Department at 413-354-7811 if you have any comments, questions, or concerns.



Call Before You Dig!

If you are planning an outdoor project that includes digging, remember that there may be buried utility lines that you need to avoid. Water, sewer, telephone, and cable television may be located underground, in addition to electric lines. Damaging or disturbing the underground utilities could cause power outages or interruptions of other utility services. Even worse, you could be seriously hurt. So, before you dig, call **1-888-DIG-SAFE (1-888-344-7233)** to find out what you need to avoid underground. Visit the **DIG SAFE website at www.digsafe.com**

- The Romans gave this month its name in 8BC, after the first Roman Emperor Augustus who ruled from 27BC until his death in AD14.
- Before then, the month had been known as Sextilis, as it was the sixth of ten months in the Roman Calendar, which began with March.
- The Anglo-Saxon called August "Weodmonath" meaning "weed month".
- The birthstones for August are the peridot and the sardonyx and the flowers are the gladiolus and poppy.
- August was the 55th most common name given to a baby boy in Sweden in 2014

PLEASE NOTE:
****AFTER HOUR POWER OUTAGES****
CALL 413-447-0268



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY:

The Hamilton Memorial Library will be closed until further notice due to building issues. Please utilize the drop box at the front entrance to return any materials you would otherwise bring inside the building. We apologize for this ongoing inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding.

NEWS FROM THE COA:

The COACH MESSENGER News Letter was not completed in time to be included with the WATTS NEWS due to the transitioning of our new Director, Angelique Toroni. There will be copies of the news letter at Townhall and the COA Senior Center. We also have the Grab & Go Lunch menu for the month of August available for pick up at the COA Senior Center. If you have any questions, please call 354-7735.

Chester Historical Society

Thanks to all who visited the Old Chester Jail and the Chester History Museum during the Chester Becket Railroad Historical Tour.

The Old Chester Jail is owned by the Town of Chester, and is maintained by Chester Historical Commission, through the yearly appropriation. The Chester History Museum, across the street from the Jail, is owned by the Chester History Society, and is funded solely through donations and fundraisers. No taxpayer money is spent on the museum.

The Historical Society recently received a large donation, and is using the money to continue the restoration of the museum. Work has started on the second floor, and the first priority is to create a year round conditioned room to store the sensitive artifacts.

The Society / Commission meets in the museum in the Summer and in the jail in the Winter.

The museum and jail will be open Sundays from 10 - 2 from August 1st through September 5th, and on August 28th from 10 - 2 for the Chester High Annual Reunion.

Donations can be made to the Chester Historical Society, 15 Middlefield Rd, Chester, MA 10111

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Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center & Hilltown CDC

In person and VIRTUAL Zoom Classes: August 2021

All Courses are Free for Hilltown Residents

Sign up online at shaec.org

Questions? call **413-354-1055** or email Southernhilltownsaec@gmail.com

Learn more at 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

Most of our virtual class topics are available to learn in person with one-on-one assistance.

Computer Classes

Digital Media Literacy: Search the Web Better and Smarter, with Heather Morgan Thurs, August 5th, 10am -12pm

Etsy- selling products online. With Heather Morgan. Two part class: Tues & Wed, Aug 10th & 11th, 6 -7:30pm

Manage your life with Free Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Drive, with Heather Morgan: Two Part Class:

Mondays, Aug 23rd & 30th, 6 - 8pm

Photographing your products for online sales, with Heather Morgan.

Thursday, August 26th 6 - 8pm

GED/HiSet

In Person GED/HiSet Writing Test Prep Tutoring: Russell Public Library 162 Main St Russell Call or email to schedule

In Person GED/HiSet Math: Village Enterprise Center 26 Main St Chester Wednesday, July 7, 2-3:30pm

Covcel Online GED/HiSet prep. Work at your own pace, all topics, anytime. Call or email for more information

Community Health Worker Pre Apprenticeship program: Call to find out more. Free college credit class 413-354-1055

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